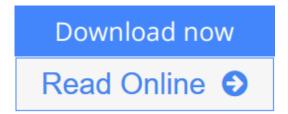


The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)

By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss



The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family) By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss

The Flower

Doomed to a life of unending toil, Heather Simmons fears for her innocence—until a shocking, desperate act forces her to flee. . . and to seek refuge in the arms of a virile and dangerous stranger.

The Flame

A lusty adventurer married to the sea, Captain Brandon Birmingham courts scorn and peril when he abducts the beautiful fugitive from the tumultuous London dockside. But no power on Earth can compel him to relinquish his exquisite prize. For he is determined to make the sapphire-eyed prize. For he is determined to make the sapphire-eyed lovely his woman. . .and to carry her off to far, uncharted realms of sensuous, passionate love.



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Editorial Review

Review

"A legend." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

"A phenemenon." (New York Times)

"The queen of historical romance." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

From the Back Cover

The groundbreaking classic love story from one of the most beloved authors of our time.

Fearing for her innocence, doomed to a life of unending toil, Heather Simmons commits a shocking and desperate act. Now she must flee -- and seek refuge in the arms of a virile and dangerous stranger.

Captain Brandon Birmingham is a lusty adventurer married to the sea. Though courting scorn and serious peril through his actions, he abducts the beautiful, sapphire-eyed fugitive from the tumultuous London dockside. For it is destiny that brings Heather to Brandon's side, and no power on Earth will force him to relinquish his exquisite prize. Only she can unlock the tenderness in his heart; and Brandon vows she will be his -- to love, to cherish, to desire, and to carry off to far, uncharted realms of sensuous passion.

About the Author

(1939 - 2007) Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, creator of the modern historical romance, died July 6, 2007 in Minnesota. She had just turned 68. Her attorney, William Messerlie, said that she died after a long illness.

Born on June 3, 1939 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Mrs. Woodiwiss was the youngest of eight siblings. She long relished creating original narratives, and by age six was telling herself stories at night to help herself fall asleep. At age 16, she met U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant Ross Woodiwiss at a dance, and they married the following year. She wrote her first book in longhand while living at a military outpost in Japan.

Woodiwiss is credited with the invention of the modern historical romance novel: in 1972, she released *The Flame and the Flower*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, creating literary precedent. The *Flame and the Flower* revolutionized mainstream publishing, featuring an epic historical romance with a strong heroine and impassioned sex scenes. "Kathleeen E. Woodiwiss is the founding mother of the historical romance genre," says Carrie Feron, vice president/editorial director of William Morrow and Avon Books, imprints of HarperCollins Publishers. Feron, who has been Woodiwiss's editor for 13 years, continues, "Avon Books is proud to have been Kathleen's sole publishing partner for her paperbacks and hardcover novels for more than three decades." Avon Books, a leader in the historical romance genre to this day, remains Mrs. Woodiwiss's original and only paperback publisher; William Morrow, Avon's sister company, publishes Mrs. Woodiwiss's hardcovers.

The Flame and the Flower was rejected by agents and hardcover publishers, who deemed it as "too long" at 600 pages. Rather than follow the advice of the rejection letters and rewrite the novel, Mrs. Woodiwiss instead submitted it to paperback publishers. The first publisher on her list, Avon, quickly purchased the novel and arranged an initial 500,000 print run. The novel sold over 2.3 million copies in its first four years of publication.

The success of this novel prompted a new style of writing romance, concentrating primarily on historical fiction tracking the monogamous relationship between a helpless heroines and the hero who rescued her, even if he had been the one to place her in danger. The romance novels which followed in her example featured longer plots, more controversial situations and characters, and more intimate and steamy sex scenes.

"Her words engendered an incredible passion among readers," notes Feron. Bestselling author Julia Quinn agrees, saying, "Woodiwiss made women want to read. She gave them an alternative to Westerns and hard-boiled police procedurals. When I was growing up, I saw my mother and grandmother reading and enjoying romances, and when I was old enough to read them myself, I felt as if I had been admitted into a special sisterhood of reading women."

New York Times bestselling author Susan Elizabeth Phillips, a leading voice in the women's fiction arena, says, "We all owe our careers to her. She opened the world of romance to us as readers. She created a career for us to go into."

The pioneering author has written 13 novels over the course of 35 years, all *New York Times* bestsellers. Kathleen E. Woodiwiss's final literary work, the upcoming *Everlasing*, will be published by William Morrow in October 2007. "*Everlasting* is Kathleen's final gift to her fans," notes Feron.

Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, who was predeceased by her husband and son Dorren, is survived by sons Sean and Heath, and numerous grandchildren.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Francis Rutland:

Now a day individuals who Living in the era where everything reachable by match the internet and the resources within it can be true or not demand people to be aware of each information they get. How a lot more to be smart in obtaining any information nowadays? Of course the correct answer is reading a book. Reading through a book can help people out of this uncertainty Information specially this The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family) book because book offers you rich details and knowledge. Of course the knowledge in this book hundred percent guarantees there is no doubt in it you probably know this.

Donna Vazquez:

Reading can called mind hangout, why? Because if you find yourself reading a book specially book entitled The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family) your mind will drift away trough every dimension, wandering in each aspect that maybe mysterious for but surely will become your mind friends. Imaging every word written in a book then become one application form conclusion and explanation this maybe you never get prior to. The The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family) giving you another experience more than blown away your thoughts but also giving you useful info for your better life with this era. So now let us teach you the relaxing pattern here is your body and mind will probably be pleased when you are finished looking at it, like winning a. Do you want to try this extraordinary shelling out spare time activity?

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