



Sunstroke

Jesse Kellerman

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This debut novel features Gloria Mendez, a secretary who discovers that her now deceased boss was a very different man than she had thought before. She had been madly in love with him though he was twenty years older than she, and her friends probably thought she should seek someone younger. When he disappears while on a Mexican vacation, she follows his trail way into the desert. There she discovers a daunting past of death and betrayal, what is left from a hidden chaotic past.

Sunstroke Details

Date : Published January 5th 2006 by Putnam Adult (first published 2005)

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Author : Jesse Kellerman

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From Reader Review Sunstroke for online ebook

lynne naranek says

Gloria Mendez is a thirty-something secretary who is secretly in love with her boss Carl Perreira. When he goes off for a holiday in Mexico, and seems to have been in an accident, perhaps even killed, Gloria takes it upon herself to drive down and claim his body... and thus starts her on a journey to solve the mystery that is Carl. A mystery that includes figuring out who Carl Perreira actually is, whether he actually is dead, and whether the person turning up on her doorstep claiming to be named Carlos Perreira really is Carl's son.

This story has a lot of potential, but just doesn't seem able to pick up enough speed and momentum to make it a really great read. Some flashbacks and back-story seem unnecessary and make for some dull reading, and if the author was trying to give a flavor of how hard life is for a migrant Mexican laborer in California is, well, he didn't quite succeed.

The story is still slightly above average, and really isn't too bad for a debut novel by the son of Jonathan and Faye Kellerman. I'm just hoping he'll do better the next time around.

(This was my review at FUN WITH DEAD TREES (r.i.p.))

Michelle says

Sunstroke
Jesse Kellerman
Suspense
copyright: 2006
isbn: 0-14-305840-1

The blazingly original novel from the most exciting new voice in crime fiction today-a brilliantly crafted modern noir filled with secrets, heartbreak, and mordant humor.

Gloria Mendez is single and thirty-six, and secretly and somewhat hopelessly in love with her oblivious boss. He is both single and solitary, and far too old for her, but she has worked for him, side by side, for ten oddly companionable years. But when he disappears on his annual trip to Mexico-the one aspect of his life to which she's never been privy-Gloria's sudden and impulsive search for him reveals the wreckage of a hidden past. Carl Perreira was not who Gloria thought he was-nor was he anything she could have imagined.

As Gloria travels this twisted road into Carl's backstory, she realizes she might not have known him at all. Her investigation discloses as much about her own life as it does about her mysterious boss-and leaves her fighting for her life. Sunstroke is everything a thriller should be: circuitous, thought provoking, and brimming with edge-of-the-seat suspense-and the start of a brilliant career.

Peter Boumans says

Zeker geen tophriller en zeker niet briljant. Met moeite uitgelezen!

Peter says

Very different style from his father... plots more intriguing and characters more complex

James says

Read as part of book club. Not something I would normally pick up. Premise was interesting -- guy disappears, possibly dead, and the only person who goes looking for him is his secretary who has a bit of a love obsession over him. The resulting twists and turns, coupled with flashbacks, were intriguing (and a bit confusing), but by the end I found I really didn't care much because 1) I forgot which version of the back story was the real version and 2) I really didn't care about any of the main characters and therefore, really wasn't cheering for them. (There was a kid working at a gas station I liked, but alas, he didn't get enough page time).

The author's use of words was pretty masterful. The visual image created was almost poetic. But this was marred by the needless and continuous use of F-bombs, sex, and borderline stereotypes passing as characters. And of course, there was violence, which was pretty descriptive.

Speaking of characters - I appreciate the authors use of minority characters in the main roles, but wish they were better developed. They were borderline stereotypes. The Mexican looking for a quick buck, the African-American cop with attitude (and big penis), the Jewish lawyer with the bimbo wife. It just seems, given how well crafted the foundation of the book was, Kellerman has the skills do more for his characters.

All in all, a good read that could have been a great read.

Julia Alberino says

Enough plot twists and turns to make for a good vacation read. A heroine who is less than perfect is a welcome touch. I understand this was Jesse Kellerman's debut novel; I enjoyed it more than I enjoyed his later ones.

Steph (loves water) says

Excellent...I read The Executor and was not a fan, but looking back it was probably because I couldn't stand the MC. I gave Sunstroke a read because it was more my speed and found it to be excellent. The younger Kellerman did a great job with the female protagonist. I'll be reading more of his work like I read his father.

Cheryle says

Who are the good guys and who are the bad guys? In this book it's hard to tell. A mystery within a mystery, Gloria's boss has a secret past of which she is unaware - until she learns of his death. She journeys to Mexico to find answers, but finds instead more questions and intrigue. How well do we really know anyone?

Katelyn Parsh says

It started off well enough. The backstory we were fed to develop Gloria's backstory was believable. Unfortunately, I found myself agreeing with the majority of the characters in the book in that I didn't care what really happened to Carl. I can suspend belief enough in the various explanations of what "really" happened, but to develop Gloria's character as the author did and then abandon ship is an unforgivable offence in my eyes. I'm also as stunned to learn the author has a wife, as how he wrote his protagonist would suggest he thinks of women as mythical creatures that have no consistencies in their retelling. Overall, this was a disappointing book, with few really well-developed minor characters.

LJ says

SUNSTROKE (Non-Suspense-California/Mexico-Cont) – DNF

Kellerman, Jesse – 1st book

Jove, 2006- US Paperback – ISBN 0515142239

*** Gloria Mendez has worked for, and been in love with, her boss, Carl Perreira for ten years. Gloria receives an unintelligible message from Carl, who is on vacation in Mexico. When she tries to find him, she learns he was killed in a car accident. As Gloria tries to find out more about Carl, but the more she learns the more she finds he was not who he seemed.

*** I like books that are character driven, but the characters needs to be interesting and the story needs to compelling enough that I want to keep reading. Both these aspects were missing here. It wasn't terrible and I could have kept going, but finally, at page 112, I found myself wondering why I wasting time with this book. My overall reaction was that I really didn't care what happened and that's when I put the book down. I'd rather spend my time with a book that makes me need to read to read it.

Rob Innis says

Good to know that I am not alone in finding this book intriguing to start with and then all rather pointless and too confusing and rather padded out with irrelevant crap at certain points which did nothing to assist the flow or the plot.

dogman says

stylish

Ginnz says

What started out as quite a good idea didn't turn into a good book! I felt it was just me but the book dragged in the middle and to be honest I didn't care if the guy who might or might not have been murdered, was alive or dead!

I had to force myself to keep on reading, the author must believe that detailed descriptions adds to the atmosphere of his book whereas I just wanted to characters to grow. They seemed one dimensional. The ending was a mess, there had been so many misdirections and twists that went nowhere it was a job unravelling them all. The story concluded and we discovered most of what happened with a few loose ends left hanging for the reader to think about. Normally I would like that style, it makes it seem more real and interesting if you have some input into what happened, but I didn't care in this case!

A disappointing read.

Julie says

I was very excited about this book since it came recommended to me. The premise sounded very good and intriguing, but turned out to be very boring, dragged out & confusing.

Clifford says

Some parts felt unrealistic as characterization was off pace.
