



The Last Girl

Danny Lopez

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After being laid off from his job as a newspaper reporter in a coastal Florida town, Dexter Vega meets a wealthy retiree who hires him to find his daughter who is supposed to be attending the local college. When Vega visits his client to inform him that his daughter is in Mexico, he discovers the man has been murdered. And Vega's prints are all over the murder weapon. As the police build a case against him, Vega flies to Mexico City to locate his client's daughter, hoping she will help him find the murderer and thus clear his name. But when he finds the woman, she tells him a very different story--nothing is as it seems. Beaten by thugs and ordered to leave Mexico, Vega returns home to find himself immersed in a web of blackmail, greed, and revenge. Still pursued by the cops, but now a target of evil predators.

The Last Girl Details

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Author : Danny Lopez

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From Reader Review The Last Girl for online ebook

Barbara Desmond says

Got ARC from Net Galley.

I started reading this book a few times. I would read a few pages and go totally blank. That happened twice but I decided to pick it up a third time and I did get farther along. I decided to stop at fifty percent in because it just wasn't working for me. Nothing really makes sense. The second I read about a giant bronze penis I knew what was going to happen with it.

Two guys randomly meet. The older man offers the out of work reporter a job. He wants him to find his daughter Maya. I'd take the job too because Nick was offering Dexter ten grand. That should have been a red flag. Something happens. After that something happens another thing happens that should have been a red flag that something is wonky but did Dexter notice this? No he was too busy trying to get busy with some chick. Dude has other things to worry about. I just had to stop because I don't care where the story goes. I don't care about who did it and why. It fell very flat for me. Can't there be a mystery without sex? Sex doesn't automatically make a book good since it can actually make it extremely boring especially when it doesn't make sense in the circumstances of the story.

<http://www.ficgal.com/book-club/the-l...>

Nicole says

Great book overall! Started off a bit slow with an out of work journalist, the story began picking up once Dex met Nick, and was given a lot of money to search for his missing daughter. He finds her in Mexico working with a team looking for an extinct animal. When Dex goes to nicks house, he finds out he has been killed, now things get crazy ! The police are looking at Dex the only suspect, and Dex Just can't let this go, why was maya hiding, and who killed nick? You learn all the reasons why, and the ending just puts a smile on your face. Murder is sometimes the only way to save your family...and yourself.

Louise Wilson says

Dexter Vega meets a wealthy retiree who hires him to find his daughter who is supposed to be attending a local college. When Vega returns to tell him his daughter is in Mexico, he finds the man has been murdered and Vega's prints are all over the murder weapon. The police case builds against him, Vega flies to Mexico City to find his client's daughter, hoping she will help him find the murderer.

There are not a lot of characters in this book but even though, I was still guessing till nearly the end. It's full of suspense and the pace is steady. I found Vega to be both contradicting and a little bit confusing at times. It's not the best mystery I have read but there was something about this book that made me want to finish it.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Oceanview Publishing and the author Danny Lopez for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Linda Strong says

Dexter Vega is a newspaper reporter ... at least he was until he was laid off. Now he's slumming, mostly hitting a bar here and there. Meeting a wealthy man at one of these bars, the man offers him a job. He wants Vega to find his daughter. She's supposed to be in college, but he hasn't heard from her in months. The police won't help because she is an adult.

Not being able to refuse the payment offered, Vega investigates and finds that she is somewhere in Mexico. Returning to her father, Vega learns that he has been murdered and Vega is the prime suspect.

As the police build a case against him, Vega goes to Mexico to find the daughter. And once found, her story is totally different from the one her father told. Actually, he was not even her father.

And to his surprise, there are other people who are looking for her and they think Vega has her. Beaten by thugs and told to leave Mexico. he returns home. His house has been trashed, he's threatened with blackmail and chased by both cops and other predators.

It's going to take more than a news article for Vega to come out of this without going to prison or being killed.

I wasn't overly enthusiastic about this book. Characters were okay, but they came across as rather bland. The premise was okay, but again, didn't manage to get my heart racing with excitement. It is a mystery, but little suspense. This one just didn't do it for me.

My thanks to the author / Oceanview Publishing / Netgalley for the advance digital copy of THE LAST GIRL. Opinions expressed here are unbiased and entirely my own.

Rob1109 says

After putting down this book and giving up about 60% through, I have a question:

How in the world does this garbage get published? I truly wonder if the author is a middle school student. No, wait. That's not fair to middle school students.

The ONLY positive is that it's a very fast moving book. I read about 150 pages in 2 1/2 hours. Then again, a root canal also takes about 2 1/2 hours. And is equally enjoyable.

I have several problems with this book. Not even sure where to begin.

***For starters, I like to feel connected in some way to the protagonist. I want to like him or her, I want to root for him or her. I want to feel that I am right there alongside them with a vested interest in the outcome.

Hector Vega is the weakest most worthless protagonist I've come across in a VERY long time. He is a recently unemployed journalist. Naturally, he is depressed about losing his job. Sure, understandable. I've been there myself. But the guy is pretty much an alcoholic. He drinks in the afternoon. He drinks at night. He wakes up every morning with a hangover. If this was a book about alcoholism, okay. But it's hard to empathize with a character who is trying to find a missing girl while always nursing a hangover.

He talks about how important it is to find this girl. Yet, has no issue drinking every chance he gets which naturally hinders him finding her. I have no problem with a protagonist who has an addiction. But when that addiction affects their ability to 'solve the mystery' it's hard to connect.

***Another reason I found Mr. Vega unlikeable is this. He's divorced and has NO connection to his 7-year-old daughter. He admits he's a terrible father, admits he knows nothing about her. Doesn't even know if she likes flowers. Okay, sad, but there are plenty of fathers like that. However, this character flaw is exacerbated by other character flaws.

Apparently, 3 years ago, Hector had a girlfriend. (I cant even recall her name. Holly, I think.) Anyway, he and Holly split up. He has never stopped loving her. Now, Holly and he run into each other.

He still has feelings for her. He loves her. He thinks about having sex with her. She is 'the one that got away.' He cant stop thinking about her. She consumes all his thoughts. During the 'case' he finds his thoughts constantly drifting to Holly. He's in love. He's in lust. Infatuation. Obsession. Fascination. And yes, she seems to feel the same about Hector.

Hector's in a bar in Mexico. Sees a girl smile at him. She touches his arm. They have sex! Boom!

HUH???

Now, maybe I'm old fashioned. Maybe I'm a prude. But really, if you're this head over heels in love with a girl, you then sleep with a total stranger you pick up in a bar? Really????

This added to the fact I actually disliked the protagonist. Crappy husband, crappy father, crappy boyfriend. Oh, and he drinks too much. Yeah, like I'm really going to be rooting for him.

***Cursing. Some people are offended by profanity in books or movies. Personally, I'm not. Honestly, in my life, I curse too much. At times, I'm a walking Tarantino film. My all-time favorite comedian is George Carlin. So, I have no issue with profanity---IF there's a point to it. To use a curse word just for the sake of using a curse word is childish. This is why I mentioned earlier than I wonder if the author is a 12 year-old.

The cursing however is also used by the author as an easy way out. As an 'excuse' for piss poor weak writing.

In one scene the protagonist walks into a home that is basically a dump. Now, describe it. Is it a dump, derelict, downtrodden? Is it meager? Is it a rundown residence with second-hand possessions? No, the author takes the easy way out by calling it simply a "s**thole."

In another scene, our protagonist gets off a plane in Mexico City in the middle of summer. Think about that. Is it sweltering, scorching, blistering? No, it's "f*****g hot."

Cheap terrible writing.

However, when it comes to describing types of alcoholic beverages, the author pulls out all the stops with

adjectives and turns into a human Wikipedia page.

Every 3 pages or so, for no reason, the author threw in an f-bomb, a GD, some type of word involving s**t or another curse word.

***Somewhat related is the unoriginal storyline with rehashed characters. A good writer—hell, even a decent writer—should surprise us. Don't rely on tired, worn-out clichés. But that is precisely what this garbage is.

Our hero, in need of money, runs into a rich guy whose daughter is missing. The rich guy, despite knowing Hector all of one hour, hands over \$10,000---\$10,000 to a stranger—to find his daughter.

I wish a stranger would hand me \$10000. Give me a break.

Along the way—in between getting drunk—we encounter the usual stereotypical characters: 2 hippies who resemble Jerry Garcia and Janis Joplin, 2 wisecracking cops—one tall and skinny, one short and fat, the wealthy guy with a trophy wife bathing topless alongside the swimming pool, the neighborhood junkie with abusive parents. Oh, and of course, the protagonist's close friend who happens to be a lesbian and comments about which other women she'd like to “f**k.”

As if this isn't enough, the father of the missing daughter, the one who hires Vega, is rich. How did he make his money? He sells sex toys. Of course, later, he's found dead in his home. How did he die? Well, sure enough, he got beat to death with a giant dildo.

And for the next 30 pages, we have to endure dildo jokes.

(Again, see above comment about the author possibly being a 12 year-old.)

I've read books I don't like. It's subjective. Perhaps I didn't like the author's style. Perhaps I didn't like the protagonist. Maybe I wasn't interested in the plot. But honestly, this is my opinion. For example, I'm not a fan of John Grisham or James Patterson. Not taking anything away from them. I just personally don't like their style. I admit they are well-respected but they're not my type.

But this??? I have no idea how this garbage—and I mean garbage—got published.

One star is one too many. With any luck, 'The Last Girl' should be 'The Last Book' by this--- pardon the word---"author."

Dave says

The Last Girl is an easy-to-read quick read by a fairly new author. It takes the reader from Sarasota, Florida to Mexico City and involves a missing college student, murder, extinct Aztecan lizards, conspiracy, sex paraphernalia, and more. While it is a fairly easy read, it is written by an author who is still developing his narrative voice and thus lacks some of the color, rhythm, and layers that might make it more complex and interesting.

Allyson says

Thank you to Netgalley, the publisher and to the author for the opportunity to read this book in return for my honest opinion.

This was a pretty good book. I love taking a chance on a new author and having it be a good book. It was well written and the characters were easily read and likeable. I really like Dexter Vega, he is flawed and trying to find where her belongs now that his job with the paper is finished. I enjoyed how once he got onto something he was hard to shake. There was enough action to make the story interesting and I feel that I really didn't see the ending coming, I was a little surprised at the discovery of the "bad guys".

Enjoyable. I will definitely check this author out again.

Jen says

I could not bring myself to finish this book and I finish most every book I start. I kept trying to get interested in it, but it just didn't work. I found the characters to be shallow and annoying. The main character seemed to have a chip on his shoulder that he pulled into every other thought and appeared to be a borderline alcoholic, with a new drink every page. I really tried and wanted to like this book, but I just couldn't get into it. That doesn't mean somebody else couldn't get intrigued by the mystery and enjoy the book, but it just wasn't my cup of tea.

Mike says

Dexter Vega, former "superstar investigative reporter", has found himself at age thirty-nine to be unemployed and seemingly obsolete. The days of the serious print journalist seem to be over replaced by bloggers, tweeters, and citizen reporters. It sucks to be Dexter - just ask him.

So, while out drowning his sorrows one night Dex meets wealthy, enigmatic Nick Zavala. An old man who made a fortune with a chain of adult sex-toy shops. Nick offers Dexter a job. A well paying job. No, a **VERY** well paying job. Nick's daughter, Maya, is missing. She's supposed to be away at college but she's disappeared.

Dexter needs the money but he's no private detective... just as well, as Nick has already approached three different private investigators and they all turned down the job. Dexter **REALLY** needs the money so he agrees to track her down.

And, of course, everything goes completely wrong from there! Before it's all over there is a murder, a mysterious young girl who may or may not be connected to the murder, an extended trip to Mexico City, Mexico (where Dexter's guide is a rogue Scottish reporter who likes to drink even more than Dex does), and a beautiful scientist who probably knows more than she's saying.

A good story with some unexpected twists. It's a fun, fast read that moves along at a fairly steady pace.

I particularly liked the parts that took place in Mexico City, that's when the book really came alive for me.

The author managed to convey a sense of mystery and exotic intrigue as Dexter moved through an unfamiliar, foreign land with all these people that he could never be quite sure of... good stuff!

While I liked the story well enough I wasn't as taken with the character of Dexter Vega. He never seemed to come alive, to be a full dimensional presence. He was just sort of drifting through the narrative. It could have been intentional on the part of the author, Dexter as a man-child who takes on no responsibility is a theme that comes up several times, but it just seemed to me that he wasn't a very strong character to anchor a book on.

As I said, I enjoyed the book, I thought it was plotted out very well and I would absolutely be open to reading more books about this character or by this author.

PLEASE NOTE: I did not read the book three times nor did I read the hardcover version - I made an error while adding this review and haven't yet figured how to change it.

***Big thanks to NetGalley and the publisher for allowing me the opportunity to read and review this book

Nancy says

Dexter Vega has been laid off from the newspaper in the Florida town where he lives. Being at loose ends takes a job for Nick Zavala a retired wealthy man who has lost track of his daughter. She is a local college student who he finds has gone to Mexico City on a study program. Nick is killed and there are fingerprints belonging to Dex on the murder weapon. This encourages him to go to Mexico City looking for the missing daughter. But all is not as it seems. Who can Dex trust and who is telling him the truth. The more characters involved the more suspects. The story moves along at a good rate and keeps you wondering.

Lena♥Ribka says

3,5 stars rounded up.

I got this book from NetGalley a while ago, and when I decided at last to read it and checked the rating, I was...totally shocked. You know how it is: a book that gets a bad first review/rating could deserve it, but sometimes it is just a bad luck. A book that gets more than one bad review/rating is doomed to fail. One reader can be wrong, but more than one? In this case, I normally trust other readers and I would have most likely skipped it, if I had not made a positive experience with the publisher. I enjoyed those few books I got from Oceanview Publishing, they were always different and they were always good, so I decided to give it a go.

I started to read it late in the evening, and it was a big mistake, because the story grabbed my attention immediately. You might blame the author for many things, but not for the lack of suspense.

The plot:

Dexter Vega, a former star reporter and now an unemployed journalist, with many problems, among others his financial situation, becomes an accidental witness of a bad fight while

drinking in a bar (his other big problem). Because of his innate sense of justice, Dexter cannot look away and takes the side of an older man who seems not to be able to protect himself. It came out that Nick Zavala, a wealthy retiree, knows who Dexter is. As a thank-you he invites Dexter for a drink in his villa and offers him a job – to find his missing daughter. Dexter is suspicious. The whole story sounds *not quite kosher*, and Dexter instinct *smells* something foul, but the job is well paid and he needs money. The things get complicated when the very next day his new employer is brutally murdered in his villa, and Dexter fingerprints are over the place. He has to find the mysterious daughter not ONLY because he owes it the victim, but because it is the only way to find out who is the real murderer and to absolve himself of a blame...

It was a quick read for me, not that the novel is short, but I finished it within 2 days, because I read every minute I got during my working day. The story kept my attention from the very beginning through to the very end. There are not a huge amount of characters, it is why the number of suspects is manageable, but I was undecided almost up to the very end. **Every time when puzzle pieces seemed finally to come together, the case collapsed on the next page and everything started over again.**

The writing is very simple, and I MEAN it –short sentences, not overloaded with adjectives and metaphors. Normally I prefer another style, but it suits the story line and its quick pace perfectly. And the ending positively surprised me. Not your usual mystery ending, but a very satisfying one.

All in all, I really enjoyed this mystery novel. *The Last Girl* is not a literary masterpiece - I doubt it was the author's goal - but it is a very entertaining read, and for sure much better than its rating at the very moment, and I'm glad I gave it a chance.

Recommended for all mystery's fans.

Copy provided by Oceanview Publishing via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review

Melissa says

I love mysteries/thrillers so I am always up for trying an author I haven't read before. I've been pleasantly surprised by most of the books that I've read from Oceanview Publishing. This book was just average for me. I would alternate between getting drawn in and getting bored. The writing itself was simple and straightforward. I didn't just fall in love with the main character, Dexter Vega, but I didn't hate him either. Lots of twists and turns in the plot and I didn't guess the ending as quickly as I expected. All in all, a decent book.

*** I received this book as an ARC from Netgalley*

Breakaway Reviewers says

The last girl, or the lost girl or indeed, which girl?

Sarasota, Florida. Dexter Vega is a journalist who has been let go from his job. While having a drink at a bar, he witnesses an old man being beaten up and goes to help. He takes the old man home and finds that the man is a wealthy ex sex-trade entrepreneur.

The man, Nick Zavala, asks Vega to find his daughter, Maya, who has gone missing and offers him a fee of \$10,000. With nothing better to do and no main income, Vega accepts the offer and sets off to find Maya.

Vega is on his way to report back to Nick. When he nears the house, he sees a posse of police vehicles and finds that Nick has been murdered. His fingerprints are on items in the house and he has left phone messages for Nick. One guess as to who is going to be a prime suspect...

The story is told by Vega so everything we read is from his perspective. At first, I found it very easy to identify with him. His remit from Nick was to find his daughter and Vega pursued this goal. He had been paid and felt he had to earn his money. He soon discovers that he is rising to the top of the police wanted list. He finds that Maya has gone to Mexico and so follows her there.

As the story unwinds, I found Vega's personality to be both confusing and contradictory. "I was pissed off but also reassured" he mutters at one time. He seems to be chasing rainbows, doing 180 degree turns and blaming everybody and anybody. My sympathy waned, fast.

There is also a profusion of profanity in this book. Maybe it's a symptom of our modern society that language has descended to the profane, but its use in "literature" is superfluous and adds nothing to the storyline, in my opinion.

This was an ok book. By no means a must-read, but in the words of Magnus Magnusson "I've started so I'll finish", right to the bitter end.

Mr Bumblebee

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.

Lee says

Sad to say but I just did not enjoy this book. The plot lacks any depth and I was not drawn to any of the characters or what was happening to them. I did finish the book hoping it would pick up but I could easily have put it down, this one was just not for me.

Jay Williams says

This is a thriller from the very first page. The various secrets in the plot emerge slowly as the layers of an

onion might. The characters are richly developed, but are never what they seem. Violence and sex play a large role, being handled with great delicacy while still getting the point across and creating mental images. While many wrongdoings are uncovered,, the identity of the killer is not revealed until the very end, and then indirectly. The story touches on much depravity, but also stirs up hope for humanity. I probably wouldn't have picked it up based on the title. I am glad netgalley recommended it. I thoroughly enjoyed it.
