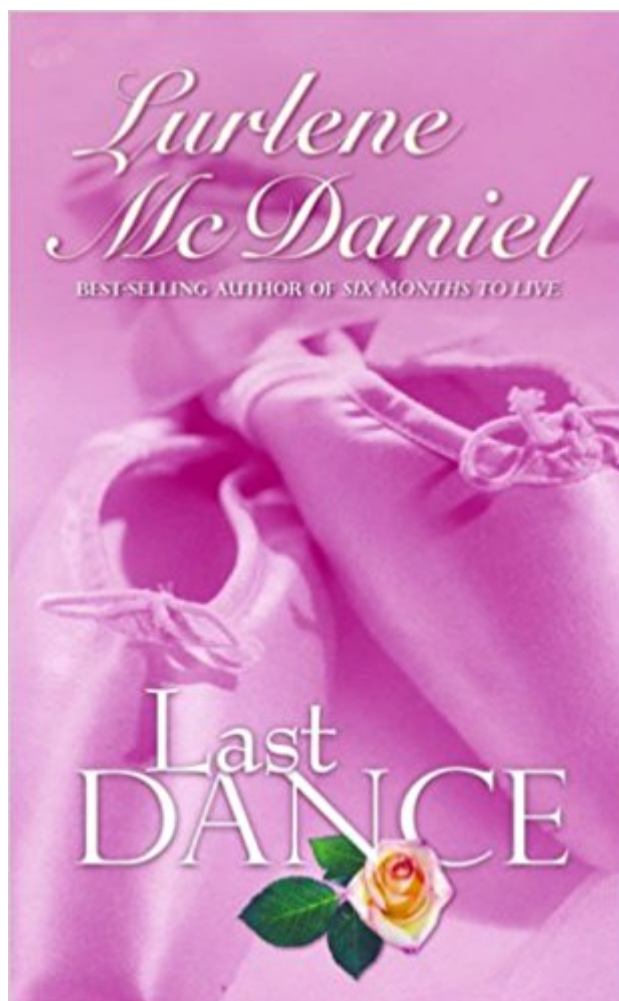


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# Last Dance



## Synopsis

Rachel Deering has her eyes on her toes: she wants to become a world-class ballerina. As a 14-year-old, she is already one of the best dancers in the country. Just as she prepares for an audition for an opening with a prestigious dance troupe, Rachel starts having some very disturbing symptoms. After collapsing at school, she has many tests and her doctor tells her the news: She has diabetes. Now her world consists of blood tests, insulin shots, a controlled diet, and constant fear that she will have a reaction and end up unable to dance—or worse.

## Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.2 out of 5 stars 26 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #1,237,495 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #80 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Performing Arts > Dance](#)

## Customer Reviews

Lurlene McDaniel (born c. 1948) is an author who has written over 50 young adult books. She is well known for writing about characters struggling with chronic and terminal illnesses, such as cancer, diabetes, and organ failure.

Oh my goodness I love this book so much and i love any book that has to do with the main character that's has type 1 diabetes those are my favorite books I love that this has no swear words or sex in it i read alot of books but only have three that have to do with type 1 diabetes which is very special too me cause of my family having it and I love learning more about it and understand what my family goes thru.

I've read all of the fiction books that have type 1 diabetic main characters, which is why I bought this one. I used to read Lurlene McDaniel when I was in grade school, and I think that's who this is intended for. It's a decent story. "Last Dance" was written several years ago, copyrighted in 1982.

This story was written 30 years ago. Knowing this book was written so long ago from the beginning of reading this story, I expected to find a lot of out-dated information in there regarding diabetes treatment. And I did. But, I was expecting that, so I didn't mind reading the old beliefs. That's the incredible thing about science and technology- we are always finding better ways to treat sicknesses. What I was surprised to read about, however, were the facts about diabetes which I've NEVER seen included in a fiction book before. I've read at least 10 books with diabetic storylines, and they have not once mentioned a few things "Last Dance" mentioned. Which actually made me appreciate McDaniel's research. She either has personal experience, or she is very thorough. Extremely short book. I think it's the smallest size I've ever seen, with large font, and 148 pages. I was shocked. The storyline was cute. A bit predictable. It was a decent book for young readers.

Last Dance is about a 8th grade girl named Rachel Deering who wants to be a professional ballerina. However, Rachel hasn't been feeling the greatest. She's always tired, really thirsty and needs to go to the bathroom a lot. She even starts to smell like nail polish remover. Things take a turn for the worst when while at dance, Rachel faints and wakes up to find herself in a hospital and diagnosed with diabetes. Rachel has a hard time accepting/dealing that she now has diabetes and that her life has changed. But with the help of her family, Dr. Malar, her friend Jenny and a cute boy who also has diabetes named Shawn, Rachel learns to finally accept what her life is like with diabetes and also learns that even though she has diabetes she can still live her life the way she wants to. Meaning she still can be a professional ballerina even with her diabetes. OK so I liked this book. It was a quick read. I always love to read books that involve dancing just because it's something that I can relate to. But even though I enjoyed this book I found myself annoyed with two characters. Mostly I found myself annoyed with the heroine Rachel. I found her too whiny for my taste. I know Rachel is only an 8th grader so she's only 13 (I think or around that age I don't remember how old she is) but even for a 13 year old I would have thought she'd act more grown up not behave like her 9 year old sister Chris. She's always fighting with her mom and her little sister which I can sympathize with. Moms and daughters don't always see eye to eye and siblings can be exasperating. Still even though I can sympathize Rachel still was too whiny. She whined about nearly everything or was defensive about it. Ex.) Mrs. Deering insists Rachel go to Dr. Stein a pediatrician since Rachel isn't feeling good but Rachel doesn't want to go because to her Dr. Stein is a baby doctor. Which is a lame excuse to me because if I were in Rachel's shoes I'd go to any doctor to find out why I wasn't feeling good. Rachel's mom also annoyed me. Yes, she does love

Rachel and care for her well being but a few times she wasn't a very sympathetic mom and she kept saying everything will work out.Ex.) She forces Rachel to go to the dance recital to support her sister Chris and when Rachel tries to get out of it(by locking herself in her bedroom and yelling she won't go which isn't a very mature way to handle things) her mom tells her she will be going and then says it was Rachel who quit in the 1st place all because of a little barre work and no explanation that isn't very sympathetic for a mom.So yes I did enjoy reading this book but I found Rachel way too annoying and her mom annoying too.

Very cute

I absolutely love this book and recommend it for any dancer that likes to read.

This book was a perfect gift for my friend who is a ballerina. No, she does not have (SPOILER ALERT) diabetes, but she is a dancer and could relate to that and the dream, etc.

Easy read...detailed struggle of a young woman's diagnosis of type 1 Diabetes and the courage to come out on top. A must read!!

I love this book it is so amazing I think u should read it because if you dance it will encourage you to never give up on your dreams

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