



Witch Fire

Laura Powell

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Lucas and Glory are hard at work in WICA (Witchkind Intelligence and Covert Affairs). As part of their training, they learn more about the witch-terrorist organization Endor. It is believed that Endor has infiltrated a boarding school for young witches in Switzerland, so WICA sends their two youngest agents—Lucas and Glory—to the school undercover. There, they learn more about an experimental brain implant that blocks the power of the fae. It's a dangerous procedure . . . more so than they could ever have imagined.

Witch Fire Details

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Author : Laura Powell

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From Reader Review Witch Fire for online ebook

Emma Bradshaw says

Just finished this. Even better than Burn Mark. Great character development and wonderful world building once again. Love Laura Powell's writing

Hannah Pike says

-SPOILERS INCLUDED-

I would rate this book 3.5 out of 5 stars

Witch Fire is the second installment in the Burn Mark series by Laura Powell.

This book follows Glory and Lucas as they deal with the challenges that are in front of them.

Both Glory and Lucas are in training for WICA, a government approved program for practising witches.

Lucas finds out more information about Glory's mother from the inquisition and both of them have been sent on another potentially dangerous undercover mission which involves enrolling at an elite boarding school for witches in Switzerland.

The second half of the book primarily takes place at the boarding school, following Glory and Lucas through social experiences, therapy sessions and many other lessons that they have to take part in within the boarding school.

After finding information based around a brain surgery that can remove witchcraft linked to someone that they know, they go looking around for answers.

After Glory finds out crucial information that Lucas was hiding from her, she leaves the boarding school.

The third half of the book shows Glory going away and Lucas being dragged back to London, the relationship between both is still strained.

Lucas decides to go after Glory to try and find her, Glory gets a job in a bar while living with her cousin.

Lucas tries to get her out of the bar and reason with her, but it doesn't work.

After she gets kidnapped, Lucas has no choice but to rescue her.

Glory and Lucas finally get together properly after all this time!!

Glory and her mother finally reunite!

This book is a lot better in comparison to the first, there was a lot more action and a lot more going on along with a lot of character development.

Jennifer says

Good and Interesting :)

Liz says

Actual rating: 4.5 stars.

Mizuki says

My review for the prequel: <https://www.goodreads.com/review/show...>

I think the story doesn't show me as much emotional tension and depth as with the first book, but it's always welcoming to see more of this alternative world with magic outside of just London. I think the characters are really the strong points of this story; with adults behave like adults, agents from the secret forces and gangsters act like they know how to do their jobs seriously and teenagers act believably like teenagers, what more can I ask for?

I am almost certain there should be a sequel and I'm looking forward for it.

Georgina Martin (Bookz and Bitz) says

For more reviews and giveaways go to George's bookz and bitz

This is book 2 in the series, do not read this review if you have yet to read Burn Mark, there WILL be spoilers

Wow. Breathe. Breathe some more. Blimey, Witch Fire is a definite roller-coaster.

It picks up a few months after Burn Mark with Glory and Lucas now working for WICA, their identities and fae still being kept secret from the world. Lucas' father has resigned but got another job high up in witch/human politics, and Glory and her father have left the Cooper St Coven and have been set up in a nice flat by WICA. But Lucas and Glory are bored, they expected to have mission after mission at WICA, but instead, to Glory's horror, they are in school. Glory struggles to fit in, she's seen as a wildcard and although she's proved her loyalty, it's still doubted, but she's only there to find out more about her mother, and so she keeps going. But what Glory doesn't know is that Lucas is about to be told the truth, her mother was an agent, but only because her family was threatened if she didn't help, by Lucas' father no less, she completed her mission, but then went back into Endor, apparently to find out more, but she was not seen again and so presumed to have turned.

Lucas is sworn to secrecy, there is no telling what Glory might do if she finds out her mother was forced to work for the agency, and besides, there is no time, the teens are sent off to a prestigious boarding school for teen witches, where Endor have been recruiting. Working under cover Lucas and Glory find out a lot more than they were bargaining for, and they set off on a journey that separates them, risks their friendship, and involves more than one face from the past.

Like I said. A roller-coaster. It really doesn't stop, the scene setting from the first book is gone, we know what it's about so it launches straight into it, with a little recap for those who've not read the prequel the day

before (like me!). But there is SO much, its two books really, all mashed into one.

Everything I liked about book one, is here, the character development is great, and Powell has stayed true to Glory, kept her roughness and her edges, which is great. Lucas is also struggling with everything, I like the fact that Powell's not suddenly made him a super witch who has no issues anymore. His relationship with his father is still one of my favorite parts, as I said in the review for book one, its nice to read a healthy, normal, teen-parent relationship. His father doesn't understand, but tries to, and tries to support Lucas, even when he doesn't think he's right.

There is so much to talk about, but I can't without putting in major spoilers, as the good bits are all tangled up in the plot. The return of a few past characters is handled well, and the new additions are interesting, adding new aspects to the story, and I hope to see more of them in future books. Overall a good read, only 4 rather than 4.5 stars because there is so much in there, I did feel like I might blink and miss something, the book could of done with being split into two (one half in the school, the other half for everything else), or made longer so we could have some rest between the excitement. Not a major moan, there is nothing there to moan about, had Burn Mark not existed then this would probably be a 4.5 or 5 star, but Powell has shot herself in the foot by writing such a great series opener.

ARC/Egalley kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for a fair and honest review.

Bookworm1858 says

Source: Received an e-ARC via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

Last year, I read Burn Mark, a tale of witchcraft set in an alternate version of our own contemporary world. In that book, posh Lucas and chavvy Glory discover their abilities and set out to negotiate what those changes mean for their lives in addition to battling a larger plot against witchkind. Some of the things I liked most about that book were both main characters, which seems to be rarely the case; its clever incorporation of magic into our world; and its London setting. I wasn't sure what to expect in this sequel but I knew I wanted to read it.

Both Lucas and Glory are struggling with exactly what their powers at their young age means. Lucas' father's ambitions are diverted while Glory's coven is in disarray with witch terrorism continuing. A lead from a posh school in Switzerland sends them off to South America to discover if it's possible to remove the witch from a person and to prevent more violence and chaos.

My favorite part by far was the section at the school. It's a school for (rich) young people whose powers have manifested but have so far escaped official notice from the government. They can hide out here and be safe from prying eyes. I am pretty obsessed with boarding school settings as well as just schools in general so it's probably not too surprising that this was the part I loved the most. Not that I didn't like the other parts, just this one seemed tailor made for me.

I felt like this book really deepened the characters of Glory and Lucas, the latter who is especially conflicted about his magical abilities whereas Glory is struggling with her legacy and her long gone mother. These characters are also still deeply sympathetic and fun-I still like both of them just about equally. They're teenagers who sometimes act above their years but at other times, fall prey to their emotions and vulnerabilities. They seem very realistic for living in such a fantastical world.

Overall, I think this is a very well-done series with excellent characters. I do hope there will be a third book to build a trilogy.

Cover: Got to love how it matches the first book!

Tina says

I liked this first book just a touch more than this one, but both stories were quite good. I hope there are more to come.

Sara Chowdhury says

I loved this book. It was amazing. So many feelings!!

Ally says

I didn't expect much from the sequel of Burn Mark. In fact, I wasn't expecting much of anything because of the low standards Burn Mark set.

But Witch Fire totally blew me away. I was amazed by how much the book improved. I loved it so much I reread it, savoring most of the pages. There's a lot of reasons why this book is the new and improved. (I'm going to do this by list, because I'm into listopias at this moment).

1) The romance. I love it. The pairing that we had always been waiting for happened! Finally, we see these two lovebirds come together. It's so cute that they are doubting each other, confused and lost. I can't wait for them to appear in the next book.

2) The plot. Now everything is so much clearer. Everything makes sense. Everything opens to reveal new beginnings, new expectations, and new possibilities for the sequel. And yes, there's a great chance that there will be a sequel. I'm definitely going to read the next book when it's, or if it will ever come out. Oh yeah, btw, the book goes a bit faster than last time.

3) The characters. They act and react to one another so well. I love how Lucas knows Glory very much. (Notice I said knows, not like. Cause some of you guys love to mistakenly misread words). Lucas plays the part of a smart, intelligent, and handsome young man while Glory plays a girl who doesn't care about anything in life. But put those guys together in the bushes and you get a full out war, especially if they are undercover on an assignment.

4) Laura Powell's writing significantly improved. It's very attractive and gives Witch Fire the appearance of a well-written book.

With all these new standards and expectations, the sequel to Witch Fire needs to be even better than Witch Fire and Burn Mark. I really hope Powell doesn't screw up on the next book.

Rating: Four out of Five

-ofpaperandwords.blogspot.com

a_tiffyfit says

What if the witches of the 1600s persecutions were real and they had proliferated and became part of our society? That is what this novel's premise is based on. And this proliferation isn't just in the United States near Salem, but all over the world. Although it is accepted that there are witches in the world, registration is demanded and required by government. Some protest against this bias and go rogue to fight back. Some in protest resort to minor but strong and well-formed criminal groups. When these criminal witches are caught and prosecuted, their punishment, at the worst, is to be burned alive. Although "numbed" from the pain, they are conscious and aware of their flesh burning. *shudders*

Glory and Lucas, both born witches, have joined WICA. Sent undercover to the school in Switzerland, Glory learns the truth about her mom's involvement in what they had said she did, and her disappearance after the accusations. Glory's only memories of her mom consist of an old photograph of her mother and a short note she left to her husband, Glory's father, Patrick, that said it is better if she is gone and that she is sorry. That was all Glory knew about her mom until the moment of discovery at this school for the well-to-do families with witch children. The kids are sent to this school to be hidden away from the public at large, really. Since Lucas's conversion, his father, one of the heads of the Inquisition Office, had to resign from his post and yet still is involved, although from a more subtle position/post. He's still powerful though. He's not a bad man though; he just strongly believes in the law and justice. Events lead these two to Cordova in South America and that's where everything comes to light. Mysteries answered, unknowns made known, and both the good and the bad revealed.

It was an enjoyable alternate history story to what happened in American culture before the USA was the USA we now know. It incorporates some of the ugliest events of our past as well as events into the present day and gives the reader a different and interesting take on the witch hunting. Well envisioned, I enjoy this tale and could see parallels and correlations to politics and prejudices of our society to here.

Liberty Gilmore says

Well, this one screwed my reading plans for the week.

I got the first in this series (100 word review to follow in monthly round up) when I saw this one on NetGalley, and finally got round to reading it the other day. I immediately had to pick up the next instalment, which tells you something about the quality of the series. Out of the window went my carefully constructed book review spreadsheet. Witch Fire was immediately bumped to the top.

The world Powell creates is both fascinating and unlike any other in the YA Urban Fantasy genre that I've read. And I've read a lot. The idea of an alternate universe where witchcraft is a real thing is a fascinating one, and it's cleverly brought to life - with the criminally minded Covens, the do-gooder witches of WICA trying to fight the bad image their kind has, and the terrifying Inquisition each representing a different aspect

of the world and the attitudes of its people.

The juxtaposition of Glory and Lucas' characters works deliciously as well, especially as they sneak closer to the romantic entanglement that you know is inevitable, even as they do their best to push each other away. Watching it all unfold is just another pleasure.

The plot remains as twisting and engaging as the first book, with plenty of unexpected turns and action to keep the pace roaring along. Definitely no case of second book syndrome here, and I'm actually quite disappointed (though grateful, at least, that I'll have a chance to catch up on my other reading commitments) that I don't have a third instalment to fall into. Really great read!

Rating: 5/5

S.B. Wright says

Witch Fire continues the adventures of Glory Starling and Lucas Sterne, that began in Burn Mark. It's not necessary to have read Burn Mark; Powell does an excellent job of providing enough back story to fill in new readers and not annoy fans who have already read the previous book.

Powell continues her unique blend of espionage, adventure and witchcraft. The gritty, understated "Britishness" I found in Burn Mark remains and further endears me to the series. The fact that it's YA might turn off some readers, but I think you'd be doing yourself a disservice if that's the reason why you'd make a pass on it. In Witch Fire actions have consequences, characters die – the descriptions might not be gratuitous, but often I find that implication throws a stronger punch. I found myself every bit as much on the edge of my seat as I would be with Quintin Jardine novel.

Glory and Lucas have been recruited and trained by WICA (Witchkind Intelligence and Covert Affairs) but it's all hush-hush because of their ages. They are beginning to get tired of the endless training when they are offered their first assignment – to go undercover at a special school for troubled witchkind teens with rich parents.

It sees them both leave England for the first time and the reader begins to get a wider understanding of the alternate reality that Powell presents. In the background is the ominous threat of an Inquisition that neither of them can quite trust and the shadowy terrorist group known as Endor.

Burn Mark impressed me with the goal driven characters and a generally well balanced take on gender roles. Witch Fire continues in the same vein. While there's a budding attraction between the two main characters, this plot thread is left alone for most of the book. Lucas and Glory can be as incompetent as each other (they are teens) and are adept at coming to each others rescue. The secondary characters are also competent (they are intelligence operatives) and gender diverse.

I did feel that the make up of the nationalities at the school was a little "cookie cutter" stereotypical i.e. a Chinese witch who is really quiet and plays the piano expertly, an American cheerleader, a sleazy Latin-American playboy and the sister of an Indian Bollywood star. It was the only hiccup in what was a very smooth read.

Witch Fire picked up the threads that were left hanging at the end of Burn Mark and wove them into a

compelling and expanding story, major character goals were realized, villains encountered justice and yet it does not feel as though the story arc is anywhere near finished. I don't think "issues" should be the focus of every book written for teens but I think Powell gives us a great story, well realized characters and a world that can be examined for its prejudices from a safe distance.

I'll repeat my concluding comments from the review of *Burn Mark*.

If you're a fan of British crime or espionage drama I think you'll enjoy this read.

This review copy was provided by the publisher at no cost

Erika says

This review is also on [Living for the Books](#)

3.5 stars

Definitely better than the first book. From what I remember *Burn Mark* was a bit slow and hard to follow because there were just so many characters, but *Witch Fire* starts off with plenty of action and it was much easier to understand.

The best part about the book was the witchwork. Most of the books that involve witches have them casting spells and waving magic wands, but not this book. The witchwork requires a little more work than that and I think that's what made the story stand out. The Devil's Kiss, the Inquisition, and the superstitions really added a whole level to the story.

The characters were pretty interesting as well. Lucas still doesn't know how he feels about being a witch and he struggles with what he thinks is the right thing to do. Should he blindly follow WICA or listen to Glory? Glory is still my favorite character. She's brave and strong-willed unlike other YA heroines, but she isn't completely invincible.

I thought the other characters were kind of boring. The government agents all seemed the same and I wasn't a fan of many of the side characters simply because I found them annoying. They just seemed to be there when it was convenient. Lucas and Glory's parents were barely there and Lucas' father lets him go across the world to find Glory. That right there is not something that should have happened if his father was actually being a father. I'm pretty sure most parent's wouldn't let their children go to the capitol of witch crime.

There was a bit of romance between Lucas and Glory and I really enjoyed it. I knew that eventually it would happen and it didn't take away from the story. Their relationship really developed over the first and second books and I felt that it was the only way their relationship could have gone.

The ending actually surprised me. I had guessed about something, but it wasn't even close to what actually happened. Now that I think back, there were very subtle hints about the twist and it just made the story that much more enjoyable.

** I received this book via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review.*

Rose says

Just as good, if not better than the first. Yay for romance! And action! And all things WICA!
