

[PDF] Visitation Street (Dennis Lehane)

Ivy Pochoda - pdf download free book



Books Details:

Title: Visitation Street (Dennis Lehane)
Author: Ivy Pochoda
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Description:

An Amazon Best Book of the Month, July 2013: A crowd gathers on the corner of Visitation Street after the disappearance of two local girls--one of whom has washed up on shore, barely alive--and our narrator teases: "The story develops slowly." The same can be said of Ivy Pochoda's atmospheric debut, which is as much an ode to the ragged neighborhood of Red Hook, Brooklyn as it is a slow-burning mystery. At times I felt I was reading of some foreign or forgotten city, a moody and crumbling place in the shadow of Manhattan. While the damaged-goods characters are quite memorable--a woman spends her days "speaking" to her dead husband; a music teacher drinks to

oblivion, haunted by his dead mother; an immigrant shop owner dreams of a better Red Hook--the star here is "the Hook." One character describes it as "a neighborhood of ghosts," where trash rolls like tumbleweed--hazy, smelly, noisy, blue collar, crime-ridden, yet full of heart and hope. Says one character, who wants to flee Red Hook in the boat his murdered father left him: "It's not such a bad place ... if you look under the surface." The same can be said of Visitation Street, a deceptively literary tale that brings to mind its benefactor, Denis Lehane, who published the book under his new imprint. --

From *Starred Review* Blue-collar Red Hook, a section of Brooklyn's waterfront in rough transition, becomes one big outdoor theater as temperatures rise in Pochoda's (The Art of Disappearing, 2009) beyond-category urban drama. African American kids from the projects, including pretty Monique, a singer of soaring power, hang out in cliques and gangs, while Monique's smart, ambitious cousin, Cree, keeps to himself in various hideouts, including his late father's grounded fishing boat. An exceptionally talented young street artist lives in a makeshift shelter in a weedy area known as Bones Manor. Smart and observant Fadi strives to upgrade his bodega to attract the neighborhood's new hipsters, among them lost-soul musician and music teacher Jonathan. On one particularly stifling night, Val and June, "hot and stir-crazy" white teenage girls, dare to take a pink rubber raft out onto the treacherous Hudson River. Val is found unconscious beneath the pier; June is missing. During the ensuing investigation, even the dead have their say. The mysteries of sexuality, guilt, race and class conflicts, artistic pursuits, and psychic abilities are all in play as Pochoda transforms Red Hook into a microcosm of human longing. With prose as cleansing and propelling as a sea breeze and characters running like strong currents, Pochoda pulls us deeply into this transfixing tale of visitations both alarming and liberating. --Donna Seaman

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