Summer Smith leaves home at the age of twelve to study ballet at one of the most prestigious Russian schools in the United States. She lives in a dorm with other young dancers who are determined to achieve their dreams, no matter the cost. After three years of training and performing under harsh teachers, Summer finds her mental well-being quickly spiraling out of control. She leaves behind the world of elite ballet and returns home injured and no longer eating.

Back home in California, Summer must face the guilt of giving up her chance at greatness, as well as remembering how to deal with her dysfunctional family. The one highlight of her return is a small local dance studio and a boy there who helps rekindle her love for ballet and for herself. But he also rekindles the memory of Summer’s darkest secret.

Summer flees to Las Vegas, swaps her leotard for sequined show dresses, and finds herself in a self-destructive state until she must make a choice: does she put her life back together again, or give up completely?

Told with naked honesty and self-awareness, Dancer is a story that slowly reveals our indestructible search for light.

Summer Smith lives in Boulder, Colorado with her fiancé and her two cats, where she is working on her first novel. Visit her at www.summerskyesmith.com.

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