



The Spark

John Kenny

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Everyone believes that the blaze which killed firefighter Donny Robertson's Captain was just a terrible accident. Donny's search for the truth will cost him his home, his relationship and his job. As the puzzle starts to come together, Donny discovers he's out of his depth in a world of corporate intrigue and murder for hire. No longer the hunter, he becomes the target of a skilled and merciless contract killer. Donny's only chance to save himself is to confront the person pulling the strings. It's a desperate plan and it will cost him everything he has left.

Written by a veteran firefighter, "The Spark" gives the reader an insider's view of a unique and demanding world: the merciless heat and blinding smoke inside a burning building; the camaraderie and conflict between men and women who place their lives in each other's hands; the moments of grim hilarity, unexpected grace and heartbreaking tragedy that are a daily part of life in the fire service.

The Spark Details

Date : Published October 3rd 2013 by Incendiary Publications (first published September 30th 2013)

ISBN :

Author : John Kenny

Format : Paperback 332 pages

Genre : Fiction

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From Reader Review The Spark for online ebook

E.R. Yatscoff says

I liked this book. As a firefighter/writer John Kenny portrays fire station life very well. The budding romance is good, too. The only bad thing I can say is the ending, which I did not like, as it was way out of character for the killer. Too easy to end it this way. Change the ending and it would be a four star.

Al says

In The Spark, firefighter Donny Robertson becomes obsessed at getting to the bottom of what really happened in a suspicious fire that injured Danny and killed his Captain. Answering his questions turns out to be more than he bargained for, with a high price to be paid before reaching his goal.

The thriller aspect of the story was good, but what stood out for me even more was the day-to-day life of the firefighter. Not only the hours or days of boredom interspersed with minutes of terror, but the workings of the fire station and camaraderie between the fire fighters. A page turner, with more than a touch of human interest, too.

****Originally written for "Books and Pals" book blog. May have received a free review copy. ****

Daniel D. says

What a great story, the details and the love in which the author describes the location and the firefighter's profession, leave the reader with a precise mental picture of life in this side of the world. The story itself with a ring of truth of how power and money controls the world blurs the line between fiction and reality

Cathy Speight says

This book has inspired a new genre for me: Books You Never Want To End.

The firefighting backdrop for dramas, be it on television, film or in books always appeals me. 'Backdraft' has always been a favourite of mine (although, Kurt Russell may have had something to do with that). This excellently written book had me smitten.

Donny Robertson is a dedicated fireman, and when he is seriously injured and his best friend, Fitz, the captain of his unit, is killed in a fire, his dedication to his job spills over into a pursuit to find the answers into why and/or how the callout ended so tragically. But the route is a perilous one. He becomes a watched man and a hunted one. What is it he's uncovering and why does he have to be silenced?

There's no doubt that writing about something in which you have a lifetime experience...or rather, a working lifetime experience...gives a reader a tremendous insight and understanding into the subject. This author

does it with incredible skill. As a firefighter of twenty-five years' standing, he really does know what he's talking about. He doesn't just profile the bones of the job: what stands out in this novel, is the dedication, fearlessness, bravery, selflessness, and courage of firefighters along with the bond, camaraderie, friendship and spirit that develops in a unit. I wouldn't be surprised if each of the firemen characterised in this book is based on a real person, because that's how the characters come over: as real and personable. I'd be happy to be rescued by any of them.

But, on top of all that, is a very solid, well-paced plot that keeps you on your toes to the very end. There's everything in this book: murder, crime, revenge, humour, wit, heroism, and love. The dialogue is real, the emotions tangible, the characters believable.

I have one gripe, however. This is the author's first (and brilliant) but ONLY (to date) novel. I want more...soon.

If there's one book you need to read this year, it's this one.

Rubery Book Award says

Shortlisted for the Rubery Book Award Fiction Category

A stylish thriller about fire fighting, written by someone who clearly knows what he is talking about. It's completely convincing, with exactly the right amount of pace for a conspiracy thriller. It would make a good film.

Samantha Richardson says

I really, really loved this book. It was really funny and well written and you were interested in following the characters on their journey.

I wasn't sure if I was going to like it because of a comment the author made at a reading, about firefighting not being a vehicle for social change. But any misgivings I had were laid to rest in the first 40 pages, when the assignment of the first woman to the team causes a bit of a ruckus, and the Chief lays down the law like a Boss. It was amazing.

Danielle Tremblay says

Donny Robertson is a fireman, but also a man of honour who never lets down his friends or colleagues. When his friend Fitz dies burned in a fire, Donny does not want to jump to easy conclusions as all the others. He begins to investigate on what looks increasingly arson. But his investigation does not please everyone and Donny becomes the target of criminals, particularly the arsonist called "The Spark". Donny therefore encounters many difficulties that had discouraged many, but him. He is a hero, a real one, not one of those American super-heros. He is a man like you and me, but who doesn't give up easily when difficulties arise. His villain is more a super-villain than the hero is a superhero.

This novel is a thriller that keeps the pages turning quickly with a combination of actions scenes, amusing romance, detailed looks into the world of emergency services and toxic chemicals, and a luxurious yacht, which the author uses in a plot twist to send Donny up the Trent Canal in Georgian Bay to Tobermory for the climax of the novel.

I'd have liked not to stop reading, even to eat or to sleep. ;)

I don't know if John Kenny, the author could write about other topics, but his writing is impeccable and he knows how to make his subject interesting with plot twists, funny characters and situations, and dramatic moments. So I hope he will write again because this debut novel is very promising.

I give the book 5 well deserved stars.

Suburbhater says

I read this book in three evenings - which translated to three nights of no sleep as I could not put it down until I had no choice. Excellent read, fast paced and commanding.

Sherry says

An exciting well written story, easy to read and held my interest. It was very intriguing in many ways with a great plot and well-rounded characters. As a firefighter himself John Kenny leads you into the world of a firefighters who put themselves in danger every time they do their job. The only downside is it felt like Donny had 9 lives as he seemed to have so many close calls and always make it out safely. A gift from the author through a goodreads giveaway I thank you for this great read and recommend the book to others.

Marlene says

I started reading this book yesterday morning and could not put it down! The plot was fascinating, complex, gripping. The ending was satisfying. Definitely a must-read!

Gina Grant says

I bought John's book because I attended a reading he gave. The reading itself was terrific--best use of platform ever. It consisted of fire safety, an eye-opening commentary on how Hollywood portrays fires and firefighters (helmets and breathing apparatus covering their pretty faces?), as well as some exciting excerpts.

So I bought the book to support a fellow Toronto author. Didn't think I'd read it. Not really my thing.

But I grew intrigued and read it while traveling. And I'm glad I did. It starts out exciting and only gets better. The characters all have names and nicknames, so pay close attention. We get layers of believable evil and the fire itself becomes a character--almost a sympathetic character as evil people manipulate it to their own ends.

I recommend the book highly.

Melissa says

I love this book. It has an intriguing, fast-paced plot, all the while giving the reader a glance into the life and culture of firefighting. The characters are easy to relate to, the romantic side-plot is sweet, and even the villains are three-dimensional with motives all their own.

I received this book for free through Goodreads First Reads.

Serge says

A very entertaining story of arson, murder and tragedy set in Toronto, and having a fireman as protagonist. Loved it!

Denise says

“The Spark” is about a firefighter, Donny Robertson, who goes from problem to problem as he tries to solve the killing of his friend, Fitz. Fitz’s death looks innocent enough to everyone but Donny. It began when Fitz and Donny answered a call that seemed to be a routine fire. Once in the building, Fitz got split up from Donny when he tried to save a man in an office, who turned out to be dead before the fire was set. Fitz was caught in the room and burned to death. The fire was ruled an accident, but Donny thought differently. He just could not accept what the other firefighters were saying. So, he started to dig into the cause of the fire. In doing so, he found himself the subject of an assassin. However, that did not stop him from snooping around and he eventually met “The Spark”, who was hired to kill the inventor who was the original target.

“The Spark” is a first-time novel by John Kenny that was available last month. It is the most exciting first-time book that I have ever read. It is full of tension and suspense. Kenny has a background in firefighting, so it gives the reader a peek into a firefighter’s exciting life. I, for one, am waiting for Mr. Kenny to decide to write another book, as his style is fast-paced and easy to follow. I would suggest this book to anyone who is a fan of suspense, drama or mystery.
