



Lights: Despair, Faith, and Hope on Broadway

Rajiv Kapoor

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Vera Lights is a former Broadway star whose life has taken a new direction. Now a single mother living in a hotel in midtown Manhattan with her two young children, Henry and Loretta, Vera does her best to protect and nurture them, despite her meager resources. Alone after failed marriages and with seemingly no hope for a career revival, she must rely on her inner strength to carry her through her exhausting days.

While Vera works as a waitress in a Broadway diner to make ends meet, Henry and Loretta grow up in a dark, challenging world in which vagrants, pimps and drug dealers own the street corners, police turn a blind eye, and tourists avoid Times Square. But as life comes full circle and a resurrection of Broadway and midtown Manhattan begins, Vera and her children may be able to rise from the depths of despair and breathe life back into their dreams.

Lights is a poignant, sweeping story of revival as a Broadway actress attempts to restore her hope, faith, and separate destinies for her family while living in a city marked by hate, ignorance, and poverty.

Lights: Despair, Faith, and Hope on Broadway Details

Date : Published May 29th 2014 by Abbott Press

ISBN : 9781458215598

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Format : Paperback 270 pages

Genre : Business, Amazon

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From Reader Review Lights: Despair, Faith, and Hope on Broadway for online ebook

Mary says

I loved this book...the author truly has done his homework on NYC. ... And the rebuilding of Broadway and the theatre district. The story of a single mom and the struggles of raising two children. They go through some rough times and you feel the pain as you read through the book. The story flows very well with each character developed, but pulls together in the end nicely.

Claire says

I received Lights as part of a Goodreads giveaway.

A onetime Broadway star turned struggling single mother, Vera Lights struggles to raise her two children, Henry and Loretta, on the gritty streets of 1970s/1980s New York City. As Henry and Loretta grow, they face their own challenges and seek out their own roads to success in life.

I wanted to like this one--the premise is intriguing, and the author wrote a lovely, personalized note in the front of the book. However, it suffers from a serious lack of editing. Little things jarred me out of the story--erroneous capitalization and punctuation, referring to teams as the "NY Giants" or "NJ Devils," using "etc.," and pulling whole (cited) passages from websites are just a few of the issues at hand. Moreover, the dialogue just doesn't flow like normal conversation, and the book seems to flip from fictional storyline to nonfictional commentary without any transition. That said, the author clearly knows a lot about the harsher side of life in NYC during the book's time period, and with some more research and professional polish, I think this could be a very interesting read.

Rach says

I found this book moving and inspirational.

This story was also very well written and gripping, well done.

Karan says

I found Lights to be a good, easy, summertime read. Below are some of the parts of the book I really enjoyed:

>Details of New York City: I never knew how bad things were in Times Square before reading this book. The descriptions of the city really bring it to life and show how bad things were prior to the NYC prior to the revival of the arts. The mix of fiction and non-fiction played well when it came to the city.

>Deeper themes discussed: Without giving anything away, I really enjoyed Henry's character. While he

wasn't the main character, I liked how the author dived into different deeper discussions on poverty, prisons, and reasons for crime across the city.

>Uplifting storyline: I'm not a big fan of depressing novels. If you like happy endings, this is a story for you.

Nadine Keels says

Lights got my attention with its beautiful cover--which I think is bold yet simplistic in its approach--and with its subtitle's references to faith and hope, two overall themes I read about often.

Yet, upon starting the novel and later looking through more of it, I found that the book could have used another round of editing, at the least to make the characters' dialogue/speech natural and realistic, according to who they are and where they're from, and to correct the errors in grammar, punctuation, etc. The unusual style and wording of the narration and dialogue gave me the sense of reading *about* a story and not reading the story itself, and I decided not to continue.

I've little doubt that there's a heartfelt message of faith and hope in this novel that other readers may enjoy.

I received a free copy of this book, for which I give my honest review, through Goodreads First Reads.

Kerry Gage says

I received *Lights* on a goodreads giveaway.

First thing first, I visited New York once and let's just say some on the details in this book was like visions going through my head from my past. The author did a good job by giving description of each place and details. He can set that mental image in your head about what he wants you to understand. The story line and characters are good! *Lights*, give you a excellent events and people, and I feel like they are brought to life! What I really like was that the story starts the young children off young and as the book progress you can basically "watch" them grow up and face their everyday struggles. Vera, the mom, is very passionate, and personally I feel like that you got to read the struggles that she goes through to raise her children alone, can be related to most moms (without the famous part of course).

Second, I want to say is that I notice grammar, as well as, punctuation errors in this book as well. They were easily noticeable and felt like they were just small minor things, that could've been fixed.

In all, I really liked the book. It has a great storyline as well as visionary details!
