



Brother and the Dancer

Keenan Norris

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) ➔

Brother and the Dancer

Keenan Norris

Brother and the Dancer Keenan Norris

Winner of the 2012 James D. Houston Award, Keenan Norris's first novel is a beautiful, gritty, coming-of-age tale about two young African Americans in the San Bernardino Valley--a story of exceptional power, lyricism, and depth. Erycha and Touissant live only a few miles apart in the city of Highland, but their worlds are starkly separated by the lines of class, violence, and history. In alternating chapters that touch and intertwine only briefly, *Brother and the Dancer* follows their adolescence and young adulthood on two sides of the city, the luminous San Bernardino range casting its hot shade over their separate tales in an unflinching vision of black life in Southern California.

Brother and the Dancer Details

Date : Published November 1st 2013 by Heyday Books (first published September 10th 2013)

ISBN : 9781597142458

Author : Keenan Norris

Format : Paperback 264 pages

Genre : Fiction

 [Download Brother and the Dancer ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Brother and the Dancer ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Brother and the Dancer Keenan Norris

From Reader Review Brother and the Dancer for online ebook

Mills College Library says

Fiction N857b 2013

R. says

I felt the first third of the book started out slowly. The Brother and the Dancer got more interesting however, I never felt there was a climax to the story. I did not like the use of the N word. I was hoping for a different ending. I know this is strange to say, but I loved the feel of the cover on this book.

Julia says

I was very disappointed in this novel. Since it was an award winner, I thought I'd find it thought provoking and insightful. Perhaps it was, and it was beyond me.

I was reading this as the Michael Brown case was being considered by the Grand Jury. I was hoping to better understand the issue of race in America. This book did not close the gap in my understanding. I may have been hoping for too much.

This was a story of two young African Americans, a boy and a girl, who live in the same city, but on different sides of the freeway. Both have unusual names, but the boy has been named in recognition of another black man who made a significant contribution to furthering his people, while the girl has a more common name, but spelled creatively. He is the child of respectable, educated, professional working parents, and she is the illegitimate offspring of a hardworking woman and her seedy, but well-meaning, boyfriend. Their paths cross only a few times, for a short time when his sisters are substitute teaching a ballet class she's taking, and, more directly, when they meet at a college orientation tour. Otherwise, their lives are quite separate. Much of the book reads more like dreams than reality, and parts of it are actually dreams. I had a hard time identifying with either character. He kept trying to better understand his racial history and she kept trying to survive and build some kind of future. Both were intelligent characters, but the language they used hid that acumen. Especially with the girl, the schools she attended didn't teach her what she needed to know to be successful for college. She graduated fifth in her class, but couldn't speak eloquently. This may be reality for many inner-city schools, but as a parent of two college age girls, I found it hard to believe that someone who lacked basic English skills would ever be accepted into college, and yet, she was. She worked hard, was insightful and street smart, and deserved better than she was getting, but I felt that ultimately, she'd be defeated by her situation.

Lynn says

Erycha is a girl who dreams of ballet but as a poor girl in San Bernadino Valley, and with a figure not suited to the dance, she feigns stepping. Toussiant is the Brother, a young man whose father is a professor and mother, a hospital administrator, he has a more charmed life. Both grow to adulthood in their respective

neighborhoods. I thought the content and story were intriguing poor poorly told. At times, the author seems to break out of his story and discuss sports in college admittance, Historically Black colleges, and his opinion on how universities often use Africa-American Studies to admit young African-Americans and work with them until they are more capable of more difficult majors. Those tidbits of information are more interesting than the fiction itself. Good try but the book needs an editor and probably a bit more.

Marie says

I have thought and thought about how to describe my reading experience with this book... and the truth is I'm STILL not really sure how to explain it.

The writing is nice, the characters interesting... the images vivid... but I apparently missed the POINT of the book.

The best way I can put it is... dream-like.

You know, when you dream, there are these moments of strong feeling and extremely powerful visions. But when you wake up you only remember bits of it, and the actual bits of dream don't fit together to make a whole. That is the only way I can convey what this book felt like to me.

There was a lack of story, and not much sense of moving forward.

And the two mains, while connected are also NOT connected...

I expected something quite different in the ending than I got.

SO I'm not sure... was this a bad book?

Or a lack of understanding what the author was going for on my part?

There were some interesting moments, but as a whole, it was a book I was ready to be through with long before the end. :/

Jax*Obsessed with my Kindle says**

I received this book via the GoodReads giveaway. I was not asked to provide a review but since it was a gift, I will say a few words. I thoroughly enjoyed reading this book and recommend it to others.

Rebecca says

Thoughtful first novel from this young author -- it's got just enough street, struggle, and sadness; while also being philosophical and esoteric and personal.

Rebecca Lawton says

A wonderful debut by Keenan Norris. This man has a voice you won't soon forget! Read it, learn from it, and

watch Keenan's work as it comes out in the future. An important new California writer.
