



## Key Witness

*Sandra Bolton*

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Heading west for the serene deserts of New Mexico with his three-legged dog, Patch, Abe Freeman hopes to escape the memories of his girlfriend's lost battle with cancer. He expects his cross-country journey to be healing, not life-threatening. And he definitely doesn't plan to wind up as the main suspect when a drifter he meets along the way, Easy Jackson, gets murdered.

When Abe's lost knife turns up at the crime scene and Easy's key appears in Abe's backpack, Abe finds himself hunted by the police, biker gangs, and drug dealers, all of whom are determined to get their hands on that key. Caught up in the violence, Abe becomes desperate to prove his innocence. With help from Navajo police officer Emily Etcitty, he just might survive...and his heart just might find another reason to keep on beating.

## Key Witness Details

Date : Published March 31st 2015 by Thomas & Mercer (first published March 6th 2014)

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Author : Sandra Bolton

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Genre : Mystery, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Adult

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## From Reader Review Key Witness for online ebook

### Christopher says

Picked this book up in Raton, NM while waiting on the train to arrive. Found out from the store owner that the book was written by a local author. The book was also recommended by people in the store as well. Well written book that moves quickly and is an enjoyable read.

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### Carole Sullivan says

#### Not bad

I had low expectations but wanted a mystery/cop procedural. I like to read books about NM and Navajo country. This series is ok. Emily Etcitty was not the real protagonist. A cast of interesting characters and good location descriptions .

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### Marilyn says

#### Good

the story line was well written.the lives of many different law enforcement were involved and the mof and gangs were so at war.

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### Ren nerdychampagne says

Hold on, I'm \*eating\*.

EDIT: I have no idea why I didn't come back to write my review.

*I received a copy of this book in exchange of an honest review*

**4.5/5**

This is the kind of book I would definitely shelf as *Adventure*

I love the characters - especially the diversity.

Abe was slightly stupid at some points but likeable.

The plot was great and it went in a steady pace. It was the kind of plot that was not predictable but not unexpected either. It travels the line in between.

The romance was cute but the way it took turns and twists were a bit saddening.

Aside from the characters, I love the setting too. Most of the time, I don't care much about the setting but Bolton has that kind of writing that pays attention to details which is captivating.

Overall, Key Witness is a bundle of adventure, thrill, diversity, and a little dash of romance. It went on a good pace and had great writing.

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### **Glenna Eaton says**

#### **Mystery and suspense in every chapter**

A New Jersey musician and a native American police officer join forces to solve a murder. Sandra Bolton does an excellent job intertwining two cultures in the easy read novel.

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### **Jennifer says**

I picked up this book from the "new" shelf at the library and decided to read it because 1) it had a 3 legged dog, Patch; 2) it's a mystery; and 3) it was based in the Southwest. Unfortunately, the story fell flat for me. The characters and plot were not engaging or interesting. It was boring and I ended up skimming the last part because it just couldn't hold my interest and I found I wasn't paying attention. The descriptions of the Navajo life and Native American culture was interesting, but overall I didn't like the story.

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### **Kym Hamer says**

After his wife's death, Abe Freeman sets off for goodness knows where with his 3-legged dog, Patch and ends up being held on suspicion of murder. This is where he meets Navajo police officer Emily Etcity and together they solve the crime - and the mystery of the key - and clear his name. It didn't grip me or hold me in its thrall but this is still an easy and enjoyable enough read if you are not looking for anything too taxing.

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### **Janice says**

3.5 stars, rounded up. Overall, a good story, set in New Mexico, mostly in the 4 corners area, but also some in the southwest portion of the state, in the Gila area.

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### **Dlora says**

Joe Freeman is drifting with his three-legged dog Patch, haunted by the loss of his girlfriend to cancer. Unfortunately, at a rest stop he gets mixed up into a major fracas involving the Mexican Mafia, the Aryan Brotherhood, not to mention being suspected of murder for a while--after all his knife was the murder weapon. Navajo police officer, Emily Etcity, suspects him, then helps him, and is exasperated with him. I very much liked the descriptions of the solitary Navajo life, their rich culture, and the beauty of the Southwest. In a way, this novel is reminiscent of the Tony Hillerman series, sharing the same locale and populace. The characters and the setting deserve more than two stars, but the overall storyline didn't make

the grade.

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## A Reader's Heaven says

(I received a free copy of this book from Net Galley in exchange for an honest review.)

*Heading west for the serene deserts of New Mexico with his three-legged dog, Patch, Abe Freeman hopes to escape the memories of his girlfriend's lost battle with cancer. He expects his cross-country journey to be healing, not life-threatening. And he definitely doesn't plan to wind up as the main suspect when a drifter he meets along the way, Easy Jackson, gets murdered.*

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\*2.5 stars\*

I sadly didn't connect with this story.

It started out very promising with some interesting twists and turns from the very beginning...but by the time I got to the halfway mark, I just couldn't find a reason to persist with a story that just meandered along, seemingly just waiting for the ending.

The other side of this is that I can see why people liked/loved this book. I can see that the writing style is easy to read and that the three-legged dog, Patch, appealed to some people.

I just wasn't one of them.

Paul  
ARH

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## Gopal says

Courtesy of NetGalley, publishers Amazon Publishing, Thomas & Mercer and author Sandra Bolton. Many thanks for making the advance copy of this book available to me at my request in exchange for an honest and unbiased review.

Key Witness is a murder mystery investigation involving multiple stakeholders, the Italian Mafia, the Mexican Mafia, the Aryan Brotherhood prison gang and a few others thrown in to make it a complete pot pouri.

As a murder mystery cum chase I would rate it just about 3. But what pushes the rating up 1 more star is the background scenes. The book is mainly based in the Navajo Nation. The author does an incredible job of

describing and bringing the haunting landscape to life.

You experience the land through the eyes of the newbie in this case the protagonist Abe Freeman, who has embarked on a road trip to find himself after losing his girlfriend to cancer. He gets mixed up in a murder of a fellow drifter he chances across overnight and subsequently becomes a *Key Witness* in the whodunit.

Brought in by the female protagonist of the story Emily Etcity, he has to stay in the state so that he can give witness when required. Emily is a Navajo and she takes him on board to keep him out of the way.

The Native American landscape is drawn in haunting beauty and through the various characters living on the land, you can feel the pride, the sense of attachment and the love that they have for the land.

The connect and respect that the tribe people and their ways of life give a very profound and powerful message of communing with Nature in a world shadowed by consumerism.

IMO that lifted the quality of the book from *Like to Love*.

The ending leaves a unconcluded story of Abe Freeman, the murder mystery is solved, but Abe Freeman is still on the road to self discovery and he needs to find himself first and then deal with the relationship that he has with Emily and her family.

The book deserves a sequel. We deserve to see the story of Abe Freeman played out to the end.

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### **Malinda says**

I am not big on mystery novels at all, however, Bolton caught my attention with *Key Witness*. Once I started reading it the more enthralled I became. This was an interesting book, and although it was hard to see a realness at times, I couldn't put it down. The character development is amazing! Skillful and engaging. Sandra paints a fantabulous picture with her words that you can almost touch. The landscape, people, etc. All executed to near perfection. The story seemed to be well thought out and was well written. I like how she brought in some of the Navajo culture and Southwestern flavor which added to the intrigue of the story. I would recommend this book to anyone who likes adventure, love and intrigue. I'm looking forward to reading more from Bolton.

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### **David C. Kempf says**

#### **Good read. Hard to put down!**

Always enjoy a tale that moves quickly from one scene to next. As much about human nature as anything. Who are we? And why are we here. Where will our journey take us.

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### **Glenna says**

A Jewish musician from New York, a female cop with the Navajo Tribal Police, her unemployed, alcoholic,

gay brother; a three-legged dog named Patch, and a "skinny, gray haired" nurse named Sally who boasts she can "shoot the short hairs off a pig's balls blindfolded." These are the main characters of Sandra Bolton's latest mystery, "Key Witness: A Southwest Mystery," who inadvertently become entangled with the Aryan Brotherhood and the Mexican Mafia. Not since Tony Hillerman have we seen a writer portray so well the stark beauty of the Southwest and the solitary lives of the Navajo, all woven onto a background of suspense and violence. I loved these characters and hope to see them again!

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### **Cheryl says**

Fantastical storyline; a fun read

I thoroughly enjoyed this jaunt through the Southwest with Jewish pianist Abe Freeman and his three legged dog, Patch. Abe is running from dark memories in his past in New Jersey, driving west, doing odd jobs. He stops at a campsite in New Mexico and ends up sharing a joint with a drifter - who ends up dead. And evidence points to Abe being the killer.

Thus starts a convoluted story that has Abe meeting a Navajo Nation policewoman, members of the Aryan brotherhood, the Mexican Mafia and more.

I enjoyed author Bolton's style of writing and especially enjoyed the descriptive passages about the Southwest. The background on the Navaho - the Dinétah - was enlightening too.

Some of the story seemed "out there" but then this is fiction and I just enjoyed the characters, the settings, and the fantastical storyline.

I hope there will be a sequel one of these days so I can catch up on Abe and Patch.

Earlier reviews mentioned some editing problems. The book has been revised recently and I didn't notice any typos or editing issues.

NOTE: I received a copy of this book from Thomas & Mercer through Net Galley in exchange for my honest review.

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