



Forbidden Fire

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There were two great loves in her life . .

Louise's love for her beautiful home, Queen's Dower, was as solid and unchangeable as the house itself.

But her love for her stepbrother, Daniel, had subtly evolved over the years. While she had adored him during her childhood, she now loved him with a woman's passion.

She couldn't let Daniel hold her at arm's length, shut her out of his life. She didn't want any other man. She belonged with Daniel, just as she belonged at Queen's Dower. And it would always be that way!

Forbidden Fire Details

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FeliciaKaren says

There were two scenes which had my stomach churning...

'I first knew how I felt about you on your fourteenth birthday,' he said abruptly, his mouth grim. 'I came into your room with your birthday present. You remember that new saddle I bought you?'

'You left it on the end of my bed while I was asleep,' she said with a happy smile.

'You were fast asleep when I came in,' he said thickly. 'You'd been excited about your birthday. You always slept restlessly when you were excited, and you'd kicked off all your bedclothes ... I looked down at you with a grin, then suddenly it hit me, like a tidal wave. You were wearing a ridiculous short nightie, some blue nylon thing ... I found myself looking at you and feeling this terrible hunger. I threw down the saddle and cleared out, hating myself. I walked around the garden for hours, telling myself it was a brief madness. When you came down to break-fast in your jodhpurs you looked a child again, and I breathed easier. I still felt sick whenever I remembered the way I'd felt, but I thought it was just a touch of lunacy.' Louise watched him gravely, reading the scratched lines of pain in his hard face.

She looked at him through her dark lashes, her mouth curving. 'You darling idiot!' she whispered. 'Do you really think I'd have run from you?'

Daniel caught his breath, staring down into her eyes. 'Louise,' he said hoarsely. 'Dearest ... I'll try to be gentle, but I'm afraid I'll lose control. I've needed you for so long. If I frighten you or hurt you, stop me...' She slid her arms around his neck, her eyes a brilliant, melting blue. 'Take what's been yours since I was eight years old, Daniel,' she whispered.

'You siren,' he muttered, burying his face in the warm white throat, his mouth sliding over her skin hungrily. 'Oh, God, I want you.'

Chitra *CJ* says

"Forbidden Fire" is the story of Louise and Daniel. It explores a passionate stepbrother/ sister romance in old school HQN manner.

Tbh I bought this book because I loved the cover.. and mistake!

We have a heroine who loves and is devoted to the hero, and a hero who is reluctant because of the age difference- he's 35 and she's 17.

Now my issues come because both of them constantly went out with other people to make each other jealous- the H has a girlfriend and flirts with heroines friend, the h has admirers in friends brother and a distant relative.

Also the fact that the heroine knew of the hero's sexual life was discomforting because she saw him coming back post coitus and making out with other women.

Finally the nail in the coffin was "I've been attracted to you since you were 14".

Okaaay

Unsafe

2/5

Diya says

4.5?

This was really good book better than I anticipated from the mix reviews. The question did creep up about were it in distant future she might regret settling down so young but she is deeply in love with him you just don't consider it! It was beautiful story and lamb just makes it that way!

It was funny how she used her femininity and charm to rile Daniel to get his response. She had backbone and I felt that she went out to win his heart and she was truly deeply in love with Daniel. Memorable book.

sbf20112011 says

[the hero admits that he has wanted her since her 14th birthday, right before they have sex for the first time, the heroine says, "Take what's been yours since I was eight years old" (YUUUUUCK), and immediately after they have sex the hero says, "You astounding child," I mean, holy d

Vintage says

Ay caramba.

This should either be a 1 star or a 4 star. I'm wimping out at a 3 star.

May-December, step-sibling, un-requited love kind... of.

This whole love story was kind of icky as the h, who's 17, comes home from boarding school, and the H, who's 35, picks her up with his ex-maybe current mistress in the car. Nice.

Punishing kisses, threatening glances. In a bleak attempt for some kind of supremacy and self respect, the h asks a brother/sister duo to visit. The brother falls for the h with very bad consequences as he tries to rape her. As a result, the H marries the h and then...ravishes her? NO. Ignores her and flees from the marriage bed.

Eventually consummation occurs and all is explained.

4 star rationale: This couple is destined to be together despite the fact that he was nowhere near faithful, but he is 17-18 years older than her so what'cha you gonna do....Which leads us to the 1 star portion...She's a baby at 17. Lowest point is when she tells him she was his at 8, as in eight-years-old. Hmm.

P.S. I do believe they are in love, but there is some discomfort in the training of a nubile newbie to be your wife so young.

Naksed says

Harlequin at its most gloriously non-p.c., taboo, hot mess, bad (or good, depending on how you choose to view it). Sustained by CL's beautiful, elegant writing, it is an eerie tale of obsession, not so much between a man and a woman, but between a man, a woman, and a spooky, old, haunted, castle perched above one of those idyllic English villages that only CL can conjure up with this much dreaminess.

This the story of two step-siblings (with no blood relation but with a quasi father-daughter relationship) who torture each other with jealousy by dangling hapless mates before their respective noses, until passion can no longer be tamed.

Both protagonists are bat shit crazy and they definitely deserved each other. I can see, fifty years from their HEA, their mummified corpses being dug up from under tons of antique tchotkes piled up to the ceiling of their spooky mansion. Their ghosts will no doubt haunt Queen's Dower grimly as dozens of generations of their ancestors before them have, like in Stephen King's Overlook Hotel.

Some barftastic moments include H's confession that he wanted h since she was 14, and he keeps calling her "baby" and "child." h, not to be outdone, tells him to take what has been his since she was 8 years old. I can't even. If I could take this story seriously, I would be horrified, but it is too damn OTT for me to do anything but to chuckle and let the nausea pass.

Jenny says

Story is about a step sister and brother falling in love. The hero resists her because he feels he is too old for her and suffers from jealousy watching her kissing various guys even after they get married. Another book got ruined because of the heroine. She was an idiot acting like a spoiled brat and I must like her because she is the book heroine? I hate heroines who are spoiled (or act like this if they don't get their way), selfish, and never answer for their wrongdoings!

JG says

GUILTY PLEASURES CHECKLIST :

Forbidden Love : CHECK!

Jealous Hero: CHECK! CHECK!

Brutal Passion: TRIPLE CHECK!

Concealed PassionL CHECK!

HAHA....So, that explains the five stars¬

Jacqueline says

Not as much angst as I expected. You could see some social changes. For example the heroine is accused of leading on the OM so when he tries to force sex on her, it is perceived as being a bit of her fault. She even says just because I kissed him doesn't mean I agreed to anything else does it? And the hero was like well you led him on. This was all mixed up in the idea that she was a young girl stretching her grown up woman wings for the first time. However, I don't think that any of the themes involved here were presented strongly enough. Fun on the whole for the crazy of it.

Tia says

Wicked! It was a bit taboo in places but absolutely thrilling to read. I have to admit, this is definitely one story that turns me on and it isn't even graphic! It's just so intensely powerful!

Ivy H says

Charlotte Lamb's original "stepbrother romance" novel ! Yep ! Good old Charlotte wrote about the stepbrother taboo romance LONG before many others even thought of it. Readers either hate this or love it. A few share a middle perspective, because I suppose we do need some minds that are willing to be politically correct while simultaneously appreciating that the novel is in fact quite entertaining at times. I've read this a few times and hey, I loved it. I read it as a teen and then later on as an adult and the whole stepbrother taboo element mesmerised me because Charlotte L does it in her own inimitable style. One is able to feel the passion and the angst so strongly because of the power of Charlotte L's prose. Some people may think the heroine Louise is a bit too precocious at 17 going on 18, to feel such a passion for her 34 year old stepbrother Daniel. But I think adult women sometimes tend to forget the way they used to feel at that age.

When I was 16, the movie "Batman Begins" was released and if I had a hot stepbrother like Christian Bale you bet I would have wanted to jump on him like a roller coaster ride ! I didn't care that Christian Bale was already a grown man over the age of 30. Lol. Teen girls feel very passionately (maybe it's the hormones) and Louise is no exception. She's on the brink of womanhood and has been in love (first puppy love and now real love) with Daniel for a long time. Daniel, to give him fair credit, has always acted like a guardian to her. He never molested her or acted upon the temporary lust he had felt for her when he had seen her sleeping in her nightgown at the age of 14. I don't hate Daniel because he never acted on his temporary insanity. Daniel's not a pedophile. That much is clear in the novel. The taboo element does come in a bit strong because Louise is only 18 when they consummate their relationship.

Is it politically incorrect for me to say how much I enjoyed the way Louise actually used her Lolita tactics to tempt and torment poor Daniel ? The guy really tries hard to ignore all the forbidden feelings he has for his temptress stepsister. He even goes as far as inviting his former girlfriend Barbara over to act as a buffer. Barbara's a jealous bitch because she cannot deal with the strength of the bond she sees between Daniel and Louise and she often belittles the heroine. But Louise is no pushover. She might be just 18 but the girl has got a backbone of steel. She knows what she wants and she knows how to get it. Louise actually invites her school friend Sally and Sally's brother Peter to spend the summer with them. Peter has a crush on Louise and his continuous lustful adoration of the heroine keeps angering Daniel and sparking his jealousy. Things eventually come to a head when Peter tries to rape Louise but she manages to fight him off and escape. It's

after this point that things heat up between Daniel and Louise.

The romance between the MC's was very intense and I believed they truly love each other. I enjoyed the way Daniel was so besotted and possessive. The only thing that I wonder about a tiny bit though is whether, in the future, Louise will be happy with her decision to settle down so early. However, we don't get any distant epilogue but the novel is written in such a way that I do believe that these two will have a wonderful HEA.

Noël Cades says

An absolute corker of a vintage Mills & Boon. Virginal schoolgirl bride, endless smouldering sexual tension and an angry older alpha man-of-the-world struggling to control himself. Plus a wonderfully silly plot where after nearly ravishing her every few pages he marries her, and then tries to remain celibate because "she's not ready for marriage". You can imagine how long that resolve lasts!

There are a lot of similarities to Return to Santa Flores but this is much more enjoyable. The heroine, although perhaps disappointing to a modern emancipated woman of the 21st century, is pleasant enough. The hero is arrogant and rich and sexy and dominant and a complete male chauvinist, but hey, this is Mills & Boon and this is the 1970s. Just: 1979.

Now the caveats: if you're someone who takes "offence" to certain themes or has "triggers", skip this book. There are a couple of scenes of sexual assault (low grade, no actual rape). The hero-heroine sexy bits, mainly just kissing, are very mDom. And if you're repelled by an adult male confessing arousal at the sight of a teenage girl (in fairness: he does not act on it and castigates himself for it, and it's something that happened in the past) then again, this is one to skip.

While the hero and heroine are step-siblings, to my mind the author would have written them as half-siblings if she could have got away with it. It frankly feels like she's paying lip service to the step thing: they're pretty much presented as half-siblings for the majority of the plot, and other people mistake them for full-siblings. The subtext is pretty clear!

For me, I found it a glorious, sexy, vintage romp, with plenty of those wonderfully cringeworthy vintage M&B moments when an author is trying to write about "bright young people" without really having much of a clue about contemporary youth culture.

My edition had a far nicer cover than the one shown here:

Jen says

As the name suggests, this does seem quite incestuous in spite of the lack of blood relation between Daniel and Louise, but somehow the age difference and Daniel's horrid behaviour still make this relationship possible. The power of Mills and Boon.

Margo says

A realistic portrait of a teenager in love. The h is newly grown-up and has decided that it's time for her to be with her much-older stepbrother, with whom she has been in love for most of her life. He is very attracted but rightly knows that she is quite emotionally immature. The h decides to use the tools that she has at her disposal -- her beauty and her sexual attractiveness -- to land the H. She has marvelous moments of adolescent ruthlessness and illogic. She's not super-likable, and neither is he, but it's fun to watch her put her mind to the challenge of getting what she wants, while the H either outplays her or is completely undone by her tactics.

Aou says

I hated H. The dialogue between him and the heroine after she was assaulted was H O R R I B L E !

'I'll never let a man touch me again,' she whimpered, leaning against him.

Daniel gave a soft sound of dry amusement, his lips brushing her cheek. 'There's no need for such extreme action. Just give yourself a breathing space before you make any drastic decisions like that.'
'I mean it,' she said fiercely. The wild blue eyes were glittering in her pale, tearstained face, 'I hated it, the way he looked at me, the way he touched me.' She shuddered, **'I can hear him breathing now . . . horrible!**

Daniel surveyed her oddly, his eyes narrowed. 'His technique was obviously faulty,' he said drily.

She looked at him incredulously, 'It isn't funny! '

Daniel was watching her, his face unreadable. 'When I made love to you I got a response like a tidal wave,' he said coolly."

Of course h was immature, she was only seventeen. He was twice her age. I'm not prude, I don't condemn older Hs, in fact, the more cruel H the better the book for me, but H was not human enough for me. And H used the OW shamelessly. She might be a gold digger but for years he was with her and made her believe that after the h would be eighteen, they would have wedded.

Anyway it was well written and I'm a masochist, that's why I am still giving 3 stars.lol
