

Looking for a great book for your reading group?

One Last Dance: "...leaves the reader feeling invigorated and enthusiastic about life." --Midwest Book Review

Winner! Independent Publishers Award, Best Regional Fiction, 2006
Finalist! Readers' Choice Award, 2005, Romance Writers of America



0-9649241-4-5 Cloth \$22.95

432 pages; Discussion Questions bound into book

Ohioana Award winner Mardo Williams began



his writing career in 1927 as the only reporter at the Kenton, Ohio daily, *The News-Republican*, eventually writing a daily business column with byline for the *Columbus Dispatch*

At age 89 he wrote a book about his mother, **Maude (1883-1993): She Grew Up with the Country**, an intimate look at the woman, the country, and the times. **Maude**, now in its third printing, reveals the spirit of a century and is a favorite with book discussion groups and college history classes.

Mardo (1905-2001) completed the first draft of **One Last Dance** at age 95. His daughters, honoring their father's wishes, finished the book after his death.

Kay Williams is an actress in NYC and the author of **Butcher of Dreams**, a suspense thriller about the theater. **Jerri Williams Lawrence** is a former English teacher, editor and writer in Ohio.

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ONE LAST DANCE: It's Never Too Late to Fall in Love
by Mardo Williams (with his daughters, Kay & Jerri)

A story about finding love at any age, *One Last Dance* is the delightful tale of Morgan, aged 89, and Dixie, 79, two "mature" individuals on seemingly divergent paths. Despite their disastrous first meeting, complete with a ruined birthday cake, broken eyeglasses and insulting remarks, it was obvious to bystanders, even then, that the two were fated for each other.

The book follows the relationship of Dixie and Morgan, as they begin to date and ultimately decide to move in together – for economic reasons, they agree. But the business-only relationship changes and strengthens as the couple unites to combat illness, scandal and a near-fatal accident. It's also a tale about how insecurities, humiliations and fears, thought long past, can haunt a person throughout his days. Dixie fears intimacy. Morgan has concealed important details about his divorce, his estranged children, and his lost job.

When a mysterious stranger, a grandson Morgan has never met, bent on vengeance for past wrongs, invades their lives, he becomes a catalyst, reconciling Morgan with his estranged Chicago family and eventually bringing Dixie and Morgan the love and pride they'd lost decades before with the loss of their children.

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AUTHORS WILL PARTICIPATE IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS BY PHONE. E-mail CalliopeNYC@aol.com

"Thank you for the phone chat. You got our book club off to a great start this year. We all enjoyed talking with you and we loved *One Last Dance*."

Imogene Shaver, Out of the Water Book Club, Charlotte, NC

Sample Discussion Questions (look online www.CalliopePress.com for others):

1. Here in an aging America – unlike so many other cultures – we have a love affair with youth. Instead of being overlooked, how could the contributions of our older generations be acknowledged and used to benefit society?
2. In the novel, Dixie is 79 and Morgan is 89. How realistic is it to expect to fall in love at that age? Discuss the complications of romance and marriage at this stage in life. Also talk about the advantages.
3. Dixie has concerns regarding Morgan's past. Is she right to be worried? Grandson Tony has been led to believe that Grandpa is wealthy. Had Morgan been treated fairly by his family? Did he create some of his own problems? Discuss how Officer Pfeiffer handled Tony.
4. Dixie is afraid Morgan will be repulsed by her body and Morgan is afraid he might not be up to a new relationship at his age. Discuss the nature – and truth – in these fears. Do we all have young minds in aging bodies?
5. The author, Mardo Williams, wrote his first novel at age 92. He suggests we live life every minute and always be in search of new experiences regardless of age. Discuss the title of the book and how it fits the story. How did the novel influence your thoughts and expectations for the future?

Critics Corner

"Williams' writing shows a ready wit, and neither Dixie nor Morgan is spared from comic consequences. *One Last Dance* is charming and touching. That the main characters are willful and stubborn does little to diminish their appeal."

Barbara McIntyre, Akron Beacon-Journal

"A sweepingly elegant romance, *One Last Dance* celebrates the importance of living in the moment and never giving up... Emotion and hope surge from the pages, in this novel that leaves the reader feeling invigorated and enthusiastic about life." **Jim Cox, Midwest Book Review**

"It's been a long time since I have enjoyed a novel as much as *One Last Dance*. It's full of wit, wisdom, lust and love. It's also as real as life itself, and a guide for anyone who hopes to live as long as its main characters. Three cheers for *One Last Dance*." **Alice Hornbaker, Cincinnati Post**

"This book is filled, no, it's overflowing, with humor, causing my lips to rise up at the corners starting with the very first sentence. It's also packed with emotion and revealing surprises... It is a masterpiece!" **Sue Vogan, Bookpleasures.com**

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**Kay and/or Jerri WILL PARTICIPATE
IN YOUR DISCUSSIONS BY PHONE.
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entertaining addition to your discussion.**

"I wanted to let you know how much we appreciated your wonderful presentation! I know all the attendees enjoyed themselves immensely. Your father had an amazing outlook on life, and by doing this program, you are spreading that optimism to so many others." **Tamara Murray, Program Coordinator, Westerville Public Library**

"We all agreed that it is remarkable how your father was able to capture the issues of aging so rarely brought out in fiction format without creating a dismal, discouraging story. Instead, he dealt with them openly, honestly, and with humor and thoughtfulness. The book was so uplifting and encouraging, one of the few books that the entire reading group really liked..." **Kaye E. Beasley, Librarian Supervisor-Port Charlotte (Florida) Library/Facilitator, Book Groups**