



A Surfeit of Guns

P.F. Chisholm , Patricia Finney

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

A Surfeit of Guns

P.F. Chisholm , Patricia Finney

A Surfeit of Guns P.F. Chisholm , Patricia Finney

Sir Robert Carey took up his northern post as Warden of the West March in order to escape the complications of creditors and court life. Trouble, however, is where the dashing Carey, possibly a cousin of the Queen, finds it.

One black night in 1592, Carey is on night patrol along the unsettled border anchored by the garrison in Carlisle. It's a disaster. First, there's the fugitive he has to hand over to the warring Scots. Next come Wee Colin Elliot's sheep stealers. And then a gun explodes and takes off the hand of one of Carey's men. Back in Carlisle, Carey soon learns more faulty guns lie in the armoury in place of the sound weapons shipped in from Newcastle only last week. When these explosive deathtraps are stolen, he sets off in pursuit of both batches of guns--and the thieves.

The search ends in Dumfries where King James VI of Scotland--potentially King James I of England when his cousin Elizabeth dies--and his raucous court have assembled. James is as dissolute as ever, lovely Lady Elizabeth Widdrington, Carey's true love, is still shackled to her husband, and seductive Signora Bonnetti takes a serious interest in Carey and in the missing guns. Will the frustrated courtier be gallant enough to flirt with the Signora--and with treason?...

As wild as the American West, P.F. Chisholm's witty historical detections are also elegantly crafted and historically accurate as they reimagine the life of a real Elizabethan gunslinger. Her other Carey novels are *A Plague of Angels* (Introduction by Diana Gabaldon), *A Famine of Horses* (Introduction by Sharon Kay Penman), *A Season of Knives* (Introduction by Dana Stabenow). The author is at work on a fifth Sir Robert Carey.

A Surfeit of Guns Details

Date : Published August 1st 2000 by Poisoned Pen Press (first published November 7th 1996)

ISBN : 9781890208356

Author : P.F. Chisholm , Patricia Finney

Format : Paperback 246 pages

Genre : Historical, Historical Fiction, Mystery, Fiction, Crime, Historical Mystery

 [Download A Surfeit of Guns ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online A Surfeit of Guns ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online A Surfeit of Guns P.F. Chisholm , Patricia Finney

From Reader Review A Surfeit of Guns for online ebook

Phrynne says

Book three and the series is still maintaining its excellent quality. This one moves from the Scottish borders to the court of King James and all its dreadful excesses and debauchery. I must admit I had a bit of difficulty following the plot line about the stolen guns, but in the end I decided to let Carey solve it and I just sat back and enjoyed the results. The author appears to really know her history and she does not pull punches. The descriptions of various medical procedures are quite horrific. Great story, delightful characters, lots of lovely historical detail and all told in less than 300 pages. Definitely my kind of book:)

Angel Serrano says

Las armas de fuego procedentes de la Torre de Londres son codiciadas por todos los clanes en la frontera anglo-escocesa y por el mismo rey de Escocia. Robert tendrá que recuperar un cargamento distraído de las garras de la nobleza escocesa, con peligro para su vida.

John says

Another week passes and Sir Robert goes through one misadventure after another. He has to out think the King of Scotland in this search for the guns that have gone missing. The tale includes a wayward German and a conniving Italian as well as a wide range of near-do-wells. Lots of fun and adventure.

Dave says

Set in the late 1500s in the Northern Borderlands between England and Scotland, this novel (one of a series, I gather) has a lead character by the name of Sir Robin Carey. Carey is a Deputy Warden in this region who stumbles upon a mystery of faulty firearms and a missing cache of guns from the armory. As historical novels go it is fairly rollicking (set, as it is, in a time and place when life was very cheap) and the detective story is engaging enough for an afternoon read (it is not a difficult book--started the novel over my lunch break and finished it after work. Although, I did learn what a kirtle was.)

Frances says

Not as good as the first one but very readable. Her books get better the further into them you get. I find it a little difficult through the first half but it was all wrapped up in the second half and made it worthwhile.

Stuart Smith says

The whole series is a joy and *A Surfeit of Guns* is particularly well done!

Michaelene says

As if Tudor-Stuart politics weren't complicated enough, Sir Robert also has to deal with the vagaries of shifting clan alliances in the Border country. *Chisholm* brings the time and place to life for the modern reader. I recommend the series to anyone with a taste for historical mysteries.

Alison says

Fabulous description of the Scottish Court rescues this one a bit from an implausible plot, and the beginnings of a trend for "young Hitchens does something stupid and ruins well-laid plans".

Carolyn says

This is shaping up to be an excellent historical mystery series. This is the third book based on the exploits of Sir Robert Carey, newly appointed Deputy Warden at Carlisle in 1592. The armoury that was empty of weapons when Carey arrived has now been replenished with new guns, but after one of his men gets his hand blown off Carey suspects something is wrong. Carey must ride to Dumfries where James VI and his dissolute court are assembled. He finds himself embroiled in a clever and convoluted plot involving some of the major factions of Scotland and the Borders and must tread a careful path if he is not to be hung (and quartered) for treason.

A rollicking tale of corruption at the highest levels. The historical detail is excellent and there are some great characters. All our previously met favourites - Carey's sergeant Dodds and some of the more colourful characters of his family, Carey's unrequited love, Lady Widdrington with her nasty little husband and young Hutchin Graham getting into hot water as usual. Carey's enemy the ex warden, Richard Lowther does not feature so much in this episode but James' favourite companion Lord Spynie is more than capable of making life difficult for Carey. Highly recommended to all lovers of this genre.

Virginia Taylor says

I love this series and I took a while to read this because I needed to save it for 'best.' In between starting *A Surfeit* and finishing, I read another ten books that I wouldn't review because they're in the category I write. My rating can't be fair if I don't love them.

Sir Robert Carey is called the Courtier by his men who help him keep order on the border between England and Scotland in Elizabethan times. Sir Robert is in love with Elizabeth Widdrington and I fear he will never have her. She is married to a gouty old man who beats her but she is the love of Robert's life, being a clever and competent woman.

In this story he outwits various warring Scottish clans and the canny Scots King James. Delicious. I'm about to buy the next in the series.

Alyssia Cooke says

This was a stunning read that hooked me completely from the very first to the very last word. Full of action and intrigue, it also manages to deepen the political tensions as well as personal rivalries and near cuckoldry.

Carey continues to be a vibrant and interesting lead character but it was excellent to see some more minor characters like Young Hutchkins being fleshed out and expanded on. The same indeed goes for the Scottish court, for whilst we have heard much of King James, this is the first time of meeting him and his court.

Once more, morality issues and other human issues are covered very well, delicately interwoven into the folds of the novel rather than being slammed in your face. There's something very clever and subtle in how different issues are cleverly weaved within different strands of the tale. The rampant homosexuality of King James court for instance is very well depicted, both from Carey's perspective and from the King as well.

The mystery is once more very well done indeed and again I had little clue where it was going until it got there. There were also many heart rending and gut wrenching moments that had my heart in my mouth. All in all, a mighty fine read!!

Carolien says

I thoroughly enjoy this series set in Elizabethan times. Robert Carey is a fascinating character and I appreciate how the author constructs her plot around real, but obscure events of the time. It is well-researched and very believable. Interesting cast of characters and the setting on the Scottish border exploits the political tensions of the time.

alistair gunn says

classic adventure

scarlettraces says

this series is one of my favourites. i'm a fan of Finney's more complex historical fiction too, but i don't find them as compulsively readable. i'm holding out for a book in which robin and elizabeth get it together.

Jamie Collins says

3.5 stars. The third book in this excellent series features the court of King James of Scotland, who is waiting impatiently for the English crown, passing his time with his latest “favorite” courtier.

This book is a bit darker than the earlier ones. The garrison’s shipment of weapons from the Tower of London has been swapped for a batch of poorly poorly manufactured guns which tend to explode when fired, maiming or killing the handler. There are some scenes of torture. Carey finally realizes how much danger his attentions are causing Lady Widdrington, who is still tied to her elderly, vicious husband.

King James’s homosexuality is handled fairly well. He’s portrayed sympathetically, yet the aversion felt by Carey and other characters feels right for this time and place (no anachronistic declarations of “not that there’s anything wrong with that!”).
