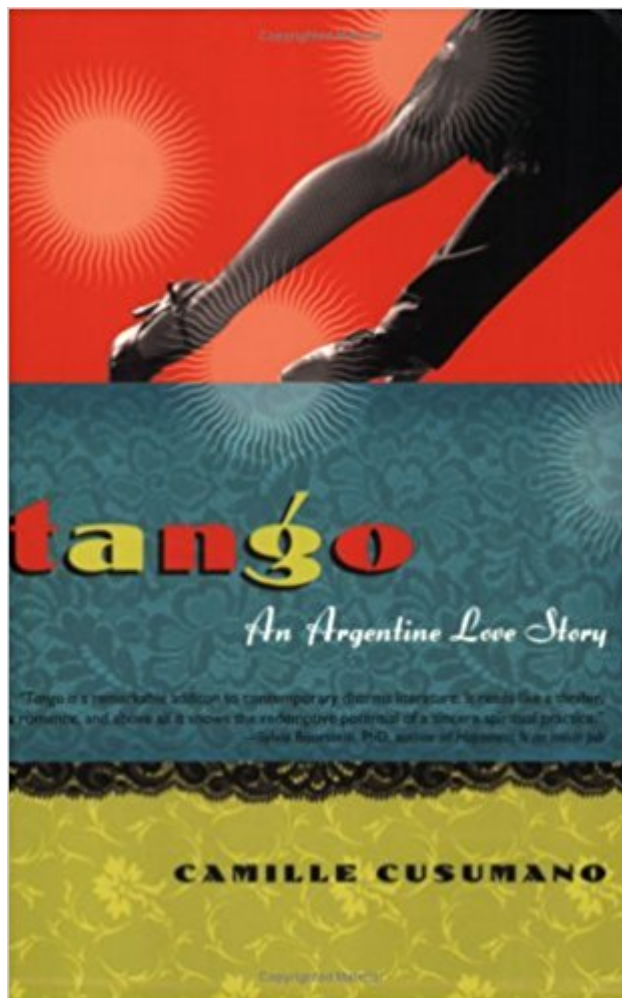


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# Tango: An Argentine Love Story



## Synopsis

Overwhelmed with the pain of a failed fifteen-year relationship, Camille Cusumano wanted badly to escape her life and heal her emotional wounds. After a violent encounter with her ex's new girlfriend, Camille decided she had some serious soul-searching to do. She took off for Buenos Aires intending to stay a few short weeks, but when her search for inner peace met with her true passion of tango, she realized she'd need to stay in Argentina indefinitely. Tango is a memoir of falling in love with a country through the dance that embodies intensity, freedom, and passion; all pivotal to Camille's own process of self-discovery. From the charm of local barrios to savory empanadas, Camille whole-heartedly embraces the ardent culture of Argentina, and soon a month-long escape turns into a year-long personal odyssey. Slowly letting go of her grief through a blend of tango, Zen, and a burgeoning group of friends, Camille discovers that her fierceness and patience can exist in harmony as she learns how to survive in style when love falls apart.

## Book Information

Paperback: 272 pages

Publisher: Seal Press (September 23, 2008)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 1580052509

ASIN: B002ECEFUS

Product Dimensions: 8.1 x 5.6 x 1.1 inches

Shipping Weight: 12 ounces

Average Customer Review: 3.5 out of 5 stars 22 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #2,425,019 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #87 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Tango #142 in Books > Arts & Photography > Performing Arts > Dance > Popular #487 in Books > Biographies & Memoirs > Arts & Literature > Dancers

## Customer Reviews

Tango has been the subject of several recent books, from Marina Palmer's *Kiss and Tango* to Irene D. Thomas and Larry M. Sawyer's *The Temptation To Tango* to Robert Farris Thompson's *Tango: The Art History of Love*. Cookbook author and novelist Cusumano, as her web site ([www.camillecusumano.com](http://www.camillecusumano.com)) declares, "is a writer who dances tango," and here she recounts her journey toward self-awareness set in the context of an extraordinary year spent in Buenos Aires.

According to Cusumano, tango is like yoga and Zen, which she also practices is a way of life, and her keen and colorful observations of everything from the milongas (tango dance halls) and her dance wardrobe to the people she met and danced with to the neighborhoods she lived in and the foods she ate create a thoughtful account redolent with the sights, sounds, and tastes of her own tango experience. Cusumano's book is recommended for public library collections serving dancers, armchair travelers, and literary-essay fans. Carolyn M. Mulac, Chicago P.L. Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

"In her memoir, the author's accounts of passionate, sweaty tango dances are reinterpreted through her explanation of Zen. In this sense the reader comes to understand how tango, as Cusumano puts it, is not a vice but a virtue, as it becomes a way to fall in love with Argentina. The Argentines "If you've ever loved and lost, *Tango: An Argentine Love Story*, by Camille Cusumano, will ring true. After a failed relationship, the author heads to Argentina--and finds mouthwatering cuisine, welcoming people, and a passion for dance. Though it may take two to tango, the lesson here is how to live happily on your own." Shape Magazine

If you are overly dramatic and know a thing or two about tango, sure this might be the book for you. For those who are immersed in social argentine tango and could do without the drama, then save yourself from this train wreck. I have no tears for this lady and only picked up this book because a group of tango friends thought it would be a good idea to have a book club night. After reading this book, I felt like an emotional tampon. The author makes a greivous mistake by cheating on her boyfriend, rejects his marriage proposal then gets bent out of shape when a mutual friend goes for him leaving her out of the loop. She sulks in her own issues and finds herself in argentina where she goes through a journey of self discovery. Now I would be happy with a story about self-discovery, but it's the way the character/author acted in her self-discovery that makes me think that she didn't discover anything but an over-inflated ego. She talks about how she didn't really need the taxi dancer she hired and calls herself a tango goddess. Before I end up flipping a desk I'll just say this. If the author is reading this, I'm sure you meant well and I'm sure you poured your heart into this, but I don't find this story inspiring or sincere at all. Maybe I'm a cave man and missed the point, but it feels like I was reading about a bunch of baggage that someone wrote in their journal. I don't feel this story is sincere at all and if anybody, man or woman, claims themself to be some tango diety, After reading this book I felt emotionally drained and used. If I wanted to feel that

way, I can just stop by any night club in hollywood and listen to every wannabe actor's sob story.

This is one woman's search to understand her actions and grow from them by traveling to Buenos Aires and immersing herself in tango. It begins as her way to soothe the wounds of the end of a 15-year relationship. She is a tango dancer but in Buenos Aires she makes it the daily center of her life. I liked the rhythm of her narrative and her descriptions through her vivid sense of smell, taste, touch, sight, sound. Music and movement. She talks about food and friendships along the way. Beyond her painful discovery of aspects of herself, she shares her joy of tango, descriptions of the landscape, the family she came from. I thoroughly enjoyed her journey and the courage with which she lives and shares her life. If you like to experience yourself through the journeys of other people, then you will find this fast-paced narrative engaging.

Like several other tango books, this one is charming, but just this side of bragging about how well one dances, and the conquests, how wonderful that so many men ask the person to dance at so many milongas, and how wonderful it is to live in Buenos Aires for several months. All after having taken three group lessons somewhere. A lovely story, a lovely dream with some real insights into the dance and the culture. I'm sure it was all true for the author, but sets the bar really high for those of us who take lessons with our husbands, so no one else will ask us to dance. Sour grapes? Maybe...

I really enjoyed this read - it is both personal and universal. It gives a woman's perspective on complex relationship issues later in life which is not easy to find (except perhaps in self-help books which do not appeal to me at all). I appreciated the way Camille writes about her feelings - very honestly, no holds barred, but not gushy and over the top. The way she is combining practices of meditation, yoga and tango was very interesting. It was a great introduction to the world of Buenos Aires and tango, which was a useful orientation for a trip I took there recently.

I bought this book to read on my flight to Buenos Aires for my "tango vacation". I found the book to be a charmingly written account of one woman's adventures in Buenos Aires, discovering herself in the world of Argentine tango. I actually met the author, Camille, at one of the milongas that I attended and found her to be very approachable and friendly. This book was the perfect read for my trip to Buenos Aires.

While entertaining its own way this book is another memoir of a dancer who is swept up in the passion and uniqueness of the Buenos Aires culture. All of us who love dance and have been to Argentina could write a memoir exactly the same--all too many have. If this is your first memoir, read and enjoy. If this is number fourteen, spare yourself.

Camille Cusumano takes us into the sometimes dark, always fascinating world of Argentina's (and Uruguay's) most famous export. Step into the tango spikes of our wise and witty guide, Camille, as she introduces us to the "internal arts" necessary to mastering the tango: focused energy, subtle balance, an open heart and a listening, pond-quiet Zen mind. Not only do we learn about the ART of the dance, but we are also introduced to the SOUL of a culture. "No one enters into tango lightly," she says, and we can see why. Take the tango journey, my friends, you will have no regrets!

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