



## From the Charred Remains

*Susanna Calkins*

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## **From the Charred Remains** Susanna Calkins

It's 1666 and the Great Fire has just decimated an already plague-ridden London. Lady's maid Lucy Champion, along with pretty much everyone else left standing, is doing her part to help the city clean up and recover. But their efforts come to a standstill when a couple of local boys stumble across a dead body that should have been burned up in the fire but miraculously remained intact—the body of a man who died not from the plague or the fire, but from the knife plunged into his chest.

Searching for a purpose now that there's no lady in the magistrate's household for her to wait on, Lucy has apprenticed herself to a printmaker. But she can't help but use her free time to help the local constable, and she quickly finds herself embroiled in the murder investigation. It will take all of her wits and charm, not to mention a strong stomach and a will of steel, if Lucy hopes to make it through alive herself, in *From the Charred Remains* by Susanna Calkins.

## **From the Charred Remains Details**

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Author : Susanna Calkins

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## **From Reader Review From the Charred Remains for online ebook**

### **Jean says**

Hurray for Susanna Calkins! Her second book presented a mystery that Agatha Christie would be envious of. It was not just one mystery but several! And add a little romance and you have a 5 star book! Loved it!

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### **LK says**

An excellent mystery set in London just following the Great Fire, and second featuring servant, sleuth, and budding true crime writer Lucy Champion. Lovers of historical mysteries will find Champion fine company for rainy afternoons.

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### **Lorene says**

I picked up this galley at the Macmillan booth at PLA. I really liked the first book and was excited to read the second one a bit early. You don't have to read the first book to like the second one, but I would recommend it for continuity of the characters and the setting. From the Charred Remains had even more going on than Murder at Rosamund's Gate. A lot of characters and their family members brought a lot of action to the story. I love Lucy Champion! She reminds me of Nancy Drew. I highly recommend both books.

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### **Louise Morris says**

Quite a good mystery story. Had trouble putting it down.

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### **Abra says**

Okay... I may read another if Susanna Calkins gets another published, but the painful anachronisms in the second of her Restoration England series are becoming more numerous. The feminist former chambermaid servant is now informally apprenticed to a full on publishing empire-in-a-box -- the author acknowledges that she combined several trades (and guilds) into one, 'to make the story more logical' or something like that. Thus, printers a) make their own ink; b) write their own copy; c) make their own paper; AND set up the frames and press the inked pages. Oh, and d) hawk the wares by singing the 'penny sheets'. I mean, that last part may have been part of a printer's devil's work.

Other howlers: use of "guy" as a casual reference to a person, only sixty years after the gunpowder plot. "Not so much," as a disclaimer. Drinking tea in England in a middle class (gentry, but not noble -- a magistrate's) house when it had only been introduced to Charles II's Portuguese queen the year before...

The mystery is so-so. There are two separate strands, or maybe even two and a half, which confused matters.

Another reviewer said the secondary characters were annoying -- Darius and Rhonda, the Earl of Cumberland and Jack and Tilly. I agree. And the thing of a young woman being spoiled for choice between two stalwart swains is tired.

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### **Alicia Riley says**

I'm disappointed with this book. What should of been fun historical fiction mystery set after the Great Fire in 1666 about servant name Lucy Champion helping to solve a murder instead turn about to be boring. I'm lucky to even get up to near page 160 before I gave up on this book.

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### **Debbie says**

Second in the Lucy Champion historical fiction series, set just after the Great London Fire of 1666. The story starts with the fire clean-up and with that, the challenges and opportunities many had to switch identities because of the lack of paperwork, burned, lost or just not available. Talk about identity theft - it was rampant!

Lucy is a strong, young woman, never fearful of taking on anyone, and although I think that type of character would have been very rare in that rough time period, I enjoyed the storyline.

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### **Aimee says**

Lucy Champion stumbles upon a grisly scene in the aftermath of the Great London Fire of 1666. A corpse has been discovered amid the rubble, strangely preserved, with a knife sticking out of its chest. When a bag of miscellaneous items turns up next to the corpse, Lucy's natural curiosity kicks in, and she can't resist using her connections and wit to assist Constable Duncan in solving this mystery. I liked this one well enough to go back and read the first in the series, and I look forward to more to come.

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### **Sharmaine Ceballos says**

Sorry I goofed up! Didn't mean to do a one star!

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### **Laura Lee says**

Second in a series. Liked as much as the first, tho I think the first should be read first to get full enjoyment of this book, as is the case of many series. Lucy is apprentice to a printer and gets involved in a murder committed before the Great London Fire. Has lots of twists and turns. There is still that romance between Lucy and Adam, but Adam better make up his mind! There is someone else interested in Lucy, too. She's smart and feisty and I enjoyed the book very much.



