



The Firebrand (The Chicago Fire Trilogy Book 3)

By Susan Wiggs

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Chicago is burning

And Lucy Hathaway is running for her life. As she rushes past a fine hotel engulfed in flames, a wrapped bundle tumbles from a window into her arms. Seconds later the building crumbles—and Lucy is astonished to discover the swaddled blanket contains a *baby*.

Five years later Lucy walks into Rand Higgins's bank and knows: the orphan she rescued that day actually belongs to this ruthless financier. Now, to keep the child she's come to love, she'll have to give up her hard-won freedom and become his wife. But giving Rand her heart? That, she could never have expected...

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The Firebrand (The Chicago Fire Trilogy Book 3) By Susan Wiggs Bibliography

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Editorial Review

Amazon.com Review

Setting: Chicago 1871

Sensuality: 7

In one catastrophic night, unconventional debutante Lucy Hathaway meets and propositions powerful banker Randolph Higgins, risks her life to save a baby girl, then loses her father and the family fortune in the chaos of the great Chicago fire. Five years later, she's older, wiser, and the proud owner of The Firebrand, a bookstore that caters to suffragettes and free thinkers. Fate throws her once again into the path of Randolph Higgins when she must apply to his bank for an extension on the loan that financed her bookstore. She discovers that Randolph is now a scarred, bitter, divorced man, and that he believes his daughter died in the fire. One glance at the photo on his desk tells her that Maggie, the child she saved and adopted that terrible night, is his lost daughter.

Lucy's strong sense of honor drives her to tell Randolph the truth. Now the conservative banker and the fiercely independent Lucy must deal with each other for Maggie's sake. Despite the resulting clash of wills and differing political views, the powerful attraction that drew them together five years earlier still exists. Can these two stubborn, opinionated people find a way to nurture a life together, for the sake of Maggie and their own battered hearts?

The Firebrand pits a strong heroine reluctant to abandon her independence against a hero grounded in traditional concepts of marriage and female roles. The rich details of life in 1870s Chicago, well-developed secondary characters, and the exploration of the women's suffrage movement all add up to making *The Firebrand* a rare treat. This third and final novel in Susan Wiggs's Chicago Fire trilogy will delight fans and new readers alike.--*Lois Faye Dyer*

From Publishers Weekly

The great Chicago fire of 1871 is the catalyst for a story that deftly portrays a romance against the backdrop of the budding suffrage movement. Despite Lucy Hathaway's aristocratic background, her fiery political views and unconventional attitudes make her a social outsider. Nevertheless, she feels unexpectedly drawn to handsome banker Rand Higgins until she discovers that he's married to a dainty china doll of a woman. The fire changes everything, however, badly injuring Rand, estranging his wife and depriving Lucy of her father and her wealth. In the strangest twist of all, Rand's infant daughter, presumed dead in the fire, lands in Lucy's arms and is raised as an orphan. Although fate brings Lucy and Rand together again, the obstacles to their growing passion seem almost insurmountable. Both attempt to obtain custody of the child, and Lucy's association with the suffragists enrages Rand's banking colleagues. With this final installment of Wiggs's Chicago Fire trilogy (which also includes *The Mistress*), she has created a quiet page-turner that will hold readers spellbound as the relationships, characters and story unfold. Fans of historical romances will naturally flock to this skillfully executed trilogy, and general women's fiction readers should find this story enchanting as well. (Apr.)

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From [Booklist](#)

Chicagoan Lucy Hathaway is wealthy, but her radical politics keep the suitors away. She tries out her theory of free love by propositioning Rand Higgins, an attractive banker, at a lecture, then is embarrassed to learn

that he's married, but all is forgotten when they exit into the hell of the great Chicago fire of 1871. As Lucy struggles home, a woman throws a bundle out of a window as the building explodes. Lucy names the baby girl Maggie after her efforts to find the child's family fail. Having lost her father and the family fortune in the fire, Lucy opens up the Firebrand, a suffragist bookstore, and lives upstairs with her mother and Maggie. Five years later, when the Firebrand faces foreclosure, Lucy goes to the bank and discovers that Rand, who believes that his baby daughter was lost in the fire, is in charge. Wiggs' synergistic blending of historical authenticity, complex multifaceted characters, and riveting plot makes for an exquisite romance. *Diana Tixier Herald*

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Users Review

From reader reviews:

Rita Heil:

Have you spare time for just a day? What do you do when you have far more or little spare time? Yep, you can choose the suitable activity intended for spend your time. Any person spent all their spare time to take a go walking, shopping, or went to often the Mall. How about open as well as read a book called The Firebrand (The Chicago Fire Trilogy Book 3)? Maybe it is to be best activity for you. You know beside you can spend your time together with your favorite's book, you can smarter than before. Do you agree with it is opinion or you have different opinion?

Teresita Donahue:

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Adam Hay:

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