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Von C. J. Sansom

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Von C. J. Sansom : Dark Fire (The Shardlake Series) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Dark Fire (The Shardlake Series):

KundenrezensionenHilfreichste Kundenrezensionen1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. DARK FIRE is intelligent, rich and multi-layered writing.Von customerThe perfect companion for all history enthusiasts is the ROMA VICTRIX WINE BEAKER Roma Victrix Wein BecherDark Fire is the second in the Matthew Shardlake series by C. J. Sansom, but is also a stand alone novel in its own right. Matthew Shardlake is a Lawyer in 16th Century London and is persuaded (against his will of course) to serve the interests of Lord Thomas Cromwell in exchange for a

stay of execution for an innocent girl being held in The Old Bailey. It is claimed that a barrel of Greek fire (commonly referred to as Dark fire, hence the title) has been discovered in a Church, hidden for 100 years together with the formula. Lord Cromwell has informed the King, who of course wants to get his hands on this weapon of mass destruction and terror so that he can use it against his enemies. Soon those who claimed to have discovered Greek fire are murdered, and Shardlake begins to investigate on behalf of Lord Cromwell. Meanwhile, the bodies pile up and his enquiries take him to all over the city from the heights of society to the stinking inns, alleys and brothels of London. While Sansom has taken liberties with plotting the discovery of Greek fire in London at this point in history, Greek fire did exist in the Byzantine era and was a devastating weapon. The formula was closely guarded and has been lost over the centuries. Even today, the composition of Greek fire is not known. Sansom does an outstanding job of presenting a huge cast of characters and ensuring they stick in the reader's mind. There's a welcome reappearance for Guy Malton, last seen as a monk at Scarnsea, and now working as an apothecary in London. And Matthew has a new sidekick in the form of the foul-mouthed Jack Barak, forced on him by Cromwell but who turns out to be a good man to have on your side. DARK FIRE is intelligent, rich and multi-layered writing. It deserves to win lorry loads of awards and to reach an audience far outside of the genre boundaries. And it would make captivating drama if someone were brave enough to film it.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Zwei Flle fr Anwalt Shardlake im Dienste Thomas Cromwells Von Dodo Ein Bauer wendet sich verzweifelt an Anwalt Shardlake, da es zur Zeit Henry VIII so etwas wie eine Kriminalpolizei noch nicht gibt: die Nichte des Mannes ist als Kindermrderin verhaftet worden, sie soll ihren Cousin in einen Brunnenschacht gestoen haben und ihr droht die Folter der Steinpresse, da sie sich nicht zu den Anschuldigungen uert. Shardlake ist fasziniert von dem Fall, so dass er ihn trotz geringer Erfolgsaussichten bernimmt. Zweischneidige Untersttzung kommt von unerwarteter Stelle: da ihn Thomas Cromwell wieder fr eine Ermittlung braucht, erwirkt der mchtige Mann einen Aufschub fr das Mdchen und kann nun Shardlake erpressen: 10 Tage hat der Anwalt, Cromwells Fall um das "griechische Feuer", eine geheimnisvolle antike Wunderwaffe (eine Art Brandbeschleuniger) zu lsen, dann wird Elizabeth gepresst - und Cromwell droht der Zorn des Knigs, der das "Feuer" unbedingt im Krieg gegen Frankreich nutzen will. Anders als im ersten Band ist der Leser in Band 2 von Anfang an voll im Geschehen, das Buch beginnt sofort mit dem Gesprch zwischen Shardlake und seinem Klienten, aus dem sich die Fallschilderung entwickelt. Sansom hat offensichtlich dazu gelernt bzw. erkannt, dass der Leser die Beteiligten "persnlich" kennenlernen sollte, um eine Sympathie und ein Interesse an ihrem Schicksal zu entwickeln. Auch gibt es mehr geschickt eingebaute berraschungsmomente und Wendungen, die das Weiterlesen forcieren. Eine weitere literarische Verbesserung bringt eine neue Figur: Shardlakes von Cromwell zugewiesener Handlanger Jack Barack, eine weitaus interessantere Figur als der etwas brave und blasse Mark Poer aus Band 1. Barack macht zudem eine Entwicklung durch, bernimmt sich erst grundstzlich wie ein Elefant im Porzellanladen (mit einer amsanten blumigen Ausdrucksweise) und gewinnt unter Shardlakes geduldiger Anleitung mehr Stil und Benehmen. Zugleich ist er in seiner offenen, sanguinisch-rauflustigen Grundstimmung ein netter Gegenpol zum melancholischen, ruhiger veranlagten Shardlake. Ein wichtiger Moment (der aber nichts ber die Handlung verrt, keine Sorge) ist, als Barak anerkennend zu Shardlake sagt: "Du bist gar nicht so schwach, wie du denkst." und damit dem buckeligen Anwalt unbewusst ein geres Kompliment macht, als htte er seinen scharfen Verstand oder seine Jurakenntnisse gelobt. Mit Barak kommt auch eine humorvolle Seite in die Handlung, die es im ersten Band so noch nicht gab. Der Showdown am Ende hat eine sehr originelle berraschende Wende, bei der Senf eine groe Rolle spielt (man darf gespannt sein). Und auch wenn das Ende natrlich historisch bekannt ist, gelingt es Sansom doch, den Weg dorthin spannend zu gestalten.

1 von 1 Kunden fanden die folgende Rezension hilfreich. Spannend, informativ Von Pferdefrau Der zweite Band einer Serie. Auch einzeln gut lesbar und vllig verstndlich, aber dank der sympathischen Hauptfigur ist es doch nett, mit "Dissolution" zu beginnen, was ich empfehlen wrde. Die Bcher sind spannend und sehr informativ ber die Verhltnisse in London unter Heinrich VIII. Nicht nur die politischen, auch die sozialen und ortsspezifischen Verhltnisse werden geschickt und fast unmerklich in die Handlung eingewoben. Die Handlung ist schlssig, mit nicht zu vielen Nebenstrngen, die immer wieder mit der Hauptgeschichte verflochten sind, so dass sich insgesamt ein rundes Bild darstellt. Ich habe beide Bcher mit grosser Begeisterung gelesen und werde sicherlich ganz bald auch die nchsten beiden Bnde lesen.

Kurzbeschreibung Winner of the CWA Ellis Peters Historical Dagger, Dark Fire is the second thrilling historical crime novel from C. J. Sansom. It is 1540 and the hottest summer of the sixteenth century. Matthew Shardlake, believing himself out of favour with Thomas Cromwell, is busy trying to maintain his legal practice and keep a low profile. But his involvement with a murder case, defending a girl accused of brutally murdering her young cousin, brings him once again into contact with the king's chief minister - and a new assignment . . . The secret of Greek Fire, the legendary substance with which the Byzantines destroyed the Arab navies, has been lost for centuries. Now an official of the Court of Augmentations has discovered the formula in the library of a dissolved London monastery. When Shardlake is sent to recover it, he finds the official and his alchemist brother horribly murdered - the formula has

disappeared. Now Shardlake must follow the trail of Greek Fire across Tudor London, while trying at the same time to prove his young client's innocence. But very soon he discovers nothing is as it seems . . . From Publishers Weekly

Matthew Shardlake, the marvelous hunchbacked 16th-century attorney who first appeared in Sansom's *Dissolution*, returns in this spellbinding Tudor-era tale of murder, conspiracy and betrayal. Shardlake normally handles property cases and the occasional dangerous mission for Lord Thomas Cromwell, the king's high counselor. Now he is engaged to defend a young woman accused of a curious murder, and the case seems hopeless. The girl refuses to speak and, under English law, unless she offers a plea in court she will be slowly crushed to death. Cromwell offers Shardlake a two-week stay of execution if he will agree to undertake a secret mission. Desperate to save the girl's life, Shardlake agrees. Rumors abound of a new and terrifying weapon called Greek Fire, and Cromwell orders Shardlake to find it, along with its secret formula and the two alchemists who possess it. Before Shardlake can even speak to the alchemists, they are brutally murdered, the formula and Greek Fire go missing, and horror and death are unleashed. Fortunately, Shardlake is aided by Jack Barak, a capable rogue working for Cromwell, and his old friend, Guy Malton, a peculiar apothecary. Sansom's vivid portrayal of squalid, stinking, bustling London; the city's wealth and poverty; the brutality and righteousness of religious persecution; and the complexities of English law make this a suspenseful, colorful and compelling tale. Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

From Booklist

Hunchback Matthew Shardlake may be one of the sharpest lawyers in sixteenth-century England, but his skills have failed him in the defense of a friend's niece accused of murder. When Henry VIII's vicar general, Thomas Cromwell, spares the convicted girl's life for 14 days, Shardlake knows the reprieve comes at a hefty price: in that time, the lawyer must find a lost cache of "dark fire," the liquid weapon of mass destruction Cromwell has promised to deliver to the increasingly ill-tempered king. With the help of one of Cromwell's impudent servants, Shardlake pursues clues leading him to alchemists, aristocrats, and barristers alike. But in a country bitterly split between Roman Catholics and the newly formed Church of England, it's difficult to distinguish friend from foe. The body count climbs ever higher as Shardlake inches closer to the truth--and toward the deadline for his client's execution. Like his gripping debut, *Dissolution* [BKL Ap 1 03], Sansom's second Shardlake thriller is suffused with rich period detail and an aura of foreboding. Allison Block

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