

Book Review: Fablehaven

BY DAVINA BELLINGER

F*ablehaven* was written by Brandon Mull in 2007. This novel became a bestseller with four sequels to follow. The book takes place in Connecticut, where a sanctuary for the secret world of Fablehaven is hidden from the outside world. Mythical creatures such as malicious witches, vain fairies, mischievous naiads, roguish satyrs, horrid imps, hungry ogresses, avaricious trolls, lethal demons, and deadly goblins are sealed away deep into Fablehaven. However, fairies are allowed in the backyard of Sorenson's house. Caretakers Stan and Ruth Sorenson look after these creatures to keep everyone outside and inside of Fablehaven safe. Kendra and Seth Sorenson went to stay with their grandparents on their mother's side because their parents were going on a cruise.

When Kendra and Seth arrive at their grandparents' house, they are introduced to a couple of important characters within the novel. The two siblings meet Dale, who is the Fablehaven groundskeeper, and Lena, a housekeeper who has a secret that later is unfolded. Seth has more curiosity than Kendra because he wants to understand what these mythical creatures are like, and if he can meet one. One example from the novel was when Seth caught a fairy and trapped her into a jar and kept the fairy overnight. The next morning he discovers that she is no longer a beautiful fairy, but instead is an ugly imp. A terrible finding that puts Seth and everyone else in danger is that he eventually goes to Fablehaven and runs into Muriel Taggart, the antagonist of the story. She is a witch and is trying to free the most insidious creature of Fablehaven.

Overall, this novel is a great read for those interested in the fantasy genre. This book shows the importance of family and how they will always be there for one another no matter the obstacles facing them. I would also recommend reading the sequels because they follow smoothly with the storyline that the siblings are processing in their journey. The second book of the *Fablehaven*, *Rise of the Evening Star*, which begins with the end of the school year where Kendra and Seth return to their grandparents' house to uncover more secrets.



Fablehaven Book Review. CREDIT: Davina Bellinger

Come (Swing) Dance the Night Away!

BY ANNA FRITZE

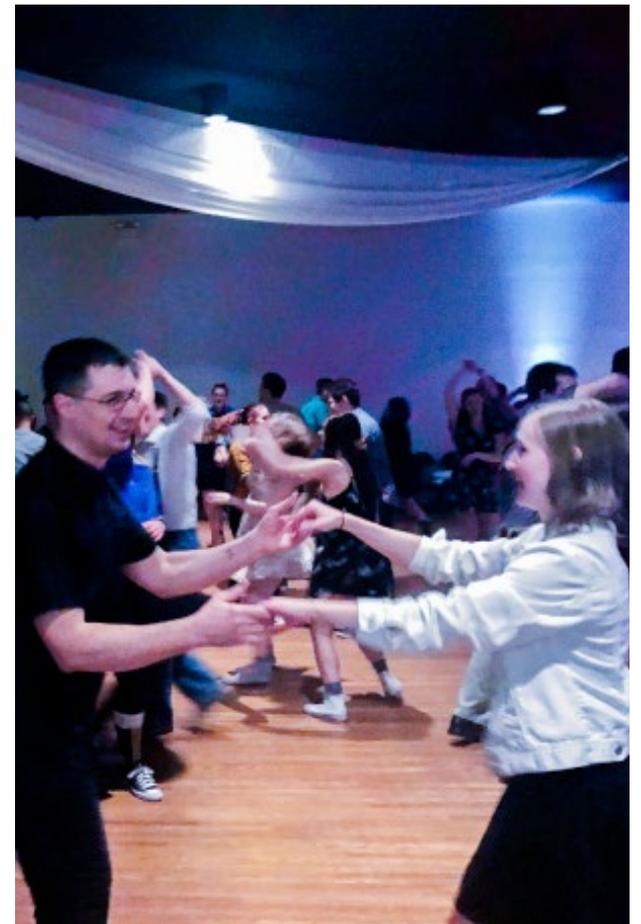
The dance floor of the Ukraine Center is full and bustling as my friends and I enter together around 10:30 pm. TC Swing Dancing had started half an hour ago, and everything is already in full swing as we wove through people dancing full swing in the warm room. We all already had so many college memories from swing, and we were ready to make more.

TC Late Night Swing is run by Terry and Cindy Gardner every Thursday night from 10:00 pm to 2:00 am. They offer dance lessons beforehand for anyone who wants to learn the basics to dance the night away. There are an array of ages who attend, from young teens to Smooth Al, a 70-year-old man who always comes to "dance until he drops." Don't worry if you're one that doesn't want to take the extra time for lessons but also doesn't want to just stand around all night.

Concordia students that go every week congregate in the same corner each time, and there is always someone willing to teach anyone the basics. I used to skip out each week because I didn't want to look stupid by standing there doing nothing. When I finally went, multiple understanding Concordia students were there to teach me the simple steps. While I was definitely no expert, it was one of the most enjoyable nights I had my freshman year. I talked to many people I had seen around school plenty of times but never officially met. The majority of the people there are also very friendly and willing to help, and most definitely will dance with anyone.

For anyone, a night at TC Swing holds multiple opportunities for fun and memory-making. You can laugh at the mistakes you make dancing on the floor, revel in the accomplishment you feel after a completed dance, or just chill and talk to friends on the sidelines. There are always people who will be willing to dance, and always those a little exhausted who are up for some conversation. TC includes line dances like Footloose and the Shim Sham. While these dances might be simple, they're loads of fun for people from the beginner to the expert level.

If you want to have some fun looking silly or dancing seriously, whether you consider yourself an expert dancer or you have two left feet, swing dancing is for you. No matter the night, you can leave with memories of laughter and fun. Come swing!



Swinging it with TC Swing Dancing. CREDIT: Anna Fritze