



Light of the World

Scott Ciencin

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*From sea to sea to shining sea,
I bade that she come back to me;
Without her look, without her face,
I bade I too would leave this place.*

The Charmed Ones couldn't be happier; Phoebe and Piper's childhood friend Lyssa is getting married and has asked them to be bridesmaids! They're thrilled to support her at her wedding, and jump at the chance to get away to the seaside for a little while.

The ceremony will take place in Serenity Cove's beautiful old lighthouse, which is rumored to be haunted by the vengeful spirit of the lighthouse keeper who lost his true love at sea; one hundred years ago, on the date of Lyssa's wedding. The Halliwell sisters ignore the rumors . . . until, that is, they notice the strange behavior of Lyssa's fiancé. He seems to have become obsessed with Lyssa's family heirloom, a strange and beautiful diamond called the Light of the World. Can the Charmed Ones disclose his true identity and intentions before their friend says "I do" to Mr. Wrong?

Light of the World Details

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From Reader Review Light of the World for online ebook

Denise says

In this 2006 book based on the TV series "Charmed," Piper and Phoebe Halliwell, with their half-sister, Paige Matthews, are three incredibly powerful witches who live together in the family house in San Francisco. Piper is married to Leo, a Whitelighter (a guardian angel for witches and other upstanding folk). She runs a nightclub called P3. They have a son, Wyatt, who is a babe in arms. Phoebe is actively involved in her "Ask Phoebe" column at the fictional *Bay Mirror* newspaper, quite firmly divorced from Cole, who (alas!) make no appearance in this book. Paige is not working, but is boning up on witchcraft full time.

The sisters receive a phone call (seems their invitations got lost in the mail) from Piper and Phoebe's childhood friend, Lyssa, asking them to be in her wedding at a charming West Coast community called Serenity Cove. The ceremony is to be held outside an historical old lighthouse where, 100 years ago to the day, a ship carrying the old keeper's fiancée foundered in a storm and was lost when the light failed on his watch. Legend holds that the keeper haunts the lighthouse still.

The sisters gladly accept the invitation, genuinely happy for Lyssa. They worry about being away from San Francisco for so long, but Leo assures them that there seems to be a lull in demonic activity and tells them they should go. They drive up the coast and find Serenity Cove full of "eccentrics," including a man who paints underwater seascapes underwater, another who paints pigeons—not portraits of pigeons, but the poor birds themselves. If about now, the reader expects more Disney moments to come, the reader will not be disappointed.

The day before the big day, when the bride and the sisters go to get their dresses fitted, they find themselves under attack by water nozzles in the hairdresser's shop. The sisters see the vague outlines of water beings and figure that some water sprites are trying to stop their friend's wedding. Piper hears footsteps wherever she goes, but sees no one when she turns around.

Then there's Lyssa's intended, James. She's described him as an absent-minded professor type, but the man the sisters meet seems a bit obsessed with time and in particular the 100-year-old pocketwatch he always carries around with him. What the reader knows—but the sisters and the bride do not—is that he has already been possessed by the embittered spirit of the old lighthouse keeper who for some reason wants to unleash hell on earth as a way of avenging his fiancee's death. A diamond Lyssa's eccentric but fantastically wealthy parents will be presenting her as a wedding present, called the Light of the World, will amplify his power and ability to call up all the destructive creatures of the deep and destroy the earth. It can't be stolen—it must be freely given and will become his when the vows are exchanged.

Even with a century of brooding over his loss in an abandoned lighthouse, surrounded by a community of nut cases, the actions and emotions of the ghost just don't make sense. But then, none of the characters of the book came across to me as anything more than cartoons. This is especially true for the sisters, whose characters are already well established by the franchise. Here, they are little more than devices for the delivery of one-line catchphrases: "Wait for it," "I got nuthin'."

I also couldn't help noticing the similarity between the bride's first name, Lyssa, and that of the actress who plays Phoebe, Alyssa Milano. At one point, author Scott Ciencin has Piper say that Serenity Cove looks nice, "but so do a lot of tourist traps... or towns sitting over hellmouths." Ciencin has also written "Buffy" novels.

As with the dialogue in *High Spirits*, another “Charmed” Ciencin novel, there is no conversation as such but a collection of catchphrases, the sort one might expect in a sit-com.

The conclusion, in which there is a happy ending and something of a redemption (*sigh*), is completely unbelievable, even for a franchise in which suspension of disbelief is a prerequisite. That and the references to Alyssa Milano and “Buffy,” the cartoon characterizations and the catchphrase dialogue, the whole book left me feeling used as a reader. I’m glad that I did not pay for this book—except of course, in the round about way as taxpayer since I got it from the library. There aren’t even any fun moments in the book that could be weighed against all the negatives.

My recommendation is to stay the blazes away from it.

RumBelle says

I really enjoy books that have to do with the history, mystery, or magic involved with jewelry. In this case, it was a diamond ring that one of the sisters friends was receiving. The story was well constructed, and never lost pace. The magic behind the ring was also very well done, not silly.

J. Pierre Gardner says

loved the show and the book is just what you expect from the show. anyone who loves the show will love this book.

Gwen says

Like all the other Charmed novels, a great book, and just as good as the actual show.

? Jeri's Book Attic ? the Romance Bibliophile ? says

Gabriel Mero says

Another great Charmed book.

The Third Place A Teen Library says

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