



Body of a Dancer

Renee D'Aoust

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"A remarkably clear-eyed descent into New York's surreal world of modern dance peopled by the obsessed, dispossessed, sexy, suicidal, brutal, broke, and absurd."—Lance Olsen, author of *Nietzsche's Kisses*

The award-winning writer Renée E. D'Aoust draws from her experiences as a modern dancer in New York during the nineties. Her luminous prose spotlights this passionate, often brutal world. Trained at the prestigious Martha Graham Center, D'Aoust intertwines accounts of her own and other dancers' lives with essays on modern dance history. A dancer's body, scarred, strained, and tough, bears witness to the discipline demanded by the art form. *Body of a Dancer* provides a powerful, acidly comic record of what it is to love, and eventually leave, a life centered on dance.

"With exquisite description, absolute honesty, and a clear compelling voice, *Body of a Dancer* offers an unforgettable account of one artist's bittersweet journey."—Dinty W. Moore

Renée E. D'Aoust's essays have been featured as notable essays in *Best American Essays* in 2006, 2007, and 2009. Her nonfiction work has been included in the anthology *Reading Dance*, edited by Robert Gottlieb and nominated for the Pushcart Prize. D'Aoust is the recipient of an NEA Dance Criticism fellowship and grants from The Puffin Foundation and the Idaho Commission on the Arts.

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Joshua Stpierre:

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