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A Simple Story: The Last Malambo



Synopsis

Obsession and mastery in their purest states: the story of one dancer's attempt to win the biggest contest of his life. Every year, at the height of summer, the remote Argentine village of Laborde holds the national malambo contest. Centuries-old, this shatteringly demanding traditional gaucho dance is governed by the most rigid rules. And this festival has one stipulation that makes it unique: the malambo is danced for up to five minutes. That may seem like nothing, but consider the world record for the hundred-meter dash is 9.58 seconds. The dance contest is an obsession for countless young men, who sacrifice their bodies and money as they strive to become the champion, knowing that if they win "in order to safeguard the title's prestige" they can never compete again. When Leila Guerriero traveled to Laborde, one dancer's performance took her breath away, and she spent a year following him as he prepared for the next festival. The result is this superlative piece of journalism, told with tremendous economy and power.

Book Information

File Size: 1030 KB

Print Length: 128 pages

Publisher: New Directions; 1 edition (February 7, 2017)

Publication Date: February 7, 2017

Sold by: Digital Services LLC

Language: English

ASIN: B01N7P9LSE

Text-to-Speech: Enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Screen Reader: Supported

Enhanced Typesetting: Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #970,206 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

in Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Arts & Photography > Dance > Folk #129 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Folk #239 in Books > Sports & Outdoors > Miscellaneous > Journalism

Customer Reviews

What a fabulous little book - I highly recommend giving it a try. Author Leila Guerriero provides a

vivid account of a highly competitive dance competition in the pampa of Argentina.

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