



The Battersea Barricades

Jodi Taylor

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It's not easy being a rebel.

So many new skills to assimilate.

Never mind strategic planning, weapons expertise and the like - there's bicycle-stealing, oil-stain removal and boat steering to be mastered first.

And quickly.

It's the time of the Civil Uprisings and two young women set out to make a difference.

Their only problem?

They don't know where they are.

Or where they're going.

Or what to do when they get there.

Other than that ...

Fans of St Mary's will enjoy this glimpse into the past of some of their favourite characters.

The Battersea Barricades Details

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From Reader Review The Battersea Barricades for online ebook

Michelle Watson Forbes says

Another wonderful, sad but uplifting story.

Nicole says

The Battersea Barricades is a short story from the St Chronicles of St Mary's series by Jodi Taylor. The short stories tell tales that don't make it to the books but help fill in gaps and explain events that are only ever mentioned in the main books

The earlier books have always hinted that Mrs Mack (Head of Kitchens) Mrs Shaw (Dr Peterson's Assistant) and Mrs Enderby (Head of Wardrobe) played a considerable roles at the Battersea Barricades, an uprising of the people, but until now the story has not been told. This short story fills in the events of that turbulent period and finally lets us see what we have always suspected..that these stalwarts of St Mary's are magnificent and St Mary's would not be able to cope without them.

Bram says

This short story s surprisingly good as it narrates the events at the Battersea Barricades through the eyes of the heads of Wardrobe and the kitchen and Peterson's assistant. The Writing was excellent, as I've come to expect from Jodi Taylor, and the humor was spot on as usual.

Great read!

Richard Derus says

Rating: 5* of five

Yep, full five. The story of the Battersea Barricades is designed to make old people mist up. It did me.

On this series bus or not, this is a story that's relevant to this moment in time and to the entire Chronicles of St Mary's. It's a lot less story than I suspect you little twidgees under 50 are expecting but it's not one whit less moving for that. Read. Now.

C'mon! It's only 99¢ and what better moment, globally, can there be to read a tale of resisting illegitimate authority?!

Bradley says

In this case, for our intrepid STAFF of St. Mary's of the time-traveling historian crew, we get a very cool

interview telling us of a Future History that happens in our future but just before the inception of the Crazy Historian Crew. :)

Confused? Don't be. It's basically a great tale of England tearing itself apart and seeing the downtrodden people rise up against others with guns. Or in this case, a scary black helicopter. :) Very fulfilling. Oh, and amusing, too, with all the stealing of bikes. :)

Go England! (of the future.) ;)

Sydney Young says

I'm not much a fan of epistolary style and while this isn't letters it is a remembrance so it's harder for me to get into. Still, great heart in the end.

Ken says

History filled in

Jodi Taylor's latest release is a tidy short story about a future Civil Uprising in Britain begun as a Constitutional Crisis. It tells us a tale she's mentioned in her Time Travel novels, about how three of St. Mary's staff manned the Battersea Barricades in the last Battle of Britain's Civil War, or uprising. It's a nice little story that fills in many gaps in the Chronicles of St. Mary's.

Here in the U.S. we've been facing our own Constitutional Crisis everyday since our latest leader was fraudulently elected. I say fraudulently because it was influenced by forces both outside (FBI) and foreign (Russia), and in Russia's case, illegal. These influences along with Electoral Apathy allowed an inept person to win my nation's highest office. Since taking Office he's curtailed basic Civil Rights and rolled back various protections that were placed by prior President's. He favors the wealthy and disregards the safety nets in place to guarantee there will be no starvation among the poor. He's also been trying to remove Health insurance from millions. It's a sad situation as millions have marched against his protectionist and Civil Rights policies.

If things get worse, more and more actions of Civil Disobedience will occur. Even now, the Electorate is fed up. There are predictions and indicators that this year's Midterm Elections will be have huge numbers of eligible voters voting, giving their feedback on the current situation in Washington. From this will come stricter Ethics Regulations for those serving our Government, and more guarantees of Civil Rights for minorities. They'll do this while Congress removes our Nation's unfit leader. Look, I don't know about you, but having a narcissist misogynistic psychological liar as our leader frightens me from the tips of my toes to the hair on my scalp. There will be no electoral apathy this time around. People have realized that if they want a say, they need to vote.

I'm writing about this because this is something Ms. Taylor brings up - Constitutional Crises, Degradation of Civil Rights, and America's Protectionist and Isolationist policies. She's mentioned a number of times about not knowing what's going on in America because it became isolated from the World. I'm guessing she's concerned for her native Britain as it approaches full separation from the European Union. I'm sure she's dreaming about how Sir Winston Churchill must be rolling in his grave, especially since he said that there would be War again without the stability of a United Europe/European Union.

Science Fiction, or Speculative Fiction has always had authors predicting our future. There are enough instances of authors writing about political situations like the ones currently happening here in America as well as in the United Kingdom. What will happen if our leader keeps dragging our Nation away from the rest of the globe? Only time and SF authors will tell us.

I do recommend this story to Fans of St. Mary's. It's not a time travel novel, it's just a short story about St. Mary's residents and their current history. You'll enjoy it, i certainly did (I cried too).

Marjolein says

Read all my reviews on <http://urlphantomhive.booklikes.com>

Having only just finished An Argumentation of Historians (the ninth book in the series), this short story was already published two weeks later. And it was completely not what I expected.

It is different from the rest in A) there is no 'investigating major/minor historical events in contemporary time' and B) the usual main characters almost play no role at all. Sure, Max is there drinking wine but not doing much more.

It was nice to have a background story for the supporting cast of the series, but it was a weird kind of story. As you might recall, Max travelled to a parallel dimension somewhere around book three/four (I honestly don't recall) and has been living since in a world with the Time Police. Some other things are also different, but just how different it was always difficult to tell because Max, and the reader by extension, is very ignorant of her surroundings and little important things like who is king/prime minister or what year it is. Tea, I can tell, is still plentiful, which is the only thing that counts.

So we are thrown into a civil war (simply called THE civil war for confusion) in this timeline, and while I would love to know more about this alternative reality, I would have liked to see some more introduction because sure, they were rebels of some kind. But that was about it. Now I left wondering about the details, and also if we will get more like this in the future.

Jacey says

Jodie Taylor is a buy-on-sight author for me, so I really enjoyed getting the backstory of Mrs Mack (St Mary's kitchen supremo), Mrs Enderby (wardrobe) and Mrs Shaw (admin) when they manned the Battersea Barricades during an unbelievable three weeks of revolution in Britain and began the downfall of a corrupt government. Oh, ladies, where are you when we need you?

Ariel says

A truly great world-builder has many untold stories up her sleeve. This is one that Jodi Taylor has often referred to and has now finally told. Most enjoyable.

Nicola Gregory says

Powerful

I have tears streaming down my cheeks, making it rather difficult to see the keyboard. This emotional reaction came purely from the final page and a half of one of the most powerful and compelling short stories in the Chronicles. It was the story we asked for, but maybe not the story we expected.

Marti says

I cried like a baby. I can't think of a greater accolade for an author.

Maria says

Too short ?But sweet. Anticipating the next 'proper' instalment from St Mary's mind...

Trish says

This was a little different as St. Mary's short stories go. This time, we didn't jump back in time with a pod but listened to Mrs. Enderby, Mrs. Shaw and Mrs. Mack while they told what had happened to them on St. George's Day (23rd April) all those years ago during the Civil War.

How they held up and held themselves is what prompted Dr. Bairstow to invite them to become a part of St. Mary's after all. Not to mention how Jodi Taylor often hints at the slightly different past of that England compared to ours so it was only right that these three ladies got the spotlight for once.

As usual, the story might be short but very well done, the action as well as the characterizations are done wonderfully as well and I would lie if I said I wasn't moved several times during the narration although the events were different from what I had expected after the hints in previous novels. But kind Dr. Bairstow making sure everyone got what they needed and deserved.

A great addition to the short story collection.

Sara says

Yet another wonderful St Mary's short story - and in my opinion one of the best in terms of simplicity and execution. This tale centres around the near distant future of Britain, one where the government has seized total control, and the resulting uprising.

We see Mrs Mack, Mrs Enderby and Mrs Shaw taking centre stage here - no longer sitting in the sidelines making fabulous costumes and cups of tea, but partaking in a full scale rebellion. And it's wonderful to have their back story fleshed out in such a brilliant way. It's very British, very bonkers, and totally within the spirit of St Mary's.
