



Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression

By Morris Dickstein

Download now

Read Online ➔

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein

A National Book Critics Circle finalist: "The definitive book about Depression culture for our time."? *San Francisco Chronicle*

Hailed as one of the best books of 2009 by the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, this vibrant portrait of 1930s culture masterfully explores the anxiety and hope, the despair and surprising optimism of distressed Americans during the Great Depression. Morris Dickstein, whom Norman Mailer called "one of our best and most distinguished critics of American literature," has brought together a staggering range of material—from epic Dust Bowl migrations to zany screwball comedies, elegant dance musicals, wildly popular swing bands, and streamlined Deco designs. Exploding the myth that Depression culture was merely escapist, Dickstein concentrates on the dynamic energy of the arts, and the resulting lift they gave to the nation's morale. A fresh and exhilarating analysis of one of America's most remarkable artistic periods, with *Dancing in the Dark* Dickstein delivers a monumental critique. A *New York Times* Notable Book, *Los Angeles Times* Favorite Book, *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of 2009, and *Huffington Post* Best Book. 24 black-and-white illustrations

↓ [Download Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Gre ...pdf](#)

📖 [Read Online Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the G ...pdf](#)

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression

By Morris Dickstein

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein

A National Book Critics Circle finalist: "The definitive book about Depression culture for our time."?San Francisco Chronicle

Hailed as one of the best books of 2009 by the *New York Times* and the *Los Angeles Times*, this vibrant portrait of 1930s culture masterfully explores the anxiety and hope, the despair and surprising optimism of distressed Americans during the Great Depression. Morris Dickstein, whom Norman Mailer called "one of our best and most distinguished critics of American literature," has brought together a staggering range of material—from epic Dust Bowl migrations to zany screwball comedies, elegant dance musicals, wildly popular swing bands, and streamlined Deco designs. Exploding the myth that Depression culture was merely escapist, Dickstein concentrates on the dynamic energy of the arts, and the resulting lift they gave to the nation's morale. A fresh and exhilarating analysis of one of America's most remarkable artistic periods, with *Dancing in the Dark* Dickstein delivers a monumental critique. A *New York Times* Notable Book, *Los Angeles Times* Favorite Book, *San Francisco Chronicle* Best Book of 2009, and *Huffington Post* Best Book. 24 black-and-white illustrations

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #638978 in Books
- Published on: 2010-09-06
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.30" h x 1.20" w x 5.50" l, 1.06 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 624 pages

 [Download Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Gre ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the G ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* By Morris Dickstein

Editorial Review

From Publishers Weekly

Starred Review. The gloom of the Depression fed a brilliant cultural efflorescence that's trenchantly explored here. Dickstein (*Gates of Eden*), a professor of English at the CUNY Graduate Center, surveys a panorama that includes high-brow masterpieces and mass entertainments, grim proletarian novels and frothy screwball comedies, haunting photographs of dust bowl poverty and elegant art deco designs. He finds the scene a jumble of fertile contradictions—between outward-looking naturalism and introspective modernism, social consciousness and giddy escapism, a hard-boiled, increasingly desperate individualism and a new vision of singing, dancing, collective solidarity—which somehow cohered into extraordinary attempts to cheer people up—or else to sober them up. Dickstein's fluent, erudite, intriguing meditations turn up many resonances, comparing, for example, the Nazi propaganda film *Triumph of the Will* to Busby Berkeley musicals and *Gone with the Wind* to gangster films. While tracing the social meanings of culture, he stays raptly alive to its aesthetic pleasures, like the Fred Astaire–Ginger Rogers collaboration, which expressed the inner radiance that was one true bastion against social suffering. The result is a fascinating portrait of a distant era that still speaks compellingly to our own. 24 illus. (Sept.)

Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From [Bookmarks Magazine](#)

Although *Dancing in the Dark* risks falling into the category of books suffering from "decaditis," as the *New York Times* calls it, Dickstein's focus on the good that art can do and the many places from which it can arise saves the day here. The project's broad scope gives the author's insights an inevitable scattershot quality—Walt Disney, perhaps the most famous artist and visionary to come out of the period, doesn't figure at all in the book—and *Dancing in the Dark* certainly isn't meant to be an exhaustive study of the period's politics. Through his appreciation for Depression-era culture, though, Dickstein ably articulates the "crucial role that culture can play in times of national crisis."

Review

"The equivalent of a Fred and Ginger dance number . . . a thrill to read." (NPR)

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Tim Simmons:

Here thing why this kind of *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* are different and trustworthy to be yours. First of all reading through a book is good however it depends in the content from it which is the content is as scrumptious as food or not. *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* giving you information deeper as different ways, you can find any guide out there but there is no book that similar with *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression*. It gives you thrill examining journey, its open up your own personal eyes about the thing in which happened in the world which is might be can be happened around you. It is possible to bring everywhere like in area, café, or even in your approach home by train. Should you be having difficulties in bringing the published book maybe the form of *Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression* in e-book can be your alternative.

Donna Jost:

Spent a free a chance to be fun activity to perform! A lot of people spent their free time with their family, or their friends. Usually they undertaking activity like watching television, gonna beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing same task every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your own personal free time/ holiday? Could be reading a book could be option to fill your totally free time/ holiday. The first thing that you will ask may be what kinds of publication that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the publication untitled Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression can be very good book to read. May be it is usually best activity to you.

Roderick Donnell:

A lot of people always spent their free time to vacation or maybe go to the outside with them household or their friend. Do you know? Many a lot of people spent that they free time just watching TV, as well as playing video games all day long. If you would like try to find a new activity honestly, that is look different you can read a book. It is really fun in your case. If you enjoy the book which you read you can spent all day long to reading a e-book. The book Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression it is rather good to read. There are a lot of folks that recommended this book. These were enjoying reading this book. In the event you did not have enough space to deliver this book you can buy the e-book. You can m0ore quickly to read this book out of your smart phone. The price is not too costly but this book provides high quality.

Helen McCleary:

In this period globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make anyone to understand the condition of the world. The healthiness of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, classifieds, book, and soon. You will observe that now, a lot of publisher in which print many kinds of book. The particular book that recommended to you personally is Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression this e-book consist a lot of the information in the condition of this world now. This particular book was represented just how can the world has grown up. The dialect styles that writer make usage of to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some exploration when he makes this book. That is why this book suited all of you.

**Download and Read Online Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein
#2JC9M0O5G78**

Read Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein for online ebook

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein Free PDF d0wnl0ad, audio books, books to read, good books to read, cheap books, good books, online books, books online, book reviews epub, read books online, books to read online, online library, greatbooks to read, PDF best books to read, top books to read Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein books to read online.

Online Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein ebook PDF download

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein Doc

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein Mobipocket

Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein EPub

2JC9M0O5G78: Dancing in the Dark: A Cultural History of the Great Depression By Morris Dickstein