



*As the smoke
clears from the
fire that turned
everyone's world
upside down,
secrets come to
light.*

BURNING LOVE

by T. Renee

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Burning Love

From the Hearts On Fire Trilogy

T. Renee

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INTRODUCTION

INFERNO

As smoke filled the Chicago night sky crowds of people poured into the street to witness the devastation. Spectators clamped their hands to their open mouths in horror and pointed to the structure before them that was completely engulfed in flames. Some people cried, some admonished the firefighters and EMS for not doing anything; but they couldn't do anything. They came to fight a fire, but this—this was a complete inferno.

The structure fire blazing before them couldn't have happened in a worse area, it was on a semi deserted street in an old abandoned house; one spark and that's all it took. The flames gained momentum faster than anyone could think to call for help. As the fire continued to rage on, from a distance you could hear a sound reminiscent to a mother's cry, only it wasn't a mother, it was the house itself. It screamed in agony and then suddenly it collapsed.

After twenty minutes on fire the house was now lying in a pile of emblazed sticks, eventually they began to calm themselves and succumb to the forceful sprays of water they were being showered with. The firemen sprayed the pile of tinder for ten minutes at a distance then they began to make their slow approach forward.

The area where the house once stood was now just a gaping hole full of smoke. As the men advanced with their hoses to make sure the fire was completely out, they were halted by a screaming onlooker.

The men shut their hoses down in an effort to understand the hysterical bystander, but due to the women's frantic wailing they weren't able to understand what it was she was trying to tell them. Her screams and flailing confused them until finally they all noticed she was pointing at something more than the pile of what had been a house, she was pointing at something more specific. The men all turned and walked to the pile of steaming rubbish to where the woman was pointing. They made their way to what would have been the back of the home and finally they found the cause of the woman's hysteria.

Underneath various parts of burnt up pieces of house and ash was a trembling hand raised in the air. Someone had made it out of the house, they managed to escape out the back of the home and evade the flames but was then trapped by the structure's collapse. But they weren't dead—they had survived the inferno.



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