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When London Burned: A Story Of Restoration Times And The Great Fire



Synopsis

The 1660s were a time of turmoil in England: Cromwell had been defeated and Charles II, who was sympathetic to the Catholics, was restored to the throne; the Dutch declared war on England; the Plague raged; and the Great Fire of London destroyed half the city! Our hero, Cyril, at the death of his father Sir Aubrey Shenstone, inherits nothing except his father's title, and works as a bookkeeper for various London tradesmen. Honest, hardworking, and quick-thinking, he uncovers the plots of thieves, diverts a fire-ship in a sea battle, serves as a doctor's assistant during the Plague, and prevents the murder of one of his friends. Wounded in the sea battle, and later contracting the Plague, he survives all and receives back, as a gift, the estates that his father had lost.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A Grandson's needs and the failure of our public sector educational system to provide an education worthy of employment, drove me to investigate home school. During this year-long process of investigation and hundreds of reviews, several roads pointed me towards G. A. Henty's work. As many have discovered, Henty's work involves the reader emotionally while providing historical and geographical accuracy. This book, in particular, starts slowly as Henty rips you out of the texting world of incomplete sentences and into a world where people think of consequences before they act. It's hero, Cyril, pulls himself up from the devastation of the failures of his warrior/nobleman father by working hard in the only trade he knows: book-keeping. But his devotion to his employer

leads him into trapping thieves, saving his employer's precipitous daughter from her own choices [without burdening her father or damaging her self-image]. He then goes on to increasingly prominence during the Great Plague and London Fire. It is a story of the real effort and joy of building character. Cyril's life is an increasingly fascinating process; not a series of meaningless sound bites. Yes, coming of age is tough but it is doable. The Kindle versions of Henty are wonderful because of the Vocabulary Builder and the highlighting of notes. After all, Henty has deep observations that you may delight in reviewing via Kindles Notes summaries. The best way to start Henty is to find a title you like out of his 99 books and try it. I'd try a free one but then buy the inexpensive megapacks for ease of use and theme coordination. In the end, I purchased most of Henty's work in paperback, but that's a personal decision. There are a few who will point out the imperfections of Henty's times. If you think we are really doing a lot better, text on !

This story includes several London fires, tangling with the Dutch, The Plague, the court of Charles 2nd so it doesn't have as strong a connected theme as some of the other books. Nevertheless, I enjoyed the serious perseverance of the young hero very much.

The story line was interesting. The events were exciting. The main character was almost too good to be true. Not one fault did he have throughout the book. Sometimes the historical account became boring.

When London Burned : a Story of Restoration Times and the Great Fire starts out in Sept, 1664 at the time of the Black Plague and Great Fire of London. (Sir) Cyril's father has just died and he has to basically fend for himself. What choices will he make in life? As a middle-aged woman, I found this to be an interesting and fast-paced read with the exception of the part where he goes to war. (I could care less about political stuff...) As mentioned by another reviewer, that part was reminiscent of Horatio Hornblower, especially the fire ships. I hadn't thought of it until another reviewer pointed out that this book was intended for youthful readers. It is a bit of a moral tale, and Cyril is fairly predictable. Still a worthwhile way to spend a couple of hours. The free Kindle version of Apr. 1, 2005 worked fine on my early K2, no issues.

This book held my attention with a wonderfully written story of England in the 1500-1600. Cyril, the lead character is so heroic, yet gentle and innocent. A pleasure to read, although is somewhat written in the old English dialect.

While primarily a morality tale written toward the adolescent/young adult audience, adults with an interest in the historical era can also enjoy the story. Characters tend to be one dimensional - you can easily identify the heroes from villains and the "good guys" never have a moral or ethical struggle. Nevertheless, it is a good old-fashioned adventure story that, at times, will put one in mind of Great Expectations while at others times of Horatio Hornblower - albeit with somewhat less realistic characterizations.

Great way to learn about the historic events that happened 1000 yrs ago and follow a brave young man whose selfless deeds helped many.

A+

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