



Bad Girl

Michele Jaffe

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She never meant for it to happen. . . .

For Chicago Thomas, aka Windy, it was an offer too good to refuse: the chance to head the forensics lab at the Las Vegas Police Department. With her six-year-old daughter in tow, Windy moves to Sin City hoping to start over with a loving fiancé—far from the sad memories of a first marriage that ended in tragedy. But the job of her dreams is about to take a nightmarish turn.

She wanted to be a good girl. . . .

Though the first murders appear to be random, they are savage in their intensity: an entire family, butchered in their own home. Only a few days later, another family meets the same grisly fate. To Ash Leighton, the enigmatic chief of the Metro Violent Crime Unit, the signs are clear: a serial killer is stalking Las Vegas.

But she just couldn't help herself. . . .

In a breathless race against time, the lines between good and bad, right and wrong, begin to blur, and Windy and Ash find themselves irresistibly drawn to each other. In a town where nothing is what it seems, only the evidence doesn't lie. And Windy may have to pay for the truth with her life. Sometimes being good is dangerous.

Bad Girl Details

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Author : Michele Jaffe

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From Reader Review Bad Girl for online ebook

Diana says

Loved the book when I read it in 2004. I'm raising my rating after listening to the newly produced audiobook narrated by Teri Clark Linden. Terrific thriller with fully realized characters...including the villain.

Barbara ★ says

Chicago Thomas (AKA Windy) moves to Vegas to start a new life after something traumatic happens in Virginia. Windy is a cop investigating a serial killer targeting families. Windy's is working closely with her gorgeous boss, Ash Laughton. The romance is inevitable and rather sweet.

There are lots of surprises and many plot twists. This is one book that keeps you guessing until the last page. The crimes are brutal and fully described. (So if you're squeamish, skip this book!) What wonderful characters Michele Jaffe has created in both Windy and Ash. Too bad this isn't a series as I would enjoy reading more featuring these two.

Pamela(AllHoney) says

For the crime drama/suspense I give this a 4 star with no problem. But the romance took a backseat in the story for the first 3/4s of the book and only gets about 2 stars from me. I would definitely recommend it to people who love crime drama/suspense type novels with a side order of romance.

Shaneice says

"Bad Girl", by Michele Jaffe, is a phenomenal mystery. In the beginning of the book I thought I was not going to like it, but when Windy moved to "Sin City", Las Vegas, things started to get interesting. This book has lots of twists and turns that will leave you questioning the murders that go down in "Sin City".

Lynn Spencer says

This book is a phenomenal and edgy thriller. It was published almost 10 years before **Gone Girl**, and I wonder if it was perhaps a bit ahead of its time. Had it come out in more recent years, I suspect it would have garnered more attention.

As in most good thrillers, there is a lot more going on here than immediately meets the eye. For that reason, I'll keep plot description to a minimum. The basic plotline follows Chicago "Windy" Thomas, a single mother who has recently moved with her daughter to Las Vegas to head up the forensics lab. Very soon after her arrival, she finds herself drawn into a truly grisly series of murders (seriously, the depictions of violence

here are not for the faint of heart or stomach). It's the sort of case where the more one learns about the killer, the more disturbing the crimes become.

This intense investigation throws Windy together with Ash Laughton, the Chief of the Violent Crime Unit. The two work well together, and the chemistry between them runs pretty hot, too.

The book switches perspective back and forth between perpetrators and suspects, but it's always pretty easy to tell whose universe we're inhabiting in any given chapter. As a reader, seeing the whole universe of characters makes for a thrilling reading experience because the author does a great job of fleshing out complicated characters - and that includes the suspects, too. And because we deal with folks who aren't 100% forthcoming even with themselves, the fact that readers see into the worlds of the various characters doesn't take away the element of surprise. This book has a lot of twists and turns to it, and I definitely didn't figure them all out before the end.

I'm sad to see that Jaffe seems to have stopped writing suspense after 2 books, but I'm glad that I was able to discover **Bad Girl**.

Kit says

Not being a crime/mystery type of book reader - though admittedly I've never actually tried the genre - I found this book to be a real page turner. Although it was easy to be persuaded to keep reading on because the chapter increments were so small, easily 2 page to 5 page long chapters. A couple of twists were good, though I'm still deciding whether I like the big twist about who the killer was. The romance angle of the book was meh, but that's coming from a cynic who doesn't believe that one can fall madly in love with someone in the span of 2-3 weeks, raving murderer on the loose or otherwise. Some of the "clues" and thought process of the criminalist didn't jive, but can be easily overlooked as it's fair to argue that not everyone can understand how one might connect clues and conclusions.

Overall, it was an enjoyable and easy read.

XX Sarah XX (former Nefarious Breeder of Murderous Crustaceans) says

The book is packed with a lot of twists and turns that leave you wondering who the killer is. Although the answer to that question is answered before the end of the book it is still interesting to see how Windy and her team work. I was a bit disappointed by the last four chapters though, they felt a bit rushed, as if the author wanted to get it over with real quick... A very entertaining book nevertheless!

Jasi says

Mit einem leichten Einsteig fängt das Buch an zu seinem Albtraum zu werden. Einem genialen Albtraum! Morde so kalt und ecklig dass es mir die Haare aufstellt, so detailreich geschildert das sich mir der Magen umdreht und so gut durchgeführt dass die Polizei vor einem Rätsel steht. Ich habe das Buch richtig genossen, die Gänsehaut, die Schockmomente und auch die Tatorte. Das Buch steckt voller Überraschungen, wenigen langweiligen Ermittlungen und sehr viel Blut. Ein Thriller der einen besonderen Platz in meinem Regal

verdient - einfach weil er unglaublich spannend ist! Schlaflose Nächte gibts kostenlos dazu!

Jane Stewart says

Well done for a mystery-suspense-thriller. The last two hours were edge-of-your-seat-could-not-stop-reading.

Windy (female) is the main character forensics expert. She reminded me of Sherlock Holmes in a couple scenes. Her observations impressed me. There were a lot of good ideas in the clues and ways of solving of the mystery. There was a red herring and I was ok with that.

I like third person. We are inside the killer's head but we don't know who the killer is until the last quarter of the book.

A negative for some readers is harm to children. Charles does horrible things to his wife and stepson. The killer gets a mother to do what the killer wants by holding a knife to her children. Another mother is terrified as the killer threatens her daughter. Harm to children is a guaranteed way to make readers feel terror, hurt, pain, fear.... but I'd rather not read about it. Some back story showing abuse to a child causing the child to become a killer is ok, but there was a lot more than that which bothered me. If you're ok with that, it's an excellent book for mystery lovers. The crimes are graphic and gory - if that is a concern.

Some things were not answered and I wanted to know.

1. The killer captured character A. Character B shows up which saves A's life. The author never said how character B knew where to go and when.
2. One character C changed their name. How did C do that, when, and why? Some characters knew C's old name and I assume the new name. How was that working?
3. What ever happened to Charles?

There is a happy ending. And toward the end a romantic relationship occurs, but it is a minor part of the story. This is not for romance readers because not enough is done with that relationship.

The cover is a bad mismatch. It looks like chick lit. It should be changed to something dark and serious.

The narrator Teri Clark Linden was very good. I didn't notice her which means I wasn't thinking about her and taken out of the story.

DATA:

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Unabridged audiobook length: 14 hrs and 17 mins. Swearing language: strong but rarely used. Sexual language: moderate. Number of sex scenes: three brief ones. Setting: current day Las Vegas, Nevada. Book copyright: 2003. Genre: mystery suspense thriller.

Jasmine says

This book is on my read, reread, and read again list it is amazing. I first read it when I was in seventh grade (inappropriate? yes) and it blew my mind. Essentially it is a mystery novel that chronicles the life of a serial killer, the women he blames for turning him into a killer, and the detective that is handling the case whom he has fallen for and plans on killing.

The novel is full of suspense, literally edge of my seat the entire time and every other time I've read it. There is also just the right amount of romance to counteract the gory details of families of 4 or more being butchered to death and then posed for artistic affect.

I gave this book five stars because it is something that I wouldn't mind, and haven't minded reading over and over and over again.

Jessica says

Sometimes I feel for women authors. George Eliot had a point. This book reads like any police procedural written by male authors that I like. You have your usual crazy serial killer, and minor romance/family time. But the cover of this book looks like a chick-lit cover or romance novel (and bad ones at that). Despite the fact that this book came recommended from someone who's judgment I trust - it sat on my TBR pile for many months, because, it turns out, even I judge a book by its cover. I even ordered the other book in this 'series,' Loverboy - but I'm going to be honest - that cover is even worse.

Carmaletta Hilton says

I found myself becoming annoyed with Windy's constant need for validation. It felt, at times, as though, when around Ash, she was particularly hard on herself because she knew that he would build her back up. I can see how she would need that after being with someone like Bill, who did nothing but heap guilt onto her shoulders and pressure her into the perfect woman for him, but it seemed like she was seeking out this validation every other chapter. It just got old after a while.

I also had a problem with the dialogue. Not necessarily the conversations held, but the way that they were presented. I expect dialogue to read like people talk, and rarely did it come across as the way people actually talk. The lack of contractions made the dialogue stilted and that made it hard for me to get the character voices in my head. I was halfway through the book before I was automatically rephrasing most of the dialogue in a way that I could have those characters really talking to me.

I thought Harry's abuse was a little extreme. She gave examples of people who cared about him, and we're supposed to believe that they just didn't care enough? He was locked in a basement and he wasn't fed for who knows how long. I realize that there's a lot that people don't see, a lot that people don't want to see, especially in the time that he grew up, but it seems like she went overboard with it. I thought he'd become the sympathetic serial killer, but I didn't gain sympathy for him. I just kept going, "Come on! There's more?" And to believe, then, that after all that, Charles just left? I'm leaning more toward that Charles was actually Harry's first victim.

I did, however, love the twist of Harry being Hank. At first, I thought that he was really Bill, and what a twist that would have been! I didn't expect Hank, probably because he popped up so rarely that he wasn't really in

my head as a suspect once it was made clear that Eve was not the killer.

Overall, I enjoyed the book as a nice little romantic suspense read. I like Michele Jaffe's young adult books better, but I'd be open to reading more of her adult work. She has interesting plotlines, and the narrative is good enough to keep me intrigued, sometimes to push me to go to the next chapter when I know I should stop and go to bed, but this book just didn't wow me.

Sarrah says

Excellent stand-alone mystery. Great characters, even the bad guys, though sometimes the dialogue is a little awkward. Several plot twists that readers will likely see coming, but they don't really detract from the experience.

Heather says

To me the book cover looked cheesy and I had low expectations but it ended up being a great mystery book and I liked the main character, especially for the portrayal of her as a strong women, high up in the ranks in a traditionally male field. it also was nice to read about balancing work and family. Overall a good mystery.

Laura says

could not put it down!

very, very well written. I can normally smash through a book in one sitting, but this is quite a long read, but totally worth it. it never slows down and it doesnt go into agonising detail. Just great storytelling and 3D characters.
