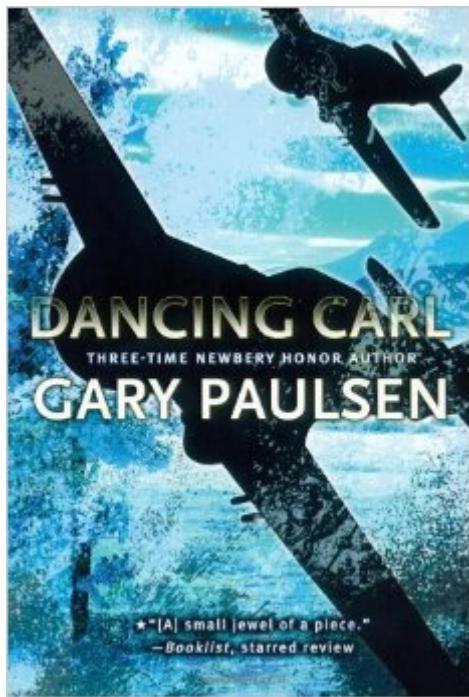


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# Dancing Carl



## **Synopsis**

In the winter, life in McKinley, Minnesota, revolves around the rinks, where kids play hockey and grown-ups skate to scratchy phonograph records. Then, the year Marsh and his best friend, Willy, are twelve, Carl appears at the rink, wearing a battered, old leather flight jacket and doing a strange dance that is both beautiful and disturbing to watch. It is Marsh and Willy who discover the terrible secret behind Carl's dance, a secret that threatens to destroy him. But a small miracle occurs, and Carl's dance becomes a fragile and tentative expression of hope and the healing power of love.

## **Book Information**

Lexile Measure: 970 (What's this?)

Paperback: 112 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reissue edition (June 26, 2007)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1416939385

ISBN-13: 978-1416939382

Product Dimensions: 5.1 x 0.3 x 7.6 inches

Shipping Weight: 2.4 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 starsÂ  See all reviewsÂ  (19 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #75,892 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #17 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Dysfunctional Relationships #46 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Growing Up & Facts of Life > Difficult Discussions > Abuse #135 inÂ  Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > 1900s

Age Range: 10 - 14 years

Grade Level: 5 - 9

## **Customer Reviews**

I thought that Dancing Carl was an amazing book about a drunk named Carl who teaches Marsh, and his best friend Willy a lot about just over-all life. Carl also finds love in a woman and expresses it to her through an amazing dance. I suggest that you read this book, I did and I couldn't put it down. I think this was a great piece of writing just like all of Gary Paulsen's books. I think that it would take a pretty amazing mind to come up with a extrodinary plot like this one. You'll get to know carl, Willy, and Marsh just as if they were real.

Dancing Carl is a book about two boys who meet a mysterious man named Carl. They live in a

small town, McKinley, Minnesota, that revolves around winter. They have a gravel pit that they flood and freeze. After it is frozen, they divide it into smaller arenas for hockey, kids skating, music skating, and freestyle. Carl takes over Stan Johnson's job of deciding when to flood the gravel. He takes over the warming house, along with the rinks. He also has a strange power that he uses to solve many problems and also has the ability to skate on the ice in sneakers. Willy and Marsh think there's more to Carl than just the insane, drunk, depressed bum that the townspeople see so they decide to check it out for themselves. I think this book was a good book. Although it is dull in some places, it gets interesting in the end. Usually, the plot jumps around at the end of chapters but it stays still in the end. First you have to understand that Carl is thought as insane and some of the townspeople aren't exactly glad for him to live in the warming house. " `I guess he's been doing some pretty weird stuff. Dancing or moving or something. And he's taken over the rinks like it was his town or something...' " Willy and Marsh find out about Carl, about his life and his power. If Marsh had not brought the B-17, an army fighter jet, model then Carl wouldn't have gone over the edge. He truly goes insane and, using his power, reenacts what had happened in his past. Willy and Marsh see why Carl has all the beat-up army gear and why he is all washed up. If it weren't for Helen, Carl may have been really gone mental. Helen appeared one day in a Russian square hat and the same type clothing as Carl's flight jacket. This is my favorite part in which Carl performs several dances dedicated to Helen on the ice rink, with the entire town watching. I don't like the end, though, when Marsh learns that Carl and Helen move and suffer from many problems. "And I heard many things still later. I heard that Carl went crazy and should have been put in the state hospital and I heard that Helen had some part of her brain hurt many years before and I heard they moved into a house together and shared government checks. I heard they couldn't be married because of something in Carl's life and I heard even later that Carl died of drink and Helen had to go to a special home to live and all of this happened in some other town they moved to and none of it, not one single thing of what I heard, makes any difference at all."

when i was in fourth grade i was reading this book for homework. Though it was just for home work,i found a gem in this book of thoughtfullness and teaching of motion and speed. poetry and literature combine to make a beutiful and compelling novel.

This is a story that I listened to with very low expectation. I am glad it proved me wrong. The story is narrated by a 12 year old boy. Through him, the reader will learn a lot about the his hometown, it's people, their small town lives, and his friendship to another boy. But the best part of the boy's

narration is his first up-close witnessing of what a miracle is as he show us how Carl appeared first in this story, Carl's flaws and his mysterious ways - to a boy's point of view, Carl's brokenness and eventually, of Carl's transformation. When the miracle happened in the end, I was ready for it to happen. I shrug when I first met Carl (through the narrator), I was intrigued when Carl's quirks were revealed, then I was broken-heart when Carl broke down. I was worried and hopeless with the narrator and was hopeful when Carl started to dance once again. Boy I was on the proverbial edge of my chair whenever Carl dance FOR/TO someone and was cheering loudly when the lonely rose was picked up from the ice. What a story!This book is full of moral lessons for kids, stark truths for adult to make the story believable, and universal issues for all ages to identify with. At first I was dubious about how short the story was but the directness and child-friendliness of every words and plot made the story even more gripping. The reader/listener gets into the story unencumbered by technical traps and there, inside the story, lived through the eyes of a young boy and finished the book well satisfied in the journey. I did not feel I finished a short book, instead, I finished a believing in miracles, in all forms, and in all season.Great book for young and old!\*Thanks to my local library\*

This book is one of those that will leave you breathless and dazed. I loved Carl and what he did. The tender love story part will melt even a hard heart. I loved the ice skating and cold atmosphere. That made the "rose" part even more beautiful.

I gave this book only two stars because of the story it is based on. This book is nothing like the other great stories from Gary Paulsen like hatchet, Brian's winter Etc. this book is all about some song and the book mainly composes of poems. If you like that stuff then i recomend this otherwise i dont.

A honest story about the struggles and realities of war, and the understanding for young boys. Paulsen is a genuine artist.

Another great book from Gary Paulsen. If you like his book "Hatchet" then you should give this one a read.

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