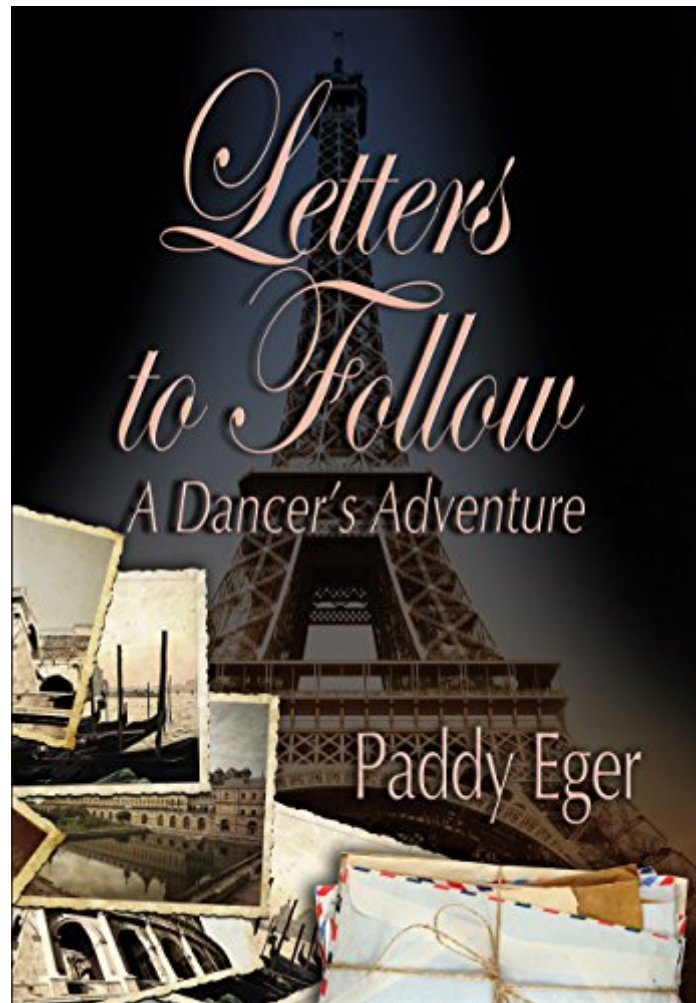




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Letters To Follow: A Dancer's Adventure



Synopsis

Lynne struggles to find her place in the world of professional ballet while her own world is turning upside down. Lynne Meadows has a chip on her shoulder. Her two best friends are gone, leaving her alone in the ballet company where she's becoming a thorn in the directors' sides. An accident and a string of sabotages disrupt the career she's always wanted. Now she wonders how long she'll be welcome in the company. Damien Black, the artistic director, selects her to represent her fellow dancers on an injury committee. If that goes well and her attitude improves, he and Madame Cosper, the company director, promise to recommend her to a summer dance troupe performing across France; but there's no promise of a dance contract once she returns. The cost of the trip is prohibitive until her Uncle Leo offers to pay for her ship passage and give her the car he'll buy while there if she agrees to drive him around Europe after she finishes performing. Lynne eagerly agrees to the arrangement despite her nagging concern about Leo's legendary lack of dependability. As the ballet season ends, she works feverishly with Damien to prepare choreography for the trip. In addition, her aunt sells the property where Lynne's lived for two years, so she must pack up and store her possessions until she returns and finds a new home. During this time she meets Noel Elijah, a rancher who captivates her interest. But she's leaving for France, so their budding romance is put on hold. Once in France Lynne enjoys visiting the sites of Paris and the towns where they perform. She also enjoys an unexpected visitor's arrival before facing a string of setbacks. Thanks to her new friends in the troupe and Cheryl, the troupe director, she renews her love of dance and wants to resurrect her career. As the tour ends, Lynne begins her time with Uncle Leo. Their time together is filled with surprises, but Lynne honors her commitment. When misfortune and disappointments set in, she remains determined to meet every challenge.

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Customer Reviews

In the final book of this trilogy, we see a change of main characters. Lynne, Marta's best friend, becomes the focus. Lynne is given a once in a lifetime chance to go on a trip to Europe to dance as part of a troupe of ballet dancers. They will tour Europe, relying on the help of some strangers to give them places to sleep. One catch, Lynne has to pay for the trip there and back. She relies on the help of her rich uncle to help her get to Europe, but her uncle is more interested in drinking, gambling, and partying than sightseeing. Will she be able to put up with her uncle who is constantly on her nerves? Will she be able to survive a whole summer of dancing on bad floors? How will she keep up her relationship with her boyfriend Noel over three long months and thousands of miles? Opinion: I thought that this was a very good book. It had a great plot with themes that fit very well inside the trilogy. The characters are very well-developed and the book is constantly taking off on a spin that I didn't see coming. The suspense build-up is very professionally done. The relationships are very complex and make sense in the light of what is going on, as well as the fact that the characters fit very well together. The situations could happen in real life, which makes the book that much more interesting to read, knowing that everything could actually happen. Reviewed by a LitPick student book reviewer Age: 13

The book was a great adventure, and the back half, Paris and a bit of Portugal, was my greatest delight. Eger is masterful at letting people create places rather than letting long visual descriptions take over--we are there, in Paris, with the people, kind and mentoring or greedy and mean, who make it a world. This is not just exotic Europe, but a whole smorgasbord of locals, and kindness, and setbacks and solutions, Lynne moving forward the whole time. It would be fun to retrace the

European steps of the whole book! Learning about a student ballet tour was fascinating, too, and so was finding out about Louis XIV's "creation" of ballet as an art. The ballet details were all new and interesting to me, and the weaving of the whole ballet story with the several plot lines was well done. But I'll re-read the Paris section!

Letters to Follow is a brilliantly-written conclusion to Paddy Eger's ballet trilogy. The reader rides along with Lynne Meadows as she traverses the sometimes bumpy road to becoming a star in the ballet world. You will wonder how she will overcome some of her troubles, thinking there is no hope this time. But the author skillfully and realistically brings her through each ordeal. During these difficult times you will witness Lynne's growth and rejoice with her in her accomplishments. A few nasty characters seem determined to derail Miss Meadows as she strives toward her goal, but she averts every attack through strong-willed determination and clever comebacks. What a great book, and what a wonderful way to learn about the true life of ballerinas behind the stage curtain.

Letters to Follow by Paddy Eger
Letters to Follow, A Dancer's Adventure, By Paddy Eger, Tendril Press, 2017
Paddy Eger's heroines just get better and better. Letters to Follow, A Dancer's Adventure, the third volume of the 84 Ribbons trilogy, flows as nimbly as the feet of Eger's dancers through adventures, adversity, and accolades through a year of dancing and maturing on two continents. Lynne, the central figure in the third book of Paddy Eger's trilogy of the lives of young ballerinas, is a delight. She is a good dancer, an excellent member of the corps de ballet which she is a part of, and, best of all for the readers of Letters To Follow, a character who grows and changes throughout the book in utterly believable and admirable ways. The title of the third volume, Letters to Follow, refers to the letters which Lynne promises will follow the postcards she sends from the Intermountain Ballet Company's tour of France during the summer of 1957. Lynne does a lot of growing as a ballerina on this tour, but more impressive is her growth as a young woman at the edge of adulthood. She is faced with many challenges and overcomes them all. Scenes of Paris, large and small towns in France, and the hard trip Lynn must make over the Pyrenees mountains are all drawn with detail and a kind of fondness, as though Eger has been to all these places herself as a young dancer. The reader feels very much a part of the dance company's frenetic life as they tour from town to town. As a coming-of-age novel Letters to Follow could stand alone just fine; as the finale to the Paddy Eger's dance trilogy it is very satisfying, leaving the reader hoping for another sequel to follow.
Reviewed by Katie

Johnson

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