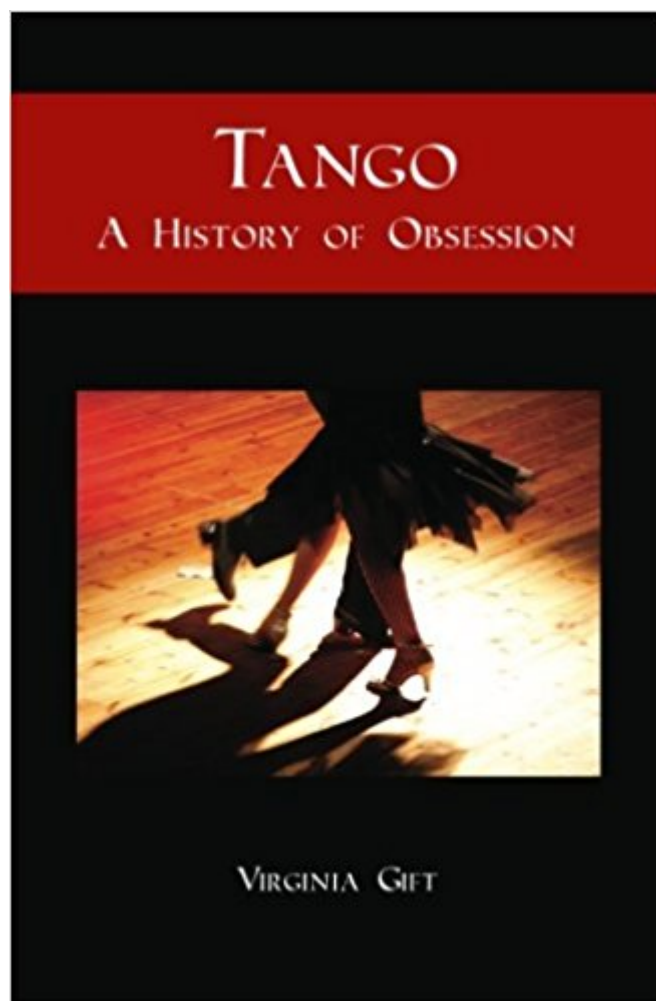


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# Tango: A History Of Obsession



## Synopsis

New Revised Edition for 2012! Delving into five hundred years of political, social, and cultural mores, the author offers a chronology of the evolution of the Tango as intricate as the dance itself. Readers are invited into a world as remarkable as it is compelling. The Tango originated in the slums of Buenos Aires as a partnered dance between two men and evolved into the most sophisticated, elegant and physically demanding social dance. Originally relegated to the lower classes, it eventually earned its place as a respected art form, embraced by millions of dancers and spectators around the world. From Argentina's early colonial period of the 16th century through civil and world wars, the rise and fall of dictatorships and democracies, to its years of near-disappearance and then resurrection, the history and mystic of tango has been captured in this meticulously researched book.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Tango: A History of an Obsession reads like a poorly written middle-school student's report. Instead of actual research and facts, it relies on information accumulated from informal surveys of dancers (famous and not) which the author quotes throughout the book for no reason other than to fill a lot of space. The spelling, grammar and punctuation is deplorable. Facts are cloudy at best. (She even got the name of Robert Duvall's tango movie wrong.) I will be honest, I could only get through the first 100 pages before saying enough is enough. Could not stomach to read another 300.

Having read all, and I mean ALL, the tango books written (I have been a professional tango dancer and teacher for the past 14 years) I was truly amazed when I read Virginia Gift's book....it was a

new and refreshing look at the history of Tango from the perspective of the obsession people have with this dance and the history of that obsession. As historian from many years and a tango dancer herself, Virginia was able to capture this history in a way that a non-tango dancer could not. I love this book so much that I purchased a supply of 200 so far and give one to each of the students that enroll in my beginner boot camp. They love getting such a beautiful gift and have told me how much they have enjoyed reading this book. I hope everyone that dances tango takes the time to read this book. Even after reading all the other books out there I learned quite a few new things about this dance that I am so passionate about and truly "obsessed" by!

This book covers three aspects of the current obsession with tango. Part One is an analysis of the phenomenal renaissance of worldwide interest in the dance. It tells who is dancing, why they are dancing, where, when, and how--including a description of classical and new styles. The history section Part Two: explains the social economic and political reasons for the rise, fall, and the contemporary revival of the tango. The third section is a guide to today's Buenos Aires, where tango had its birth, to today's fascinating city (of the Portenos) that remains the Mecca for tango. Whether on a pilgrimage to tango's origins or as a tourist, the city is fascinating. This book has it all. A truly remarkable account of the phenomena: Tango.

I loved Virginia Gift's book because it filled in all the information I had never known about Tango since first hearing Gardel and watching Valentino movies with my mother back in the 40. Well written, well researched and yes will definitely satisfy one's tango obsession whether for those who love the dance, the music, or the great poetry and passion of the tango lyrics! Bill Snell

Certainly would like to refer to anybody who is interested in Argentine Tango, whether a "seasoned" or "upstart" tanguero or tangera.

This book is well suited for novices and experienced tangueros/tangueras who are looking for something other than the recent spate of tango memoirs, some of which I read and thoroughly enjoyed. Tango: A History Of Obsession is for those who are looking for an assiduously researched historical account of from whence this most unique and ever evolving social dance has come and, thanks to the book's inclusion of an essay by Tango's foremost innovator, Gustavo Naveira, where the world-wide pandemic of tango fever may be headed.

I was strongly disappointed in this work. From the promising title I expected a well-researched, well-written, chronicle of the history and development of tango. What I found instead was a very breezy assemblage of responses from a questionnaire that the author submitted to a number of prominent figures in the tango world and a "history" that seemed yet another rehashing of common (and mostly discredited) tango myths and folklore. Aside from the content, or lack of, the work struck me as poorly-written and in need of editing. Typographical errors were frequent. The book is, by the way, self-published.

Virginia Gift has written a terrific new history of a fascinating subject. Her intense research has served her well in creating this great new book. She speaks from personal experience and her own obvious obsession. Her dedication to detail is amazing.

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