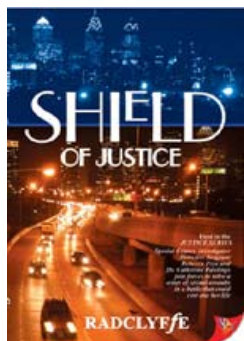


Book Review: Fall/Winter 2005

by Lynne Jamneck (reviewer at [L-Word Literature](#))



Shield of Justice

Radclyffe

ISBN: 1-933110-19-8

Trade paper, 224 pp, \$15.95

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Lesbian Romance/Mystery

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Special Crimes Unit Investigator Detective Sergeant Rebecca Frye (what a sexy mouthful) is trying to solve a string of sexual assaults, and coming up with no leads fast. The only witness that might be able to help assist her in the case, one Janet Ryan, is in hospital after being attacked herself. Problem is, Ryan might possibly be psychologically unstable and is apparently suffering from a case of amnesia.

Enter Psychiatrist Dr. Catherine Rawlings, Sergeant Frye's connection to Janet Ryan. While Catherine is hesitant to talk to the detective about Ryan, she feels an almost instant connection and attraction to Rebecca. Both women are reluctant to show their feelings, as the complexity of the case and the blurring of professional boundaries puts them both in difficult situations.

Rebecca Frye is our favorite cop in all her full glory—she hides her emotions behind a tough exterior and cracks sarcasm like a champion as a defense against anyone who tries to penetrate the brick wall she's constructed around herself. She works well with her partner, Jeffrey Cruz, and both of them respect the other's way of doing things. Catherine Rawlings is coolly professional on the outside while her newly developed feelings for Detective Sergeant Frye starts to soften her resolve the more she spends time with the determined cop.

The characters in *Shield of Justice* are skillfully fashioned. The book is well-written and the narrative flows along effortlessly while the dialogue is lively and pleasing. Personally, I find Rebecca Frye and Catherine Rawlings two of the best characters (so far) in Radclyffe's canon. The attraction they feel for one another grows with the turn of every page and is, in the words (or word) of a very good friend of mine 'hotness.' I am most definitely looking forward to reading more.

If you're looking for a well-written police procedural make sure you get a copy of *Shield of Justice*. Most assuredly worth it.

-Lynne Jamneck, author of *Down the Rabbit Hole*

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