

She Tumbled Down, a short story

Logline: The ripple effects of a hit-and-run weave through the lives of seemingly disparate characters over years and events, ultimately linking them in tragic and unexpected ways.

Short synopsis (107 words):

New Year's Eve. A woman steps out from a party to clear her head. She calls out that she'll be back shortly and heads down the quiet neighborhood street... and never comes back.

A man with too much to drink roars by in a flash of motion and is stunned when the face of a startled woman smashes into his windshield. The car stops and he shakes in silence, waiting. But no one approaches, no cars go by, and no lights flicker on. He makes the unfathomable decision to drive away and never look back... leading to ripple effects that connect seemingly disparate characters in unexpected ways.

Longer synopsis (245 words):

New Year's Eve. It's late, well past the midnight hour. A woman looking for respite from noise, champagne, and tensions with her boyfriend steps out to clear her head. She calls out that she'll be back shortly and heads down the quiet neighborhood street... and never comes back.

A man who's had too much to drink, driving too fast a car, roars by on that same darkened road and, in a flash of motion and impact, is stunned to see the face of a startled woman smash into his windshield. When the car stops he shakes in silence, waiting for... something. But when no one approaches, no cars go by and no inquiring lights flicker on, fear and panic take over and he makes the unfathomable decision to drive away... and never look back.

"She Tumbled Down," a short story by longtime Huffington Post contributor and author (After The Sucker Punch, Hysterical Love), Lorraine Devon Wilke, follows the ripple effects of this tragic hit-and-run, attempting to answer that unanswerable question, "Who could do such a thing?" From that first fateful moment through the months and years that follow, the narrative weaves through the lives of seemingly disparate characters, threading the initial event into another story, a love story, that ultimately links to the tragedy in unexpected ways. "I was hoping against hope that what happened at the story's climax wasn't going to happen, but it did happen, and I am still feeling the effects now."

She Tumbled Down highlights:

• **Review excerpt by Ali Levitt @ A Woman's Wisdom, Book Blog for Lovers of the Written Word:**

"This short story of just 7300 words is more than a little sinister as Lorraine Devon Wilke weaves two storylines together to a conclusion which leaves real moral connotations in its

wake... Although it gave me a chill, it is something many people can relate to – making that split decision which changes your future forever and from which you may never recover. Haunting and vital.”

• **Review excerpt by Carol Moye @ Compelled To Write Book Blog:**

“This is a very well written story of a terrible tragedy and how it affected so many lives. Lorraine Devon Wilke is an excellent writer. I finished the book in an hour or so, fully captivated-mentally and emotionally. I was really pulling for the characters. It was quite easy to understand the complexities involved.”

• **Review excerpt by Brenda Perlin @ Brooklyn & Bo Chronicles Blogspot:**

“She Tumbled Down pulls the reader in from the very first paragraph. The author has a fine gift of telling a story in a way that plays out in living color. There is an authentic life-force in her voice. Real heartfelt emotion that comes across as true as day. There is lightness and there is dark. The story travels around to both sides. As a reader I wanted, hoping to know everything would turn out okay but guessing it would not. I was left to guess as I read at a feverish pace.”