

One Wrong Turn

BOOK REVIEW'S



Ivy Anderson

At first glance, any naive book-binger would see 'One Wrong Turn' and assume it's any stereotypical children/teen story. When you open the cover and flick to the first page of Chenee Marrapodi's debut novel, you'll find yourself reeled into the eventful and competitive world of the Perth Ballet Academy, and into a future bestseller.

In 'One Wrong Turn', we meet the determined and perfectionistic Amelia; with former professional parents, and an overbearing pressure to succeed, (an incredibly relatable and comforting aspect to readers entering their teen years) she strives to be the best; and only the best.

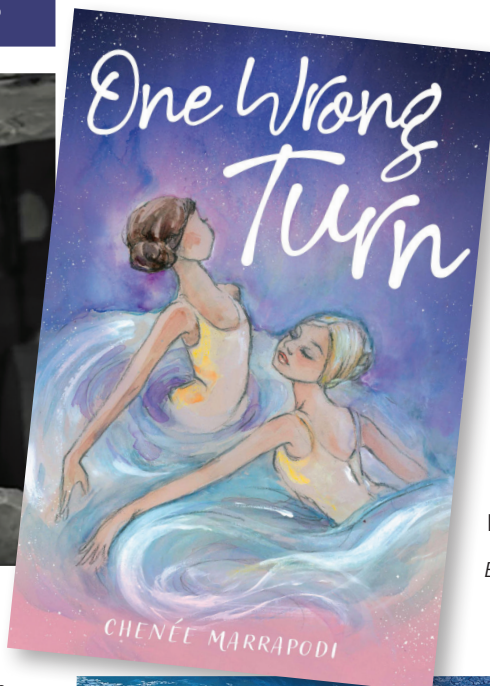
On the polar opposite, meet Valentina, the newbie to the Academy. She has recently moved from a small town in South Italy, where only 3 things matter: Food, family, and tradition. With a huge family and huge heart, she now has to navigate Australia while proving to her family that dance is more than just a 'Hobby'.

Both girls take readers on a journey through each of their own challenges: culture, language, social drama and bullying, and the first-hand physical and mental struggle of ballet. While the story progresses, the tension and stakes rise to the top as Amelia's life in dance and relationship with her parents threatens to crash in one huge lie: meanwhile, Valentina struggles with family tradition and mean girls, Ava and Kate.

I must admit, the ending blew me away, with the magic creeping into my room from the pages, the author's words describing the dance were honestly flawless. This writing style is truly spectacular to read and makes you long for "just one more chapter".

Not only is it the perfect read for all dancers, but the experiences, thoughts, and emotions in each of the characters can be awfully familiar to young readers of today, and many boys, but specifically young girls, may see themselves and/or their situations in this book.

A detail I truly appreciate is the author's prior experience in ballet; lessons since she was 5. This adds such authenticity to the writing and makes every detail feel so polished, true, and so *on pointe*.



I recommend an age group of 11-16 for this book, as it includes mild themes and may be slightly alarming to readers under the age of 10.

This debut novel is a golden start to Chenee Marrapodi's career, and I will be excitedly awaiting her next releases.

Ivy Anderson Age 12 -
Broken Hill Branch



Magenta Williams

'One Wrong Turn' is about two girls fighting for the role of Cinderella. The new girl Valentina gets the role, which makes Amelia angry. Valentina has a difficult home life because her family don't understand her love for ballet, and they just moved from Italy to Australia. Valentina is pulled out of the dance academy, taking her role as Cinderella away. Amelia's parents are ballerinas, but they still don't understand Amelia's pressure to impress them. Her love for dance is taken over by the pressure to perform perfectly for her parents and because of the drama caused by other girls at the studio. Amelia and Valentina become friends, to overcome the challenge of getting Valentina her role back and perfect the dance.

Magenta Williams Age 10 - Marla Oodnadatta