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In such a small community as the Falkland Islands, a missing child is unheard of. In such a dangerous landscape it can only be a terrible tragedy, surely...

When another child goes missing, and then a third, it's no longer possible to believe that their deaths were accidental, and the villagers must admit that there is a murderer among them. Even Catrin Quinn, a damaged woman living a reclusive life after the accidental deaths of her own two sons a few years ago, gets involved in the searches and the speculation.

And suddenly, in this wild and beautiful place that generations have called home, no one feels safe and the hysteria begins to rise.

But three islanders—Catrin, her childhood best friend, Rachel, and her ex-lover Callum—are hiding terrible secrets. And they have two things in common: all three of them are grieving, and none of them trust anyone, not even themselves.

Little Black Lies Details

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Author : Sharon J. Bolton

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From Reader Review Little Black Lies for online ebook

Melissa (Mel's Bookshelf) says

Wow... Just wow...

I'm in a daze, I don't even know where to begin...

Synopsis, yes... I'll start there... The novel is told from three viewpoints and begins with Catrin.

Catrin is struggling, grieving from the tragic accidental death of her two children three years prior. Not that she really sees their deaths as accidents, she blames her childhood friend Rachel who was looking after them that day. And Catrin has a plan for revenge. However when a child goes missing, the third in two years, she gets dragged into a web of secrets and lies and finds her plan of revenge is not going to be as simple after all. Callum and Rachel tell the remainder of the story, but I don't want to give away any more information about them or the story because I don't want to spoil anything!

I have made no secret about my admiration for Bolton's novels. Especially the Lacey Flint series, which is my all time favourite series. There is something about the atmosphere she creates in her books that resonates with me. I get sucked into the darkness of it, and love every word of it.

I'm not even sure exactly why this book captured me so. Perhaps being a mother now, books about dead and lost children strike a particular chord with me now. A chord that has not always been there. Like a new level of emotion.

Catrin's grief is so real. So palpable, that it made me feel sick to my stomach. But don't let that put you off this book!!! It's not all doom and gloom... Well a lot of it is... But not in a bad way!!

If you are a fan of books such as gone girl, sharp objects, the girl on a train etc etc I have no doubt you will enjoy this book, or any of Bolton's novels. Although there is just no comparing them... Bolton blows them out of the water!

I'm not exactly sure why she isn't more popular, here in Aus anyway... I know she is getting more popular but I hadn't heard of any of her books until the Lacey Flint series was auto recommended to me on Goodreads and I thought I would give it a go (thank you Goodreads!). I will be very surprised if she doesn't make it to the top 10 here in Aus very soon.

My daze still continues. This is absolutely my favourite book of the year... So much emotion, SO DAMN GOOD!!!! And that ending is so fresh that right now, I am having a lot of trouble thinking of a book that I have liked more. Ever.

Put aside whatever you are reading at the moment, forget your to-read list, and READ THIS BOOK!!!! You won't regret it!!!

For this and more reviews check out my blog

www.booksbabiesbeing.com

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www.twitter.com/BBB_Mel

Andrew Smith says

I'd managed to sidestep war - or rather, I was lucky. I was born 3 years after food rationing ended, following WWII. That war was something that happened to another generation – my parents and grandparents. I was vaguely interested, from a historical point of view, but it wasn't *my* war. Then the Falklands War came along. I was 23 and, like everyone else I knew, I'd never heard of the islands. But here we were sending troops down to battle with the Argentinians over this piece of land hardly anyone lived on. It was fascinating...and bizarre. Until the fighting started, that is. Then it became horrifying as nightly news bulletins showed footage of soldiers jumping off boats and running ashore and of planes taking off from an aircraft carrier. Then it got worse. The bombing of Royal Fleet Auxiliary vessels Sir Galahad and Sir Tristram and the television pictures that showed the aftermath were my first real experiences of the horror of war – played out in front of us in our living rooms.

So when this novel was being rated by everyone as four or five stars, I resisted. I wasn't sure I wanted to revisit these islands. But eventually the tide of opinion got to me and I succumbed. **And I'm so glad I did.**

It's a book you're best to go into knowing little or nothing about, so I'll be sparse with the details. It's a mystery thriller told in a tight timeframe about a small group of people: their lives, their relationships and their children. Lots happens and it's told from various perspectives. It's very clever and its astonishingly well done.

I recognized some of the place names and some of the details of the conflict came back to me as I read the book. Goose Green and Port Stanley are imbedded in the minds of everyone who bore witness to the nightly news updates. And this actually helped give vision to this wild and barren place where everybody knows everyone else – and their business. There are references to the war too, though it's not necessary to have any knowledge of the history to enjoy this book.

It's a haunting tale, brilliantly told. It'll certainly be in the top three thrillers I've read this year. Don't miss it!

Diane S ? says

Ever since I finished this book yesterday I have been debating whether to give it four or five stars, but since after a certain point I couldn't put the darn book down, five it is.

The setting was unusual, the Falkland Islands, and the writing is so wonderfully descriptive, I could feel the wind, pi true the rocks and cliffs, the mine field, all the wild life, actually felt like I was there. Same with the characters, we get a glimpse of village life, those who run the newspaper and the police. The three main character each tell their stories and we get to know them pretty well. We even get a little picture of the war on the islands told through flashbacks of one of the main characters. Children are going missing on the island and this is where the story starts, with a missing boy and then it just hooked me, the story goes places I didn't expect, many twists and turns. Suspense, tension and wanting to know what happens. And no this is, another one I had no clue until the end and I love when an author can do that. The final twist at the end really surprised me.

Bolton has become one of my favorite authors and this stand alone did not disappoint.

ARC from Net Galley.

Maureen says

I was definitely late to the party with this one, as it was released last year, but undeterred, I delved straight in and didn't want the party to end!

The Falkland Islands is the setting chosen for this psychological thriller, a thriller that will leave you thinking about it long after you close the book.

Children are going missing in a relatively small community, but everyone knows everyone else - surely it can't be one of their own who's responsible could it? Maybe it's an outsider who's made this place their home - or even a passenger from one of the many cruise ships that visit these islands? Whoever is responsible, it's making this one heck of a scary place to live.

Seen from the perspectives of three of the islanders - Catrin, her lifelong friend Rachel, and Callum, Catrin's ex lover and former soldier, who made his home here after fighting in the Falklands War. All of them have secrets, all with something to hide, and when it comes right down to it, can ANY of them be trusted?

This story was so well crafted, and the location added much to the sombre mood of the theme. The main characters were all emotionally damaged, each of them suffering dreadfully, and the author portrayed this beautifully. As the book neared its ending, I just couldn't see how it could be brought to a satisfactory conclusion - well silly me! This has to be one of the best endings I've come across, it was akin to a smack in the face! That's how shocked I was.

I'd liken the story to being cast adrift on a stormy sea, tossed first this way, then that, never knowing where it's all going to end - and it was the very last sentence that revealed what I never saw coming. Now that's what I call clever Ms Bolton!

Christine says

I wish to thank Net Galley, Minotaur Books/St. Martin's Press, and Ms. Sharon Bolton for an ARC of Little Black Lies in exchange for an unbiased review.

Two words: Bloody Brilliant!!

It has been over a year since I read Ms. Bolton's *Now You See Me*, which ended up as my favorite read of 2014. I cannot understand why it has taken me so long to get back to this author. What a magnificent story she has constructed in *Little Black Lies*. This stand-alone psychological thriller has it all: terrific characters, a beautifully described setting, masterful plot, twists and turns galore, and a mind-blowing ending.

The novel takes place in the Falkland Islands located in the South Atlantic Ocean; it is a place I knew little about before reading this book. The setting itself plays a major role in the story, and Ms. Bolton effectively transports us there with her luminous descriptive passages.

The tale is told from the points of view of each of the three co-protagonists, giving us three different angles on the story. There is a strong emotional element in Little Black Lies. We get deep, and I mean DEEP, inside the heads of Catrin, Callum, and Rachel, and we get to know them intimately. I do not think it is possible for character development to be any better than what Ms. Bolton has done in this book.

To say the plot is ingenious is an understatement. There are so many facets to it and so many possible ways the story can go. The twists and turns practically induce vertigo. I was sure at one point that I had it all figured out. Fool! I wasn't even close. At 96% I was worried for Ms. Bolton, wondering how she was going to get herself out of this complex situation. I was totally enthralled with how the plot played out, and it took till the very last sentence of the book to do so. I do have to admit that though I was totally surprised by virtually all aspects of the ending, the clues are all there to figure everything out if you are smart enough. Clearly, I wasn't. And that's the way I like my thrillers.

In summary, this book is riveting and a must read for all thriller fans. It baffles me why so many readers are unaware of this author. In my opinion, she is in the upper echelon of the finest thriller writers in the world. Give her books a shot. You will not regret it.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

5 Holy Moly Stars!!

A Traveling Sister Read with Kaceey!

LITTLE BLACK LIES by SHARON BOLTON is a dark, haunting, emotional, and an extremely suspenseful thriller with an absolutely gripping and clever storyline that grabs your attention almost immediately and doesn't let go until the very last sentence. We actually had to put this book on hold because of a few sister reads that we were both participating in and it sure didn't take us long to get right back into the story (maybe we had to refresh our memory a teeny bit) when we picked it up again and then our other sister reads were put on hold!

SHARON BOLTON delivers in our opinion the perfect thriller here because of all of it's surprising twists and turns and that ending, wow.....we were totally blown away! We have read quite a few thrillers lately and this one definitely left us feeling totally elated and gasping in awe when we were finished because of how awesome we both thought this book was!

To sum it all up it was unpredictable, suspenseful, and a fast-paced read with an ending that was absolutely brilliant which we both found to be totally satisfying. We already have our next Sharon Bolton novel picked out. Highly recommend!!!

All of our Traveling Sister reviews can be found on our sister blog:
<http://www.twogirlslostinacouleereadi...>

Mary Beth *Traveling Sister* says

This is highly recommended for all thriller fans! I just loved it!

I just loved this book. It deserved a lot more stars than 5. This book is so hard to review to give it the justice it deserves. First of all I have never been to the Falkland Islands but I sure felt that I was there. I could vision in it, and could even smell it. I love when the author description of a place is so well done that it felt like I just visited it. I love to visit places in my books. I also loved the characters in this book.

If you have not read this book, I feel you are missing out if you are a thriller fan. This one I think is my favorite for the year. Here is a short summary of the book.

Catrin Quinn's job at Falkland Conservation is to protect the sea life in the Falklands' fragile ecology. Why would her goal, her passion, lie in nursing a plan to kill her former best friend, Rachel Grimwood? The answer unfolds in three strands. As Catrin glides among the fur seals and pilot whales, she reveals the unending source of her pain: her two young sons, Ned and Kit, left alone in a car parked on a cliff, fell to their deaths in the same sea whose wildlife she now protects. Her ex-husband, Ben, has moved on, remarried, and started a second family. Only her former lover Callum Murray, a Scottish soldier who came to defend the Falklands during the Argentine invasion, understands who Catrin has become. In his narrative, he tries to woo Catrin back into the world. In spite of his own struggles with PTSD, he tempts her into the hero's role, searching for a toddler who's gone missing from a tour-boat holiday. But trying to save another mother's child provides scant relief for Catrin, who trains her sights ever more narrowly on Rachel, the woman who left Ned and Kit in the vehicle that became their coffin. Bolton leaves it to Catrin's intended victim to bring her story home, but Rachel's narrative lacks the bite of the earlier two.

In the end, what might have been a searching look into the fine line between mishap and crime ends in a cascade of improbability.

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

A Traveling Sister Read with Norma!

A heart-wrenching, dark and emotional read. Sharon Bolton does it again!

You are quickly drawn into a deeply tragic tale of two lifelong friends, torn apart by a sudden, horrid event that leaves them both emotionally fragile and psychologically damaged. One looking for revenge, the other barely hanging by a thread.

Catrin and Rachel grew up together on the Falkland Islands. Both married with two young sons. Soon each is pregnant and thrilled to have a third son on the way. Then, on a day like any other, everything in their lives change.

The pain both Catrin and Rachel feel is palpable. Witnessing them in their desperate struggles is heartbreakingly.

The layers to this book are wonderfully intricate, as Sharon Bolton weaves her web to deliver the perfect thriller. The twists kept coming, keeping me guessing and gasping right up to the very last line. Highly recommend! Already looking to pick up another Sharon Bolton novel!

To find this review along with our Traveling Sister Review, please visit the Traveling Sister Review section of Norma and Brenda's fantastic book blog:
<http://www.twogirlslostinacouleereadi...>

Sandy *The world could end while I was reading and I would never notice* says

EXCERPT: "I'm moving faster now, telling myself to slow down, but feeling the normal panic of a mother who can't find her children. Even her dead ones."

ABOUT THIS BOOK: In such a small community as the Falkland Islands, a missing child is unheard of. In such a dangerous landscape it can only be a terrible tragedy, surely...

When another child goes missing, and then a third, it's no longer possible to believe that their deaths were accidental, and the villagers must admit that there is a murderer among them. Even Catrin Quinn, a damaged woman living a reclusive life after the accidental deaths of her own two sons a few years ago, gets involved in the searches and the speculation.

And suddenly, in this wild and beautiful place that generations have called home, no one feels safe and the hysteria begins to rise.

But three islanders—Catrin, her childhood best friend, Rachel, and her ex-lover Callum—are hiding terrible secrets. And they have two things in common: all three of them are grieving, and none of them trust anyone, not even themselves.

MY THOUGHTS: This is the second truly amazing book I have read this year, and I cannot speak highly enough of it.

I became emotionally entangled with the characters in this spellbinding story of friendship, love, lust, death, guilt, anger, grief and revenge. Often I found myself going back and re-reading passages, rolling their black beauty around in my mind, dwelling, wondering.....And then there was the most mind-blowing ending.....

Set in the Falkland Islands, this book focuses on the lives of 3 people, who each take a turn at narrating, in the aftermath of a tragedy.

Two young boys, Ned and Kit, are killed in an accident resulting from a combination of lust and carelessness.

In the following three years, three children go missing, all bearing a strong resemblance to the two dead boys.

Is this the work of the dead boys mother? She has been but a mere ghost of herself since their death.

Or perhaps it is her lover, and ex-Falklands war soldier who suffers Post Traumatic Stress Disorder complete with blackouts.

Or is it someone else entirely?

Thank you to Minotaur Books, NetGalley and author Sharon Bolton for providing a digital copy of Little Black Lies for review. All opinions expressed in this review are entirely my own personal opinions.

Please refer to my Goodreads.com profile page or the 'about' page on sandybookaday.wordpress.com for an explanation of my rating system.

This review and others are also published on my blog sandybookaday.wordpress.com
[https://sandybookaday.wordpress.com/...](https://sandybookaday.wordpress.com/)

Christine says

Sharon Bolton takes a break from her Lacey Flint series and brings us a fantastic standalone novel set in the Falkland Islands.

Bolton takes us on a dark journey of friendships lost, of pain and despair, grief and anger and missing children. Narrated by three lonely and lost characters, Catrin, Rachel and Callum, we slowly get to know them and how they see the world. Two children were accidentally killed, leaving behind them a mother, Catrin, buried in her pain and her best friend Rachel, guilty of not paying attention for a second. The love between the two close friends has broken down forever and Catrin's ex-husband has moved on to start a new family elsewhere. Added to this is Callum, a man connected to Catrin who fought in the Falklands and is still having flashbacks. This is essentially a study in grief and in broken down friendships. Life for these two women has become about existing, both stuck in the moment. A missing boy brings the whole of the Falklands out looking for him. It forces Catrin and Rachel to start to unravel their pain.

I felt so captivated by the book from the first page, I was looking up photos of the Falkland Islands on the internet. I cannot imagine living in a remote idyllic looking place, with such a history. Everybody is aware of the Falklands conflict back in the 1980s and Bolton uses this cleverly as a backdrop. The place seems just appropriate for a closed off community, full of secrets and grief.

I cannot imagine anyone reading this story and not reflecting afterwards. I found myself wondering whether I would be as lost and bitter, like Catrin or would I have been able to forgive my best friend for accidentally killing my children? I felt sorry for Rachel, living with the guilt and the loss of her friend.

This is exactly what you would expect from a Sharon Bolton novel. Plenty to think about, sophisticated and emotional story-telling that grabs hold of you from the first page and three wonderful if sad characters to show you the way. For anyone who has not read Sharon Bolton before, this would be a perfect introduction.

Carol says

Someone is **not** telling the truth.....

In **Little Black Lies**, three damaged souls recount personal stories of the same six disturbing days of their lives involving missing children within a small community on the Falkland Islands.

This tragic mystery-thriller **really** grabbed me at the start, was a bit redundant along the way, but ended in a way that surprised the hell out of me!

Elyse Walters says

Library- ebook: Overdrive

This was a *Sharon Bolton* FIRST for me. "Black Little Lies" is a stand alone novel. I've heard great things about this English author of mystery fiction -especially about her Lacey Flint series- that before I invested time in a series(which I mostly resist)...

I wanted to see what all the hubba-hubba was about. I'm glad I did. Thank You to many Goodreads friends!

I loved the setting —Stanley, Falkland Islands... between Great Britain and Argentina and a little history of the Falklands War. I enjoyed reading about the land - the history of the whales - while at the same time the characters - and plot were the driving force.

Catrin (and her dog Queenie), first begin this story. Catrin immediately grabs our attention when she tells us she's plotting to kill her ex-best friend Rachel. It's been almost three years since her 2 sons died after Rachel left them alone in her car- that went over a cliff. Catrin's plan is to kill Rachel on the day of the three-year anniversary that her sons died.

Author Sharon Bolton - is quite ingenious with the plot and characters. A young boy is missing.... very similar to two other young boys who went missing on this small island who were never found. But with each of the main characters, I was always wondering who was really reliable and who wasn't.... and how were the missing boys tied to Catrin's specific situation - grief- and desire for revenge on Rachel.

It was easy to make a case for none of the characters being a reliable.

After Catrin narrates approximately the first third of the story —?we then have Callum- an ex Scottish Soldier and last Rachel.

So.... it's Catrin, Callum, and Rachel running this novel....or is it? There are a couple other side characters we also question - with little surprise details along the way —? as in ..."oh my, really?"

I wouldn't get too comfy in thinking you have this novel figured out.....it's not called "Black Little Lies" for nothing.

I sure as hell didn't see the ending coming.

No graphic or extreme violence- kudos to Bolton....
.....just a darn good mystery-suspense novel!

Sue says

Many thanks to Netgallery, Minotaur books and Sharon Bolton for supplying the ARC copy of "Little Black Lies" in return for a honest review.

Sharon Bolton is the author of the bestselling Lacey Flint series. Little Black Lies is her first standalone thriller since Blood Harvest. This standalone mystery is about a mother who, three years after her two young children disappeared, is plotting revenge...to kill someone.

The novel is set in the Falkland Islands, and the writing instantly draws you into the book, with descriptive scenic passages that provide food for thought. It is about a tragic story of death, guilt and trying to move on, in the midst of pain.

The novel is divided into three parts, and the three co-protagonists; Catrin, Callum and Rachel, take part explaining in detail their perspective of the events. This allows the reader to broaden their scope of the dynamics of the situation, past and present, and get to know the characters in greater detail.

Catrin Quinn lost her two young sons, three years ago, in a terrible accident. Catrin is a marine scientist, working for the Falkland Conservation, and appears on the outside to be “coping”...but this is only an act. The only thing that gives her comfort is her dog, “Queenie” a terrier, that had also loved the boys.

“I’ve been wondering if I have what it takes to kill. Whether I can look a living creature in the eye and take the one irreversible action that ends a life...I have no difficulty in killing. I’m actually rather good at it.”

Callum Murray, a Scot who first came to the Falklands as a paratrooper during the war, and was Catrin’s ex-lover, when she was married to Ben. Callum suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder and has episodes, “flashbacks” to what happened in the conflict. (PTSD)

Rachel, was Catrin’s childhood best friend, until the day of the tragic car accident, that had Rachel at the wheel of the car, and resulted in the accidental deaths of Catrin’s young sons, and the end of their friendship. Now all that Catrin wanted was Revenge!

And then another child goes missing! Three young boys all disappear in the last two years, all near water. But were they connected?

In this fast-paced suspense novel, the author keeps the reader guessing right until the very end, and boy what a surprise Brilliant ending! A definite 5-Star plus rating from me. Now I am totally intrigued to make the time to read all her books in the series.

Linda says

"But the woman Ben had married wasn't there any more and neither he nor I knew where to find her."

Ah, it happens. I had to "sit with" this book by Sharon Bolton afterwards and feel the grit of its words and close my eyes tightly to the deep impact of the character of Catrin Quinn. Sharon Bolton places her finger on the pulse of Catrin and reveals the inner workings of a woman who has suffered the unspeakable loss of two sons in a horrific accident. Only Bolton knows where deep in her soul this character resides.

The Falkland Islands provides the setting with a craggy landscape ripe for questionable happenings. Bolton even provides a thread of the war fought there and the fissures of the scars left behind. Catrin and her husband Ben have divorced after losing their sons.....like two puzzle pieces that no longer fit into the scheme of things. Catrin embraces a weakened lifeline to being a marine biologist and becomes immersed in the darkened waters off the coast of the archipelago. She breathes tainted breaths within the shattered remnants of her former life. She is hollowed out and dying a slow death in the brutal rays of daily life.

You see, her childhood friend, Rachel, is responsible for the deaths of those two little boys. And forgiveness is as elusive as the horn of a unicorn. They have not spoken for three years and avoid being anywhere near each other. Rachel walks in the aftermath of this loss as well. It has imprinted a stain upon her heart for which there is no cure.

Callum Murray takes up residence near Catrin. He suffers from PTSD after the war and the effects weigh heavy on him. There is a connection between these two that remains unbreakable in the years before and the time after the accident.

Tragedy strikes again when young boys go missing in this small community. Bolton weaves the story with a snake-like grip on the lives of these three characters. How are they interconnected and what will be left on the doorstep?

Some have questioned the ending of this story. But it conjures up thoughts of the "pound of flesh" in The Merchant of Venice. Is there ever a means to complete restitution for our deeds? The suffering soul has a profound willingness to fall upon the sword for the supreme sacrifice. Yet, it is never enough.

Sharon Bolton presents a story that is so deeply character driven. She lays out the frailty of the human mind and spirit like no other. You walk within the weight of each step taken by these individuals. This is a remarkable read if you are open to lifting aside the dark shadows that overcast truth. And truth is an elusive bird here that takes flight when the winds are stirred.

Lisa says

TWO FRIENDS TORN APART BY A TERRIBLE TRAGIC EVENT!!

My brain is still coming down from this tragic heart wrenching thriller that pulls at your heartstrings & doesn't let go till the end, I felt so many emotions while reading this superbly written novel about lifelong friends whose lives are torn apart both are emotionally fragile & mentally challenged.

I wont go into detail about this one but if you like a fast paced thriller that had just about everything you could want in a novel then this is for you, I connected with this straight away as I lost my brother many years ago & the pain you go through is indescribable to this day I still feel pain. This is a well crafted dark thriller you wont want to put down had a major twist I didn't see coming, I loved the setting & history of the Falkland islands was atmospheric I could feel myself there with Catrin & Rachel, I thought Ms Bolton weaved a dark tale of how far friendships can be tested in these circumstances.
