

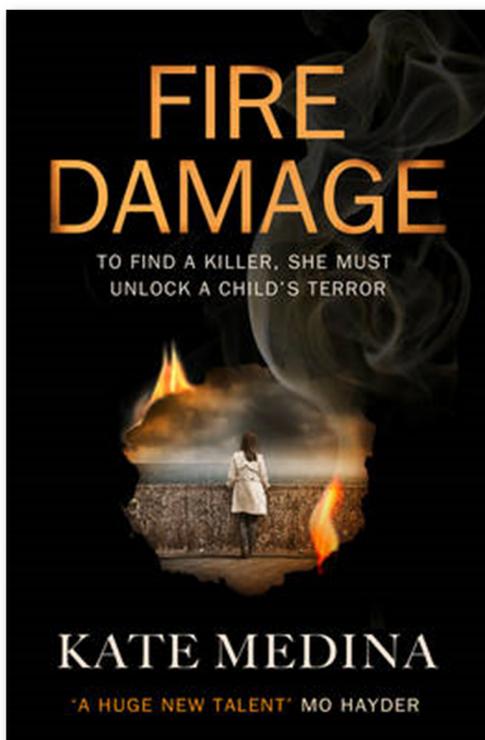


Helping you choose
your next book

LoveReading Reader reviews of **Fire Damage** By **Kate Medina**

Below are the complete reviews, written by LoveReading members.

 HarperCollins Publishers



Jan Kirkcaldy

If you want to read something different this is it. Introducing you immediately to an obviously very disturbed child, Sami, and a not too stable young Army psychologist doesn't exactly bode well. It's an unusual story involving quite a number of people and did at first seem rather disjointed but all becomes clear as the story unfolds. Dr Jessie Flynn's patients are military and it is through this we learn about war and how it affects those involved both in physical and mental ways. How treatment assists those returning from, in this case Afghanistan, how their families cope, including children and the ongoing challenges they all face in future life.

With a police investigation into murder running simultaneously it all seemed very up to the minute and at all levels it worked for me.

*Probably deemed a crime novel I'd prefer to describe it as a well-crafted thriller. Everyone involved seemed relevant, the methods of working accurate. You could feel sympathy throughout, for Major Nick Scott, father of Sami, his wife, ex-wife and other children, Jessie Flynn herself still suffering from traumatic childhood events and many others. The storytelling was first class, as one would expect from someone who knew her subject well. **I read it very quickly so keen was I to find out the ultimate answers to so many***

questions. It did not disappoint. A really great read and very thoughtful story. I hope more will follow.

Sarah Tilley

Terrific – absolutely unputddownable! This is so much more than a standard crime novel!

This is so much more than a standard crime novel, with lots of different strands and glimpses of other characters that I hope we will see more of.

The book has many surprising twists and turns, keeping you gripped the whole way through to the end. I also found the insight in to Army life very interesting, and think that this may be a theme that could be explored more.

Very well written and develops at just the right pace – you find yourself feeling sorry for the ones that turn out to be the “baddies” and not liking the ones who are in fact the “goodies”, as the characters are all so complex.

I loved it and can't wait for more.

Angie Rhodes

Jessie Flynn is a psychologist who has a dark past herself, suffers with is OCD but is the best in her field. Now she needs to unlock a child's mind to find a dangerous killer... Little four year old Sami is deeply traumatised and the only words he says are “The girl knows” and “The Shadowman came”. Jessie is not prepared for the truth, which, knocks her for six. She is also trying to help a soldier who was stationed in Afghanistan. As half a body is washed up on the beach, Are these two crimes connected? Jessie must find the answer before, the killer finds her.

This is the first of Kate Medina's books I have read and I was hooked.

Elisabeth Thomas

Dr Jessie Flynn is a psychologist with the Defence Psychology Service. Usually Jessie has to help servicemen and women who have returned from active service by using her skills to help heal the mental wounds which cannot always be seen like physical wounds.

However, in a break from her normal clientele, Jessie has been asked to help Sami, a four year old boy whose father, a Major in the British Army came back

from Afghanistan with horrendous burns to his face. It soon becomes clear that there are other things that are traumatising Sami other than just the terrible burns his father sustained.

As the case progresses it becomes clear that this is not a case of post-traumatic stress but something more complex. How can Sami's trauma, his father's injury, the case of another soldier recently shot in Afghanistan and the arrest of a soldier for murder all be connected?

A dark, spine tingling psychological thriller which will certainly keep you gripped until the very end of the book. Will be looking forward to the next Jessie Flynn case!

Celia Cohen

A book full of twists and turns that you just can't put down until you've found out how the various plots all come together.

I really enjoyed this book. It was full of twists and turns which all came satisfyingly together at the end. A definite page turner which you will not be able to put down. The very first few pages captured me. An excellent writer. I can't wait for her next book to find out more about Dr Jessie Flynn.

Jennifer Merville

Dr Jessie Flynn is a psychologist. Amongst her patients is a four year old boy called Sami. But he tells her of "The Shadowman", he is so afraid of him he carries a torch around everywhere he goes. He also refers to "the girl". Flynn needs to know more in order to help him.

This book is the first in a series featuring the 29 year old Flynn and it delves not only into the psychological profession but also into human nature and into the life of Flynn as an independent woman.

Taflyn Pearson

I thoroughly enjoyed this book. The main character is appealingly flawed, and thus very easy to relate to. The story was well-written and the characters are well-rounded.

I am very excited to discover this new author of crime novels. The book is very well-written and the characters are easy to get to know. The lead character is

appealingly flawed, and I am very glad that through the course of the book she deals with one of her issues and not (unrealistically!) all of them at once. I was unable to put the book down after starting it. I am very much looking forward to the next instalment of the 'Jessie Flynn' story.

Humaira Kauser

*I'm not a fan of Psychological thrillers but **I could not put this brilliant and ingenious work of art down. It gripped me by the synopsis and dragged me away at the very first page.***

I can't describe with word what this book means to me. All I have to say is that Kate Medina deserves a great deal of praise. I could see Jessie Flynn become the new face of a TV series or even a film franchise- that's how good it is.

Follow Humaira on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/cookie_bookie/

Jacki Moorcroft

A brilliant start to a new crime series. Kate Medina gives us compelling characters in Dr Jessie Flynn, and Captain Ben Callan. A totally absorbing, page turning book.

Dr Jessie Flynn, a psychologist with a troubled past and as damaged as the patients she treats, is called in to help a little boy, Sami Scott who is severely traumatised. It would appear his problems are as a result of seeing his badly injured and burned father on his return home from Afghanistan, but Jessie thinks it is deeper than this and starts digging into the family's history. At the same time she is called upon by a former patient, Captain Ben Callan, whom she could not help, to consult on an unrelated matter of a shooting of army sergeant Andy Jackson which appears to be suicide but Callan is convinced was murder. Are they totally unrelated? Jessie needs to break through Sami's defences and only has a limited time to do so. Kate Medina has given us great characters in Jessie and Callan, but also police detective Inspector Bobby "Marilyn" Simmons. Her story flows effortlessly and is totally absorbing. A real cracking read and I can't wait for the next instalment!

You can follow Jackie on Twitter: @moorcoftj

Janet Monks

A crime novel with army psychologist Jessie Flynn as its

protagonist.

Jessie Flynn begins to work with a troubled child, whose father has recently returned from Afghanistan. Jessie's path crosses with former patient Captain Callan who is investigating an apparent murder of an officer. The characters are fantastically drawn, including Jessie herself who has dark memories to face, as well as Marilyn the thin worn non-army detective who has another murder to investigate!

I really couldn't stop reading this book... Looking forward to the next Jessie Flynn novel.

Phylippa Smithson

Childhood influence in adulthood. Afghanistan War and its associated politics. Relationships and their secrets. Psychologist's role in unlocking a crime. I could go on but this is a must –read this book.

Dr Jessie is a psychologist working with victims as a result of the emotionally challenging life of a member of the British Army. When she is assigned to work with 4-year old Sami, son of Major Scott, who is desperately haunted and confused by something that has happened in his recent path. Who is the Shadowman? Why is he so very frightened?

As she starts working with Sami, she is asked to support Captain Callan, a victim himself of a near life threatening attack when serving in Afghanistan, who is investigating the murder of Sergeant Jackson.

Parallel to both these cases, DI 'Marilyn' Simmons is investigating the washing up of a mutilated body in Chichester Harbour.

As the three stories unfold, it becomes apparent that they may very well be connected.

From the very first words of this book I was hooked. This is crime writing at its very intriguing best. It is also crime writing with a difference taking the psychological reasoning to aid in solving wrong-doing.

Carolyn Huckfield

This is a fast moving story involves distressing and violent events and the psychologist investigating them. I am looking forward to her next case as 'Fire Damage' is an excellent debut.

This is the first of a planned series of novels featuring clinical psychologist Jessie Flynn. She is working for the defence psychology service and has a distressing case to investigate. There is a young boy who is traumatised by an event that needs explaining, which will not be an easy task. Jessie also has another case to look at referred to her by Military policeman Ben Callan. There is history between them that gradually becomes clear. This case seems separate to Sami, the young boy. Added to this mix the local police also have a strange and violent case to investigate.

Afghanistan and our occupation of it is the thread between these stories. All these events collide during the investigative work done by Jessie.

This is a fast moving story involving distressing and violent events. Jessie herself has underlying problems in her own life that becomes clearer during the story.

Susan Wallace

A well-crafted thriller with some unexpected twists and believable characters.

Kate Medina's first book in the Jessie Flynn series is highly readable. It is based on the character of a damaged psychologist, haunted by her past, who works for the army, and, in this story, is helping a terrified and traumatised child. The characters are well drawn and believable and the plot has some unexpected twists. It is an easy read which I enjoyed.

Barbara Goldie

First in an exciting new series. A dark and compelling new story from Kate Medina. An exciting read.

*A mystery which began in Afghanistan, a dead body on a Sussex beach. A psychologist with a dark past and a deadly tormented child. If this fires your imagination then read *Fire Damage: A Jessie Flynn Investigation*. Kate Medina is a thrilling storyteller and has produced a very readable novel which at the same time is dark and unsettling. Psychologist Jessie Flynn is a likeable, believable character. There are plenty of twists and turns to grab the reader's attention and plenty of suspense making it a fast paced novel as it builds and unfolds. The pace slows in parts so there is time to breathe and the short chapter lengths help to build up the suspense, tension and drama. It is sad and emotional in parts but it kept my attention all the way through. Combine all*

this with interlinked storylines and several locations it is an exciting start to a new series. I look forward to reading more stories about Jessie. I felt involved in the novel, entwined with the deeply troubled complex characters. The gripping climax was in my opinion perfect for the novel. I hope there is a lot more of Jessie to come. Well worth a read.

Edel Waugh

*When Dr Jessie Flynn is asked to help out on a case involving a child it quickly becomes a bigger more complex case than she first imagined. There is deep trauma here and it is up to her to win the trust of the four year old boy called Sami if she wants to help him. Not getting much information from his family she is struggling to know exactly what is causing this boy so much stress. This was a fascinating look into families who have family in the army, the stress and trauma, worry and life afterwards. I loved Jessie's character, she is brave and thorough, and really does care for those she comes into contact with through her work. **This case really pulls at her heart strings and I had a lump in my throat reading it.***

<http://edelwaugh.blogspot.ie/2016/03/fire-damage-by-kate-medina-review.html?m=1>