



With This Bling

L.B. Gregg

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Caesar Romano's catering career is doing better than he'd ever dreamed. And so is his love life—even if his boyfriend's house in Staten Island is way too far from civilization for his liking. But then in short order, Caesar is duped into helping his cousin propose, is tricked by his best friend and business partner into appearing on live television, and is harassed by a thug-like personal trainer and his far too beautiful wife. In fact, Caesar is almost too busy to notice that something is troubling his PI boyfriend, Dan Albright.

Almost.

Laid-back, open, charming—that's the impression hunky former NYPD Detective Dan Albright gives everyone. Caesar can add sexually adventurous and a bit of an exhibitionist. But he also knows that Dan is hiding something—something dark and a little dangerous—and when Dan's silence over his mysterious past threatens to harm them both, it's Caesar's turn to save the day.

But then again, a break-in, a gallery party, an heirloom ring, a new suit, and a stalker with bad BO are all just a typical week for Caesar Romano.

With This Bling Details

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From Reader Review With This Bling for online ebook

MsMiz (Tina) says

I could read a Ceasar and Albright story every day. This did not fail other than it ended;))

Bitchie says

This comes out on my birthday, Happy Birthday to me!

Lenore says

Not the best in the series, but I still enjoyed it.

Maybe the New York backdrop and the constant descriptions of the weather could have been further polished and/or toned down. Another proofreading round wouldn't have hurt either.

Breann says

4.5

Dan and Caesar are so great together. I love their affection, banter, chemistry... and pretty much everything about their relationship.

Of course, it all starts with Caesar getting himself into trouble. But it seems that it was all due to Dan keeping things to himself instead of confiding to Caesar about potential trouble from his PI job.

The story is fun and fast-paced and filled with L.B. Gregg's brand of humor, which I love. It's not silly or overstated, but there in the background, keeping a constant smile on my face.

Caesar and Dan continue to be so sexy together. Dan is slowly bringing out Caesar's daring side and they couldn't be any hotter together, really.

My only complaint is that their relationship is moving sloooowwww. Actually, it's probably moving at a realistic pace, but in the romance world, it feels slow. While there was some progress made, to me their story doesn't feel finished so I'm hoping (and wishing and praying) that there's more Caesar and Dan in the future. Because I just can't get enough of these two.

WITH THIS BLING is a solid addition to what's shaping up to be a must read series in the M/M romance genre.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Rosalie's review posted at Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

4.5 stars

This book is in a series that I haven't read before. However, I had no issue following the plot and getting sucked in from the beginning. Cesar and Dan are polar opposites. Dan being an undercover agent and Cesar working for his best friend in an up and coming bakery, just don't seem the likely pair. But, you know what they say...opposites attract. And boy do they in this one!

This book has everything....the suspense will have you on the edge of your seat, and in the bedroom (and kitchen and bakery and anywhere else the mood strikes these randy men) will have you FOR SURE fanning yourself. These two are H O T and aren't afraid to flaunt it anyone who will see (or hear!). Seeing the underlyings of this series (again, this was my first read in it) has completely sucked me in and makes me want to read the rest of the books, getting to know everyone else just as I thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Cesar and Dan. Ladies, or gents, this is one you need to get your hands on!

Review copy provided for an honest review.

Christy says

It has been way, way, way too long since I spent any time with my very favorite main characters, Caesar and Dan. I was barely a couple of pages in when I was already giggling, so I knew I'd picked the perfect book for me to relax with. 'With This Bling' has enough humor, mystery and suspense, family drama, hot sex, and snark to last me quite a while.

It's amazing to me how quickly Caesar can get embroiled in disasters, without even trying. Poppy agrees to have them go on live TV with Wake up! New York, much to Caesar's horror. He figures it'll be no big deal as Poppy will be the star, and he'll just be the sidekick. Nothing ever goes the way he plans it. Poppy, at five months pregnant, gets sick right before their segment and it's left to Caesar to make Posh Nosh shine! After one of the hosts, stoned out of his mind, cuts himself on the bread knife and gets blood on the bread and Nan's lace tablecloth, Caesar has forty-five seconds to make a Bellini, French toast, and get it plated. *snort* Even better than this? Caesar's cousin Joey was supposed to propose to Poppy at the finish, but with neither of them available, the other host, a Botox horror, had Caesar reading the proposal...to Dan. I laughed hysterically for about fifteen minutes.

If you haven't read this series, I strongly encourage you to do so. Between Dan being cagey about a client, the disaster with the live TV show, Caesar's cousin's screwed-up proposal, some strange guy stalking Caesar, another catering event involving his ex, Shep, Dan's car exploding, and too many revelations to count, I was hooked from the first sentence. But trust me, it's always like this in the world of 'Romano and Albright'.

I adored this installment in one of my favorite series. I can't wait to read more, so I sure hope the author is busy writing. Hint. Hint. Thank you, LB, for the laughs and the feels. This book was full of both.

NOTE: This book was provided by Riptide Publishing for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book

Reviews

Sherry says

Ce continues to be in the wrong place at the right time. This time, the threat comes from Dan's past. The usual people are part of the mix and help to move the story along.

If you like the characters and the series, you'll be happy with the installment!

Jeannie Zelos says

With This Bling, Romano & Albright 3, LB Gregg

Review from Jeannie Zelos book reviews

Genre: Romance, LGBTQIA

I've enjoyed several reads from L.B Gregg now so even though I'd not read the first two books I requested this one. Its a great read, full of emotion, drama (and how!), hot sex and great humour. I really want to read books one and two now! More for the wish list...

Caesar – he's such a great guy. He reminded me very much of Sam, from Men of Smithfield 5. Same kind of sweet, slightly dorky character, means well but somehow his best intentions often end in chaos. (I feel for them – that happens to me too!) His family made me laugh, Law avoiding Italians, very family orientated, very close, full of fun but seem to style themselves as a kind of offshoot of the Italian Mafia! Then there's his new(ish) man, Dan, ex cop now a PI. You'd think Caesar's family wouldn't like him, being as they avoid the Law as much as they can, yet they've taken him in to their hearts as one of the family. Dan comes over as laid back, in contrast to Caesars almost OCD approach to everything. Dan flies by the skin of his teeth, Caesar has a plan, a chart and a spreadsheet for everything. They work well together though and its clear how much they are in love. Dan's "in the moment, here and now" approach to sex has poor Caesar terrified of discovery much of the time. Dan seems to take the idea Anytime, Anyplace, Anywhere really as a personal motto, while for poor Caesar sex seems to have been confined to "safe" places out of sight. He's loving it though even though he's terrified at the same time!

Somehow everyone here seems connected in some way, work, friends, exes or family ties, so poor Caesar seems to be obligated by this into doing so many things he really doesn't want to do. That's how he ends up helping cousin Joey into proposing to Poppy, Caesar's business partner. Poppy is related to Dan BTW and she and Dan to Madeleine, owner of the art gallery where Caesar used to work....confused yet? ;-)

The connections though lead to a fabulous story, full of humour, sensuality, drama and suspense. Its almost a kind of slapstick suspense from the events that happen. There's real danger here, though for who and from whom isn't certain, and when the danger happens it always seems to have that element of farce, turning it into a kind of comic drama. The story is fast paced too, there's scarcely time for one drama to be over when the next lurches on.

I loved the way events played out, and so felt for poor Caesar, he was trying his best and yet each time he seems to get knocked back by the most unexpected events. Its a wonderful story, full of fun and laughter,

along with that bit of mystery about who is behind what...and how and why of course. I adored Caesar, what a fabulous character he is, and he and Dan were the perfect foil for each other. Dan seems to be cagey so much about his past that I'm really intrigued. Snippets come out towards the end but I really, really want to know more, and hope there's more books to come from this duo and their families.

Stars: Five, a fabulous story full of heat, fun, and drama

ARC supplied by Netgalley and publishers

If you enjoyed my review I'd love it if you would please click "Like" and if you didn't I'd love to know why, so I can make future reviews more helpful.

Julio Genao says

over before it even began.

romano's weirdly WASP-flavored POV is really starting to grate on me, and the honeymoon is over with albright.

no shep. two seconds of jean luc.

and i've said it before, but it bears repeating: if your plot requires someone to be rendered unconscious with a single sock to the jaw, you have failed.

unless you're writing indiana jones fanfic, i mean.

speaking of the prose: really nicely polished. easy, breezy, beautiful™, even if some of the fudged NYC details gnawed at me.

but yeah, i swear this novelette has got to be part of a planned 13 volume series because it's been three months of book-timeline and the boys are still using rubbers like total strangers—and we, the audience, are like three facts the richer for albright's past.

that's it.

he's still mostly just a hunky penis support system with a bunch of mysterious scars and an alarming propensity for manipulation.

hmm.

maybe i'd keep the rubbers too, if the only things i knew about my boyfriend were his address and his o-face.

(Tori-Smexybooks) smexys_sidekick says

Originally posted at SmexyBooks-<http://smexybooks.com/2015/12/review-...>

Favorite Quote: “Kiss me Caesar. I’ve waited all day for you.”

Caesar Romano and his sexy PI boyfriend, Dan Albright, have settled into somewhat domestic bliss as Caesar now spends most of his time with Dan at his Staten Island home and commutes to work aka civilization. While Caesar is happiest at Dan’s side there is still a hint of insecurity in their relationship. A home invasion opens the door to possibilities that Dan is being revisited by his past, something Caesar is still in the dark about. As Caesar muses over Dan’s continued silence into his past, he is ambushed by his business partner and best friend, Poppy, into appearing on tv to promote their store. He also learns Poppy withheld the fact they are catering his ex-boyfriend’s current lover’s art exhibition. YIKES! As if that wasn’t bad enough, his cousin Joey, who is also Poppy’s boyfriend, wants him to help plan the most elaborate and surprise worthy proposal ever for Poppy. WHEW! As Caesar tries to keep up with everything going on, he also finds himself in possession of a stinky stalker who is somehow connected to Dan’s newest job. When push comes to shove, though, Caesar grabs tight and goes on the ride of his life.

It’s been five years since the second book, *Trust Me If You Dare*, released though very little time has passed in the storyline. There is very little recap of the previous two books; Gregg choosing to pick up where she left off. So, if you are a little fuzzy on the last two books, do yourself a favor and schedule a quick re read or find yourself a well written review to refresh your memory.

Told from Caesar’s rambling and amusingly testy point of view, we watch as he is unintentionally tossed into a series of high octane situations that hilariously develops and resolve over a two-day period. Caesar Romano’s life plays out like a slapstick comedy of errors with a dynamic and eccentric cast of characters who all add to the laughter and appeal of the story. Manic pacing, witty dialogue, exaggeration galore, and a well plotted multidirectional mystery romance seems to go in fifty different directions, but Gregg has a method to her madness and brings everything together with the skill of an expert genealogist.

Caesar has a strong voice and presence in the book. Witty and self-deprecating, he is a slightly uptight hipster who loves his job, boyfriend, bestie, and family despite their unintentional ability to drag him into trouble. All his relationships carry a wee bit of drama and outrageousness that only adds to his overall appeal. Especially when you match it to his almost fanatical need for control and order.

His romance fits right into the general zaniness of the story. Caesar and Dan are well matched in and out of bed. Opposites in all the best ways, they attract like magnets. Dan grounds Caesar in all the best ways when he gets a little to wound up while Caesar keeps Dan on his toes and stops his occasional slides into the darkness. They are adorable with their sexy flirty banter that confirms the serious chemistry brewing and bubbling between them.

“We both needed that. It took the edge off.”

“You are ever on the edge.”

“Only with you.”

The mystery is somewhat obscure, revealing slowly through story. Scores of potential villains riddle the landscape and Gregg keeps us well entertained as we try to follow the clues. Caesar’s amateur sleuthing is award winning and leaves you giggling as he inadvertently keeps stumbling into the fray. Seeing Poppy, the Romano’s, and of course, Jean-Luc again always guarantees a good time will be had by all. We finally get some solid background on Dan’s creepy ex and I love Dan goes out of his way to reassure Caesar that he and their relationship matter to him.

“In case you’re late to the party, Romano, I’m not into women. I’m into you.”

A couple of items did bother me, though. One being the continued manipulation of Caesar by those he loves. Dan and Poppy are masters at it and while Caesar calls them on it multiple times, Dan merely flashes his sexy dimples while Poppy says, "I'm sorry," for the umpteenth time. I also wish we could get some of the story from Dan's point of view. I'm ready for Dan to fully expose his past or, at least give an explanation as to why he won't. He seems determined to keep silent on certain things that really make no sense. Like his new car. Why not tell Caesar where it came from?

Regardless of a few qualms, With This Bling is a fun sexy romance with a strong mystery base. Fans of the series will love the direction Gregg is going with Caesar and Dan and I can only hope we won't have to wait another five years for the next installment.

GRADE: B

Didi says

3.5 stars

It's been over three years (discounting re-read) since I last read Caesar and Dan's escapades and *lo* they're back, with typical Romano - Albright's repartee. Caesar, as usual, was a hoot.

For me reading this book was like watching a comedy series on TV, starring the witty, sharp-tongued, organized Italian-descent young caterer and his hunk of a (somewhat) wealthy ex-detective PI. The usual suspects (Romano and Albright clan, friends and ex) added flavor to the story of this tasty duo.

The dialogues and Caesar's inner thoughts never failed to amuse me. His quick-thinking, which quite often saved the day, was more than make-up for his rather lack of brawn.

With This Bling is the third installment of the series and took place a few months after Trust Me If You Dare. Caesar and Dan's relationship had gotten more established. Ce even rarely stayed at his room in Nana Cooper's house anymore, and instead commuting to and from Dan's suburb house in Staten Island.

Amidst the daily work he did at Posh Nosh, Caesar also tried to help his cousin staging one-of-a kind proposal for his best friend cum business partner. Dan was busy with a new case involving family friends and his ex. Yep, we finally got to meet Dan's degenerate ex.

As usual in Romano - Albright universe, the case, catering gig, and personal issues soon collided, creating snort-inducing chains-of-events, aww moments, not to mention some steamy exercises.

While some of the scenes were pretty close to slapstick comedy - and frankly I'm not a huge fan of such - for this couple I made exception. Perhaps because I'm already familiar with their antics; after the previous two books - who wouldn't.

Which was why I wouldn't recommend this to be read as a standalone. If you survived Caesar on the first two books you might enjoy this too. Admittedly, the story didn't put the duo on the best spot, case wise. But they made it up in romance department; Dan certainly convinced Caesar of his feeling to initiate the declaration. Oops. Spoiler. :P

I hope L.B. Gregg wouldn't take long time to write their next episode... I mean, book.

*ARC is kindly provided by the publisher via **NetGalley** for the exchange of a fair and honest review.*

Lala says

4.25 stars.

I can't get enough of Dan & Caesar. They are soo good together, complementing each other in every sense. I love their interactions, their banter and how they care for each other without being all saccharine and mushy.

This book was entertaining as hell - fast-paced, full of witty dialogues and comic situations. Like the TV show recording...that was freaking hilarious!

When I first saw the title, I was all surprised and hopeful..alas, Caesar & Dan are still a ways from that kind of commitment, but there was (view spoiler).

The thing I loved most about this book is that Dan & Caesar's story doesn't feel finished at all, so, hopefully, we'll get another book!

ARC received from the publisher via NetGalley.

Veronica of V's Reads says

This is the third book in a series, but it read fine as a standalone.

4.5 Stars.

Caesar and Dan have been dating for a short while. They are still getting to know one another, and enjoying their incendiary passion. Dan is a 40ish former NYPD cop turned private detective. He's big and bossy and totally gone for Caesar, a 28 y/o Brooklyn native and member of a giant Italian famiglia that may or may not have mafia ties...he'll never say. Out loud. Caesar has begun managing his friend Poppy's catering business, and his cousin is trying to woo a very pregnant Poppy to FINALLY marry him.

Caesar is caught in this misfire/crossfire wedding proposal gone totally wrong when he is pressed into filling in for morning-sick Poppy on a local cable morning show. It's actually quite hysterical, and leaves Caesay a black-eyed, bloody (possibly engaged!) mess. Is this the result of using his Nonna's cursed rings? The jury is out...

Dan's newest case is bleeding into their private life, too. Expect parkour-style espionage and explosions. Lots of explosions. Caesar always seems to be on the wrong end of a concussion, and yet, his dead-pan NYC humor is riotous. Complaining that the squirrel and bird he spies in Dan's Staten Island backyard is "too much nature" for him. Deciding that the best way to handle being kidnapped and stuffed into a cool box is to snack on fresh-made cannoli? I died.

I loved Caesar's family. From his flashy Nan to his Goodfellas-esque uncles and father. They's good people. We don't get to see much of Dan , as Caesar tells this story, but he's a bit of alright. Honest, and loyal. Maybe a bit too trusting for some--especially as he's an ex-cop. Caesar and Dan get really close in this book, so close that Caesar has to meet an ex. Unwittingly. And they continue building on an established pattern of

semi-public sexytimes; all to the good in my book.

I breezed through WITH THIS BLING, and would surely head back for another episode. I received a review copy of this book via NetGalley.

CrabbyPatty says

Fabulous - loved basically everything about it. Gawd, I hope there are more books in the series.

Wendy says

I really enjoyed this series so far !! Hopefully the next book will come out real soon. This one didn't end with a cliffy, but I can't wait for more Romano and Albright !! These guys are awesome : D
