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Firelight (Darkest London Book 1)



Synopsis

London, 1881 Once the flames are ignited . . . Miranda Ellis is a woman tormented. Plagued since birth by a strange and powerful gift, she has spent her entire life struggling to control her exceptional abilities. Yet one innocent but irreversible mistake has left her family's fortune decimated and forced her to wed London's most nefarious nobleman. They will burn for eternity . . . Lord Benjamin Archer is no ordinary man. Doomed to hide his disfigured face behind masks, Archer knows it's selfish to take Miranda as his bride. Yet he can't help being drawn to the flame-haired beauty whose touch sparks a passion he hasn't felt in a lifetime. When Archer is accused of a series of gruesome murders, he gives in to the beastly nature he has fought so hard to hide from the world. But the curse that haunts him cannot be denied. Now, to save his soul, Miranda will enter a world of dark magic and darker intrigue. For only she can see the man hiding behind the mask.

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Customer Reviews

4.5 STARS A stunning and scorching read, that thrills and hypnotizes, and will entice you with its hot and sexy romance. FIRELIGHT was a phenomenal read that I couldn't get enough of!! FIRELIGHT

was so different than anything I've ever read! I absolutely loved it! I'm new to the adult fantasy/paranormal romance world, but OMG, if I would of known before what I was missing, then I would of jumped head first into this genre along time ago, and read more of these fascinating worlds! This world was absolutely fascinating! I loved the dark and enchanting London society, where nothing or no one is what or whom they seem, and paranormals living in the shadows, plaguing all of London with danger and adventure around every turn! I've always been intrigued by the historical London Society intertwined with dark paranormal aspects. And Callihan does not hold back as she sets this world a blaze with her fierce and feisty character development, dark and dangerous magical atmosphere, and hot and sexy romance that could bring any girl to her knees. BRAVO Kristen Callihan, BRA-VO!! ;) But even with all it's glory and awesomeness, FIRELIGHT did have some flaws that were a little distracting. But nothing too much to make me drop my rating too far down. Because even with theses minor hiccups, this book was still so amazing and just as good as all my other 4.5 star reviews. I had trouble with the pacing and slowness that the plot progressed. And though I was still able to grasp this world easily and get quickly immersed, I would of liked a faster pace and quicker tone. I also wanted more paranormal aspects. I LOVED all the supernatural effects and angle this plot took, but if their would of been more, then this book would of been off the charts amazing. But even with the little taste we got, it was still fun and thrilling and I'm excited to see where the next book takes us, and hopefully it'll have a lot more paranormal aspects.

THE PLOT Miranda Ellis has lived a life of unwavering certainty that she is destined for failure. Since the night that solidified her ultimate doom, she has been plagued by the horrifying reality that she is different, that she scorches everything she touches, until all that is left is a miserable shell of a life that will never amount to anything. That is until she meets one man that will change her world forever... The night her untrained powers roused within to burn a path through her fathers fortune, and sentenced her family to a life of poverty, Miranda has lived with the guilt of the pain she's caused her family, and has vowed to compensate for her wrongs by turning to a life of crime, stealing from any dimwit stupid enough to look down her dress without a second thought. But the night she runs into a mysterious stranger stalking the shadows of her alley, he tries to protect her from two men trying to get a feel, but she saves herself only to turn on him and find the most alluring and tantalizing persona that she has ever be acquainted with. For once since the agonizing night she sent her world up in flames, turning everything to chaos and darkness, Miranda finally feels alive... Three years later Miranda is still torment by her horrific past and the murderous power that blazes with her fiery emotions. But nevertheless, she can't imagine her life possibly getting any worse than what it's already become. But when the terrifying Lord Benjamin Archer comes to call,

and wishes for Miranda's hand in marriage, she can't fathom why this rich Lord would want anything to do with her. Even if he is disfigured and feared by the whole London society, she still can't see why he would want her. But then her father makes a bargain and expects her to pay to bill with her hand in marriage to repay for the fortune she brought to flames with her erratic power that consumes all it touches. Miranda reluctantly agrees to sell her soul to the devil in order to leave the torment of her father and his life of crime behind! But when she walks into Lord Benjamin Archer's world, she expects to find the evil and violent man she's been told about. But instead she finds a man like no other, a man that can melt her soul with just one look. A man that treats her like the goddess she's never been. He is something out of a storybook, but he's keeping secrets, secrets that are dangerous and deadly, secrets that just may be her undoing. . . But then everything starts to slowly fall apart after her marriage to Archer. A dangerous killer is on the move, targeting nobles from the highest class of society. Leaving behind evidence and clues that point to her newly wed husband as the culprit. Even with no alibi and all the evidence stacking up against him, Miranda can't believe the man she's come to care for could be behind these gruesome murders. But as the murderer closes in, wanting to entice and allure her husband out, she wants answers, answers about the mask he hides behind, answers of who or what this murderer truly is, and why their determined to see her husband run to ruins. She has fallen for the man behind the mask, and she will stop at nothing to save him from the evil threatening to tear them apart, even if she has to save him from himself. . . FIRELIGHT was just epic, epic in so many ways! From it's fun and thrilling plot twist, to it's tormented characters, to their struggles and ambitions to overcome all that threatens them, to the dark and twisted paranormal aspects, to all the fun sex and hot romantic scenes that will make you go weak in the knees, FIRELIGHT will leave you breathless and demanding more from this dangerously exhilarating world!! Overall, FIRELIGHT is an exceptional read that is not to be missed! I loved everything about this world and all it's thrilling adventures it beholds. Kristen Callihan was dead on the mark when she created these characters and this world. I didn't find any lacking aspects about this world besides I would of liked a little more action and more paranormal aspects. But either way that didn't defer my love too much for this book, as it still gets a pretty epic rating from me with a 4.5 stars that left me utterly satisfied and eagerly craving more! So if you enjoy a London atmosphere, set in a historical paranormal world, with a gut twisting romance, and a murderer out for blood, with fierce characters determined to save the one they love, then FIRELIGHT is a must read you don't want to miss!!!

After seeing so many amazing reviews, I had very high expectations for this book. Perhaps because

I expected too much, but I didn't like it as much as I thought I would. Oh, it's a good and entertaining read, but it certainly didn't rock my world. It didn't satisfy my craving for historical romance, nor did it satisfy in the paranormal department. In the end, I wished I'd picked a book that hadn't decided to mix its genres. Miranda Ellis has the gift of fire, but because of this gift/curse, she accidentally destroyed her family's fortune and has been paying for it ever since. Miranda is your independent and strong heroine as in any romance novel, but it's the blurb that I find misleading. Miranda is in no way tormented, or plagued by the fire. In fact, her fire power is just a convenient plot device. The fire never actually plagues her. It's not even mentioned unless she's in danger or attempting to use it. At first, she can't control the fire, but by the end, she can suddenly control and call upon it. All of this is quite unbelievable and illogical. Overall, I was quite disappointed with how Miranda's power was handled throughout the story. I wished this element had been better integrated into the story instead of just thrown in whenever the author felt a need for it. As for our hero, I couldn't connect with him either. It's difficult to speak of Archer without discussing my problem with the general plot. So the author kept Archer's malady a secret until the end. The entire book is Miranda trying to discover Archer's secret, and thus solve the murder. Since I had no idea what was wrong with Archer, it's hard to feel sorry for him. Most of the time I thought he was just being melodramatic about his disfigurement. In addition, the mystery wasn't that interesting when the reader have no idea what's going on. In any good suspense, readers need clues to keep guessing and keep reading, but here, it's just one reveal after another with no way for the reader to be engaged in the mystery, so I didn't really care much for the murders. Also, another blurb mislead - when was Archer accused? Archer was not accused of the murders. No, the ton gossiped about him and he was interrogated, but he was not accused. Miranda and Archer's romance didn't wow me either. Archer sees Miranda once and decides to marry her. OK, I can accept that. I've read stranger situations. But I didn't really see them together much before real feelings started to develop. A lot of times it was narrated to us what Miranda and Archer did, but not shown. It's also annoying when Archer has 3 names for Miranda. Sometimes he calls her Miranda, other times Miranda Fair, and then Miri! Why can't you just stick to one nickname?? In addition, every time they exchange a few words, Archer feels the need to think about how much he loves Miranda's stubbornness and independence. Yes, she's a stereotypical romance heroine. You don't have to point it out every time she talks. However, regardless of my complaints, there're definitely sweet and funny moments between the couple that made me smile. I enjoyed seeing them together even at times their romance aggravated me. My favorite part of the book is definitely the ending. When authors save the big reveal at the end, I'm usually disappointed, but not in this case. I would've never in 100 years guessed what was wrong with Archer. It's

definitely not what I expected!! The entire story was a bit confusing and the explanation kind of difficult for me to accept, but I still really liked it. This is the point where Miranda and Archer's love for each other really shown through. It was heartbreaking! I went back and read that chapter against just because I loved it so much!! Kudos Ms. Kallihan for writing such an awesome scene! While the book fell short of my expectations, I still enjoyed it. I'd recommend it if you like your romance with a dark and gritty feel to it, but be ready to be confused through the book, as I was. I will read the next book just because I like Ian a bit more than Archer. See more review @ [Darkest Addictions Book Reviews]

Miranda is a strong heroine who refuses to leave Archer's side, no matter what he tries to do to keep her away. Archer is nothing if not protective, so these two come to blows a few times because of their different perspectives. The banter between these two is just a simple layer to this story as a whole. I found the thought and effort that obviously went into this book to be absolutely breathtaking. This story was so complex and well-written that I fell in love with the characters and the fight of good against evil. As always, Callihan doesn't fail to impress me- no matter what kind of story she is spinning!

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