



Flashpoint

Jill Shalvis

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Turn up the heat with Jill Shalvis's classic **Blaze**

Zach Thomas risks his life battling flames every day. But since sexy EMT Brooke O'Brian joined the crew, he can't resist playing with fire. Brooke is feisty, a little uptight... and sexy as hell. And as Zach soon discovers, she's definitely hot stuff between the sheets. Still, every firefighter knows that the hotter the blaze, the faster the action's over...

After the whirlwind ride Zach's been taking her on, Brooke is ready to do anything for this man—in and out of bed! But she knows footloose and fancy-free Zach doesn't do commitment. So she plans to build up a five-alarm fire between them. The kind he won't ever want to put out...

Flashpoint Details

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Author : Jill Shalvis

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From Reader Review Flashpoint for online ebook

Sarah says

I love fire fighter stories. This story is another great story that fills that need for the hero.

D.B. Reynolds says

A great love story with a gripping story thrown in. The sexual tension between Zach and Brooke sizzles off the page, and it's such a relief when they finally give in! Nobody does it better than Jill Shalvis.

Dina says

This book proves that you can tell a very good story with a somewhat limited number of pages. Well-drawn characters (the hero, the heroine *and* some interesting secondary characters) and compelling plot involving a series of suspected arson fires, what else do we need? Zach and Brooke got their HEA, but there were some things left unsolved in the arson investigation. I guess everything will be explained in **Flashback**, the next book in this miniseries.

Willow Brook says

3.5 stars. I'm not a big fan of Harlequins but gave this a try since I enjoyed Shalvis' Lucky Harbor books so much. This is the story of Zach a fireman and Brooke the EMT who takes a temporary assignment at his firehouse. Zach has issues with commitment after losing his parents at a young age and being on his own since he was 18. Brooke is in even worse shape after living a nomadic childhood and also being on her own from age 18. Unlike Zach who has close friends and livings in town where he grew up, Brooke has never stayed in one place for any length of time or held a permanent job. Nonetheless the two experience a powerful mutual attraction and eventually try to engage in a casual affair. I didn't really enjoy all the time the characters spent in their heads or talking to each other about why they could only have meaningless sex. Fortunately, there was an interesting subplot about an arsonist and a nice array of likable secondary characters for Brooke and Zach to interact with. So that kept the story moving, along with a remarkable number of fires for a small town even with an arsonist on the loose. But I think I'll stick to Shalvis' longer books for now.

Hollie says

60% DNF. I really tried but lord save me it was boring. There was no depth to the characters, the story line was contrived and it was just all so typical. Won't even try to read other stuff if this represents her writing style.

Dee says

Another well written, quick and easy read from Jill Shalvis. Anyone who likes Jill's style of writing will not be disappointed in this romantic story that has a bit of suspense.

Roxie says

Jill Shalvis has a way of creating great small town vibes with her hot guys. This book was no different. I don't care if it's a dorky Harlequin Blaze, it was hot!

Jan says

Was in the mood for something quick and steamy, and got myself a strangely sweet yet suspenseful romance story. A no roots heroine meets a no strings hero, and despite all their efforts they couldn't fight their very strong attraction.

I liked all the side-characters, and am actually looking forward to the sequel, because I don't think they got the right arsonist.

So I didn't find what I was looking for, but I got that lovey dovey romance novel feeling anyway, so I'm satisfied.

Tracy says

Firefighter Zach Thomas felt the sort of attraction to New Hire Number Seven (also known as EMT Brooke O'Brian), that sparks blazes, and getting the buttoned up beauty to loosen up a little becomes his goal when he's between fires calls. A pretty young woman in town for a six week duty before she moves on seems perfect for the no-strings-allowed Zach. And that thought sticks with him...right up until he gets his first taste of Brooke and realizes with startling, sinking clarity that there's no way that one time only will be enough to put out his fire for her.

In town to settle and sell her recently deceased grandmother's house, footloose and rootless Brooke feels an instant connection to the house and the town of Santa Rey, California, and her first sight of the mouthwatering Zach Thomas leaves her hungry for more. It's not until Brooke finally lets her hair down with the sexy Zach, though, that she realizes that despite the one time only assurance she got from him, the conflagration between them is anything but contained, and for the first time the thought of leaving a town...leaves her cold.

As a serial arsonist ups the stakes and town politics keeps Zach from the investigation, the relationship between he and Brooke starts to burn out of control. If they're not careful, the next fire could flash over them both, leaving their hearts scorched and their lives forever charred in its aftermath.

Hot, fast, and sexy, this Harlequin Blaze by Jill Shalvis burns up the pages, but beneath the heat and the delicious chemistry is enough depth and character definition to satisfy me more than I was anticipating. Zach

and Brooke were great together, and despite the shorter length Blaze novel, they were given enough backstory and development to be realistic and sympathetic.

I appreciated the arsonist plot thread, which added a nice layer of suspense, added a pleasant amount of pressure and conflict, and gave the story some balance. It was well conceived and developed nicely as the book progressed. That, along with a few ancillary plot threads surrounding secondary characters added much to this fiery little gem and made it far more robust.

I did feel the ending was a little abrupt and there sure were a lot of plot threads left dangling. I hadn't realized when I first read it that there is a follow-up book by Shalvis, *Flashback* (American Heroes #2), that picks up where this one left off, more or less, and features Zach's partner Aidan as the lead male character. Hopefully there are some answers to the many questions that were raised in *Flashpoint* (American Heroes #1), because while the romance between Zach and Brooke felt complete, the subplot of the arsonist definitely did not.

There was also quite a bit of repetition in the narrative concerning Brooke's feelings about her grandmother's house and the town. Her previous rootlessness and current growing attachment to the house, the burgeoning feeling of belonging, and the too-oft repeated fact that she's leaving at the end of the job (and we all know what that means) seemed to be on an endless loop that started to become distracting well before the midway point.

The sexual tension between Zach and Brooke, on the other hand, was exquisite as it was slowly brought to a boil and poured out over the pages with steamy intensity. I loved that aspect of the book, and was impressed by Shalvis' ability to stoke the fire, keep it hot and tense, and follow it to its natural, incendiary conclusion without once slipping. Zach and Brooke were total scorching reaching enjoyment for that reason alone. I enjoyed them, and look forward to seeing what Aidan has to offer when it's his turn.

~*~*~*~

Reviewed for One Good Book Deserves Another.

Sommerny says

I had to choose a super thin and light book to take on the west coast trail. So, I chose a harlequin novel about a hot firefighter - haha! Come on, admit it, who wants to borrow it???

Laura says

HOT, HOT, HOT.

Zach doesn't do relationships. Brooke doesn't stick around long enough to have relationships. He's a firefighter, she's an EMT and when they meet, sparks fly!

In between all the sparks between Zach and Brooke, more is going on...there is an arsonist setting fires all over town and Zach wants to find out who and why no one seems to be investigating.

This is a one hot little book...the chemistry and sex is spectacular. The story leaves a few things open and you need to follow up this book with *Flashback* (Aiden's story) and *Heating Up the Holidays* (Dustin and Cristina) to get the whole story.

Cathy Egan says

Good read

Jill Shalvis creates characters that are so real, it's amazing!!! This story is the first of two books. I read them backwards, so I already knew a lot of the events that were gonna happen, but it didn't stop me from getting wrapped up in the story. Zach and Brooke are a great pair. Loved their story!!!

Brianna (The Book Vixen) says

Why I Read this Book: A romance with firefighters? No further enticing needed. (Yeah, I'm that easy.)

What I Liked: Brooke and Zach both try to tell themselves that they're not looking for anything serious. I enjoyed watching them suffer and fail at trying to keep their relationship anything but serious. I'm evil, I realize this.

Love how close the crew are. They feel totally at home with one another and nothing is off limits when it comes to conversation topics. And there are no secrets in that firehouse.

I liked the secondary characters as much as the leads. Cristina was a great secondary character, probably my favorite if I had to pick. She's blunt and says exactly what's on her mind. Her mouth doesn't have a filter. Love the potential romance between her and another crew member.

What I Didn't Like: The sex on the rocks scene was a bit distracting, and not in the way you're probably thinking. I kept thinking of the logistics (rough, hard rocks can't be too comfortable) and it took me away from the story.

Didn't like the Anna Nicole Smith reference.

Brooke's last name is spelled wrong in the synopsis – on the back of the book and everywhere else online, including the publisher's website. Not sure how this was not caught. (Yes, I noticed the weirdest things when it comes to books. I'm quirky like that.)

Memorable Moment:

"This. This is why I like to alienate people. Goddamn it, you made me forget to alienate him and now I care!"

Overall Impression: *Flashpoint* was a fun contemporary romance novel with a touch of mystery and suspense. I definitely want to read *Flashback*, the second book in this series, but I'm sad that there's only 2 books (and a short story) in this series.

Emily Higgins says

Brooke is a temporary EMT at a fire station in Santa Rey, CA. She is used to moving around and plans to move on when this job ends in 6 weeks. Until she met Zack, a firefighter in the same station. Brooke begins to rethink her plan for her life.

Shawna says

4 stars – Romantic Suspense

I sort of messed up by reading the second book, **Flashback**, in this HQ Blaze series before this one, but I still enjoyed them both immensely. I mean, with a hot-as-sin firefighter hero, a spunky EMT heroine, intriguing and well-developed main and secondary characters, spicy dialogue, verry steamy romance, a dose of suspense involving an arsonist plot thrown in, terrific writing by Shalvis, and a great HEA, and all that within a 224 page quick read, what's not to love?

Both **Flashpoint** and **Flashback** are guaranteed to burn you up, so if you like sexy firefighters, sizzling romance, and great suspense, do yourself a favor and pick up these 'Blazing' hot reads! 4 stars!

For reference, here is the correct series order:

Flashpoint

Flashback

Heating Up The Holidays
