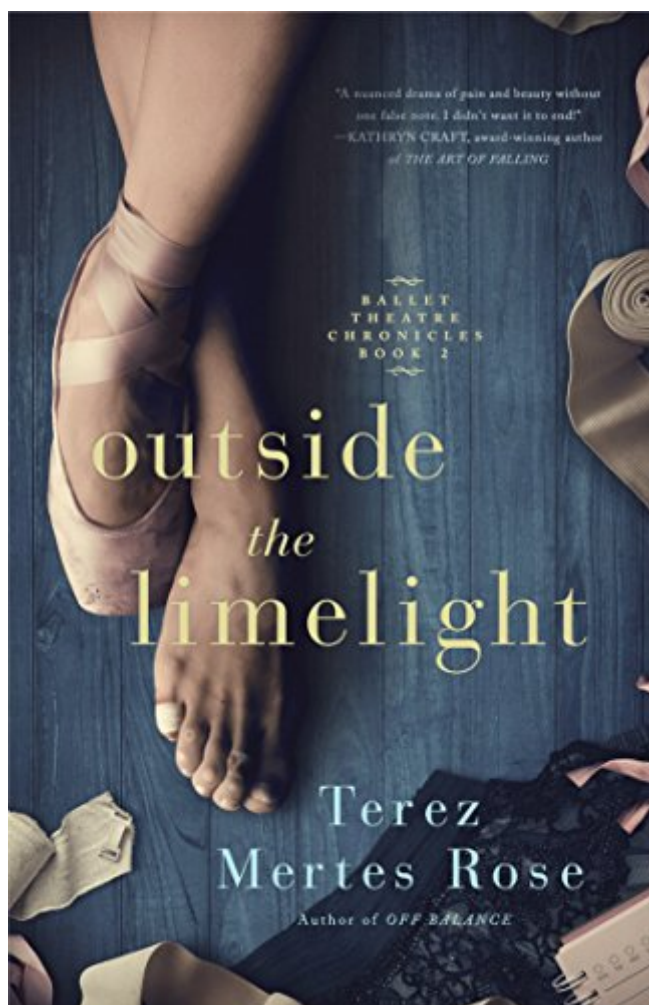


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# Outside The Limelight (Ballet Theatre Chronicles Book 2)



## Synopsis

Rising ballet star Dena Lindgren's dream career is knocked off its axis when a puzzling onstage fall results in a crushing diagnosis: a brain tumor. Complications from the extraction surgery kick off a long and difficult recovery, prompting the company's artistic director, Anders Gunst, to shift his attention to an overshadowed company dancer -- Dena's older sister, Rebecca, with whom Anders once shared a special relationship. Under the heady glow of Anders' attention, Rebecca thrives, even as her sister languishes. While Dena's strength returns, residual facial paralysis sidelines her indefinitely, amid a world that demands beauty and perfection. Rebecca soon faces a painful choice: play by the artistic director's rules and profit, or take shocking action to help her sister. Exposing the glamorous onstage world of professional ballet, as well as its shadowed wings and dark underbelly, *OUTSIDE THE LIMELIGHT* examines loyalty, beauty, artistic passion, and asks what might be worth losing in order to help the ones you love.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Outside the Limelight (Ballet Theatre Chronicles Book 2) by Terez Mertz RoseWritten by a former ballet dancer, this lovely book takes us inside of a dancers life; two actually, sisters Rebecca and Dena who dance for the San Francisco Ballet. The story show the beauty and grace, the endless effort to be just a little better and a little stronger, and with that beauty comes the sacrifice of constant pain and frequent injuries. For those of us who have had no personal connection with the world of ballet, the descriptions are a glimpse into a world that most will never know. Within the constant stresses of professional ballet, we meet sisters who are torn by competition and misunderstandings. The love between siblings is, as the author points out, complicated. The novel explores a number of struggles -- between parents and children, between siblings, between couples, and between friends. Most of all, we come to understand the compulsion and desire to conquer all obstacles in order to perform; to gift an audience with great beauty and receive in return their recognition and applause as a reward for the years of study and work. This is a beautiful book and I could have approached a review in many ways. My way was to talk about the beauty and pain of the art and the difficulty of living with such a demanding mistress. I could just as easily written about the characters and their individual struggles, all which were intimately shared, or I could have written about what goes on behind the scenes of a great ballet company. All of this was included in the book, flowing seamlessly from one aspect to the other. I was quite honestly awed by the writing and the knowledge behind it. I can wait to read number 1 of this series. This us a setting that I enjoy and the author writes characters that I care about. All in all, an excellent book.

What a wonderful treat! I first read Off Balance, a prequel to this book, and found myself completely immersed in the world of dance. I enjoyed that book so much that I read this one within days of the first. This book took two previously minor characters and wove them into a story line that takes the reader in two different yet related directions. The characters are well developed and the plot is complex and full. The author's knowledge of the dance world and a complicated illness and recovery make the book enjoyable and compelling. I highly recommend it!!

I loved this book. Things never went as I thought they would, and were better than I could have imagined. I was caught up in the world on the page and didn't want to put the book down...reading till almost 6am when I had a full day ahead of me. The sibling rivalry and angst, can be related to by pretty much anyone who has a sibling no matter which you might be. The descriptions of the ballet world take you to a place few get to explore and the stories it tells are not all the ones of glory they would have you believe. I would recommend this book to anyone, but especially someone going

thru a tough time and learning to accept disability or life altering changes. It will give you strength and hope for the future.

What a gem of a book! I ordered this based on the description and was not disappointed. This book brought back so many memories of being a part of the world of ballet with the sacrifices, the pain, and the exhilarating joy. I cannot judge whether the book would appeal to non-dance people, but for this former dancer it was a pleasure to step back in that world! I'm off to purchase the first book in the series and eagerly wait for future projects from Mertes Rose!

This is the second book I've read by Terez Mertes Rose and I was not disappointed. I enjoy reading books about the ballet world (as someone who takes ballet classes for fun), and it's clear that the author has experience in this art. I especially enjoyed the aspects of relationships between Dena and her sister, her family, and the conniving Anders. I loved the book and I do hope there is a third book coming soon!

When I was little I thought being a ballerina would be a wonderful life, floating gracefully across the stage. This book presents a different picture of a ballet dancers' life. Dena could indeed float gracefully & had the promise of a good career until she began to lose a bit of hearing in one ear. The real part of the story is the emotions, the conflicts, the changes the characters develop.

I loved the first book in this series, *Off Balance*, and this one was even better. It's an authentic behind-the-scenes look at the grueling and glamorous world of ballet dancers, but at its heart it's the story of two sisters struggling to come to terms with their roles as both dancers and family. There's nothing trite about this story--it's gritty and real, fast-paced and atmospheric. The characters are believable and well-developed, and the writing is smart and compelling. Once I started reading, I didn't want to put it down. After I finished it, I stayed under the spell of this world and these characters for days.

I love to watch ballet, but know nothing really about it - kind of like the character Misha in the beginning of the book- The way the female dancers skim across the stage in those pink satin shoes. They look so delicate and quiet. I learned a lot about how tough ballet is on a dancer's body and was compelled to keep reading by the crisp writing about the characters. I highly recommend this book.

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