



A Blossom of Bright Light

Suzanne Chazin

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Award-winning author Suzanne Chazin returns with a stirring novel of deadly misdeeds and heartbreaking choices in a seasoned homicide cop's hometown...A split-second decision thrusts

Detective Jimmy Vega into the epicenter of a disturbing case when a body is found near a gathering place for immigrants in upscale Lake Holly, NY. The cold-bloodedness of the crime and the innocence of the victim torment Vega. But so, too, does the feeling that he's to blame. Or is he? Could the ravings of a delusional vagrant hold the key to the killing? And if so, why can't the police locate him?

In a community gripped by fear of deportation, Vega needs the help of his girlfriend, activist Adele Figueroa, to gain people's trust. But Adele is acting strangely, consumed by a secret that threatens to tear them apart. When the case takes a personal turn, both Vega and Adele discover that Lake Holly's tranquil façade hides a terror of monstrous proportions, poised and ready to strike again. To confront the killer and save their relationship, Vega and Adele must forge a new level of trust—in each other, and in their most deeply held beliefs—to expose an evil that threatens to eclipse anything they'd previously imagined.

Written with equal parts passion and suspense, *A Blossom of Bright Light* takes readers on a journey of stunning revelations to uncover a small town's most sinister secrets—and brightest hopes for the future. Mystery, sacrifice, and unrelenting love converge in this gripping work by a master storyteller.

A Blossom of Bright Light Details

Date : Published October 27th 2015 by Kensington

ISBN : 9781617736353

Author : Suzanne Chazin

Format : Hardcover 360 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller

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From Reader Review A Blossom of Bright Light for online ebook

Licha says

I have to say that I love the side stories that Suzanne Chazin adds into her Detective Jimmy Vega series. And although I do love this series and the recurring characters of Jimmy Vega and Adele Figueroa, I am always touched to the core by the immigrant's stories she adds to the mix. Chazin really captures what immigrants struggle with, their everyday lives, the things they worry about, the love they have for their families. I appreciate her so much for caring enough to portray what being an immigrant is really about. Both in this second book as with her first in the series, she has brought me to tears as I read the injustices immigrants face. She cares enough to give these faces a story. I would not have minded reading a whole book on the Serrano family alone. Their story broke my heart.

I won't go into detail about the murder investigation in this book. Suffice to say that this story is about a dead baby and girl found in the woods. All this intermingles with the other characters' side stories. Adele, Jimmy's girlfriend, is teeter-totting between accepting a position in Washington D.C. or staying in town to pursue a blossoming relationship with Jimmy and being able to continue running her agency La Casa where she helps immigrants with different types of problems. This agency is her baby and she is very reluctant to leave it behind. Seeking aid for the Serrano family she becomes involved with some big honchos who may or may not be good people. She seeks their legal assistance to see if they can prevent Mr. Serrano from being deported and separated from his three kids. But everyone seems to have an ulterior motive, putting the lives of these three kids in danger as well as possibly separating this family for good.

The back and forth dance between Adele and Jimmy did become a little annoying where each is afraid to say what's on their mind in regards to Adele's possible move and what that holds for their relationship. Just say what's on your mind. It felt like a bit of teasing for the reader. I'm also a little confused as to why Jimmy's daughter Joy always has to have some kind of involvement in the crimes. If I'm correct, Joy was also a factor in the first book. I'm not sure that I completely love Joy. I feel she's very dismissive of Jimmy and his need to protect her as a father. If I'm facing an accusation of murder and my father was a detective, you'd bet I'd be leaning on him for support and following to a tee all his advice. The one other minor issue I had was with Claudia, the bodega owner, and Esme, wife of an influential and successful businessman who is supposed to be helping the Serrano family. These two characters felt a little over the top, especially as things wrapped up.

One other thing I will say in favor of Chazin, is that she does not commit the sin of summarizing who each recurring character is as they pop up in the book. Somehow she manages to tell a new reader who a character is but doesn't burden the continuing reader with having to have the previous book recapped for them. I have dropped some series in the past where each book has to give a recap of who the characters are, what happened in the last book, what a curmudgeon but lovable character such and such is, etc. This would work as a stand-alone book but then readers would miss out growing with these characters. I am definitely looking forward to more books in this series.

Paromjit says

This is a compelling thriller that carries with it central issues affecting countries. Illegal immigrants and those that would prey on them, and political corruption are explored head on.

After making a bad call, cop Jimmy has to deal with a dead new born baby. His guilt drives him to follow the trail and has repercussions with his relationship with Adele. The lives of immigrants and the on the edge life they experience is a realistic depiction of how it is.

The suspense driven narrative kept me glued to the book right up to the finale. This is the first Jimmy Vega I have read, and I am going to read the other. The author is an accomplished writer who creates superb characters that interact really well with each other. I would urge others to read this book! I gratefully received an ebook copy of this book from Kensington, the publishers via netgalley.

Debbie says

This one starts out gross with the investigators scratching their head and wondering WTH? This one involves scandal with a public figure running for office, immigration laws, forced deportation, greed, ethics, and the question - "what would you do for your child?".

This was definitely one that I did not want to put down but it was 4:00 in the morning and I was tired of the Ipad hitting me in the face. And I only had like an hour left to read. (Sad.)

This one will really get you rooting for this family who's father they are trying to deport. I won't tell you the reason why they want him deported. You'll just have to buy it and find out for yourself. You will never guess it. Yeah, it's disgusting.

Of course, there is also a little romance going on in here, but the sex is implied.

I think the story was well written, the characters were nicely developed with Adele finally coming to her senses. While this is fiction, I'm sure its non-fiction in many places all over the world. And that also is just sad.

A huge thanks to Kensington Books and Net Galley for providing me this free e-galley in exchange for an honest review. This was a heart pulsating, seesaw ride that I definitely enjoyed!

Bonnie Brody says

Detective Jimmy Vega is having a romantic interlude with his love, Adele Figueroa, when Adele receives a phone call from a well-known drunk and homeless man named Zambo. Zambo tells her this drunken story about seeing 'The Lady of Sorrows' with a baby in her arms in the woods behind La Casa, the non-profit agency that Adele runs. Adele wants Jimmy to investigate this but he wants an undisturbed night with Adele. He regrets his decision throughout the rest of the book.

The next morning, a dead baby is found in the woods behind La Casa, and Zambo is nowhere to be found. Adele is angry with Jimmy but not more angry than he is with himself. He is investigating the baby's death when all sorts of interconnected crimes begin to arise.

Adele is a Harvard trained attorney who rose up from poverty by the strength of her motivation, intellect, and family support. Jimmy is a blue collar cop who used to be in a band. Both have been divorced and have

children. Their relationship is loving but not firmly defined for either of them.

The novel takes place in the small community of Lake Holly, New York. It brings to life the hispanic community that resides there and the hierarchy that plays a large part in their lives. There is Claudia, who owns a bodega that most of the hispanic population go to for their traditional foods. Luis Serrano and his family play a big role in this novel. Luis is about to be deported and his three children are despondent. Domingo is a nanny who helps the family that she works for sell goods on EBAY for extra income. Charlie Gonzalez is the self-made man who owns a string of car washes and who has attained what others think is the American dream. All these characters are part of the sub-plots in the novel and each of their stories is interesting in their own right.

As Jimmy gets closer to solving the crime, he has to deal with conflicts of interest, political issues, his relationship with Adele and the ethics of his job as a detective. I found the book very interesting and if this is the start of a series I will likely read the next addition.

Linda says

"Everything leaves a mark."

No matter what we do in life, there lies the evidence great or small. Do-overs just don't happen. And in most cases, everything is forever changed.

Detective Jimmy Vega of Lake Holly, New York is not only working on local police cases, but he is building a case to convince his girlfriend, Adele, not to answer a call. Adele, a Harvard trained lawyer, works at La Casa which is an outreach facility for immigrants.

Zambo, homeless and usually under the influence, claims that he has seen the Virgin in the woods holding a newborn. Vega insists that Adele allow someone else to deal with this latest of Zambo's fantasies. A faulty decision made, but one with indelible markings. When an infant is actually found among the leaves beneath a tree in the woods, Vega and Adele are devastated.

Suzanne Chazin presents another book in her Jimmy Vega series that adds a lot of spark to timely topics. Through her exceptionally well-developed characters, Chazin lays out all sides of the story for the reader. She envelopes her storyline with deeply carved emotions, frustrations, intense challenges, and even triumphs. You get the whole expedition hook, line, and sinker.

A Blossom of Bright Light showcases local police procedures and ratchets up the case to the federal level when Adele is offered a position in Washington, D.C.. There is more of Vega's daughter, Joy, in this one as she pursues her medical degree. But hear me out. Each book is a standalone. I read them as #3, #1, and then #2. In a perfect world, all series should be read in order, but it certainly takes nothing away from this one if you skip out of order.

I have been taken with Chazin and her stellar writing. Looking forward to meeting up with Jimmy Vega once again in the next one. Can't get here fast enough, Chazin.

Linda Baker says

On one of their few free nights together, Jimmy Vega and his girlfriend, Adele Figueroa, make a bad decision. That decision not only has a devastating effect on their relationship but wide-ranging effects in the immigrant community. Adele receives a call from her community center telling her that a well-known drunken vagrant has come in raving about seeing the Virgin Mary in the woods with a baby. Adele thinks she should go over and check it out, but Jimmy persuades her that it's nothing. No one can believe a story from such a notorious source. The booze has addled his brain. When Jimmy's cell phone rings in the early morning hours, calling him out to a death scene in those same woods, the two are devastated. Jimmy has been feeling that Adele is pulling away from him for several weeks; will this end the relationship for good? The dead body in the woods sets in motion a chain of shocking discoveries about some of the highest placed persons in Lake Holly. Not only are there predators among the immigrants, but those who pretend to be advocating for them.

A Blossom of Bright Light kept me on the edge of my seat and reading into the early hours. Once again, Suzanne Chazin has written a suspenseful novel with all too fallible characters. The innocence of the victims was, for me at least, very hard to deal with. Adele is fighting hard to keep the Serrano family from deportation, find out who is guilty of the murder and to resolve her own issues with her daughter as well as decide on a change of career. Jimmy, too, has his own family issues and the guilt of ignoring the telephone call. The ending is a real nail-biter, with what has to be the most unusual attempted murder imaginable.

I highly recommend A Blossom of Bright Light for anyone who likes a thriller with heart as well as thrills. Both this and the earlier book, Land of Careful Shadows, address issues that are all too often glossed over in the politically charged discussions of immigration today. Thanks to NetGalley.com and Kensington Books for an advance digital copy in return for an honest review.

RATING- 4.5 Stars

Janet Robel says

Oh, so good, well-plotted, solid mystery. It had my attention right from the beginning. This powerhouse of a novel deals with sensitive issues and will keep you on the edge of your seat. Make sure you clear your calendar for this one.

Darcia Helle says

Sometimes a story is just a story. Other times, as with this book, it's an all-encompassing experience.

Let's start with the writing, which is, I think flawless. There is no sign of intrusion from the author. We are whisked away by the characters and brought to their world. We're like voyeurs in their lives, only better, because we can feel it as well as see it.

That brings us to the characters. They are... I was going to type 'realistic', but that's not right. They are simply

- real. They could have popped off the pages and stood in front of me.

The plot is complex, intertwined, heartbreaking, and honest. This is a mystery, yes, but it's also literary and social commentary, and I mean that in the most complimentary way. The author's handling of Hispanic culture and immigration issues is pure magic. She reminds us, without ever interfering or forcing the plot, that immigration is not just a political soundbite. When we allow it to be about the politics, instead of the people, we lose a bit of our humanity.

When I picked this book to read, I didn't realize it was the second in a series. I had absolutely no problem connecting to or understanding the characters, so this works exceptionally well as a stand-alone.

I received an ebook copy from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for my honest review.

Barbara Tsipouras says

What a book! It kept me reading until 3 am last night.

I don't want to reveal too much of the very well and life-like crafted story. I just can tell, that when you guess who is involved in the crime things get even worse. The suspense is climbing up to an incredible level when Vega and Adele try to save the possible next victim.

Susanne Chazin doesn't only tell a gripping crime mystery, she shows us the difficulties we face in relationships, the hardships of being an undocumented immigrant, life within the Hispanic communities, the manipulation and favoritism in politics, the effects of guilt.

The characters are multidimensional and it's easy to connect with them.

I recommend this book to readers who want gripping suspense with social-political-psychological background and believable characters.

I will look now for the first book of the series.

I want to thank NetGalley and Kensington books for the provided ARC.

Heather Fineisen says

A good, solid read. Predictable but characters were well developed and the immigration dilemma and subsequent crime was realistic and timely. Strong series I would definitely read more of.

Provided by publisher

sue says

This is a case of **do not be misled by the cover**

Personally, I do not like the cover, however, I can look beyond this and read the blurb that took my attention, that being so, its definitely not a case of "do not judge a book by its cover", this is well worth reading.

We have a death of a child. A full grown infant found in the woods.

We have immigrants and violence, we have abuse of women and some really terrible political power pulling. This is a story that will 'get you' it will 'keep you reading until the end' and if you have to lay your book down, to sleep, to do chores....you will be thinking of it. Wanting to get back to it.

Jimmy Vega is the man investigating the death of the infact, but we now have a teenage body, because there is a connection to his own daughter he cannot handle the case. That doesn't stop him using his senses of inquiry, he wants and needs to protect his own daughter.

Its a strong up to date topical book. I can see this one being read at a book club for discussion as there are lots in this.

Strong plot. Good characters and a solid story.

My thanks to Kensington Books via Net Galley for my copy

Meredith says

While there is always a mystery driving the plot of the Jimmy Vega series, the focus of the series is on immigration issues. A Blossom of Bright Light brings to the forefront the children of undocumented immigrants and how the threat of deportation puts the children of these immigrants at serious risk.

Enjoying a rare evening-in with his girlfriend Adele, Jimmy encourages her to ignore a phone call from La Casa, the center that she runs for undocumented immigrants. Soon both Vega and Adele learn that ignoring this call led to the death of a newborn baby. Jimmy searches for the baby's killer, while Adele ponders taking a job in D.C., which would allow her to play a larger role in helping undocumented immigrants.

At the same time, 15-year-old Luna's life is about to change. Her father, an undocumented immigrant, is about to be deported to Mexico. Luna, who's own documentation status is iffy, is left to care for her younger brother and sister. They are brought to live with the Gonzalez family. Luna knows there is something off about the Gonzalez's, but having no power being a 15 year old girl who's immigration status is in danger, has little power to fight.

What I love about this series is how Chazin shows the complexities surrounding immigration reform. She humanizes the issue, and reminds the reader that this is not a black and white issue.

You don't need to read the first book in the series to follow the plot of A Blossom of Bright Light, but I would recommend doing so to gain a better understanding of Vega's character.

CL says

This book deals with social and political issues we all face today, illegal immigrants and those who prey on them due to their fears and the corruption of those in politics. Jimmy Vega is a tough New York cop until he has to deal with a case involving a newborn baby found dead in the woods behind a Community Center with the umbilical cord still attached. He and his girlfriend had been together earlier in the evening when she received a call after a drunk goes into the Community Center and said he has seen the Virgin Mary with a baby. Jimmy does not believe that it is a credible story until he receives a call later calling him out to the Community Center to investigate the baby found behind it. The story has a few sub plots and thru it all Jimmy Vega tries to navigate his life. Great Read. I would like to thank the publisher and Net Galley for the chance to read this ARC.

Betty says

This story is written so powerful my emotions were engaged completely. It brought tears to my eyes as I felt as the fear of undocumented immigrants about deportation. My feeling were engaged with the abuse suffer by woman. Jimmy Vega is investigating the death a of a full term infant found in the woods. Atan exposition a scent dog finds,the body of unknown teen. As his daughter is a person of interest he is not allowed to handle the case. His fear for his daughter is paramount as he goes about inquiring the events of the case. Evil is present in the community that Vega must find the answer and it will disrupt higher level of society.

Disclosure: I received a free copy from Kensington Books through Netgalley for an honest review. I would like,to thank them for this opportunity to read the book. The opinions are my own.

Petra says

I really enjoyed the first Jimmy Vega mystery, Land of Careful Shadows. With this one, Suzanne Chazin has raised the bar. I had a few minor issues with the writing in the first book, this one was flawless.

While this works a stand-alone mystery, I think part of the reason I enjoyed it so much is the fact that I was already familiar with Detective Jimmy Vega and Adele Figueroa, with whom Jimmy is now in a relationship. Jimmy and Adele are trying to make their relationship work, but then a decision they make one evening results in both of them feeling guilty for the death of a newborn baby.

Suzanne Chazin once again tackles the issues of immigration and the lives and relationships of documented and undocumented immigrants. The focus on the lives of children faced with the deportation of a parent was truly heart-breaking. Ms. Chazin has an amazing talent for making all the characters feel incredibly authentic. I think it would be hard to read this book with its wonderful imagery and not feel deeply touched by it. The sense of doom that kept building right up to the suspenseful finale kept me listening to this for hours on end. The audio is narrated by Thom Rivera and he does a fantastic job. So much so, that I have purchased the next audiobook in this series although I already had the print version via NetGalley.

A really compelling and powerful mystery, which is topical and contains subtle but thought-provoking social commentary. Highly recommended if you enjoy character-driven crime fiction with an intelligent storyline.

