



Dark Stars

C.S. Quinn

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The Great Fire has reduced London to smouldering embers. From the ashes, thief taker Charlie Tuesday is drawn to investigate a string of strange murders. Mutilated corpses are washing up at Deptford, each marked with a dire astrological prediction. But only London's best crime-solver realises the killer's deadly offerings will soon unleash a devastating force on England.

With the help of Lily Boswell, a gypsy street-girl with a knife and a grudge, Charlie must find the killer and put a stop to the murders. And by doing so, the Thief Taker will find the man whose terrible destiny is entwined with his, their fates written in the dark stars...

This is the third book in the Thief Taker Series but can be enjoyed as a stand-alone story.

Dark Stars Details

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Author : C.S. Quinn

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From Reader Review Dark Stars for online ebook

Andrea Durak says

Excellent series

This book is 3rd in series of an excellent trio. Well written with intrigue and mystery and kept me turning pages.

Scott Southam says

Love this series. Spoilt unfortunately by the narrator. His female voice just sounds like a bad drag act.

Wayne says

This had similar issues to those I found in the previous book of spending lots of time away from the main character to develop the story, but it seemed to work better here - maybe because those side characters are becoming more familiar.

Charlie is the main draw for this series though, so I still feel it hard to find a rhythm, getting less enjoyment from the chapters without him.

I could see the big twist coming a mile off, but it still ended well.

Melisende d'Outremer says

Read (or savoured) slowly over the course of my working week.

Franca Pelaccia says

Taker series, which brings together Charlie Tuesday, infamous thief taker and crime solver and Lily Boswell, a gypsy with street smarts and knife-wielding skills. Women's corpses that have been mutilated and carved with numerous astrological signs are being found floating in the Thames. The bodies and signs are similar to those discovered 19 years before but the person responsible is dead. Charlie and Lily are drawn into solving the murders but end up uncovering a far greater mystery that has bearing on Charlie's ambiguous past and significant implications for the future of the country.

The novel is fast-paced and runs on unearthing one clue after another, getting Charlie and Lily out of lots of dangers, and solving one piece of the mystery only to unfold a larger and more complicated one. An intricate plot and detail-oriented narrative brings the time and conditions to life and makes for an interesting read about astrology, Roman gods, underground passages, debilitated castles, pirates and sailor myths.

Dark Stars is a fun and rapid read that weaves together mystery and adventure with lots of interesting historical insights and vivid characters.

Reviewed for Historical Novels Society

Jeanette says

I have read the first two books in this series, but found myself struggling with 'Dark Stars'. I do enjoy historical fiction and it is unusual for me to struggle with this book. It may just be that I need to have a break from some very long reads. It would not stop me from reading more by this author.

I received a free copy of this novel. This is my honest review.

Daniel W Gard says

Great book

I read the first two books then began other books and forgot I hadn't finished this series. Glad I got back to it. Historical based stories are not always easy to navigate. These stories were fun and got my mind going back to the British Museum and all the seals and other royal stuff that reminds one of how they dressed in the mid 1600's. Plus how common people would have dressed. Let my imagination roll!

Jake Townson says

Good but overly relentless pace reminiscent of Dan Brown

I wish there was time for characters to sit down and have a chat, building the characters and world. Instead each chapter was tiny, like a movie scene, and the POV continuously switched preventing any strong character development.

Mr N Firth says

Enjoyable read

Third book in the series and they improve each time, the mystery of Charlies past woven within the story keeps you engaged to read the next book. The only thing missing is a description of the character's, I only seem to get hints of what they look like.

Ken Hines says

I love this great story in this wonderful series

I thought this book the best so far in this wonderful series. I gave it such a high rating because of the fast pace and the wonderful story. I loved finding out more about Charlie and his secret family history. Now we need to find out what the key around his neck goes to

BridgetT says

Skimmed through this one.
2** as with the the first two.
It was ok.

Attia says

A fast-paced read and okay if you can ignore the historical inaccuracies and just enjoy the story. I think there may still be another novel on the way however, as there were several loose ends.

Lacy Gonzales says

I really enjoyed the entire Thief Taker series by CS Quinn and hope there may be more in the future. This book was well paced, the dialog felt "right" and there weren't weird "coincidences" pulling the story along. I was guessing until the end what the identity of Janus was (I was down to two options). The book seems well researched although I'm not one to check exact facts or get hung up on some liberties with timelines. There were a couple of loose threads left that I would have liked to seen cleaned up but even though they weren't doesn't leave the story lacking and there is at least one protagonist that I would really like to see get their comeuppance but perhaps that will be in a future book.

Lisa says

Timeless.

There is something so compelling about this series, I fell in love with it when I read The Thief Taker and my enchantment has continued as the series has progressed.

Wonderfully atmospheric, with such a vividly descriptive narrative that transports you way back in time, you can almost smell and see the filth of the streets.

I can't wait to read the next book. I know without doubt that Quinn's magic will continue and Charlie Tuesday is in for more death defying adventure.

Harriet Brabazon says

This has the bones of a good story - good research, interesting plot potential but the characterisations are rather wooden, the narrative hops about, the time lines seem implausible and the prose verges on leaden. Not a bad read on the bus or the beach, but not one that sticks in the memory or you'd want to re-read.
