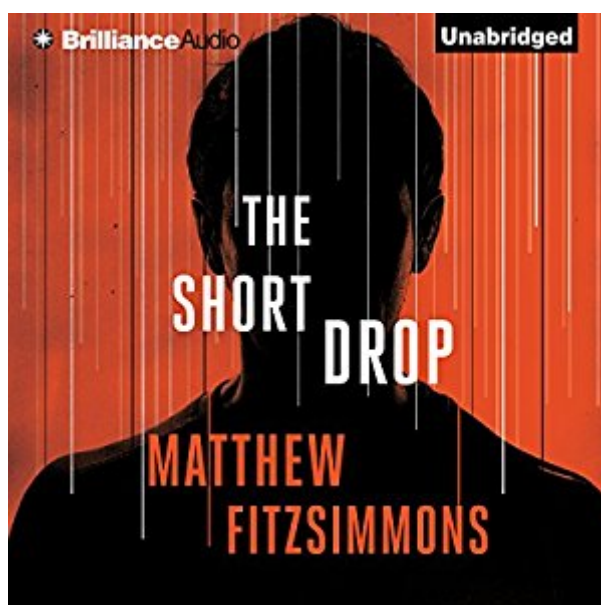


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# The Short Drop



## Synopsis

A decade ago, fourteen-year-old Suzanne Lombard, the daughter of Benjamin Lombard - then a senator, now a powerful vice president running for the presidency - disappeared in the most sensational missing-person case in the nation's history. Still unsolved, the mystery remains a national obsession. For legendary hacker and marine Gibson Vaughn, the case is personal - Suzanne Lombard had been like a sister to him. On the tenth anniversary of her disappearance, the former head of Benjamin Lombard's security asks for Gibson's help in a covert investigation of the case, with new evidence in hand. Haunted by tragic memories, he jumps at the chance to uncover what happened all those years ago. Using his military and technical prowess, he soon discovers multiple conspiracies surrounding the Lombard family - and he encounters powerful, ruthless political players who will do anything to silence him and his team. With new information surfacing that could threaten Lombard's bid for the presidency, Gibson must stay one step ahead as he navigates a dangerous web to get to the truth.

## Book Information

Audible Audio Edition

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Version: Unabridged

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Audible.com Release Date: December 1, 2015

Whispersync for Voice: Ready

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ASIN: B018ELZOGQ

Best Sellers Rank: #15 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Espionage #96 in Books > Audible Audiobooks > Mysteries & Thrillers > Suspense #160 in Books > Mystery, Thriller & Suspense > Thrillers & Suspense > Spies & Politics > Espionage

## Customer Reviews

I love when I find books outside of my usual genres of choice that I enjoy this much. I've found that thrillers, particularly those with a political bent, can be a little light on character development and a little heavy on the unbelievable-and-over-the-top plots. Not at all so with *The Short Drop*. The characters are well developed, complex and multi-faceted, flawed and susceptible to injury (both emotional and physical). The story and mystery build in that wonderful way that leaves you rooting

for their success, fearing for their safety, and generally feeling as though theyâ™re real people, having real experiences. I was equally invested in the outcome of the characters as the plot. Gritty, suspenseful and believable, I didnâ™t want (really couldnâ™t!) put it down. The ending is at once unexpected and darkly emotional. I felt like Iâ™d gotten a glimpse into a world I didnâ™t want to have to see and couldnâ™t look away from. All of this combined with good writing and great word usage make this a book Iâ™m likely to read more than once!

Wow! This is a book that you just can't put down once you start it. I read it in less than a day. I would not give away any of this thriller but you are truly taken on a roller coaster ride. One of the best thrillers I have read in a long time. I'm so glad offered it on Kindle First. I hope to see more from this author. Great read.

The Short Drop wrangles together what I would have considered a weird medley of plot themes - politics, unsolved crimes, and computer hacking. But, it all comes together fantastically.

FitzSimmons does an amazing job creating twists and turns that left me guessing from beginning to end, which I love. I really appreciated that FitzSimmons takes the time in the book to build the characters, give them a proper back story, and even made me feel very attached to some of them (including some of the more menacing antagonists of the book). Itâ™s hard to guess at the end of the book where Matthew FitzSimmons plans to take this new series, but I know that Iâ™m already ready to pick up the next Gibson Vaughn novel.

I really liked this book, but in all honesty, from the reviews, I expected it to take off more quickly. I really struggled with the first half of the book - it mostly felt like "background" to me. I wasn't sure I would finish it. But it was just good enough to keep my interest and I had the feeling it would get better. It did! So, all in all, it is worth the read - I only gave it 3 stars because (first of all, I'm a very hard grader) I didn't think the first half of the book rated more than a 2 - as I said, it was a slow starter for me. But I would give the second half of the book a 4 - because, when it picked up, it really got interesting and I zoomed through the second half of the book.

I picked this as my Kindle First book for November. Very happy with my choice. Good pacing, just enough twists, and a satisfying ending. Plus, just enough left hanging to have me looking for his next book.

Matt FitzSimmons does something unique and wonderful with the political thriller genre. His characters are so fully developed, so psychologically complex that you forget the labels, aware only that you are reading the work of an author who brings great literary talent to a compelling, suspenseful story. These are characters who will remain with you, expertly drawn by an author whose future novels are eagerly anticipated.

This was my Kindle First pick for November 2015. Excellent character development, very low cliché factor. The plot twists are believable and the ending makes sense. I am definitely looking forward to Mr. FitzSimmons' next work.

This book could have been great. It has a terrific plot and strong characters. What it needs is to be crisply edited for grammar, sentence structure, mini-plots that go nowhere, unnecessary characters. These are distracting and, often, confusing elements of the book. Again, I enjoyed your book but would love to read a tighter version of it.

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