



JULIE MAYERSON BROWN

# LONG DANCE HOME

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## **Long Dance Home** Julie Mayerson Brown

Cece Camden has a plan—for work, for love, for life—and she believes she is right on track. But on her 29th birthday, her grand plan begins to unravel, and the disciplined, former ballerina's life is turned upside down.

Newly unemployed and devastated to learn she and her boyfriend are not on the same page, Cece returns to Clearwater, her hometown in Northern California wine country, hoping to find comfort for her broken heart with her family. Being back in Clearwater only adds to her stress, however, when she reluctantly agrees to help rescue a small-town production of *The Nutcracker*.

Having once been the ballerina that would make Clearwater famous, Cece's return attracts attention, inspires gossip, and forces her to examine a decision she made years before at the most vulnerable time of her life. As old wounds are opened and secrets revealed, long-held beliefs about Cece's childhood are challenged, leading her to question everything she thought she knew about family, love, and herself.

As Cece struggles to accept the truth, she lets go of one dream and discovers a new one, opening her heart to a purpose and a future she had never imagined.

“A perfect, cozy read for the holidays. Delving into the topics of loss and regrets, this book is full of surprises. Heartwarming and poignant.” Lisa Manterfield, author of *A Strange Companion*.

## **Long Dance Home Details**

Date : Published December 12th 2017 by Julie Mayerson Brown (first published December 1st 2012)

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Author : Julie Mayerson Brown

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## From Reader Review Long Dance Home for online ebook

### Julie Brown says

Dear readers,

I am the author of Long Dance Home. This book has had quite a journey.... following a series of unusual personal events in the summer of 2017, I decided to pull the original version and rewrite the book. I loved my storyline, however there were a number of improvements and changes I wanted to make to the novel. What started as a "quick fix" soon morphed into a complete revision. This new version digs deeply into Cece's (my protagonist) emotional wounds and misbeliefs. Her character arc is steep and dramatic. If you read the original book, the story may be familiar, but the experience will be very different.

I am so pleased with my "new" novel, including a gorgeous cover that reflects my heroine's path in life. Inside these pages you will meet a cast of characters you'll love and enter a small town you'll want to visit.

From author Lisa Manterfield: *"A perfect, cozy read for the holidays. Delving into the topics of loss and regrets, this book is full of surprises. Heartwarming and poignant."*

Thank you for being part of my Goodreads community. As you probably know, reviews are critical, and books thrive only when readers review and recommend them. I hope you will write a review for Long Dance Home here on Goodreads and on the various retail sites. Authors are beyond grateful for every review, and believe me, most of us really do want to know what readers think.

Please feel free to connect with me here, on social media, or through my website:  
<http://juliemayersonbrown.com/>

Wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving and a joyful, cozy holiday season!

Warmly,

Julie Brown

November 17, 2017

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### Jill says

I was lucky to be an early reader, so I've been able to finish the book, and now I can recommend it! A wonderful 'comfy' read - you just want to keep 'swiping' to the next page. The dialog and descriptions make you feel like you are right there with Cece as she takes her journey. Perfect read for the holidays, or any time!

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### Gabriela Shea says

How I enjoyed reading this book during the holidays! This is a good story anytime, but the setting was so authentic, it made my holidays brighter. The characters are people whom you probably already know. Julie Mayerson Brown brings them to life so that you care about them. Cece's journey of self discovery is a familiar one, however the outcome remains a mystery until the end. If you love a good story filled with

romance, wit and friendship as it navigates life's challenges, you will delight in your dance with this one.

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### **Lisa Manterfield says**

This is a perfect cozy read, especially around the holidays. But this book certainly isn't light and fluffy. It's full of surprises and it delves into the topics of loss and regrets, as well as issues of mental health. It made for a really enjoyable read.

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### **Jemima says**

**Title: Long Dance Home**

**Author: Julie Mayerson Brown**

**Genre: Contemporary Romance**

**Publication Date: December 12, 2017**

There is just one word to describe this book- COZY!

Long Dance Home is the type of book you'd read near a fire place with a warm cup of hot cocoa. It's also the perfect book, with Christmas just around the corner.

There really isn't anything bad to say about this one- It's heartwarming, sweet and blissful with a dash of poignant contemplation (which we all have this time of the year hahaha).

Julie Mayerson Brown has written a book that's the perfect example of what a hallmark movie would be, except in book form. With a storyline that has ballerinas, sticky hot buns, twinkling Christmas lights...what could go wrong, right? This is the type of book where if it were a movie, your elders would say "Honey, cover your eyes, they are going to kiss" hahaha.

Christmas is just a few weeks away and I am so glad I got to read this book, It's blissfully heartwarming!

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For more reviews and giveaways follow my blog at [www.jemimajamir.com](http://www.jemimajamir.com)

## **Sara says**

4 Stars!

This is the perfect weekend read!

A sweet, romance that proves you really can go home again. Cece will steal your heart. She is driven and hopeful, a perfectly positive character who makes you smile and just makes you feel. There are great themes in the book - family, friendship, positivity, making your happy ending, but there are some difficult topics that I felt were so well handled - loss, mental health, regrets. The story pulls a range of feelings out of the reader.

Grab this book, find a cozy little spot and dive right in. You won't regret it.

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## **Jodi McFarland says**

Every once in a while I come across a book I like to read twice because a quick read through is not good enough. This story is so well written and unfolds so beautifully it is like the ballet and deserves an encore. On the first read through I was drawn to the characters and challenges so I sped up to find out if all would end well. I suppose I need a metronome for my reading! On the second read through I was able to enjoy the descriptive phrases and pacing and details of the dance. Give this book and author the opportunity and you might find yourself humming Tchaikovsky as you read it a second or third time. It will be worth it.

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## **Bec\_BookMagicReviews says**

Cece Camden has a plan for everything, except she finds the goals she set for her life aren't working out the way she hoped for. So, when her relationship falls apart and then she finds herself unemployed, Cece decides to return to her hometown of Clearwater. Working to help the local production of The Nutcracker be the best the town has seen in years, Cece finds herself rethinking her plans for her future after questioning a decision she made years ago that may have been the wrong one. Will Cece realize that Clearwater is the place where she's meant to stay, or will she walk away from the man she's fallen in love with?

I am a huge fan of romance books where one of the main characters is a dancer, and Ms. Brown has delivered an enthralling and fast-paced read in this book right from the beginning, because the heroine believes her life is the best it's ever been, and then she suffers a few setbacks that turn her life upside down. Will things ever go back to normal? Will the heroine realize that being home in Clearwater is good for her?

As for the dialogue, it was a wonderful combination of intense moments and teasing banter that's told from the heroine's point-of-view only, but had me loving the interactions between the hero and heroine as well as the secondary characters that are determined to offer their advice. Will the heroine listen to those that care about her? Moreover, the heroine was a fantastic character that had me liking her resilience and courage because the decisions she makes aren't easy ones, but they are definitely the right ones for her in the way she needs the love and support of her family in such a rough patch in her life. I also liked everything she has to deal with when it comes to helping with the town production, as she pushes the kids to dance to their full potential, especially the young girl that's playing the lead because she's an exceptional dancer.

Overall, Ms. Brown has delivered a worthwhile read in this book where the chemistry between Cece and Brad was wonderful and had me hoping that her ex wouldn't come between them; and the ending had me worried for this couple's happy ever after. Yet, in saying that, the epilogue wrapped this story up perfectly, because no one is more suited for Cece than the man she ends up with. I would recommend *Long Dance Home* by Julie Mayerson Brown, if you enjoy women's fiction, small town romances, or books by authors Mary Ann Marlowe, Robyn Neeley, Lucy Parker and Jami Albright.

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### **Jaclyn says**

I really enjoyed this book. As a "recovering" perfectionist, I could relate to the character of Cece and her struggle to let go of her "plan" and embrace the uncertainty of new opportunities. I loved the descriptions of the small-town feel of Clearwater, especially the comfort of Nutmeg's coffee shop and the dance studio, with its highly-anticipated annual performance of the Nutcracker. Clearwater seems like a place I would like to visit.

I liked the other characters, diverse as they were. Patty was quite entertaining, Julia was supportive and motherly, and Natalie was forgiving as she welcomed Cece back, despite the fact that she skipped town, abandoned ballet, and lost touch with Natalie for over 10 years. It was nice to see Cece meet up with her mom, though I'm sure it will take some time for things to feel normal. I'm sure she could appreciate spending time with her lucid mother, while Natalie struggled with her mom's dementia.

While I was happy to see Cece choose her own path at the end, it was a nice surprise and bonus for the reader to see Brad return in the epilogue, so they could tend to "unfinished business" and rekindle their relationship.

A true "feel good" read during the holiday season. Thank you for the wonderful reading opportunity!

-Jaclyn

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### **Uniquely Jenn Life & Books says**

This past weekend we went through a lot of Christmas movies, and for this month I also have a subscription for Hallmark's movie app so that I can watch some (though not all) of their old Christmas movies.

This time of year I can't help but want to escape into the heartwarming, unless they have scheming people, can't stand the ones with scheming people?

I wanted to keep that feeling going so I started reading, *Long Dance Home*, by Author Julie Mayerson Brown. I received an early copy and it felt like the perfect time to open a cozy read book.

This book gave me exactly that. Filled with moments that made me smile and sigh contently as it filled my mind with small town charm and visions of sugar plums fairies. Loved the ballet aspect, it had me wishing I had taken it as a child. The studio scenes, practice, it all came alive in the words. I loved the family life she constructed for Cece, causing me to ache for my parent's house.

In my mind's eye I walked the same streets as Cece, watched the little dancers and enjoyed sticky buns & coffee ;)

This was a sweet, heartwarming read with the perfect hint of romance mixed in. I loved Cece's growth and loved even more how it all ended. <3

Now I want to go watch a production of the Nutcracker.

→AMAZON: <http://amzn.to/2yCbv6U>

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### **Cassie says**

4.5 Stars!

I really loved this book - it was refreshingly different, yet felt like a warm, cozy sweater. The characters were well written and there wasn't one I didn't like. Cece felt like a friend - you could understand what she was going through, she had so many relationships on the mend and past hurts to deal with, yet she gracefully handles it all and marches forward triumphantly. Her family and friends are truly amazing and so supportive. We all need a Patty and a Natalie, a great stepmom like Julia wouldn't hurt either!

You ever feel like you could be watching a movie while reading a book? That's how this one felt to me. I think it fits in perfect this time of the year. Thank for getting me in the Christmas spirit :)

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### **Joy Rancatore says**

29-year-old Cece finds herself learning the steps for her most important role in the dance of life.

Long Dance Home will delight, entertain and remind readers of the dreams they once held ... and maybe even help them discover one worth dreaming once more.

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### **Janet says**

Huge 5 Stars for Long Dance Home by Julie Mayerson Brown! This was such a riveting tale that just tears at the heart! I absolutely loved Cece's tale of tragedy and rebuilding her life as well as her inner self. If you love a deep, meaningful tale, that is filled with emotion, then this is the book for you! I highly recommend this!

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### **Jmjj5 says**

From the moment I started this book, I fell in love with it. I was drawn in immediately and felt that I was the main character, Cece. I love that she had several goals and a hopeful timeline for her life, but as we all know, nothing ever works out exactly as planned. I appreciated how the stepmom was portrayed in a very positive way, which is not all that common. I loved the humor sprinkled throughout the book. The title couldn't have

been more perfect and I wonder which came first: the title or the idea for the story. I adored the references to the sticky buns which I could practically smell while reading the book. The characters were so likeable that I actually missed them once I finished the book and I'm hoping for a sequel! I would highly recommend this book! A "must" read!

Wendy

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### **Mark Fine says**

There is vitality to this novel that I found refreshing. The author's ability to capture the spirit, the essence, of her characters extended way beyond mere florid descriptions. And so I enjoyed the fascinating cast of characters that filled the setting in Clearwater, a small Northern California town.

No doubt about it "The Long Dance Home" is a modern love story, and other reviewers have elegantly articulated the romantic travails of CeCe. But I choose to focus on some other aspects of this well told story; the loving homage to the arts —specifically ballet, the joys of an imperfect family—where the stepmother is a gem, the loyalty of friendships—even if the best bud is a goof, the reverence for tradition—even if it's the annual children's performance of "The Nutcracker," the desire to do one's very best—even if mistakes are made along the way, and finally the pain of loss—the price for feeling alive.

We meet the Russian-born ballet instructor, Ilana who nurtured the dance prodigy we know as CeCe, as a young child. But due to the fragility of age, and the onset of senility in her mentor, CeCe finds herself experiencing a different kind of loss--the emotional fading of the most influential person in her life. The scene with the crystal ballerina Christmas ornament, a gift received many years before from a then vital Ilana, I found to be both poignant and meaningful.

Finally, there is adroitness in penmanship (especially the dialog) that separates author Julie Brown from many of her peers: there's a sequence when her current beau visits CeCe's parents' home for the first time—the snappy exchange between boyfriend, family and friends still makes me chuckle. This is lively and refreshing stuff that I encourage other readers to enjoy!

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