



Dance of Desire

Christopher Rice

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When Amber Watson walks in on her husband in the throes of extramarital passion with one of his employees, her comfortable, passion-free life is shattered in an instant. Worse, the fate of the successful country music bar that bears her family's name suddenly hangs in the balance. Her soon to be ex-husband is one of the bar's official owners; his mistress, one of its employees. Will her divorce destroy her late father's legacy?

Not if Amber's adopted brother Caleb has anything to do with it. The wandering cowboy has picked the perfect time for a homecoming. Better yet, he's determined to use his brains and his fists to put Amber's ex in his place and keep the family business intact. But Caleb's long absence has done nothing to dim the forbidden desire between him and the woman the State of Texas considers to be his sister.

Years ago, when they were just teenagers, Caleb and Amber shared a passionate first kiss beside a moonlit lake. But that same night, tragedy claimed the life of Caleb's parents and the handsome young man went from being a family friend to Amber's adopted brother. Has enough time passed for the two of them to throw off the roles Amber's father picked for them all those years ago? Will their desire for each other save the family business or put it in greater danger?

DANCE OF DESIRE is the first contemporary romance from award-winning, New York Times bestselling author Christopher Rice, told with the author's trademark humor and heart. It also introduces readers to a quirky and beautiful town in the Texas Hill Country called Chapel Springs.

READER ADVISORY. DANCE OF DESIRE contains fantasies of dubious consent, acted on by consenting adults. Readers with sensitivities to those issues should be advised.

Dance of Desire Details

Date : Published February 23rd 2016 by Evil Eye Concepts, Incorporated

ISBN :

Author : Christopher Rice

Format : Kindle Edition 148 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Anthologies

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From Reader Review Dance of Desire for online ebook

Nissa | Of Pens and Pages Book Blog says

4 stars!

Full Review for 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine at Of Pens and Pages.

I have to be honest. I was weary to read this story as I don't usually read romance novels with a bit of a taboo relationship. So you see, Amber and Caleb became adoptive siblings when they were fifteen when Caleb's parents were killed. Their romance when they were kids was cut short because of it, but the love was already there, deep in their hearts. They moved on with their lives and married other people, but when that didn't work out, they found themselves close to each other again,

Amber and Caleb's romance was faced with countless roadblocks along the way, the biggest one dropped onto them when they were fifteen. Years later, they've been given the chance to finally follow their feelings, and they did. While one expects angst throughout the story, this one had a lot of hilarious moments, and I found myself rooting for the star-crossed lovers.

I'm so glad I read this novella. It was incredibly well-written, funny, heartwarming and incredibly sexy. The plot was well-developed and wasn't as rushed as novellas usually are; a pleasant surprise for me, really.

**Read as part of the 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine anthology*

**ARC received in exchanged for an honest review.*

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Tina rotondo says

Loved it!

I couldn't put this book down. It was a great story. Hot, sexy, and full of desire. Christopher Rice did a great job on this ...he has me hooked on the series!

Eve Recinella (Between The Bookends) says

SO holy WOW was this book good! Amazingly well written. It had a ton of feels, and was actually full of humor. It was sexy as fuck also! Belinda and Amber's mother were SO funny.

I hated what Abel did to Amber and Caleb, and if he hadn't already been dead I would have killed him myself. There is sort of some redemption of his character at the end, but I still wasn't feeling his reasoning or actions. It cause to many years of pain for Amber and Caleb.

Both Amber and Caleb were likable characters. Both fell in love when they were 15, but then circumstances

(and Abel) tore them apart. Amber went on to marry her douche bag hubby she catches cheating, and Caleb traveled, and got married/divorced. They are reunited and sparks fly again.

I was really amazed at how well this book was fleshed out considering it's a novella. It felt like a complete full length novel to me. There was a little background on the characters which is sometimes missing in novellas. The side characters were great also. I hope Belinda gets a book, she was a HOOT!

Overall, I was really impressed with this one!

Kathleen R. says

Title: Dance of Desire

Author: Christopher Rice

Series: 1001 Dark Nights

Publisher: Evil Eye Concepts

Release Date: February 23th, 2016

Genre(s): Romance

Page Count: 148 pages

Heat Level: # 5 flames out of 5

Rating: # 4 stars out of 5

Blurb:

When Amber Watson walks in on her husband in the throes of extramarital passion with one of his employees, her comfortable, passion-free life is shattered in an instant. Worse, the fate of the successful country music bar that bears her family's name suddenly hangs in the balance. Her soon to be ex-husband is one of the bar's official owners; his mistress, one of its employees. Will her divorce destroy her late father's legacy?

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Hands down, I loved this latest 1001 Dark Nights instalment and might I add I was pleasantly surprised by finding out that Christopher Rice is one author that knows how to write a gripping novel! I've so far never hidden in any of my reviews the fact that my guilty pleasures are stepbrother novels and mafia family genre,

and since the very first book I've read of the 1001 Dark Nights series, I was an instant fan. Picking up Dance of Desire, I was completely unprepared for how hot Amber and Caleb were as a couple - the pages were screaming chemistry, unfinished business and 'don't mess with my woman or I'll mess with you'. I'd say it was swoon worthy, but I'm not too sure that it's entirely accurate. Amber owns a successful family country music bar that she shares with her husband - or rather her soon to be ex-husband since she found him in bed with one of her employees. The gasp worthy moment isn't so much the fact that she had found the two in bed, but more the fact that she had been living in less than 'bedroom desirable' circumstances and she risks losing the family legacy that is the bar. When Caleb returns to Texas after years of being on the road, he soon realizes that his feelings for Amber haven't changed or diminished throughout their separation. Not one who will idly stand by and watch as Amber gets her dreams taken away from her from selfishness, Caleb steps in to help protect to keep a legacy in the family and not in the hands of someone who would like to own it simply to hurt. I wish I had known about Christopher Rice before today - this was absolutely the type of story that drew me in, sank its claws in me and kept me reading until the very last page without coming up for a breath of air. Where I first thought this was the first novel by Christopher Rice in the 1001 Dark Nights turns out is his second and here I am, finishing my review and about to add all his books to my TBR list and one click that single 1001 Dark Nights I missed - trust me, I highly recommend this novel.

PLOT: 4/5

CHEMISTRY: 5/5

PACING: 4/5

ENDING: 4/5

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT: 4/5

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ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review. Reviewed by Kathleen from Alpha Book Club

Kimberly Rocha~ Book Obsessed Chicks says

Young love torn apart before it has a chance to blossom.

Teenagers, Amber and Caleb were about to explore their feelings for one another when tragedy strikes leaving Caleb an orphan and a resolution that makes it impossible for the young pair to continue their

romantic affections.

Now years have gone by and married Amber walks in on her low-life husband having sex with another woman. Amber has had enough and decides to end her emotionless farce then and there. Unfortunately for her, the soon-to-be ex Joel plans on making her life very difficult. Upon Amber's father's passing, he left his thriving family business, a bar, to Amber's husband. In the subsequent years, the bar's mismanagement by said husband has caused rifts of all kinds. When the employees call Amber pleading with her to help stop Joel from wreaking havoc, she heads on over to deal with Joel. She figured Joel wasn't going to be reasonable, what she didn't figure on was Caleb coming back into the picture, riding in like a cowboy knight to save the day.

No matter what has transpired in their lives apart, Caleb always loved Amber. Walking in on wannabe musician Joel trying to bully Amber just sets him off and when he discovers that Amber and Joel are done, he realizes that things could maybe, finally go his way.

Amber is relieved but shocked to see Caleb, who hasn't been around since the day Amber married Joel. Now a flicker of hopes springs, but voices from her past keep her feelings for Caleb under wraps. Amber's boss Belinda has plans a getaway for her faithful employee to visit the Desire Exchange which could be life-changing for Amber. Now that Caleb is back in town and hears about Amber's getaway, he sets out to stop Amber from this "sex club" visit and in the process the two fall harder than they could have imagined when they first began. They still must overcome that voice in the back of their brains keeping them apart if they are going to make a go of it.

DANCE OF DESIRE by Christopher Rice is just plain awesome. This story has everything I want, a hot cowboy and two people who were destined to be together but circumstances kept apart. This well-told tale which engages from beginning to end, is a great read, not to be missed.

Julie (Jewls Book Blog) says

Amber and Caleb have a complicated relationship. They've been friends forever and kind of fell in young love as teenagers. Before they had a chance to explore their feelings a tragic accident and the well meaning, but misguided, intentions of Amber's dad now has them on paper as siblings...just not by blood. When Amber finds her husband plowing the field so to speak and Caleb's surprise return home, she realizes she still has feelings for Caleb but hasn't a clue what to do about them.

Caleb has always been in love with Amber but his guilt in betraying her dad is the only thing preventing him from acting on it. Now in their mid twenties, Caleb and Amber have a second chance at love. Do they continue pretending they don't yearn for one another or give in to their desires and leave the past where it belongs-behind them?

Dance of Desire reminds me of watching the eighth second bull ride-sit down, buckle up and hold on for the ride! Quirky dialogue, a sassy heroine (the best kind!) one tall, sexy as hell alpha cowboy and a zany cast of supporting characters with a definite love of gossip had me laughing out loud and I enjoyed every minute of this charming and steamy second chance romance!

A big THANK YOU to Lexi Blake for mentioning Christopher's name in a recent post -I have found a new

author and a lovely backlist I can't wait to devour!

Julie- Alphas Do It Better Book Blog

Jen says

Read the full review on Bookaholics Not-So-Anonymous.

Note: This ARC was provided by InkSlinger PR in exchange for an honest review.

Finding out how Caleb and Amber became siblings is something I'm going to remain mum about since I would prefer you discover how that all happened by reading the book. Suffice it to say that it wasn't like anything else I've come across in any books I've ever read. Yep, it was a first and that's a rarity in the overall romance genre, what with the insane influx of books each and every day. What I will say is that Caleb and Amber's situation was painfully difficult for both of them, and I absolutely understood why there was such a resistance--not just plain hesitation--on either one's part to even think about pursuing their long-held feelings for one another. There's a particular scene where Caleb asks Amber to not push through with her plans that had my breath catching because of how Caleb desperately pleaded with her.

Christopher Rice does a fantastic job combining both heart and heat in this novella. I sympathized with Caleb and Amber because they were so torn by their sense of familial loyalty and by their still very much present love for each other. And when these two are together and they allow their eyes to meet and acknowledge the pull between them, the chemistry is palpable and hot--as in sizzling! But I need to point out that there's also a lot of humor in the book, a lot of them courtesy of Amber's boss, Belinda Baxter, and Amber's mom, Tina Watson. Throw in Tina's friends at the Haven Creek Inn and the no-nonsense sassiness is amped up, Texas-style. So, you've got a bit of drama and angst, swoon-worthy romantic and naughty moments, and lighthearted exchanges and situations but they all work well together in this novella that I am more than happy to recommend. Dance of Desire is a 2016 top five-plus-starred read. ♥

Sybil aka Lala says

When I heard Christopher Rice wrote another book for the 1001 Dark Nights Series, I was all about my getting my hands on a copy. I fell hopelessly in love with his writing in Kiss The Flame and I was looking forward to his sophisticated humour, excellent characters with their endearing quirks and sweet romance. Just like the perfect gentleman (I'm assuming) he is, he did not disappoint a lady and this time he even added a delicious little treat in the form of the taboo.

Caleb and Amber were teenage sweethearts, but only minutes after their very first kiss tragedy struck and ripped their fledgling romance apart as the two were forced to go from being sweethearts to siblings. Years later, Amber walks in on her husband rutting into one of their employees. She's also about to lose the bar her father built when Caleb saunters back into her life after a four-year absence. A solution to all her problems is not the only thing he brings however, as all her old feelings for him return as soon as the first words are spoken between them.

My three favorite things about this book:

This book was funny.

It plays host to a variety of quirky characters who were as ridiculous as they were realistic. A contradiction in terms? Maybe, but that just attests to the fact that this author is incredibly talented. I was in stitches at the antics of the characters and the interactions between them and while it was ridiculous, the caricatures he created of these characters felt absolutely believable and relatable.

Apart from these amazing characters, the borderline farcical situations they sometimes found themselves in were also highly entertaining and the book is also riddled with humorous descriptions and funny sayings that lent this book a unique and captivating charm.

This book was sexy.

I probably only need to tell you that Caleb was a strong, capable and protective alpha male and that would be enough but the man also has a vulnerable side and his befuddlement over his emotions made me weak at the knees. Add to that the taboo factor, and the sexual tension and angst between Amber and Caleb was escalated to an entirely new level.

When Caleb's control snapped and he was driven by emotions of jealousy and frustration, it made for some grand passionate gestures that left me breathless. I'm just going to go ahead and admit that the thought of his calloused hands and the dirty words falling from his mouth had me sighing: 'Yes, yes I AM your dirty girl', out loud.

This book was heartfelt and emotional.

Throughout the book we get to relive some painful memories with these characters. You know that feeling when you see something so shocking that your knee-jerk reaction is to laugh? Well, in stark contrast to the sweetness and humour of this book, some instances were so extreme in their brutality that it left me totally shocked. The shocked snortling sounds that came out of my mouth should never be made by a human being.

Again, there were so many other emotions captured in this book. All of them, from passion to anger to sweetness to lust to pain, were described so poignantly that I was right there feeling every single one with each of these characters.

All in all, this novel was short but so rich in everything I love about the romance genre: complex characters, layered plot, quirky characters, humour, emotion and above all passion. This book was, in a word, brilliant. Definitely recommended.

(ARC provided by the author in exchange for an honest review)

Meredith Wild says

A perfect blend of heart wrenching and toe curling, and the writing was impeccable. I absolutely loved this story and its many colorful characters! I know I'll be picking up many more of Rice's books!

Jennifer says

"I love you, Amber Watson. I've always loved you. Even when I believed we could never be together, even when it hurt so bad to love you I couldn't see straight, I never stopped. I couldn't even try to make myself stop. It was true then, and it's true now. I'd rather spend the rest of my life feeling the pain of not having you, than spend one moment of it not loving you." ~ Caleb Eckhart

Love. Do we have a choice who we fall in love with? It's often said that the heart wants what it can't have, but what if it's suddenly taboo because of unforeseen circumstances? What if everyone akin to your life tells you your feelings are wrong and unacceptable?

This is a passionate story about forbidden love. Dance of Desire is a poignant tale of two people finding one another and finding their way back again against dubious odds. This story will warm your heart and make your soul smile. Christopher Rice has given voice to an amazing plot of characters unfolding in a magnificent tapestry of lust and desire. This was a breath of fresh air in an era where books are continually published without being thought out or edited. A beautifully written narrative wrought with tender moments and humor.

Did I mention this man can write a hell of a sex scene? Well he can. Holy hotness!! Kudos Mr. Rice. I can not say enough about this story and can't wait to read more from you, I will read anything you publish. You now have a forever fan.

This is a must read for anyone who enjoys a well crafted tale full of intensity and devotion. I big red heart loved this!!!!!!

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

I was pretty excited to find out that Christopher Rice was writing a straight contemporary romance set in my home state of Texas and was even more excited when I was granted an ARC of Dance of Desire and I'll admit that I was curious how he would handle both writing contemporary romance after writing erotic romance and writing a M/F pairing and he did an admirable job on both. Dance of Desire was sweet with a side of spicy thrown in for good measure and some might find the pairing a bit taboo, (although they shouldn't) but most of all it featured the humor, quirkiness and mesmerizing writing that I've come to expect from this author.

Amber Watson's life is turned upside down when she finds out that her husband who hasn't been seeing to her needs in the bedroom has been tending to the needs of someone else. Given that he's a managing partner of the bar her father poured his life into, Amber isn't sure how she's going to fight it until her "brother" Caleb returns with a bit of news that will not only save the bar but rid Amber of her cheating husband once and for all. So yes the hero and heroine and technically brother and sister...but it's not what you think; Amber's parents adopted Caleb when they were fifteen after his parents who were close friends were killed and at that point it put an end to their fledgling feelings for one another.

The attraction and need between these two was evident from the start and while it took them both to move past the fact they were siblings, once they did they didn't shy away from being together. I enjoyed watching them own up to their feelings, unraveling the past and moving toward the future and I loved that the drama really wasn't between them, that it came from outside sources. That being said, as much as I love novellas I would have loved this book to be longer because everything seemed a bit rushed and the big problem was taken care of a bit too easily given the circumstances, yet I still loved this couple and that despite everything they were able to finally be with the one they loved.

I often have a hard time reading books set in Texas because most of the time characters are "over done" or very stereotypical, yet Mr. Rice did a pretty good job of keeping that to the minimum. I will say that the hero's "little lady" did kind of get on my nerves because after living here all of my life I've never met someone who says that with such frequency as this hero, but Amber's very wealthy and eccentric boss was totally on point making me excited about the future of this series.

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Melinda Hennies says

Trust Your Heart

Amber has been in a loveless marriage and finds her husband with someone else. Amber is going to make some changes when someone from her past returns.. Caleb her adopted brother. They have a chemistry that is sizzling but Caleb was warned off years ago. Caleb follows Amber and tells her the truth and his he feels as does Amber. Together along with her mom life turns out for Amber!

Natalie The Biblioholic says

So I've read something from Christopher Rice before, but it was a thriller. Kinda what I expected from him. And his mother. But when I heard that he had branched out into contemporary work, I had to see what's what. This book was **PHENOMENAL!!**

This story started out with heartbreak but I soon found solace in the forbidden love of Amber and Caleb. After being torn apart soon after falling in love, many years later they were finally free to pursue and explore their feelings and it was beautiful. And oh so freaking hot!! The plot was well-developed, I enjoyed the taboo backstory of the characters, and I laughed **SO** much over their antics throughout. I'm just saying... Caleb's guitar playing by the pool scene was **HILARIOUS!!**

Release Date: February 23, 2016

Genre: Contemporary Romance

POV: Dual - 3rd person

Steam: 4 out of 5

Book Type: Standalone novella

**Read as part of the 1001 Dark Nights: Bundle Nine anthology*

Tracey says

Telling her how he really felt should have been the last option. The absolutely dead-last, nuclear apocalypse option. And touching her? Well, that was beyond the nuclear option. That was a "zombies are breaking down the front door and the only way out is through the nearest window" kind of option.

Amber and Caleb have known forever that their feelings for each other were something special. But just when they were beginning to let each *other* know, life events changed everything, making anything other than a platonic kind of love unacceptable. True love, though, cannot be denied, and sometimes the heavens smile down on lovers after all.

I was lucky to happen upon one of Christopher's earlier books in the 1001 Dark Nights series, and really enjoyed it, so when DANCE OF DESIRE came along, I put it right at the top of my TBR list. This little book was a true delight to read. Christopher's combination of humor, steamy sexiness, and heartfelt emotions, along with great characters and a realistic story line made this one of the most enjoyable, feel-good books I've had the opportunity to read lately. The relationship between Amber and her mother had me laughing out loud, and Belinda, Dora, Amanda, and all of the supporting characters are just great. I enjoyed every single bit of this book, and would be happy to see more of these folks in future. 4.5 stars for DANCE OF DESIRE; add this one to your reading list, because you will thoroughly enjoy it.

ARC generously provided by the publisher for an honest review.

E-Reader Addict says

I found this author when I chased a rabbit trail at the end of another book...that book lead to another book, which lead to this one. Christopher Rice is a new author to me, and after reading two of his books, I'm not sure how I feel about his stories...but his writing is fantastic!

Amber and Caleb were childhood sweethearts, sorta. After sharing a steamy kiss at 15, the death of Caleb's parents puts an end to their budding relationship when Amber's parents legally adopt Caleb. Now it's ten? twelve? years later. Amber's marriage has just imploded, putting her family's bar at risk, and Caleb has reappeared after a lengthy absence. The attraction between them has clearly not diminished, even after all this time, and Amber and Caleb have to decide if they want to finally take a chance and be together.

I loved all the characters in Dance of Desire. Amber and Caleb were witty and charming, and Amber's boss

was hilarious. This could have been played as the "cheated upon, scorned woman out for revenge" but instead it was a lighthearted and funny book. There were so many things that made me laugh out loud! Despite being a shorter book (148 pages), there was plenty of plot and character development to not feel like the story was short-changed or lacking.

But once again (as in *Desire & Ice: A MacKenzie Family Novella*), there's a little bit of an "ick" factor with role playing. According to the state of Texas, Caleb and Amber are brother and sister, thus making their relationship inappropriate. That they aren't actually related makes it not inappropriate, of course, but when Caleb calls Amber "sister" - and she encourages him to do so - during their steamy times? Yeah, that just kinda turned me off. So once again, that almost derailed my enjoyment of this book.

I'm not sure if the "taboo" storylines are Mr. Rice's thing or not (and I put taboo in quotes because the relationships in both the books I read aren't truly inappropriate, and never had been) . I enjoy his writing, but maybe I need to do a better job of vetting his storylines before I read another of his books.
