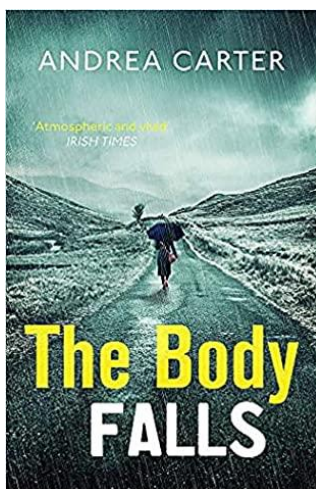


The body falls by Andrea Carter

Reviewed by Pat



Ben returns to Glencara from a six month working sabbatical in Florida to find the town overrun with cyclists at the start of a charity run. The run doesn't get started as the weather takes a bad turn and storms and flooding cut the town off. That evening the local vet is out on a call when a body hits her jeep. The body is Bob Jameson, organiser of the charity bike run and man of many secrets and enemies, presumed murdered by a snake bite.

I thoroughly enjoyed *The Body Falls* which is an easy read with a good mystery attached. I loved the anarchy of a body rolling down a hill and hitting a vehicle, most unusual and attention grabbing and then the snake. The scene is finally set by the weather conditions, torrential rain and flooding.

Bob Jameson is an extremely unpleasant man and it would appear that many people in town for the cycle race would have reason to kill him. As the secrets are gradually revealed it seems that nobody mourns him and some go as far as to applaud the killer.

This is a novel about people which is engrossing. With the storm there is no forensic investigation so it's all about talking, information gathering and deduction. The characters are well drawn and believable, if a little helpless and cowered. Ben and her friends are their usual nosy selves and this gives the novel a warm and homely feel.

The storm and its effects pervade the novel, cutting the town off and making them self-reliant. It can't help but feel normal almost in these times of quarantine. It can't be anything but accidental, but it certainly feels relevant.

This is a good read that I have no hesitation in recommending.

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