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Burning Bright (The Extraordinaries Book 1)



Synopsis

In 1812, Elinor Pembroke wakes to find her bedchamber in flames and extinguishes them with a thought. At 21, she is old to manifest magical talent, but the evidence is unmistakable: she not only has the ability to start fires, but the far more powerful ability to control and extinguish them. She is an Extraordinary, and the only one in England capable of wielding fire in over one hundred years. As an Extraordinary, she is respected and feared, but to her father, she represents power and prestige for himself. Mr. Pembroke, having spent his life studying magic, is determined to control Elinor and her talent by forcing her to marry where he chooses, a marriage that will produce even more powerful offspring. Trapped between the choices of a loveless marriage or living penniless and dependent on her parents, Elinor takes a third path: she defies tradition and society to join the Royal Navy. Assigned to serve under Captain Miles Ramsay aboard the frigate Athena, she turns her fiery talent on England's enemies, French privateers and vicious pirates preying on English ships in the Caribbean. At first feared by her shipmates, a growing number of victories make her truly part of Athena's crew and bring her joy in her fire. But as her power grows and changes in unexpected ways, Elinor's ability to control it is challenged. She may have the power to destroy her enemies utterly but could it be at the cost of her own life?

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Customer Reviews

This book is very different from every other fantasy romance book out there. If you're expecting passionate and burning, breathtaking romance, maybe this is not the book for you, and it doesn't mean this book is bad, on the contrary. This story is set on a Jane Austen-esque time period, where women were supposed to behave as ladies, men were supposed to be gentlemen and scandal was likely to destroy a girl's reputation in a second. The author managed to create beautiful dialogue and characters reminiscent of the era. This could be a book written a century ago and I wouldn't know. Elinor's powers manifest out of the blue, changing not only who she is but how people see her, specially her father. Living in a time where women had little to say and had to obey, she rebels and joins the Navy. Trying to act as a strong woman to fit in her new environment, she gets overwhelmed with all the things she didn't think and know before. Sometimes she seems to be arrogant, but she learns her lesson well, she has to live with the consequences of her decisions. On board of the Athena, we meet Captain Miles Ramsay, and a couple of enjoyable characters that slowly become Elinor's friends or enemies. Ramsay portrays the perfect gentleman, and his slowly growing friendship with Elinor is lovely. I would've loved more time between Elinor and the Captain, I enjoyed their conversations and interactions, and this book left me wanting more, things happen kind of fast at the end. Elinor discovers on this ship a true home, this is a lovely story about fighting fear, gathering your strength to find who you really are and standing up for what you believe.

A good solid story with no major plot holes, an interesting world where magic DOES, indeed, have a cost, and a sweet romance that doesn't overpower the story of the Heroine herself, but rather is a part of it. Looking forward to next in the series.

I really enjoyed this story. It was well written; it pulled me into the world and along with the adventure and never had me questioning the historical style or magical world building. Plot summary is accurate, its a paranormal regency romance but with lots of adventure and magic - and a nearly perfect balance of all, in fact

It took me awhile to get there, but I ended up loving this book, its characters and storyline. While I'm very familiar with regency period novels, as well as with paranormals, and even some regency paranormals, it took the first 1/4 of the book for me to be able to wrap my mind around the premise,

not that there were paranormals in the regency period, but that everybody in the period was aware of the existence of paranormals..... so the 1st 1/4 of the book I was distracted from the story attempting to suspend my disbelief in that scenario being possible. Once I was able to wrap my mind around that point, all was well, and by the end I was thoroughly caught up in the story. The story itself was complex and the characters as likeable (or in the case of the villains, unlikeable) as one could want them to be, yet were complex enough themselves as to be totally human.

I really enjoyed this novel, though I admit at first I didn't. The first chapter or two were a little odd. But once you got past the family drama and the bit with her rather nasty father, the book took on a new level and was quite an exciting read more along the lines of naval fictions rather than supernatural novels. The descriptions of the "Gifts" were really interesting, let's see: Scorchers, Bounders, Movers, Seers, Shapers and a few others I can't remember. You've seen these before in things like X-Men and such, but probably not in a Regency setting akin to Jane Austin. The gifts are taken as very straightforward not paranormal, and are woven into the society McShane has created, with some people being average and others being "Extraordinary" in their abilities and how they deal with them. Overall, I found the story engrossing. I may have been nice to have a bit more romance between the two leads in this story, but the resolution was still nice and did make sense given the setting in the navy. I look forward to the next installment regarding the "Seer," which based on the description might have a touch more romance.

Wow! A book that I immediately reread (the good bits!) when I finished it & one that I wished I could read for the 1st time all over again for the enthralling enjoyment it gave me. A fantasy historical romance with a wonderful plot and story that is full of action, wonderfully intelligent and witty, but more so, amazing characters and character development in especially the heroine Elinor who discovers who she is and what she is capable of, while Ramsay (Captain Miles Ramsay of the royal Navy :) is a stalwart and solid constant throughout. What I really admire about the author's writing is the unfolding of the character's relationship that doesn't start off terribly auspiciously. Having a lady, no matter how powerful, trust into his keeping on his ship doesn't make Ramsay terribly happy with the situation or with Elinor either. He nevertheless treats her fairly and is always honest with her. Their relationship slowly grows into a deep abiding friendship and trust. I adored how protective and chivalrous Ramsay is. There is no overt romance between them for almost the whole book but you can actually see how their feelings grow and the depth of their trust in each other. Oh yes - their conversation is so entertaining! Smart, cheeky, witty. This book has it all in spades. The last part (the

Romance! Yes!!) was beautifully written. Nothing more explicit than a kiss but wonderfully romantic. All I can say is that this is one of the best books I've read this year.

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