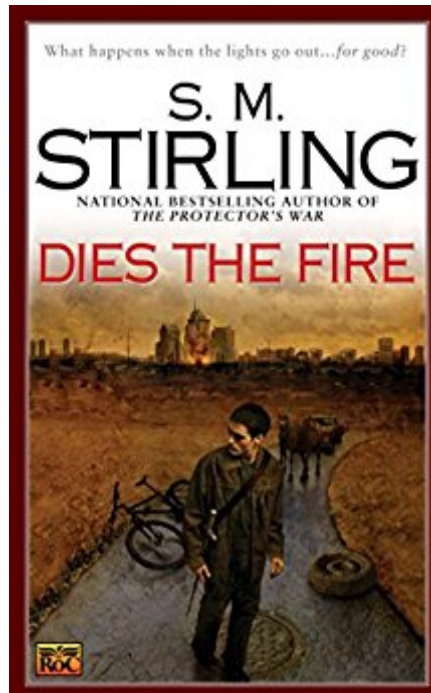




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Dies The Fire (Emberverse Book 1)



Synopsis

S. M. Stirling presents his first Novel of the Change, the start of the New York Times bestselling postapocalyptic saga set in a world where all technology has been rendered useless. The Change occurred when an electrical storm centered over the island of Nantucket produced a blinding white flash that rendered all electronic devices and fuels inoperable "and plunged the world into a dark age humanity was unprepared to face..." Michael Pound was flying over Idaho en route to the holiday home of his passengers when the plane's engines inexplicably died, forcing a less than perfect landing in the wilderness. And as Michael leads his charges to safety, he begins to realize that the engine failure was not an isolated incident. Juniper McKenzie was singing and playing guitar in a pub when her small Oregon town was thrust into darkness. Now, taking refuge in her family's cabin with her daughter and a growing circle of friends, Juniper is determined to create a farming community to benefit the survivors of this crisis. But even as people band together to help one another, others are building armies for conquest...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I read the beginning of the book with great interest. But I was unable to force myself to finish it as it wandered off into minute detail on construction and use of obsolete weaponry and a huge number of people who coincidentally happened to be neopagans or Wiccans and/or experts in medieval and primitive weaponry and low-tech farming techniques just "happened" to wander into the frame. There is also no scientific explanation (plausible or otherwise) given for gunpowder and electrical device suddenly stopping working. I was a little taken aback by the caricature of the redneck and the reference to him as "trash," but everyone has their prejudices. The writing was good, the fight scenes were well-composed, and I'm sure it will appeal to those whose fantasy is to live in the time "before." Not my cup of tea, but obviously it is some people's...

The book is about the aftermath of an inexplicable change in the laws of physics which rendered almost all technology useless. It focused on two groups of survivors: 1) The group led by one Lady Juniper, primarily consisting of Wiccans 2) A group led by Mike Havel -- an extremely competent and honorable military veteran -- that consisted of a mixed bag of people. The plot was engaging and the main characters were well-fleshed out. In my opinion, far too much of the book was about Wiccan rituals and myths. It wasn't interesting and distracted from the plot. Obscure jargon was used -- words that aren't in my online dictionary. The author also was bigoted towards Christian clergy, portraying them as bigots (ironic!). The two groups struggled to survive against starvation, bandits, cannibals, et. This struggle is what kept me reading to the end of the book.

The story was great and showed a lot of imagination. I have read the entire series to date and think the entire premise has many possibilities. It was nice to read a series of novels written about the country I live in. (the Willamette Valley in Oregon). However I felt the author spent too much time in picky details about peoples dress and setting description. I bought this copy for my son who wants to read it and I only have it on my Kindle. I think he will enjoy it. If you are into science fantasy, end of the world or alternative timeline novels I highly recommend this series.

Great read. Keeps your nose in the book well past when you should be in bed.

Dies the Fire (DTF) captivated me from the first page. What if the world as we know it lost the capability to use electronics, or batteries and gunpowder? How would that change the dynamics of the societies, which we have built? DTF takes the reader through the first year of such an "End of the World" scenario. Fresh with scenes of the mayhem as social order breaks down in the big cities

(once the food supply line stops bringing groceries to the shelves) to the battles in the countryside as power struggles and banditry take their toll. The characters are believable and represent the good, the bad and the innocent. The protagonists are easy to identify with and root for. The villains tend to be rather bad and give you no reason to hope for them other than a quick death by cross bow arrow. If there is one critique here, it may be that the good guys (and gals) tend to have some very good luck. But then again that is what most myths are based on; the truly good or lucky that win over the odds tend to be written into myths as the gods or goddesses. The book will leave you with nightmares and yet beg you to pick it up repeatedly to see how your favorite character is doing. Whether it be Juniper, Havel or Signe (my favorite) you feel as if you are there with them and can sense and smell the scene unfolding before you. It kept me awake on many a night as I wanted to learn more about this fascinating world created by S. M. Stirling. For those curious about what happens next. "The Protector's War" is the next book in the series and he has gone beyond the trilogy to create another trilogy based on the children who have grown up since "the change". In fact, there are rumors of another book set in England (far away from Oregon) after "the change" that may be coming soon. Exciting stuff. Some will be too wrapped up in the reasons behind this change and the inexplicability of it. DON'T! Just sit back and enjoy the read and the characters and realize it is called fiction for a reason. Sam Hendricks, Author of "Fantasy Football Guidebook: Your Comprehensive Guide to Playing Fantasy Football"

I enjoyed the series that starts with this book, although you have to really suspend disbelief, both that the Change could happen and in the plausibility of the consequences as Stirling spins them. It is interesting to posit that a professor of medieval studies would take the model of Norman Feudalism to set himself up as the ruler of Portland, Oregon using members of gangs and the Society for Creative Anachronism as his barons, but he too easily disposes of the military units who despite loss of their normal weaponry would still likely have the training and discipline to stick together and establish themselves as in control. Stirling obviously knows a lot about Oregon, but there is some sloppy editing, such as several times calling the town of Amity, where I live, "Amityville," which is in New York. The map is also inaccurate, placing Larsdalen about 30 miles west of the Eola Hills, where he says it is located. Table Rock and Mithrilwood (Silver Falls State Park) are also not really sited very accurately on the map. In the second book, "The Protector's War," he also adopts a non-linear timeline which can be very confusing, especially when characters refer to other characters as being deceased before you see how they were killed! If you are bothered by things like this, you probably won't like the book, but if you can just enjoy an adventure yarn, then

have at it. This book has plenty of battles. Stirling isn't as good at battle descriptions as Bernard Cornwell, but he isn't bad either.

Page turner.

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