



Dancing for joy

Regina Jones Woody

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Dust jacket notes: "'Nila Devi is the most exquisite plastique dancer of the century.' --Figaro, July 15, 1913, Paris. 'All Paris is raving about Nila Devi, the Puritan Maid, now the Blue Goddess of the Folies Bergere.' --New York World Magazine, August 31, 1913. 'The most interesting visitor to Paris this season is the exquisite American dancer, Nila Devi.' --London, The Dancing Times, September, 1913. These are but a few of the notices received by little Regina Jones, lowly sophomore at Dana Hall in 1911, Danseuse Etoile at the Folies Bergere in 1913. Utterly entrancing, irresistibly amusing is this light-hearted story of an American girl who succeeded as a dancer in Paris because she danced with joy in her heart and never knew when she was defeated. With gentle humor Mrs. Woody tells the story of how she parlayed an original talent and a rare quality of movement through a series of heart-breaking disappointments to a spectacular success. In less than two years she had danced her way to stardom, and as Nila Devi, was dressed by Madame Paquin, painted by Raphael Kirchner and acclaimed 'The American dancer who has taken Paris by the heart.' Along with the story of her formative years as a student dancer in London and Paris, there are glowing pictures of the great dancers of the early 1900's: Anna Pavlova, Michael Mordkin, Tamara Karsavina, Vaslav Nijinsky and Adeline Genee. The fashions, the performers, the old landmarks of a bygone era, captured in photographs and line drawings, make this a narrative of historical as well as of theatrical importance...."

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