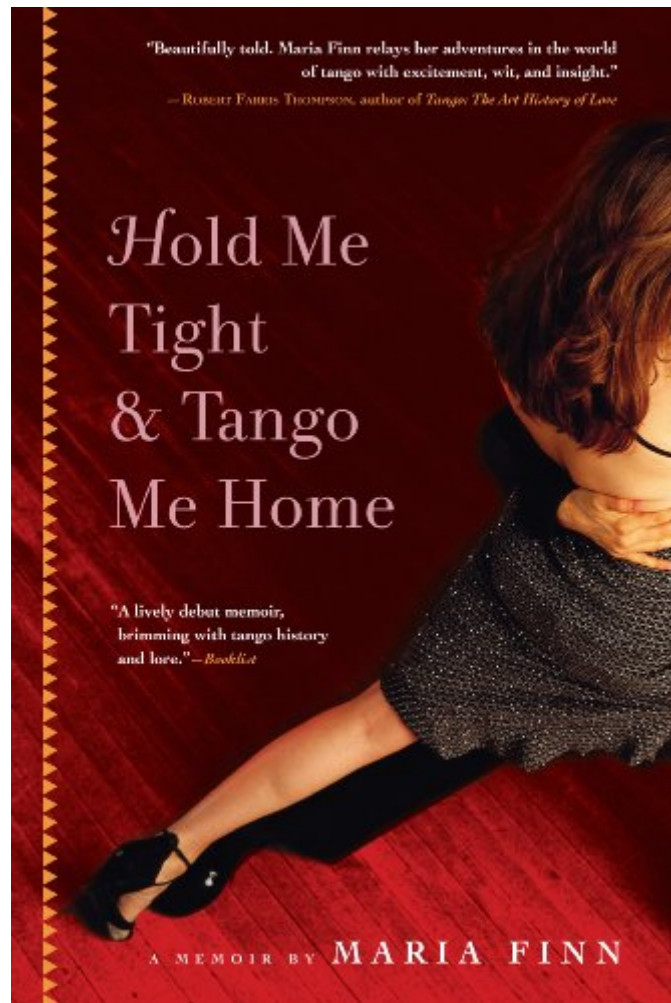




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Hold Me Tight And Tango Me Home



Synopsis

Maria Finn's husband was cheating. First she threw him out. Then she cried. Then she signed up for tango lessons. It turns out that tango has a lot to teach about understanding love and loss, about learning how to follow and how to lead, how to live with style and flair, take risks, and sort out what it is you really want. As Maria's world begins to revolve around the friendships she makes in dance class and the milongas (social dances) she attends regularly in New York City, we discover with her the fascinating culture, history, music, moves, and beauty of the Argentine tango. With each new dance step she learns—the embrace, the walk, the sweep, the exit—she is one step closer to returning to the world of the living. Eventually Maria travels to Buenos Aires, the birthplace of tango, and finds the confidence to try romance again. As exhilarating as the dance itself, the story whirls us into the center of the ballroom dancing craze. And buoyed by the author's humor and passion, it imparts surprising insights about how to get on with life after you've lost in love.

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Customer Reviews

This book about the author's emotional healing through a combination of tango and Zen was intriguing. Although one might think the two were not at all similar, the intensity of immersion in both is the same. My biggest challenge with the book was with the cavalier way the author described how all the men at the milongas thought of her as a dancing goddess, of how she could eat whatever she wanted without gaining an ounce, of how she was able to just pick up and move to Buenos Aires for a year with no financial worries. I would have felt more empathy for the author if she had expressed any negative feelings at all about anything except herself. Discussed this in a book group, though, where people who were more familiar with Zen felt this was an uplifting and inspiring book. They would have given it 5 stars.

We have a lovely Argentine Tango community in SW FL. We now have a "tango bookclub" to give us insight to the dance, the history and the culture of tango. This was the 2nd book we read. Although none of us believed that the main character could learn to dance this dance so well in such a short time, every one of us could relate our experience of WHY we became so devoted to this dance. Several of us could empathize with her and found that her experiences were similar to our own. It had a very authentic ring to it and her research into the history and culture of the dance seemed quite accurate. What I liked best is that the author chose to express her personal feelings about this beautiful dance and how it helped to change her life. I have experienced the same and heard many similar stories. Good job!

I read this book and LOVED IT. I sent a copy to my sister and she immediately sent another copy to her best friend. I'm sure it went on from there. I'm not a tango dancer but the story of the author's heartbreak the challenge of moving on is universal and we all have a lot to learn from her travels. It reminded me that all personal tragedies are opportunities for growth and change. Maria Finn obviously takes this very much to heart and I found myself almost immediately cheering her on. As a protagonist, she's hard to resist. I absolutely marvel that, after splitting up with her husband, she would take up tango -- a technical and punishing dance form to master after such a devastating ego blow. She seemed to draw faith that she would triumph from some deep well even she didn't know she had. The book is a page turner -- and I laughed out loud many times. I recommend it HIGHLY -- not just for dance lovers -- but for anyone who has ever had their heart broken and found the courage to put it back together again.

Interesting concept of getting over heartbreak through the lessons learned in Tango classes. The

author had some pretty neat comparisons of dance principles to life principles. Only gave this three stars because there were various areas where the story seemed to drag and the dance descriptions were confusing to read. However, I would recommend this book to anyone trying to get over an emotional struggle since it does provide various outside the box ways to think about the journey through such a difficult time.

If you have a passing interest in Argentine Tango but are not sure of how the dance affects those who travel to Buenos Aires, this book is for you. It is not a book of anecdotes covered with tasty frosting but rather a collection of experiences of living life as a temporary "Porteno", learning the dance and what affect it has on life for the many unique people Maria Finn met in a short time. In the end, the reader understands the nature of the title and is left wondering what has happened since living in Argentina.

Really loved the way she incorporated her experiences with learning about the Tango along with her personal trials and development. The background info on the Argentine Tango was just what I'd been looking for. She made it easy to understand and make sense of how and went it developed as it did, culturally and psychologically. Made me want to go out and learn to Tango! Well written. I'd read more of her work and highly recommend this book.

HMT&TMH was one of the best stories I've read in a long time. I was engrossed in the protagonist's problems adjusting to life w/o her husband, as well as her trials and tribulations with learning the tango. She described her friends and dance partners so well that I thought I was dancing and chatting with the class. This is not a girlie book, anybody can and should enjoy this story.

I thoroughly enjoyed this book and its many layers. It is a primer on argentine tango, a story of personal recovery, a comic account of feminine New York social life and a witty dialogue, among others. The author shifts easily from technical dance terminology to humorous verbal exchanges to flowing, descriptive creative writing. The book stays intriguing as the author describes her journey through the learning curve of tango and inserts flashbacks to help the reader understand what happened to her and why she has chosen to learn tango, which is a masochistic process of sorts. All in all, a complete book that kept me interested.

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