



Pretending to Dance: A Novel

By Diane Chamberlain

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Pretending to Dance: A Novel By Diane Chamberlain

Molly Arnette is very good at keeping secrets. She and her husband live in San Diego, where they hope to soon adopt a baby. But the process terrifies her.

As the questions and background checks come one after another, Molly worries that the truth she's kept hidden about her North Carolina childhood will rise to the surface and destroy not only her chance at adoption, but her marriage as well. She ran away from her family twenty years ago after a shocking event left her devastated and distrustful of those she loved: Her mother, the woman who raised her and who Molly says is dead but is very much alive. Her birth mother, whose mysterious presence raised so many issues. The father she adored, whose death sent her running from the small community of Morrison Ridge.

Now, as she tries to find a way to make peace with her past and embrace a future filled with promise, she discovers that even she doesn't know the truth of what happened in her family of pretenders.

Told with Diane Chamberlain's compelling prose and gift for deft exploration of the human heart, *Pretending to Dance* is an exploration of family, lies, and the complexities of both.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Molly and her husband, Aidan, want to adopt a baby. A young pregnant girl who wants to give her child up thinks that they may be the couple to become her baby's parents. But though Molly knows that she wants this baby, she is also unsure about being an adoptive mother. Her past looms close and hides a secret that she fears will unhinge not only this adoption but possibly her marriage. Alternating chapters tell the story of Molly's life during the summer she turned 14 in her small North Carolina town, juxtaposed with chapters about her life today as a lawyer in San Diego. She was raised in a loving family with a pharmacist mother and a therapist father with multiple sclerosis. That summer, Molly befriends a new girl who introduces her to an older boy, and subsequently drugs and sex. When a devastating event occurs and her beloved father dies, Molly is unable to reconcile the actions of her family. She is unable to trust them and leaves them behind, first for boarding schools and then for her adult life in San Diego. It is only her fear that the past is beginning to influence her present that pushes her to deal with those earlier events. **VERDICT** An excellent choice for mature teens who will follow Molly's burgeoning maturity as she tries to keep her father close and safe.—Connie Williams, Petaluma High School, CA

Review

"*Pretending to Dance* is a multilayered, poignant novel. Chamberlain writes knowledgeably about seeing a family member confront a degenerative illness, the power of therapy, and the hardship of loss. Reminiscent of a Sarah Dessen or Sharon Creech novel, *Pretending to Dance* proves that a coming-of-age story can happen at any time in your life." ?*Booklist on Pretending to Dance*

"A book rich in relatable characters and moving scenes, this stunning tale will linger with readers long after the last page." ?*RT Book Reviews* (4 1/2 stars, Top Pick) on *Pretending to Dance*

"While the family argues and Molly's hormones run wild, something else is going on that will make for the explosive revelation at novel's end." ?*Kirkus Reviews on Pretending to Dance*

"Very well developed characters who are so real you want to reach out and hug them." ?*Fiction Addiction on Pretending to Dance*

"A gripping story." ?*Woman and Home on Pretending to Dance*

"Diane Chamberlain's insight as a former social worker and psychotherapist is evident in her writing, adding emotion and depth to complex family dynamics. . . You may need tissues." ?*The Eclectic Reader on Pretending to Dance*

"A tightly plotted mystery with well drawn characters." ?*The Books Lover's Best Friend on Pretending to Dance*

"This book seamlessly flowed between past and present to create a story that was sad, yet heartwarming and ultimately the story of one girl's triumphant life." ?*Comfy Reading on Pretending to Dance*

"Chamberlain has written an excellent novel with well-thought-out plotlines that never lose the suspense lover's interest for one solitary second." ?*Suspense Magazine on The Silent Sister*

“Chamberlain's powerful story is a page-turner to the very end.” *?Library Journal on The Silent Sister*

“Compulsively readable.” *?Kirkus Reviews on The Silent Sister*

“A story of redemption, paranoia, and the power of shared bonds, *The Silent Sister* is a powerful and thrilling novel...Tautly paced and emotionally driven.” *?Booklist on The Silent Sister*

“Hard to put down.” *?Better Homes & Gardens on The Silent Sister*

“A tense story with plenty of twists...Riley's world gets rocked and the readers' will be too.” *?The Parkersburg News and Sentinel on The Silent Sister*

“A well-researched page-turner. The stakes mount to dizzying heights . . . Chamberlain certainly knows how to escalate tension.” *?Kirkus Reviews on Necessary Lies*

“Absorbing and haunting, this should strongly touch Chamberlain's fans and draw those who enjoy Jodi Picoult and Barbara Delinsky.” *?Booklist on Necessary Lies*

“This engrossing novel digs deep into the moral complexity of a dark period in history and brings it to life.” *?Publishers Weekly on Necessary Lies*

About the Author

DIANE CHAMBERLAIN is the bestselling author of more than twenty novels published in over eleven languages. Her books include *The First Lie*, *Her Mother's Shadow*, *The Good Father*, and *Kiss River*. She lives in North Carolina with her partner, photographer John Pagliuca, and her shelties, Keeper and Cole.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Bobby Phillips:

Here thing why that Pretending to Dance: A Novel are different and trusted to be yours. First of all looking at a book is good however it depends in the content than it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. Pretending to Dance: A Novel giving you information deeper including different ways, you can find any book out there but there is no guide that similar with Pretending to Dance: A Novel. It gives you thrill reading journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing that will happened in the world which is maybe can be happened around you. You can bring everywhere like in playground, café, or even in your technique home by train. When you are having difficulties in bringing the imprinted book maybe the form of Pretending to Dance: A Novel in e-book can be your alternate.

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Jeffrey Cooks:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to get information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The fitness of the world makes the information simpler to share. You can find a lot of personal references to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You can see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The actual book that recommended to your account is Pretending to Dance: A Novel this reserve consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This specific book was represented how do the world has grown up. The language styles that writer use for explain it is easy to understand. The particular writer made some analysis when he makes this book. Here is why this book acceptable all of you.

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