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Frances Dean Who Loved to Dance and Dance by Birgitta Sif

Publisher: Walker Books

RRP \$27.99

Frances Dean is a young girl who loves to dance when she is outside. She has a natural rhythm and responds to the swirling wind and the song of birds. Although, when people are nearby she feels shy and loses her ability to dance freely.

One day the birds lead her to a young girl sitting on a park bench singing to herself. Frances admires her voice and her confidence to sing aloud. That night she thinks about how the girl had given so much pleasure by sharing her song. Gradually, Frances finds the courage to share her love of dance with others and she makes new friends along the way.

The evocative illustrations use a rustic palette of colours in keeping with the outdoor scenes. Quirky characters, clothing and background details have a retro touch reminiscent of an era when making music and dancing together were common pleasures. Frances's pigtails are adorable, so is her blissful expression when she is dancing, and her cute nose.

A generous-sized picture book published in hardback. This is a gentle tale that will delight readers time and time again.

**Reviewed by children's book author,
Jean Bennett**

Author / Illustrator's website:
<http://www.birgittasif.com/>

