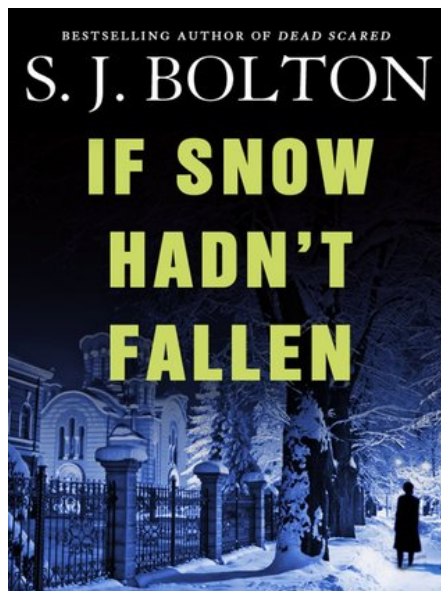




If Snow Hadn't Fallen

Sharon J. Bolton

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Just weeks ago, a Jack the Ripper copycat terrorized London, leaving London police officer Lacey Flint scarred both physically and emotionally. Still recovering from the ordeal and technically off-duty, Lacey almost ignores it when she hears a call for back-up as she's heading home. But she's close by and figures they could use her help. She could never have expected the horrible crime she would witness on arriving at the scene, or the frightening twists the case would be going to take.

If Snow Hadn't Fallen Details

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From Reader Review If Snow Hadn't Fallen for online ebook

Amy says

I enjoyed this novella as it is part of one of my favourite series. I didn't enjoy it as much as her other options I've read, but this is likely attributed to the fact that it is a short story. I missed the detail that Bolton always jam packs us with in the culmination and end of her weaved stories.

Christine says

If Snow Hadn't Fallen is an 89 page novella, falling in at #1.5, just after #1 Now You See Me, in the wonderful DC Lacey Flint thriller series. My my, Ms. Bolton packs a clever little story into these 89 pages.

The plot revolves around the murder by fire of a young Muslim physician. Lacey is being Lacey in this novella. By that I mean she works around her superiors to get the case cracked. So it's more of a police nonprocedural, which is fine with me. Though I often wonder how Lacey continues to get away with this, it does further a great plot as this novella demonstrates.

This tale simply sparkles with Ms. Bolton's brilliance. She supplies us with all the clues we need to solve the case, but she constructs her story in such a way that it is extremely difficult to outsmart her. I read this novella with one of my erudite book buddies. We checked in with each other after every 2 chapters. Working as partners, we thought we could finally crack a case, there being 2 of us after all. Well, after 18 chapters, one chapter shy of the big reveal, we were admitting total defeat. Not a worthwhile clue between us, and sadly, this was after lots of thought and discussion on our part. If there is a reader out there that correctly predicted the ending of this novella, I would love to hear about it.

If Snow Hadn't Fallen, though a part of the Lacey Flint series, is a stand alone novella and can be read at any point within (or without) the series with no danger of spoilers and no need for any backstory. If you are looking for a good weekend read, I highly recommend you download a copy of this smart little thriller.

Vicky says

Originally reviewed at: <http://www.booksbiscuitsandtea.co.uk/...>

Short stories are a tricky business. Getting everything right, from the characters to a good storyline and a neat ending, in such a short amount of time is, I think, quite difficult. There were many occasions in the past couple of years when some of my favourite authors ventured outside their comfort zone and gave short fiction a try but, as much as it pains me to say this, they failed miserably. Their novels might be spot on but when they were restricted to 80 or 90 pages, their stories either felt terribly rushed or fell a bit flat for me. And this is why I'm still a bit sceptical about short fiction. However, If Snow Hadn't Fallen didn't disappoint at all. In fact, I found it just as gripping and fast-paced as *Now You See Me* (the first book in the Lacey Flint series) was.

The book starts off almost exactly where *Now You See Me* ended and is, again, narrated by London detective Lacey Flint. Lacey's boss Dana Tulloch and her friend, reporter Emma Boston make an appearance as well

which I was thrilled about – I loved both of them in the previous book so it was lovely to ‘meet them’ again. However, since this book is – obviously – not as detailed as a full length novel, it’s probably better if you read *Now You See Me* first (if you haven’t read it yet), so that you have a better understanding of the characters and what they’ve been through prior to this story. It’s a great thriller on its own but knowing Lacey’s background story will make it even better.

I absolutely loved this book and I can only echo what I said about NYSM few weeks ago: it’s a must-read for fans of crime fiction. If there is one person who can keep you on the edge of your seat and make you hold your Kindle in a white-knuckle death grip, heart racing and not having the faintest idea what’s coming next, it’s S.J. Bolton. It’s very rare that someone manages to create something so full of twists and turns, something so intriguing in merely 85 pages, but Bolton nailed it. I loved every second of it and I can’t wait to read the next book in the series!

Freda Malone says

This was a good short story and it wrapped up nicely. No major cliffhangers. I was quite shocked to find out who the killers were. Once again, Lacey Flint saves the day.

Christine says

I am not usually a short story reader. I tend to find them dissatisfying and annoying. However SJ Bolton has managed to prove me wrong with a great short story featuring Lacey. The story concerns a man who is torched to death, in a race hate crime witnessed by Lacey. However things are never what they seem. Lovely, well written, intriguing short story. It leaves you wanting more of Lacey Flint.

Delee says

[image error]

Skip says

I'm not a big fan of novellas, but was pleasantly surprised that this was a fully realized mystery. Using the same set-up as in the opening book of this series, Detective Constable Lacey Flint comes across a crime in process: this time near her home, where a man is set afire in the local park. A racism angle seems quite likely, but no substantive evidence can be found to incriminate the suspected perpetrators and it doesn't feel right to Lacey. As always, she gets very involved in the investigation, enlisting the help of her reporter friend, Emma Boston, and puts herself in danger again in order to identify the guilty. Unconventional ending, kudos to author Sharon Bolton.

Sean Peters says

A great short story, and a great character Lacey Flint

Brenda says

This was a short, fast read, like a quick visit with Lacey Flint. It was interesting, timely, and sad.

Lisa says

I am so excited about Sharon's new book coming out on UK kindle 8th May that I had to have a little taster in anticipation.

This is a short story with my fave character ever DC Lacey Flint.

Ok so she always manages to get herself in a pickle but at least she has the brains to get out of it again! It is her passion and commitment that gets her into such messes even though she pretends she doesn't care.

4 stars because I wanted more!!! The end came too soon...

Jean says

“There are many ways in which fear can grab your heart and squeeze tight...” S.J. (Sharon) Bolton admirers who were seized by her first Lacey Flint novel, *Now You See Me*, will likely be captured again in her e-novella, *If Snow Hadn't Fallen*.

Just weeks after the conclusion of the terrifying Jack the Ripper copycat case, Lacey Flint finds herself smack-dab in the middle of a horrifying murder. While off-duty, Lacey witnesses a cruel murder in a park near her home as a man is surrounded and burned alive. Now, as she disregards expected police procedures to insert herself into the investigation, she is both perplexed and haunted by questions she cannot answer. A mysterious “woman in black” appears and disappears at the sight of the crime – now you see me; now you don't. Who, what, why, and how does this person connect to the victim? Something itches at the back of her mind. There is something that her brain can't quite form into memory. Despite what she cannot remember, Lacey is in danger too.

Ms. Bolton graphically orchestrates a horrendous crime to which there are few clues. As the story progresses, the cold, the damp, the dark, and the snow of London's Christmas season combine with the pervading gloom of hatred to cast a foreboding shadow. Tension builds ... “but few, I think, can beat the experience of starting out scared, finding the courage to face your fear, and then realizing that what you are up against isn't fear but mind-numbing terror.”

While the conclusion was not entirely to my liking, it seemed to be the most realistic and plausible one. I was not one hundred percent certain, but I guessed the identity of the shady figure and the motive for the brutal killing of the Pakistani Muslim doctor. It is a wrinkle than many will not expect, but if you pay attention, there is a clue.

I would strongly recommend that anyone considering this novella read *Now You See Me* first, because there

are many references to that book in this story, and is quite helpful to know Lacey Flint's background here. Having read the novel some time ago, my memory was a bit fuzzy on the details, and I found myself wishing that Ms. Bolton had included a just bit more history.

In a world where hate makes headlines every day, wouldn't it be nice if it were only fiction? "They say that snow covers everything that is mean and sordid and ugly in the world and I guess that's true...But beneath the carpet of white, the ugliness remains, and the snow will melt and there'll come a day when it's visible again. At least, that's what we have to hope."

If Snow Hadn't Fallen is packed with tension, and I daresay I could smell petrol (gasoline) and feel my heart hammering in my chest. If Snow Hadn't Fallen is excellent fiction indeed.

4-1/2 stars

Rob says

Number 1.5 in the Lacey Flint series.

This is a short story, some ninety pages long.

It might be short but it's pulling no punches.

Lacey Flint would have to be one of the more complex characters I have come across in a while. I am looking forward to finding out just what makes Lacey tick in the books to come.

Lacey is witness to a group of men burning someone alive.

Why?

It seems to be an act of mindless cruelty brought on by racial hatred.

In her quest to find the truth Lacey's own life come under threat.

Getting to the truth turns up some very unpleasant realities.

The story highlights the divide between different cultures.

How do you define wrong from right?

How do you perceive justice?

All this tied up in a page turning hour and a half of reading.

Highly recommended.

Linda says

If Snow Hadn't Fallen.....I would never have come upon this little treasure of a novella by S.J. Bolton.

The weather unpacks its giant suitcase filled with layer upon layer of freshly fallen snowflakes. No two alike. Much like no two crimes are alike. No two detectives are actually alike for that matter as well. Especially if one bears the name Lacey Flint.

Lacey is just shutting off the ignition in her car when she spots a horrid scene in the park nearby. This is no ordinary mugging of a lone individual. Lacey's eyes adjust to the shock of a man being doused with fluid and

set on fire. Five perpetrators surround him wearing bizarre masks. Lacey calls in for backup while on the run. The heartless masked individuals scatter and Lacey tries to save the man's life by pulling off her coat and smothering the flames.

The victim is a Muslim doctor who dies on the way to the hospital. Was this a hate/racial crime or what? No other witnesses come forward and Lacey seems to hit a deadend.....until one late night the figure of a tall woman dressed in a long black gown visits the crime scene almost every evening. A very elusive woman who slips away again and again.

S.J. Bolton engages the reader from the first page and onward. Her character, Lacey Flint, doesn't play by the rules and neither does Bolton. She's out for the action and pumps adrenaline like spiked words flowing through the brain at a rapid pace. I've been smitten by this author and have just ordered several of the books in this series. No frostbite. Just a burning desire for more.

Sue says

"If Snow Hadn't Fallen" (Lacey Flint # 1.5) by S.J. Bolton is a novella that takes place shortly after the ending of "Now you see me". I have to admit that I have not read her first novel yet, but now I am very intrigued. In a way I am glad I started with this novella, to set the scene for the full series.

I am not usually a short story reader, but lately I have been reading more of them. Usually an author is unable to develop and flush out the characters, within the short time restraints. Short stories are not easy to deliver; a believable storyline, with intriguing characters and a satisfying ending. But Sharon Bolton has satisfied all of these elements.

"A young Muslim man, a doctor, is brutally murdered by a masked gang."

Detective Constable ,Lacey Flint, an off-duty police officer, was in the park the night of the attack and killing. Lacey was on her way home when she heard the call from the Control room, and responded.

A circle of dark figures wearing masks, a bonfire and a burning man. And when the five attackers saw Lacey, they scrambled and ran for cover. And Lacey sees a "woman in black" fleeing the scene, possibly the anonymous caller. Was it a crime of racial hatred?

This case is full of twists and turns, and I never figured it out the identity of the killers. Then at 67% through on my Kindle, was the biggest surprise that I did not see coming...the big reveal. Brilliant!

Don't miss out on this satisfying thriller. A definite 5 Star rating from me. Now I can't wait to attack the series!

Hans says

Lacey Flint in a very realistic, believable short story. It's good!
