

Wheel of Fire by Hilary Bonner

5 Stars

What a brilliant storyline!

"The storm was over. The rain had stopped. The flames that engulfed the big old house raged unhindered. Later, some claimed that the glow in the sky could be seen as far away as Taunton or Tiverton, each fourteen or fifteen miles from Blackdown Manor as the crow flies." These opening lines had me hooked, and I thankfully had nothing to disturb me reading this book on an especially miserably cold winter's day so could continue unhindered as I raced to discover what had caused this devastating fire.

The story starts with what appears to be a small fire. Unfortunately, the fire brigade cannot reach the building because of a fallen tree, and before the tree can be removed, there is a loud explosion, and the little fire the crew hoped to put out, turns into an inferno. They watch in horror as the blast completely destroys the house, owned by Sir John Fairbrother, CEO and Chairman of Fairbrother International, and Fairbrother's Bank, the second oldest private bank in the UK.

Detective Inspector David Vogel, accompanied by DC Dawn Saslow of the Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Major Crime Investigation Team head up the investigation as two bodies have been recovered. These are identified as Sir John Fairbrother, and his nurse. The only survivor is George Grey. He and his wife live in the Gatehouse and are employed to manage the upkeep. He had gone to help Sir John, in the late stages of Parkinson's Disease and his nurse escape from the house when he first saw smoke, but armed intruders stabbed him before he could reach them. He managed to escape and hide from these intruders.

DI David Vogel, DC Dawn Saslow and the rest of their team know from the beginning that this is not going to be a straightforward case. There are many clues, many suspects but almost an impossible barrier to work out precisely who plotted what and how they carried it out and of course, the big question, who is going to benefit from Sir John's death?

A brilliant, well written, thoroughly convoluted plot that keeps you guessing right up to the final page.

Hilary Bonner thank you for giving me the most perfect storyline to keep me enthralled as I wave "farewell" to 2018. May 2019 bring another equally enthralling storyline for the two detectives, Vogel and Saslow together with their team, to solve.

Treebeard

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.

