



Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday

Jordan Matter

Download now

Read Online ➔

Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday

Jordan Matter

Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday Jordan Matter

A book to make you dream. A book to take your breath away. A book not just for the dancers among us, but for the dancer inside each of us.

The mystery of the body in motion. The surprise of seeing what seems impossible. The art of a moment--a moment of joy, love, silence, grief, effort, *life*--captured.

In one thrilling photograph after another, *Dancers Among Us* presents professional dancers from across the country--leaping, spinning, lifting, kicking, while in the midst of daily living.

There's no photo manipulation here, no trampolines, no gimmicks, no tricks. Just a photographer, his vision, and the serendipity of what happens when the shutter clicks.

Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday Details

Date : Published October 23rd 2012 by Workman Publishing Company

ISBN : 9780761171706

Author : Jordan Matter

Format : Paperback 230 pages

Genre : Art, Photography, Nonfiction

 [Download Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyda ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday Jordan Matter

From Reader Review Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday for online ebook

Alison says

This book makes me happy.

Expecting the unexpected. In his new book, DANCERS AMONG US, Photographer Jordan Matter takes dancers and puts them into ordinary situations, making the scenes beautiful and extraordinary - on a beach, at a construction site, in a library, or at a Subway platform.

There is something about dance that evokes a strong emotional response from me, so I can't tell you how many times I have flipped through this book and smiled, laughed, and even teared up. I have such an appreciation for this art form- its movement, its strength, and its poetry. Yet Jordan Matter takes dance to another level by his still photographs. Not only are the photographs beautiful, but they all seem to move!

For anyone who loves dance, anyone who loves photography, or anyone who wants to see ordinary things through an artist's eyes, DANCERS AMONG US is a wonderful book. I know there will be wrapped copies under the tree this Christmas!

Gorgeous!

Milliebot says

This review and others posted over at **my blog** .

Dancers Among Us is a beautiful collection of photography featuring dancers in every day settings doing fantastic and unique poses. I forget how I stumbled upon this book when it first came out, but it immediately went on to my endless my list of “to buy” books on Amazon and sat there for a while. I finally snagged a copy during Book Outlet’s Black Friday sale (the only shopping I did that day) and I’m so happy I did. This book is so pretty – an excellent choice if you’re looking for a photography coffee table book (I can’t put it on ours because it’s too dirty).

The book is divided into different sections like love, loss and play. At the start of each section, Matter gives a little anecdote about his life to kick off the theme. Each section has a few quotes that fit the theme, and of course the images fit the themes as well. At the end of the book, Matter also provides insight into how many of the photos were taken, or the inspiration behind them.

My only negative about this book is in regards to the layout. There are times when the photos are bisected by the spine – dancers are never cut into, but the split in the pages still distracts the eye from the beauty of the photo. I think this book would have been better suited to a more rectangular layout. so that the left or right edges of the photos start at the spine, rather than being interrupted by it.

Regardless, this is a wonderful book and I’m glad to own it!

Kimberly says

Wonderful! UPS just brought it and I tore into it and read it all the way through right then. Even if you're not a dancer you can appreciate the beauty in this book. I love that it's a "celebration of joy in the everyday" and that sentiment really comes through in every page. This isn't just pretty pictures. There's type and a story there too to guide you though. And in the end you are rewarded with a fun breakdown of how he got many of the shots.

Mark says

Opening this book was like creating a cloud break and letting some sunshine into my life. Throughout this book, dancers celebrate life with movement, and no trampolines, wires or digital enhancement of any kind were used. Dancers Among Us is a joy!

Rod Brown says

I'll be honest, this book caught my eye at the library because the cover and many of the pictures inside as I gave it a quick flip through are just sexy as hell. But as I kept flipping, I started to get an idea of what the photographer was going for and ended up checking it out.

Matter has captured the dancers in his book in moments of incredible athleticism and grace against backgrounds that range from majestic to mundane. As they so often seem to float above it all, the dancers help remind us of the joy of living.

While his chapter introductions are a little too precious, I wish the footnotes section where he explained the logistics behind taking the photos was longer and more extensive. He utilized both planned shoots and guerrilla techniques in capturing his images and offered exact counts of how many leaps and jumps the dancers did to get the one perfect shot.

And there are so many perfect shots! Amazing, bold and beautiful shots!

And often sexy as hell.

Shaghayegh says

This books is Beautiful!

It's basically a book full of pictures. :)

One interesting thing the photographer says in the beginning that was very new to me was: "I want them [my children] to be free from self-consciousness, to discover the deep happiness that comes from a life filled with passion."

Karlan says

After seeing a video of how the shots were achieved, I bought the book for my granddaughter. The photos are wonderful, but the text about the photographer's family did not enhance them. I would have preferred stories about the dancers. It was fun to look at the colorful pictures, and I recommend the entertaining video highly.

Pamela says

"There are two ways of spreading light; to be the candle or the mirror that reflects it." Edith Wharton, as quoted by Jordan Matter.

Jordan Matter's photography is playfully rich, colorfully spellbinding, exhilarating, and brilliantly composed. He uses the camera's lens to tell the story of the many everyday nuances of life, and its quirky moments, through the powerful passion of dance.

Dancers Among Us: A Celebration of Joy in the Everyday is an absolute delight for the soul.

Love is a series of memories. Today's passion is tomorrow's nostalgia . . . The glue that binds these events together is an amalgam of memories you've forged along the way."

Let me just say, the dancer's featured in his book, whether young or old, novice or professional, are insanely talented, strong, and beautifully mesmerizing. Such lines! Such power! Such exquisite dedication to craft.... Most of these photographs are the result of a plethora of takes- many in harsh conditions and/or settings, not to mention physically demanding positioning - which required extreme stamina, patience, and agility on the part of the dancers. One photograph which held me spellbound, my heart thundering in my chest, is that of a dancer draped over a canon barrel looming over the edge of skyscraper. Add insanely courageous to the list of accolades, too.

"This may be one of life's greatest struggles. Often we fear the unknown when we could be anticipating its rewards."

The beauty and power of life in motion, captured in a still; playfulness, love, toil, sweat, sorrow, joy, childhood innocence, senior longevity, urban chaos, country solace, etc. - brought to life through Jordan Matter's genius and the passionate souls of dance.

May the passionate artist within each of us be inspired to create and share something beautiful of our own. If only but a simple smile on a rainy day.....

FIVE ***** Breathtakingly Stunning, Powerful, and Captivating ***** STARS

HFK says

Jordan Matter was inspired by his child playing with toys, who obviously was seeing so much more in his simplistic games than adults did. His reactions, his joy and imagination had completely made it possible to create a world within a world, something that happens in the mind instead of before your very eyes.

What would be a greater way than to portray life through the motions of dancers, to bring the everyday life visible to a deeper level, to tell stories with extraordinary physical abilities that dancers most definitely do posses.

These photographs are inspirational, beautiful, caught in the moment, but Matter's stories of his own life in the middle aren't that interesting, nor do I find them suitable to the great art and talent that these photos present.

Nevertheless, *Dancers Among Us* is worth the bucks, it tells about a life from a different perspective, and there ain't no negative in that.

Nat says

"Dancers are storytellers."

In one thrilling photograph after another, **Dancers Among Us** presents professional dancers from across the country--leaping, spinning, lifting, kicking, while in the midst of daily living.

There's no photo manipulation here, no trampolines, no gimmicks, no tricks. Just a photographer, his vision, and the serendipity of what happens when the shutter clicks.

I went into this not knowing what to expect, but was ultimately blown away by the sheer joy and awe I felt just flipping from page to page in this book. The seemingly effortless and effervescent way the dancers were captured by Jordan Matter made my head spin.

Divided into seven parts with short essays by the author accompanying each one, I was quickly swept up inside this world where everything seemed to be vibrant, sparkling and moving. There's also a lovely dose of quotes from well-known individuals sprinkled throughout **Dancers Among Us**.

But for now I'd like to focus on those bits and pieces that most pierced my heart:

#1: Rise Above It All
Michelle Fleet
New York, New York

#2: Opening Night
Parisa Khobdeh

New York, New York

#3: *Big Day*

Kristin DeCesare, Jessica Press

New York, New York

#4: *Mama's Boy*

Sun Chong, with his mother

Washington, DC

#5: *Vista*

Evgeniya Chernukhina

New York, New York

#6: *Save the Day*

Ricardo Rhodes

Sarasota, Florida

#7: *Saving Lives*

Duncan Lyle

Boston, Massachusetts

I stared at the above picture for an hour trying to figure out how it looks so damn effortless.

#8: *Transfer*

Jeffrey Smith

New York, New York

#9: *Park It*

B-boy Gentl Minsung Kim

New York, New York

#10: *Close Shave*

Alyssa Desamais

Montreal, Canada

#11: Book Worm
Casia Vengoechea
New York, New York

#12: Cram Session
Michelle Fleet
New York, New York

However, the one thing I kept wondering throughout was what happened the second after the shutter clicked... Like, how did the dancers get out of their position safely? But thankfully the author included a section at the end titled “about the photographs.” So if you're interested in knowing more context about the inspirations or ideas behind any particular photo, you can just check out said section at the end of the book. It's utterly brilliant and adds immense depth to each picture.

4/5 stars

*Note: I'm an Amazon Affiliate. If you're interested in buying **Dancers Among Us**, just click on the image below to go through my link. I'll make a small commission!*

Support creators you love. Buy a Coffee for nat (bookspoils) with [Ko-fi.com/bookspoils](https://ko-fi.com/bookspoils)

Emily says

Strange and lovely

Carmen says

Matter has photographed dancers illustrating the joy in everyday life. These pictures are so delightful, wonderful, and fun.

However, the little intervals where Matter talked were boring to me. Cutesy stories about his kids and/or wife - I just didn't care. This brought it down a star.

Elizabeth says

Oh, this is grand. So much joy. And athleticism. LOVE.

Read this interview ::

<http://www.huffingtonpost.com/catheri...>

Erin says

This was beautiful, one of my favorite photography books. It's inspiring to see what the human body is capable of and it's hard not to smile while reading this book.

I'd have loved to give it 5 stars BUT, I have a few issues with it. As other reviewers have mentioned, the author's essays at the beginning of each section add nothing to the experience, and they are so disjointed that they actually detract from it. I finally started skipping them entirely.

I love the portion at the back where Matter describes what it took to get some of the photos. I wish that had been listed in the front, or side by side with the photos. By the time I got to that section I had already forgotten which photographs most intrigued me, so it was a lot of flipping back and forth and I just no longer cared that much. Also, some of the photos that most intrigued me did not have a paragraph. Why he would narrate most but not all is baffling to me.

Finally, while the photos are exquisite and each of the dancers is stunning in their own right, I found some of the shots to be a little too staged. That's a hard criticism to make in an entirely staged book, but it sometimes felt like he was just changing out props to take the same photo. Here's someone running and leaping across train tracks. Here's someone running and leaping to the bathroom. Here's someone running and leaping holding a rifle. The photos that pulled me in were the ones where the dancers were really expressing themselves, and where the photo didn't appear to be as directed. My favorite, for example, is a nighttime shot of a woman jumping into the ocean. The joy on her face and the strength of her body are just beautiful.

Worth reading for sure, but not five stars sadly.

Kathy says

Breathtakingly beautiful and amazing. The juxtaposition of the everyday and the art, the common and the uncommon, the gifted dancers and the average joes made me look at the world in a different way. Quite simply, a thoroughly uplifting and enjoyable book
