



## **Last Rights**

*Barbara Nadel*

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October 1940. The London borough of West Ham is in the grip of yet another night of bombing, and undertaker Francis Hancock is in the grip of yet another night of temporary insanity.

A veteran of World War One, Francis is forced by the nightly air raids to relive the trauma of the trenches, and all he can do is try to outrun the horrific flashbacks. So when he sees a man lurching through the rubble, screaming about being stabbed but with no visible wound, Francis dismisses it at the ravings of another lost soul... until the man's body turns up at his funeral parlour, two days later. Suspecting foul play, Francis feels compelled to discover what really happened that night - but he finds himself pitted against violent thugs, an impenetrable network of lies and his own fragile sanity.

## **Last Rights Details**

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Author : Barbara Nadel

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# From Reader Review Last Rights for online ebook

## nicdavdi says

With an undertaker as hero (and why not, I guess) and being set in London in the middle of the Blitz in WW2, this was going to be a different approach. We, of course, know what happened and how it all ended, but to have lived through it, night after night, not knowing how things would pan out and who might get killed next must have been terrifying. Barbara Nadel manages to conjure up the very essence of Istanbul in her Ikmen series, and here she manages to create a sense of what it must have been like during the bombing. It's an original setting for a story and I liked it.

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## Elizabeth says

Nadel is a very good author but I never could care about the fact that a very horrible person was murdered, while innocents were being slaughtered by the score by the nightly London bombings.

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## Rob Kitchin says

Last Rights is a kind of a hard-edged cozy: undertaker, Francis Hancock, turns amateur detective, investigating a murder when the police do not at first seem interested, continuing when he feels that they have arrested the wrong person. The edge is provided by the blitz, working class conditions, prostitution and the black market, and some unsavoury characters. The story unfolds at a reasonable clip and Nadel's style is quite engaging. There is some nice contextualisation with respect to the blitz and the Jewish community in London, the sense of place is quite strong, and the characterisation and familial relations are well realised. Where the book suffers is with respect to the plot. The premise is interesting but the execution is weak and contrived at times and the killer is somewhat obvious from a long way out. There were a number of elements of the story that I just simply did not believe, not least the actions of the police, which made little sense. Overall, the makings of a good series, but this opening story was undermined by an improbable plot.

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## Louise Armstrong says

It was actually Ashes to Ashes that I read, but I can't find the book. I didn't enjoy this series. It reminded me of the boring Dr Who episodes - something's happening in the dark! Run! Run! Something else is happening in the dark! Run!

She's very talented, Francis Hancock is so different from her other PIs, but this series is not for me. I like a lucid plot.

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## Bettie? says

### **Sally says**

A new author for me - really enjoyed this book. Well paced, good sense of place and time, and flawed but sympathetic protagonist. Will look for more by this author, for sure.

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### **Jyv says**

It says something about a book when it lies there and you can't be bothered picking it up. I got about a third of the way through the book when I realised I just wasn't interested. I found it utterly boring. I didn't give a damn about any of the characters. Nevertheless I tried to continue to about halfway and found I was skim reading anyway. Finally I gave up and just skimmed over the end to satisfy any vague curiosity about who did it. Didn't care ultimately. I think I only continued as far as I did because I had nothing else to read at the time.

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### **Mick Grant says**

Very well written story featuring an unlikely sleuth - an undertaker mentally scarred by life in the trenches in WW1. The setting is the East End of London in the Blitz and is very well drawn. The plot is complex but believable.

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### **Tracyk says**

I would really give this 3.5 stars, due to the portrayal of London during the Blitz. That was the part of the book I liked, the story and characters were not strong points.

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### **Michelle Wilson says**

A very different story than the ones from Istanbul. Francis Hancock, Mr. H. grows on you. He is a funeral 'director' during the second WW. He has been in the First lot as he refers to WW1. and is still troubled by it. He unravels a murder and does it because really no one should be murdered and not punished. He is a mild man that is very likeable. He looks after his mum and two sisters, and he cares for all the poor souls that end up in his shop.

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### **Jenny says**

An intriguing series of books set during the London Blitz of WW11. The main character is an undertaker

who is a WW1 veteran of Anglo/Indian heritage. The books contain quirky humour and have a distinctly English flavour.

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### **Ruth says**

c2005. Not as good as her series based in Turkey. I found the story to be a bit disjointed and unnecessarily complicated! Perhaps it was just my frame of mind. Didn't much like the protagonist nor the plot. How odd! "Eager now to get back to the Duchess and the girls in case the Jerries made another appearance, I didn't stop off in Spitalfields to see if Ruby was all right."

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### **Kandis says**

Liked the setting -- WWII London is burning. Liked the characters--undertaker damaged from serving in WWI. Story was ok.

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