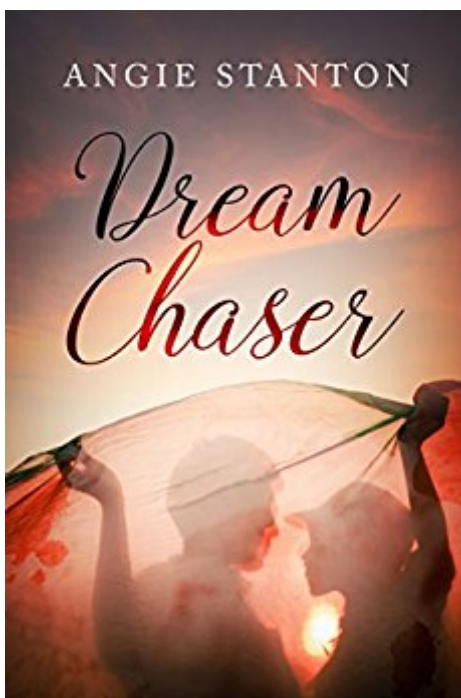


The book was found

Dream Chaser



Synopsis

Willow Thomas has a bad habit of running away from things that scare her. And most recently, she quit her high school cheerleading squad after a terrifying fall. With time on her hands, she auditions for a musical production directed by a Broadway choreographer. Just as things are looking up, Willow discovers she will be performing opposite Eli McAvoy, the best friend she abandoned three years before. To make matters worse, the kids in the musical hate her, her singing sucks, and her dog is sick. Eli has grown up during their years apart and now possesses confidence and good looks, as well as a giant chip on his shoulder. He is in no hurry to play nice with Willow, but their entwined roles in the musical lead to entwined bodies in the backseat of his car. Just when Willow finally has her life under control, another surprise is delivered in the form of her greatest challenge yet. Will she run or finally stand and face her fears? And will Eli be there to help or turn his back on her for good?

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Customer Reviews

What I Loved: I wouldn't pick up a book about cheerleaders on my own, not because I have

something against cheerleaders, but because most of the ones I have picked up have come off so very cliché in the 'cheerleader' personality of the characters. I just couldn't get into them. Dream Chaser was not a cheerleader book, it was more of a theater book. I'm so glad I allowed myself to read past the beginning to discover this. I adore most theater type books. Willow was also not the typical 'over achiever' character. She WAS an over achiever, apparently single-handedly throwing the cheerleaders into National Championship winner status, and also good enough to be thrown into the leading role of a musical that was already several weeks into practices - so yes, definitely over achiever. However, she struggled with subjects in school, and her self confidence was really pretty low. She was humble and recognized that while she may be good, in both of her activities she realized the important part of being just a part of an entity. She understood the value of practice and hard work, and just work ethic in general. The chemistry between Willow and Eli is what really had me devouring this book. Their history as best friends and former partners really helped to play into the tension that built between them. I loved their director, Tyson's, little comments regarding this tension, and his role at helping them overcome their past. Another favorite part is that regardless of how awful Jilly and the rest of Willow's friends were treating her because of her decision to move on from cheerleading, I'm glad that this wasn't a transfer from one group of friends to another, and that there was some healing and understanding that started to happen. Every time I think that I'm done with this section, I remember something else about the story that I love.... Willow's family is AWESOME! I loved their support and understanding. I think that my favorite scene is when they come home and catch Willow and Eli on the couch. ;) Not So Much: I feel like the gravity of Willow's cheerleading accident was either overplayed at the beginning, or underplayed throughout the book. She could have easily died, and yet so few of the cast of characters of this book seem to really take that into consideration when dealing with Willow about her decisions or fears. I also think that something like that would take you out of the 'game' longer than half a week. The Verdict: This is everything I could have asked for in a 'sick day' book. It was entertaining, passionate, fun and serious at times. I even shed a couple tears... I'm so glad I picked the book up and started reading almost immediately. This book is clean and perfect for your teens!

I must say the MC's name didn't fit for me for some reason. I kept forgetting it. I just didn't see her character with that name. This book is about overcoming fear. And it was pretty transparent throughout. The romance aspect was slow going but the main plot kept my interest enough that I was fine with that. I kinda felt she was a bit immature about her fears in the beginning, but then I realized they are in HS and her supposed BFF was

acting worse so I let that slide. Her parents seemed way too lackadaisical for me. Maybe it's because my mom was way more strict with me but I would not have been able to quit something then start something new within a few days. No matter how much I tried, that would not have gone over well in my house at all. I really liked how Willow was able to identify her fear and find a way to cope with it without letting down all the people that were counting on her. That was a shining moment for me in this book. I also liked how her love interest, Eli, calls her on her BS without seeming too much like a total dick. Eli was a bit of an enigma to me. They had this past that kept coming up but I didn't feel I saw enough of it to really know him. He was just there. His character could have used more depth for me. And Willow's BFF was too extreme in her emotions it seemed. First she was very supportive, but only if her interest aligned with Willow's. Then she completely ignored her for most of the book. Then they are buddy buddy again at the end. It was a bit choppy for me. The transitions were wanting in those parts. Those things were minor compared to the great story that unfolded. And the couch scene was THE BEST! Totally worth the money on this.

It's funny how no matter how many times people are right, I still wonder if my tastes will line up with theirs. Well, I also loved Dream Chaser. Thank you reviewers for convincing me to buy it. It had so much to it. It really was LOL funny...I mean, I recapped and told my Mom and hubby about the scene where she hears from Tyson about getting the part. Her parents and family just KILL me...they remind me of the 'rents in the movie Easy A....And I am such a huge fan of dance movies b/c I can't dance and have no grace and those people make me jealous in a good way... So put that in a book? Oh yeah, so on top of this....boy dancers are just hot. And Eli did not disappoint. On the too close to home front, my childhood dog developed Epilepsy and I was home alone when she had her first seizure (my Mom was on a trip). So all the stuff with Twinkie just killed me....I guess about the only thing I was less than thrilled with was the way her cheer friends treated her...I mean, for such a long time you know?? I just really disliked Jilly...what kind of best friend behaves that way?? So yeah, that's enough babbling from me...

As a parent of a daughter who has danced and been a cheerleader, I could easily relate to the story. The character's fears, relationship terminals etc... are all things she herself had to deal with. Very accurate assessment of what teenage girls may be dealing with. Well written, and hard to put down.

I had a great time reading this book! I loved the dance references, since I always participated in my high school musicals and loved the experience. Also loved Willow's parents, they were fantastic, even the pesky little sister. The scene at the Messe something road was hysterical. But most of all, I liked the underlying message of working hard at what you're doing, of overcoming your shortcomings. Willow and Elli made a cute couple, although you don't get much of a feel about Elli, since the book is so much about Willow and how she grows with this experience. She had a habit of running away when situations scared her, and in this musical, she faces her demons and deals. Definitely recommend this book if you want to read an entertaining book.

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