



Ripped

Lisa Edward

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According to the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of dance [da:ns] is “to move rhythmically to music, typically following a set sequence of steps.” Technically, that’s true, but dance is so much more. What the dictionary doesn’t mention is that the movement comes from within you, from the very depths of your soul, that place that holds all your hopes and fears, all your loves and losses. Dance is a form of expression, of all the emotions that make us who we are.

Jasmine Wilkinson

I’ve finally made it ... only six years later than expected.

New York promises to be the experience of a lifetime, and if I’m lucky enough, a chance to dance on Broadway and fulfill a lifelong desire.

After graduating from Boston Conservatory, I’d intended to meet the love of my life, Baxter Sampson, in the city that never sleeps, and share the rest of my life with him. But sometimes dreams don’t go as planned, and we have to make new ones. I know Bax would have made it big; he was such a phenomenal dancer. I wish I could have been there to see it happen, but I can’t wait to catch a Broadway show and see his name in lights.

Maybe he’ll still remember me.

Baxter Sampson

Eight years in New York have all but stolen my dreams from me.

After years of auditioning for every contemporary ballet production in New York, I had to admit defeat. I wasn’t good enough to make it on Broadway. I wasn’t good enough for Jasmine, the only girl I’ve ever loved, to keep her promise and meet me here after she graduated six years ago. So my plans changed—they had to. But when there’s an inexplicable force driving you to perform, you have to catch the spotlight wherever you can, even if it’s in the last place you expected to find it. My life had always revolved around Jaz and dance, my two true passions. I’ve already lost one—I can’t lose the other.

Ripped Details

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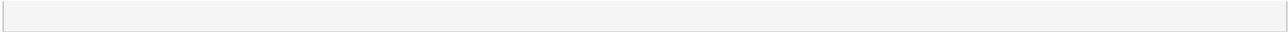
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From Reader Review Ripped for online ebook

Nicole Emerald Book Reviews McCurdy says

*** Reviewed for Emerald Book Reviews***

4 stars *****

Ripped by Lisa Edward is like every great dance movie you have ever seen- a composition of dance, ambition, miscommunication, love, loss and learning. Although it has the essence of being a terrific book, there are a few things that keep me from giving Ripped the full five stars such as the beginning which came across as slightly rushed. Teenagers Jasmine and Baxter were soul mates, deeply, madly irrevocably in love with dance and with each other, until due to a miscommunication or just plain stubbornness they drifted apart and ended up breaking one another's hearts. Fast forward through the years and our hero and heroine collide together in a beautiful serendipitous moment on a New York street. And it's at that precise moment, all of that lost love and yearning comes pouring back.

The one thing that let the book down just a little was the lack of description in the dancing, it wasn't technical enough to paint a clear picture. We are told Jasmine danced beautifully, or wonderfully but never what steps she danced, maybe this is just my personal preference but it did hinder my enjoyment of Ripped as a dance based novel.

I felt that although I liked Jasmine and Baxter respectively, I never really felt like I got to know the true essence of them. Jasmine is a little naive and innocent whereas Baxter is slightly jaded and cynical but that's all we seem to learn. There isn't any real depth, to how they think, why they react the way they do to certain situations. But it is still a nice light not-to-angst riddled story. Don't get me wrong there are some lovely romantic moments, there is also a good dose of drama and secrets to shake up the equilibrium.

"So how have you been?" That was a stupid question. I could see how she had been, but I needed to break the ice and start somewhere. She nodded. "Good. I've been good." Her eyes scanned my face. "You?" Sighing, I decided on complete honesty, something I should have committed to from the beginning. "Lost, Jaz. I'm lost."

The dialogue was a little stilted in the beginning but as the book progressed it was like Lisa found her rhythm and the key to listening to her characters and what they wanted to say. It was a lovely read, with two engaging leads and a few schemers to thicken the plot.

Michelle says

ARC provided by the author for an honest review

Beautiful

This story is about Jasmine and Baxter they were together in school they met in Ballet school Baxter is 2 years ahead of her but it didn't matter they fell for each other straight away they both had dreams to go to New York and make it as dancers Baxter finished school first so the plan was to go and set a life up for them but things didn't work the way they were meant to and it hurt both of them

Baxter is a very strong sex man his body had changed a lot he was build bigger an had tattoos an long hair so there was alway something that didn't fit an after bein rejected so much in the dance world it hit his confidence a lot an not having Jasmine there he help him through it made it worst an the way she left him didn't help either but the meeting his gorgeous girls again after 8 years was a totally shock but pure fate

Jasmine as been through a lot an she had to do thinks that she didn't want to an that was leave Baxter in New York till it was sorted but after he blanking her she had to deal with things on her own when she really did need him but she had to pull herself together now dancing was her life an New York was still her plans she was having the worst day ever when the luv of her life dumped into her again but could thinks go back to the way they were 8 years again the feelings were there an the luv never went away but there was a few secrets that could cause a few problems

I really enjoyed this story it was so beautiful the author is new to me but I have to say I luvd the writing it was good an I definitely would read more of her books I just luvd the 2 main characters I just luvd them straight away Baxter is so sexy I was actually thing through the book that is was a lil bit bit mixed with Magic Mike and Step up an then I just kept thinkin of Channing Tatum an then it got a whole lot better haha I really liked Jasmine's character to she was a soft girl but once someone got in her way of getting what she wanted an was a threat to her she would do what had to b done an I really liked this about her I would recommend this book it was a lil predictable in parts but I didn't really care I enjoyed xxx

Commando ;)

Valeen Robertson (Live Thru Books Blog) says

Ripped is an emotional, second chance love story with 2 likable, passionate leads. Jasmine and Baxter were young lovers who were immersed in the dance world. Baxter went off to New York to follow their dream and Jasmine was supposed to follow soon, after she graduated 2 years later. But, her world fell apart when her father was diagnosed with a terminal illness, so she had to stay at home to care for him, and spend his finals days with him and her family. She ended up at a prestigious Boston dance company, which had offered her a chance to fulfill her dream of dancing, and to stay at home with her father. But, she was aching to be with Bax the whole time. When Jasmine didn't follow him to New York after she graduated, he ghosted her without her getting a chance to tell him why she was unable to go to New York.

It's been 8 years since Bax left, and Jasmine has finally made her way to New York to start auditioning for dance jobs. She literally runs into Bax on the street, and it's as if no time has passed, and they're back in each other's arms again. Only, he's afraid to tell her that he's given up on his dance and Broadway dreams, even as she's starting her New York dream. Their journey back to forgiveness, and a second chance at love is heartfelt, emotional and passionate. There are major hurdles in their relationship, including Bax's current occupation that he's hiding from Jasmine, finding a reasonably priced place to live, and of course, fulfilling

both of their dance dreams. But, they make it through and get their HEA.

I love Ripped, and am now a big fan of Lisa Edward and am looking forward to reading more of her work.

I received an ARC for an honest review.

books are love says

I cried for Baxter. This guy went through alot and lost all his belief in himself by the time Jaz came back in his life he really had lost all hope so seeing him journey back to dance and gaining not only love in his life but confidence in his dancing again just had me melt. The story of finding each other 8 yrs later and having the love be just as strong is wonderful. I love how even though the feelings were there they didn't just start where they left off but got to know each other again and learn about one another all over again. We see forgiveness and letting go occur before moving forward. I understood why Baxter didn't tell Jaz one of his jobs but her reaction at first was over the top. She didn't listen to him or try to see why he was doing what he was.

In a way Baxter was right, Jaz was wrapped up in her world and didn't really pay attention to his. He did everything for her and supported her. Was there for her and listened but did she really do that for him? Meh not really. That frustrated me because he was so amazing but hurt inside and she didn't pay attention.

Their world was defined by dance and it defined them as well. For Baxter he doubted his skills and turned to a way to dance and earn money. It is Jaz after she realizes her shortcoming when it came to him that she began to help Baxter gain confidence in himself again.

the story surrounding dance and the funding of a dance production was interesting. Watching them learn the deception and turn it around was great as was seeing Baxter find himself and love again.

A heartwarming story that wraps you in a wonderful blanket of love you feel from Jaz and Baxter from the beginning. You see their story play out, through forgiveness, acceptance, finding oneself, supporting each other and dealing with issues. We see them grow as a couple and individually as their dreams become reality and their love grows and helps them through good and bad times.

Wendy Livingstone says

I received a copy of this book for an honest review.

This is the first time I have read any of this authors work, and I was not disappointed. This is a second chance romance story between Jasmine and Baxter. There are some twists and turns, but the storyline is about loss, hope, passion, and love.

The author was written a well paced storyline, and I recommend reading this book to all romance lovers!

Heather says

Baxter & Jasmine are ballet dancers who met while training at Boston Conservatory. Baxter being a couple

of years older, graduated and went to New York ahead of Jasmine. The plan was for him to start his career, find them a home, and Jas would follow after her graduation. But of course, life has a way of changing the best laid plans.

Baxter discovered auditions and being casted for Broadway or even way off Broadway was a whole lot harder than he expected. Then Jasmine went through her own turmoil with her father becoming terminally ill. Add distance, stress, and uncertainty and poor decisions look rational.

Then fate interferes, eight years later, six years after Jasmine was supposed to go to New York, she is there. On her way to an audition, she runs into Baxter in the street. There is an instant reconnection, and the choices are made to figure out how to be together. There are potential stumbling blocks and they have to figure out what is important to each of them. Baxter has lost his way over the years without Jasmine. Can she help him find himself? And become the person she needs him to be?

I enjoyed the book and look forward to more. The only nagging part for me was how Jasmine had talked about the two of them talking or texting daily. Then how would Baxter not have at least had some inkling of her father's illness. He should have known the reason for her delay in moving to New York since the books timeline gives it as months between illness and her signing on with another ballet company. This was really my only pause of feasibility and it was early in the book, ultimately the issue was during creation of plot struggles and I can forgive that without a lot of issue.

aNneMarLi - Chatterbooks Book Blog says

4.0 "ANYONE BUT THAT GUY" Stars!!!

"Being with you. Dancing with you. It was the happiest time of my life."

I wanna make this review short and sweet because I believe that no matter and whatever I will write will pale in comparison to the readers perspective towards the book than me giving more details. Maybe because the book just screams "not for everybody" and to be honest at some point it feels like it's kinda dragging. However though as the story progresses I cannot ask for a better way of delivering Jasmine and Baxter's journey better than this.

"Can we pretend the last six years never happened and you've come to meet me in New York like you promised?"

The emotion that took place was all over. I thought it's the same second love story I usually read but I thought wrong. This is just so much. My heart was gripped and I feel the pain.. the longing and the love that they both shared despite distance...despite years of separation and you know what? My heart even leaped that time they met again. There's no better feeling than that very moment. As much as I thought it was Jasmine's story, it wasn't. It was more Baxter's... their passion...that driving force.. *sigh ... it was WOW!

What they went through feels so real. The highs and lows... and that secret when revealed? I totally understand Baxter. I feel him and I ache for him. But the good thing is, there's Jasmine that lighted up and made him realize what needed to be done and what way better to reach his dreams without crushing what they have.

Lisa Edward's Ripped is a book showcased not only with heart gripping scenes but also straightforwardness that will make you gutted until the end.

“This was an exercise in trust, and I trust you with my life, because you are my life.”

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review

Donna ~ The Romance Cover says

Ripped by Lisa Edward

4 stars!!!

“Being with you. Dancing with you. It was the happiest time of my life.”

I am a sucker for second chance romances and Lisa Edward delivers a great one with Ripped. As always with a Lisa Edward read you get great character connection, lots of emotion and real, relatable characters that you cannot help but champion along.

Jasmine and Baxter had one thing in common as children, dance. Both were child prodigy’s and together they made magic. Their dreams were to live in New York together and follow a certain path to greatness. Baxter graduated two years before Jasmine and he was going to New York to get everything set up for when Jasmine graduated and followed him. However, sometimes, unforeseen things happen and Jasmine never made it.

“New York was a melting pot of culture and indulgence, mixed with poverty and desperation, it really was the city that never sleeps or at least never stayed the same for any length of time.”

Six years later and Jasmine has finally made it to New York, hustling to an audition she bumps into Bax, six years is a long time to be apart, but not long enough for feelings and emotions to die. As soon as their eyes meet, everything is reignited, but can past feelings stay in the past or will they hinder their future.

“Can we pretend the last six years never happened and you’ve come to meet me in New York like you promised?”

I will say, this is a huge case of miscommunication and misunderstandings. Bax truly believes that Jasmine abandoned him and just didn’t come without giving her a chance to explain. Bax felt rejected by Jasmine and the dance world as a whole. New York is tough, tough to get recognised, tough auditions, everyone wants to be a star but very few make it. Bax’s path didn’t go the way he wanted, but he made the best out of a bad situation, but with it comes another dose of truths.

“They say ‘absence makes the heart grow fonder’, but in my experience the saying ‘out of sight, out of mind’ is truer.”

Jasmine was a born dancer but she was extremely loyal to her family first and foremost. It pained her to put her dreams on hold, but now is her chance to shine and meeting Baxter once again is just the icing on the proverbial cake.

These two had that all-consuming love, they were both young, but their relationship was mature beyond their years. Lisa Edward broke my heart many times throughout this book, so many emotions, conflicts, secrets, a little mystery all give way to a page turner. While in some places the pace slowed it soon picks up as these two fight for themselves and to right a lot of wrongs.

“I had dreams just like you did. The spotlight, the applause, the hours of relentless dance until my body ached with fatigue. To me that was the best feeling in the world, to be so exhausted that you were asleep a second after your head hit the pillow.” He raised his gaze to look at me. “That’s what you have. You sleep so soundly, Jaz, but I lay awake for hours staring at the ceiling.”

This is not just a second chance romance but has a great plot too. I love the dance scene and such was the vivid imagery contained within the pages I felt like I was on stage too, there was one dance in particular that made me bawl, as the emotions pouring through their dance were perfectly portrayed through the authors voice. Each step resonated deep within with emotional impact, you feel everything and that was an amazing achievement for the author. I have never felt that before and have certainly never cried over a dance. But this is what Lisa Edward does best, characters. Characters that you cannot help but love, when they hurt, you hurt, when their happy, you smile from ear to ear.

“There’s no rush, Jaz...We have a lifetime.”

Once again, another great read from Lisa Edward.

www.theromancecover.com

Lustful Literature says

Beth's Review

I first fell in love with this author’s writing when I read her Songbird series so when I saw that she had a new standalone coming out and the characters were dancers I couldn’t wait to read it. Her writing in that series was so beautiful and full of emotion and angst. So I must say going into this one I had very high hopes.

Jasmine (a.k.a. Jaz) is finally making it to the big city to make her dreams come true. Only problem is it’s 6 years after she originally planned and she is on her own. Baxter, her once boyfriend, dance partner and love of her life has been in the city for eight years now but for the past 6 years they have not spoken. Baxter moved there eight years ago and waited until Jaz was done school to be able to join him two years later but

that never happened, plans changed and things ended with them. Now, many years later, in a city so large, these two past lovers find themselves running into each other and finding a way back to what they once had. But with Jasmine finally making her dream come true but Baxter never getting that chance, can these two find their way back to the love they shared now that they no longer share dance.

I really liked both Jaz and Bax's characters and their storyline was good but I struggled to stay engaged. I adore second chance romances so along with that, the fact that the main theme of the book is dance, I couldn't wait to read this one and I really wanted to love it. Sadly though I had several issues with the storyline. First I found myself wanting so much more out of the story and out of the characters. I liked the storyline but it just fell flat for me.

Second, I had issues with the premise of the storyline. These were two people who were madly in love, and planning on spending their lives together and to have it all end because something changed and that Jaz didn't get to fully explain what the circumstances were as to why things changed just seemed off for me. Why would they end things and never speak again without a full explanation. Then to have them meet up 6 years later, finally get the explanation and immediately pick up right where they left off, just didn't work for me. And I think with the start of the book not really working for me, it set the tone for the rest of the book.

Last, I found there to a few inconsistencies in the storyline that I struggled to get past and really pulled me out of the story, which even further set the tone for me.

I know I will most likely be in the minority with my thoughts here and hate to rate this book low but this one, although had a good premise, the actual execution of it, just didn't work for me and had me actually contemplating not finishing it. I am glad I did I just wish I could have loved this one.

Ariana *mommy's late night book-up* says

Gosh I loved this book. The emotions that Lisa Edward can generate in the reader is absolutely incredible. Every single book she writes she makes it so that you FEEL what the characters feel. And Ripped is no different. While reading Ripped I didn't feel like I was an outsider looking in on this make believe story but rather, I felt like I was a part of the story living through what the characters did as if I myself was one of them.

The story is second chance at love between Jasmine and Baxter who were two of the most lovable characters I have encountered to date. They both grew up as dancers and they fell in love young sharing big dreams and plans together. When Baxter moves to NYC to pursue his dream, Jasmine is supposed to follow once she finished school. But life happens, and she never makes it. Years later she is finally able to pursue her ultimate dream and in a chance moment their paths cross once again. The connection between these two is unlike anything else...even after all these years apart and they so easily fall right back into where they left off.

Things haven't went as well for Bax and his dreams, but that doesn't stop him from loving and supporting Jasmine as she makes her dreams a reality. He pushes aside his feelings and disappointment in himself and does everything he can to be the most amazing support he can be for her. Yet he still craves the spotlight, NEEDS to dance. So he does the one thing he can which allows him to continue some form of dance. Needless to say, this is the one thing that could cause their forever to come crashing down on them.

When the two of them dance together, magical things happen. The most brilliant and beautiful pictures form in your head as you read, and it brings you a sense of calm like you would not believe. I never had much

appreciation for the ballet...sure I loved dancing it when I was little, but as I got older it never really fancied me. After reading this story I am absolutely dying to go see one.

When secrets are revealed, and actions explained you cannot help but feel your heart break for these two. A sweet second chance romance that will keep you turning the pages.

Patricia Baxes says

What an amazing read! This is the first Lisa Edward novel I've read, but it certainly won't be the last. This author knows how to tug at your heartstrings, making you feel every emotion the characters do. Love, loss, fear, hope--they're all there.

Please read the book. You'll fall in love with Jasmine and Baxter while they try to rebuild the life they should have always had. It's a beautiful journey we get to be a part of. Definitely a 5-star read. (I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.)

Olga therebelreader says

Bax has always wanted Jaz. Both of them love dancing and want to make their dreams a reality. But he let her go once before rather than stand between her and her dreams six years ago. Now they meet again in New York, to the city where Bax has travelled to pursue a dance career. She's just as hot and he wants her just as much. Even after so many years she still haunts his dreams and his fantasies with her dancing talent and her hot, sexy looks. Jaz spent years without him but she refuses to do it again. When something is meant to be, nothing or no one can stand in the way.

What an amazing, steamy read! I totally enjoyed this book! I thought the interactions between the characters were realistic and when Bax and Jaz had their deep moments, they were well written. The secondary characters held major and minor parts of the story but their stories were properly intertwined with the main story.

Secrets are revealed, trust is broken, heartbreak is a given...Kinda predictable story but it's worth the read. It had a good mix of drama, secrets, good love scenes...and a great cover! A very emotional, heart touching dance-centered story that is highly recommended!

ARC kindly provided in exchange for an honest review. Thank you.

Beth says

BOOK REVIEW: Ripped
BOOK SERIES: Stand-alone
AUTHOR: Lisa Edward

GENRE: Contemporary Romance

PUBLICATION DATE: August 16, 2016

CLIFF HANGER: No

4 Emotional Second Chance Stars

SYNOPSIS:

According to the Oxford Dictionary, the definition of dance [da:ns] is “to move rhythmically to music, typically following a set sequence of steps.” Technically, that’s true, but dance is so much more. What the dictionary doesn’t mention is that the movement comes from within you, from the very depths of your soul, that place that holds all your hopes and fears, all your loves and losses. Dance is a form of expression, of all the emotions that make us who we are.

Jasmine Wilkinson

I’ve finally made it ... only six years later than expected.

New York promises to be the experience of a lifetime, and if I’m lucky enough, a chance to dance on Broadway and fulfil a lifelong desire.

After graduating from Boston Conservatory, I’d intended to meet the love of my life, Baxter Sampson, in the city that never sleeps, and share the rest of my life with him. But sometimes dreams don’t go as planned, and we have to make new ones. I know Bax would have made it big; he was such a phenomenal dancer. I wish I could have been there to see it happen, but I can’t wait to catch a Broadway show and see his name in lights.

Maybe he’ll still remember me.

Baxter Sampson

Eight years in New York have all but stolen my dreams from me.

After years of auditioning for every contemporary ballet production in New York, I had to admit defeat. I wasn’t good enough to make it on Broadway. I wasn’t good enough for Jasmine, the only girl I’ve ever loved, to keep her promise and meet me here after she graduated six years ago. So my plans changed—they had to. But when there’s an inexplicable force driving you to perform, you have to catch the spotlight wherever you can, even if it’s in the last place you expected to find it. My life had always revolved around Jaz and dance, my two true passions. I’ve already lost one—I can’t lose the other.

MY THOUGHTS:

This is the first time I have read a Lisa Edward story and let me tell you I was not disappointed. What drew me to this story was not only the beautiful cover or because it was a second chance love story, but it was about dance. I love to watch dancing, whether it be ballet, ballroom, contemporary, Jazz or tap. I love it all and this book, the way she wrote it, I could see and feel the dance scenes. I got a lump in my throat a few times when the dances were portrayed because it felt so real from the emotions the characters were pouring into their dance.

This is a very emotional and very sexy read! I really enjoyed it. It bogged down a few times, but it picked right back up and I flew through it. The love scenes are both tender and erotic. There is so much misunderstanding and miscommunication that caused them 6 years of their lives and your heart hurts for them. I wanted to scream what a waste! Why didn't you just listen! Why didn't you try harder, but were there reasons for this? Absolutely. The characters had their own journeys they had to complete and personal obligations to be met. The characters are very well developed and the secondary cast of characters add a richness to the story, even the villain, the choreographer.

From the second chance meeting in New York through the heartache and secrets that unfold, this book is beautiful, heartfelt and extremely real. You feel every emotion that is given through the characters whether it is interpreted through their dancing or through the trials they are put through to make this love work. I truly loved this book and I highly recommend you read it if you love second chance love stories!

ARC kindly provided by Once Upon an Alpha for an honest review.

MillsyLovesBooks says

This is my first read from Lisa Edward so had no expectations going into Ripped. I enjoyed Lisa's style of writing it was straight to the point, a fast paced second chance love story.

Jasmine met Baxter when she was 16 and became his dance partner both having an amazing passion for dance, friendship blooms and their passion takes on another form that being passion for each other. With Bax being a little older he heads for New York to make a start on their future and pursue a dream of becoming a professional dancer, with the promise of Jaz following two years later when she graduates to also follow the dream of dancing. For two years they kept their long distance relationship going but when Jaz is meant to head to New York her father falls ill changing her life plan. Misunderstandings leave both Bax and Jaz heartbroken and not seeing or speaking to each other for six long years until the day comes when Jaz is able to follow her dream of moving to New York and a chance meeting brings Jaz barrelling back into Bax's life.

A lot can change in six years life doesn't always turn out like we planned, but somethings will always stay the same especially when two people are meant to be together. Can Jaz and Bax get past the hurt they feel for each other can the passion they feel for each other bring them back together and see them dance through life again.....

Well you'll just have to get to one clicking this read to see were they go. I would recommend this read its low on drama and angst it was an easy going no fuss relaxing read, with a second chance at love for a couple who have amazing chemistry on the dance floor and off.

Monica James says

5 pirouetting stars!!!

Lisa Edward is one of my favourite authors. Her Songbird Trilogy near tore out my heart and made me cry

ugly tears and I loved it!

Her new standalone novel, RIPPED does not disappoint. This story encompasses what true love and second chances are about.

When Baxter and Jasmine reconnect after being apart for years, their world collides and their chemistry sizzles off the page. He's the perfect book boyfriend-tall, dark, handsome, and tattooed. AND to add to the mix, he's a dancer, and a good one at that.

Lisa's execution of the dancing scenes made me feel like I was there, cheering both Jasmine and Bax on. I loved the detail, without it weighing down the story. Her writing is flawless.

I laughed, cried, cheered, swooned, and fell in love over and over again.

Fantastic story. I loved every word!!
