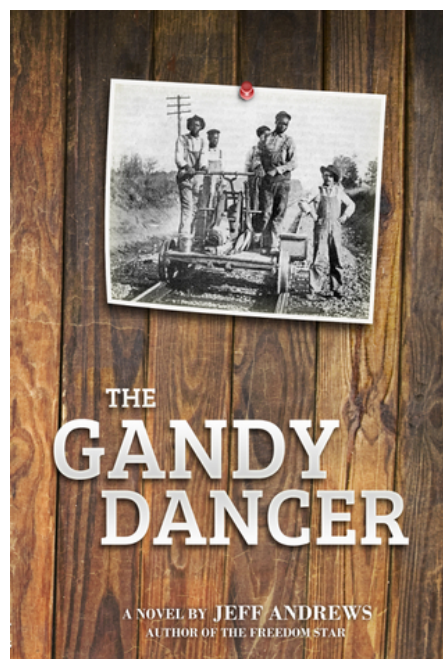




# The Gandy Dancer

*Jeff Andrews*

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# The Gandy Dancer

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## **The Gandy Dancer** Jeff Andrews

His career is on the rocks. His ex-wife is demanding more money. A woman he can't even remember accuses him of fathering her child. Newspaper reporter Mitch Corsini shrugs and takes another drink. However, when his estranged teenaged daughter mysteriously disappears, his life finally has a purpose: find the child he's neglected for too long and rekindle the love they once shared.

Mitch's quest takes him to the Virginia mountains and his ancestral home. There, he finds himself locked in a life or death struggle to save his daughter as seventy-year-old family secrets and the fate of a long-forgotten railroad worker combine to shatter the very foundations of his world.

## **The Gandy Dancer Details**

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Author : Jeff Andrews

Format : Kindle Edition 302 pages

Genre : Fiction, Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery

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## From Reader Review The Gandy Dancer for online ebook

### Cheryl says

I read his first book and liked it so much that I looked to see if he had more. I was intrigued to find he did and we learn more about some of the same characters. Historical fiction is my favorite. American historical especially. This book stands alone but I would highly recommend first reading Freedom Star. The author says he is working on a third novel. I will be anxious to see if it continues the story.

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### Jenny says

I picked this up on the Kindle free list and it didn't disappoint like many of the free offerings. It was a little slow in parts but well worth reading.

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### Esmeralda says

"A Gandy Dancer is a railroad man and his work is never done." George Henry McConnell and his brother Willie were educated black men from Philadelphia who had a furniture business but the Great Depression forced them to go south where they found work on the railroad. Many years later Mitch Corsini, a newspaper man, buries his grandmother Rebecca. He returns home to find that his daughter Erica disappeared while hiking the Appalachian trail. He goes back to Clifton Forge where his grandmother grew up to try to find Erica. When he finally locates her he finds out about his grandmother's secrets and her connection to the Gandy Dancer.

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### Karen Sweiger-Veil says

#### Forbidden Love

I absolutely adored this book! I especially like the two stories at once thing. I figured out the relationship between the stories early in the book, but that didn't quell the excitement of this marvelous tale. A young white nurse and black man fall in love in 1936. A jealous bootlegger makes their lives a living hell and sets events in motion that cannot be stopped because of the racial atrocities of the time. Enter the present. A reporter on the downspin is thrown into a search for his missing estranged daughter. As his desperate search tosses him into dead end after deadend, the stories become entwined as his search takes him to the town where tragedy began. The author is a gifted storyteller. I look forward to reading more of his books.

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### Mike says

I had a couple of problems with this reasonably well told tale. None of the modern-day relationships really rang true for me. Mitch's attitude and interaction with both Ann and Erica seemed false. In fact Mitch's attitude to practically everything appeared a little unreal. The other problem was that the final revelation(?) was too easily accepted on Mitch's part. Considering his racial stance the whole thing just didn't come off,

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his emotional reaction didn't fit with his character.

The 1930's characters came across well and saved the story from being rather tiresome. The idea was good but imperfectly realised. In general, the story-telling was competent enough and even though there seemed a few flaws in the structure and characters there were enough good bits to make it worth having read. Probably worth a half star more for some of Mitch's amusing takes on proceedings.

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## **Megan Folse says**

In total, I loved this book. But...

I absolutely hated the main character, Mitch Corsini. I know he's supposed to be an anti-hero but he has no redeeming qualities. He's a self-centered, racist, sexist bigot. It's a surprise he has friends, let alone Anne, a black, female reporter.

And he never really gets any better.

The rest of the characters are pretty flat, too.

But the plot was fabulous. I thought I had everything figured out but then WOOSH! Plot twist!

This book was free on my Kindle, but today it's up to \$2.99. I think it's worth the money for both prices. But I wouldn't pay the full price of \$14.

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## **Dee Miller says**

### **Bizarre story with plenty of action**

If you like Indiana Jones with terror woven around crazy, mixed up characters who have little sense of social responsibility, this might be right up your alley. To me, it was scarcely worth the hours I spent trying to skim it in hopes of finding any redeeming value.

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## **Claire Osgood says**

### **Entertaining mystery novel with interesting historical background (mid 30's South)**

### **Entertaining mystery novel with interesting historical background (mid 30's South)**

Good plot and character development. Racist bigotry evident, but things improved with time. Enough clues given to keep observant reader interested.

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## **Ambre says**

I really liked this, but I did have some issues.

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So this book is a parallel story about a present day newspaper reporter who, struggling with ennui and personal problems, ends up in a small town investigating the disappearance of his daughter.

Also, it is about a black railroad worker and a white woman who fall in love in the early 20th century.

My first issue was that it wasn't clear that the newspaper story was present day. The voice it was written in was kind of 1940s/1950s and I kept having to remind myself that it was supposed to be current. Even the attitudes felt very dated. Worried about what people will think about a young black man and a white woman dating? Really? I guess things are a LOT different in Virginia, or else this author is living in the past (or some of both, but it was a very foreign concept for a west coast gal).

Even the police department scenes felt old fashioned. No computers, etc. and kind of slow moving.

My second issue was with the kidnapping resolution. It was just weird, and not in keeping with the rest of the book.

But it was a really touching book (stories like this always get me) and I liked it.

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### **Jeanne says**

I almost really liked it so maybe 3-1/2 stars. I liked the idea of the the two stories, one from the 1930's and present day and as I read I was working to figure out the connection. I think what I wanted was more. His ex-wife ranting and raving that their daughter was missing but then she never shows up in town to help find her? What happened with the paternity suit? You don't find that out until the end and only in passing. What happened to Rebecca after that night? And the ending wasn't very satisfying. Does he ever talk to Erica? He seemed more into forming a bond with her boyfriend. And Ann? Are they a couple? Are they having a baby?

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### **Rachel says**

#### **Took me back in time**

I loved this book. I've not read many books on this subject and I found it fascinating. I do have to say that the main character was unbelievable and I wish that the author hadn't made him so phony. The flashbacks of the old days was very believable but when the story goes back to the present it ruins everything because the contrast is so evident.

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### **Tomi says**

Pretty darn good. Started slowly with your typical drunk protagonist feeling sorry for himself, but became much better. A two for one mystery with an interesting twist.

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### **Peggy says**

Bouncing back and forth from the present to 1936, *The Gandy Dancer* focuses on several characters. In the present we have Mitch Corsini, a newspaper journalist for the Richmond News who comes to Clifton Forge Virginia in search of his daughter who's gone missing while hiking. In 1936, we are immersed in the story between Rebecca Marshall, a student nurse, and two African-Americans George Henry McConnell and his brother Willie, who were employed as "gandy dancers" in Clifton Forge. This novel contains elements of a thriller, but is also a story touching on love, racism, interracial relationships, and self-discovery, where characters are forced to deal with complex situations in the past and present which ultimately intertwine. An enjoyable story.

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**Therese says**

\$0.0

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**Christina Mowers says**

Like another reviewer, picked this up as a free Kindle ebook. The book alternates between a storyline set in the 1930s and a modern day story. The 1930s storyline suited me a little better, but to each their own. Not the best book I ever read, but not bad either.

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