

Heather James



fire

*Is control over the elements a gift,
or a curse?*

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Is control over the elements a gift, or a curse?

Roxy thinks that she is in control of everything: with flames flaring at her fingertips and an equally fiery attitude, what more could she need? But then she meets Brae, a prince from a rival Realm, who turns her assumptions of superiority upside down.

Jasmine has none of Roxy's confidence or intensity. But she does have a secret - and Brae - and she's not going to give either up willingly.

Fire Details

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Author : Heather James

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From Reader Review Fire for online ebook

Butterfly says

2.5

Rachel (aka Ms4Tune) says

LOVED IT!

I'd love to leave this review as just that comment but I was asked for a review so I feel I should at least try and explain what I loved about Fire. :)

Firstly though I would like to thank YA/NA Fanatics (previously YA Readers Lounge) and Heather James for providing me with this copy to review.

Sooo what I loved:

This story reminded me of Avatar - (the cartoon series not the James Cameron film) - the last airbender one. There are 4 different cultures each protected by a select group of people with special abilities to control an element.

In a similar way to Avatar - the fire realm are trying to control all the other elements. Their obsession with power and competitive 'firey' nature causes them to call a meeting where they use a 'special power' to try and take control of the other realms.

Brae, Prince of the Arcan (Wind Element) Realm, is a delegate at the meeting. Roxanne, Princess of the Helian (Fire) Realm, is ordered to follow and befriend Brae, make him trust her, to make him more easily manipulated. However what they don't know is that Brae's friend Jasmine has a secret, a power that the Helian's haven't prepared for.

I must warn you there is a Love Triangle in this one - it is obvious, you will see it coming but I didn't actually mind. This one made sense.

I loved the characters. Jasmine took a while to grow on me, I found her a little whiney at the beginning but I liked the way she grew as her character was challenged. I Loved Roxanne, she was so mean and selfish but she as well gradually changed.

The only reason I gave this book 4*s was because I can't wait for the next book and I anticipate it being amazing so I wanted to give it somewhere aim for :)

Well done Heather James - a great start to a series.

Jonel Boyko says

This story is based on a very unique concept. I can definitely say that I've never read anything even remotely like it before. It was a very refreshing and exciting read.

This story was exceptionally well written, especially considering that it is the first novel for this author. I thoroughly enjoyed the fact that she has a well thought out and intriguing plot. This novel is going somewhere specific. It never wanders or loses its reader. I also appreciated the way that James didn't leave anything at loose ends at the end of the novel, but yet left so much to be explained and discovered in future installments. Nothing is left in limbo, but there is more than enough to bring you back for more.

The main characters were quite interesting and very well developed. They were the type of people that you could see yourself being friends with. I truly wanted to see them succeed. You find your heart going out to them on multiple different occasions. They are so real that you can't help it. I also love the mix of interesting powers that the characters possess. They aren't your stereotypical supernatural powers, but this makes them all the more interesting. The powers are also integrated into who the characters are and into their beliefs. They aren't superfluous to the characters but rather an integral part of who they are.

This is definitely a one of a kind story with many one of a kind characters. I was so drawn into this world of many realms and into the lives of the characters that I can't wait to continue on this journey with them in the sequel.

Julie Rimpula says

Review also posted at <http://books-and-insomnia.blogspot.co....> There's also a giveaway for one e-copy of Fire on the blog. Ends April 12, 2013.

**** I received a review e-copy for this tour. ****

I am a big fan of Avatar: The Last Airbender anime so when I read the blurb of this book, I immediately contacted the author and expressed my interest to host a review post for her book tour. I really like this kind of fantasy story wherein the characters have the powers to control the elements.

Fire is set in a fantasy world divided into four realms based on what element they have an affinity for: Arcan (air), Helian (fire), Brizan (water) and Sephan (earth). Each realm has their Protectors, warriors that have control over the element of their realm. While the Arcan, Brizan and Sephan realms maintain a harmonious relationship, the Helian Realm is being outcasted because of their violent past. This attitude toward them leads the Helian king to request a summit with the leaders of the other realms under the pretense that they want to prove to everyone that they've changed. What everyone doesn't know is that the Helians are planning something else than 'being friends.'

The story has two narrators: Roxy (Roxanne) and Jazz (Jasmine). Roxy is a Helian princess while Jazz is an orphan who doesn't know her parentage and lives in the Arcan Realm. These two characters are on the opposite sides of a pole. Roxy is conceited, aggressive, and confident. Jazz, on the other hand, is gentle and caring.

What I liked the most about Fire is that the author wrote the story from two different perspectives. It did not only show the side of the 'good' but it also let me see the story from the view of someone living in the villain realm. I think it's very crucial to the story because a lot of things wouldn't have been explained if it's only Jazz telling the story. Like what the Helians are really plotting, their secret power, what it's like living in Helian Realm, etc. Those information that can only be supplied by an insider. And that's where Roxy comes in. It created balance and consistency in the story.

Now let's talk about the characters. Roxy has a very strong personality. She's a princess so she's used to getting what she wants. She's dominating, proud, frank and (somewhat) cruel. She doesn't care about other people and only thinks of what makes her happy or at least entertained. But despite all these traits, I found it hard to hate her. I even kinda sympathized with her, especially whenever her mother is mentioned. I also liked the fact that there was a major change on Roxy towards the end and all because of LOVE. Who would have thought that high and mighty Roxy would fall in love? And because of that, I liked her character more.

Jazz, for me, is a bit frustrating. Sometimes she is so slow in realizing things. When it's mentioned that her hair is turning into purple, I already have a good idea what she is. Purple is a combination of two colors, right? It doesn't take a genius to realize that Jazz is a child of this and that realms. And when her powers first showed, she had no idea that it was her doing. She even suspected Roxy of trying to harm her. It was funny reading that scene, though. I also think her having visions is cool, even though what it shows her aren't good. But Jazz's shining moment came when they needed her help the most. She was able to control one of her powers and saved her friend Brae. It was brave of her, considering she's not the fighter type. She's not even a Protector yet she found the courage to act like one. Sadly, I docked points again from her because of her cowardice to tell Brae the truth about Roxy. I understand why but it doesn't change the fact that it's wrong.

Prince Brae of the Arcan Realm is a little bit dull to me. Sure, he's kind. He's the only one who trusted Roxy when he has a lot of reasons not to. He is also a good friend to Jazz and trusted her dreams even though they sound crazy. But I am not smitten by him. It seems like he's too good to be true. I also didn't see much character on him. I wish Brae's character was explored more. I'd really like to know him better, though I wasn't really impressed by him in this book.

I wouldn't say Fire is exceptional, but it's really commendable. It's a very good and enjoyable read. I was a bit surprised to like it because I didn't have high expectations from this book when I dived into it. Heather James created a world that's unique and compelling. The plot is not overly complicated and it's smartly written. The bit about the Helian Realm having two suns? Very creative. I especially liked that the Protectors' hairs change colors when their powers first manifest. Each realm is also different - from the physical attributes of the lands to their political aspects, everything is really thought of. I admire Ms. James' imagination and world-building. The pace, though, is a little slow but the story itself keeps the reader's interest. The ending is also perfect. It's not a cliffhanger but it still makes you crave for the next book. I sure can't wait for Book 2. And more importantly, we have a new author to watch out for.

If you're looking for an interesting fantasy novel, I recommend Fire to you. With just the right amount of magic and a good deal of awesome powers, this book will totally heat you up. (Pun not intended! ^_^)

Anastasia ? says

I received a copy from the author in exchange for an honest review

This story was extremely well written. I really liked it, it was slow paced, but it was an exciting and action

packed adventure story of young adults who learn the right and wrongs of the elements that they can control. Fire is about a world with four realms and each realm controls a different element. The Helians that control fire, Arcans control air, Brizan's control water, and the Sephans control the land. This book focuses mainly on two of these, but does have all four.

The story was told in the two main character's Roxy and Jasmine's POVs.

Roxy is a Helian Princess, she controls fire, and is trained to be a protector. The realm she lives in is selfish and only wants to gain power. I liked her character in the beginning of the novel but as the story progressed, as I learned more about her, I started to dislike her. She's spoiled, has a bad attitude, she thinks she's better than the other people in the other realms, and refers to them as stupid quite often. Ughhh!

Jasmine or rather Jazz, was raised in the Arcan realm, a rival realm. She has lived her life not knowing her parents. She is the only character in the story who doesn't know which realm she's from, she has a little bit of each realm in her. I liked her personality; she was always very kind and devoted to her friends and family. Brae, the prince of Arcans and Jazz's best friend.

Overall this was a fun read filled with magic and good vs. evil. I loved all the characters. I highly recommend it!

I can't wait for the next book in the series!!!!

Happy Reading!

~Ana @SoManyBooksSoLittleTime~

This review is also posted on my blog

I also posted this on Amazon.ca and Amazon.com

Amy says

I received a review copy in return for a honest review @ Amy Bookworm. There are GIF's there but moving on...

Part of my reviewer charm is I won't say "go read it straight away" if you shouldn't. It's one of those very decent books which just could've been 5* if it wasn't so short & mean to me! If a book has a cliffhanger in blame the book.

Why did the book have to end there? Was it because we'd suddenly glimpsed the one issue we hadn't seen coming? Well, yeah... We all know that's the perfect way to end a series because it leaves us wanting more. I was addicted before then, believe me though...

It's the character's fault. They just wanted to develop & meet more people... They also didn't want the world to build without them.

...Of course, one would assume there isn't any more world-building that needs to be done for the Hellian (Fire) realm or the Arcan (air) realm but the other two? Let's just say, I cannot wait for the sequel for just that reason. I've never read a book where the world-building has such a positive impact on the book. It seemed to help the book move along...

I think it helped 'Fire' also that Heather wasn't too scared to introduce many characters... In many cases, it was introducing.

One of the other reasons I am dying to read 'Water' is because there appeared to be three sets of characters in Fire: there were the main characters (two, out of the trio, of whom had their POV enlisted to help the reader understand Fire), then characters which I can't just call "secondary". They weren't. We were shown that they are going to be important & we better watch out for them. I'm definitely watching out for Cinear, hellian bad boy. Hellian would normally imply that but... well, he can't be average. If that's average then take the above wave as a goodbye. Over my shoulder. While I am running away fast. Speed.

Then there's obviously characters who are a lot less important than him. They are the proper side characters. They are all still cool but the type which don't factor into the relationships. A bit like how the tributes which fell at the Cornucopia in the Hunger Games don't really factor into the equation. Or anything mathematical, like a love triangle, or literalistic.

Talking of the Hunger Games, I might be a teeny bit more pleased with the girl who would come out alive if the realms were to have a Hunger Games. At least against the others she would. Or does she have weaknesses which others would take advantage of? That includes the other protagonist, Jasmine.

We didn't get to see the whole dynamic of the love triangle because only the girls narrate. It's quite hard to root for one girl over another. Yes, girls are fighting for a boy & it's way more interesting than the usual configuration of that device. The dynamic isn't comparable to a lot... You could say the way they pair up to a Hunger Games trio is like: Jazz is Peeta, Roxy is Gale & Brae is Katniss (well, maybe more... Glimmer?) You'd sort of be sarcastic if you said that, though (impressed, unique characters cause a stir!?)

Lastly, it sounds funny but, I knew then how the story arc would go (or most of it); I might've guessed some of the things during the book but I was already dying to see where it went & ignoring the things I normally wouldn't be excited about... until I realized I was excited about them.

It was developing quite fast for the first novel in the series (but it is a fairly short book which is sad) but I knew that it be likely a cliffhanger would come & leave me wanting more... I loved the mix of world building, character development & major action. It was fabulous & the book felt so...

MIND BLOWING.

Tee loves Kyle Jacobson says

First I would like to say that this book took me by surprise! The cover is not one that really screams read me but the content in the story is one to die for! Lord the saying never judge a book by its cover is never more real then in this case. The story is well developed and the author has done her homework because the descriptions of the worlds she has created stands out and grabs you and keeps you reading until the end comes and you are like what the hell???????????

Can you imagine being born with a gift of controlling one of life's elements? Can you imagine being able to control fire? Well that is a reality for Roxy who is a Princess of The Helian Realm. She can control fire. Only she is a little selfish and a little intense when she uses it. I would say she is a little spoiled brat that is used to getting her way. Then she meets Brea who is from a rival realm and her world turns upside down. She starts to see things a different way and she starts to like Brea. But Brea is taken and his girl will not let anyone or anything come in the way of them being together.

Jasmine is Brae's girl and she has a secret. Her secret once some of it is revealed is so incredible that it takes the reader by storm. Jasmine also knows that Roxy wants Brea and she is going to make sure that Roxy knows he is hers and no one is going to come between them and she also has to keep her secret from Roxy.

What will happen if Roxy finds out Jasmine's secret? What will Brea do? This is one story that is a must read and you do not want to put it down and I need the second one right now because I just have to find out what happens. Lord I am so impatient but what goes down in the last three chapters leaves you breathless!

Alaina (Bibliophilic Barista) says

Review originally posted on my blog, see it [here](#)

I would like to thank Heather James for providing me with a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Heather James created a very interesting world in this series. There are four different realms in the world, each vastly different from one another from the atmosphere to the people that live in each of them. Each Realm has Protectors, those who have special powers associated with their heritage. The Helian Realm (the Protectors powers are related to fire), the Arcan Realm (the Protectors powers are related to air), the Brizan Realm (the Protectors powers are related to water), and the Sephan Realm (the Protectors powers are related to earth). Aside from the Realms being associated with different elements, the people in them all have very similar hair, eye, and skin colors which are different in each of the Realms. The people of each Realm also have very strong opinions about how the other realms behave, dress, and live. I really enjoyed the creative world building throughout Fire, along with the crazy difference in character across the different societies. The story was different from anything I've read before, and it was refreshing to see a new spin on elemental magic.

I have kind of mixed feelings about the rest of the story though. I was kind of confused about the difference between the Realms and their people for a while, but it ended up clearing up for the most part within a few chapters. It took me a long time to feel like I cared about the characters (it was somewhere around 85%), which made the story move kind of slowly for me. In the beginning I really thought I would like how spunky and strong Roxy was, and I ended up thinking of her as a pretentious spoiled brat until the last couple chapters. I suppose her attitude fit well with the society she lived in (the Helian Realm, since they were all like that). Jasmine and Brae (from the Arcan Realm) were much more easy to like, but they didn't really do anything to actually impress me for a while either. I will say that I was (actually I still am) incredibly curious about what exactly Jasmine is (I developed a theory pretty early on and now I'm curious to see how close I am).... I won't say anything else because I don't want to spoil too much! I also wish there was a little bit more about the other two Realms and their people added to the story (the Brizans and Sephans).

Overall, Fire was a really quick and entertaining read. I liked a lot of things about the world Heather James created and how unique it was. I loved how the people were so wildly different, and got a kick out of how they would use "Flames" or "Air" as an expletive depending on who was talking. The descriptions of each realm and the people in them were also amazing. There were a couple things that kept this at 3 stars for me though. I'm a sucker for romance so I definitely wish that there had been more, it felt like there was a little flicker of it but it was mostly absent throughout the story. It also bothered me a little to read "stood" and "sat" in place of "standing" and "sitting," I'm not used to hearing it so I couldn't help it getting to me. I felt like nothing really exciting happened until almost the very end, but I'm hoping now that most of the details are in place the next book will have more action. I'm definitely looking forward to book two to find out what happens.

Rachel says

The 1st book in the element of fire series was really good! The book switches from the points of view of a girl named Roxy, to a girl named Jazz, a.k.a Jasmine. Roxy is a princess in the Helian Realm (its a hot realm where people control fire) and has just finished her training. Her attitude is as firey as the element she controls and I love it! Jazz is a quiet girl from the Arcain Realm (people control air in this realm) and is best friends with the prince of the realm, Brae, who must set out for a diplomatic meeting in the Helian Realm. Other than these realms, there are also the water and earth realm. (they have different names of course) All the realms leaders have been called to this diplomatic meeting in the Helian realm to discuss treaties and trade negotiations. But Roxy and her fellow Helians have a power the other realms don't know about, and they intend to use it to gain power over the others. Jazz also has a power not even her best friend Brae knows about, and when she starts having weird, prophetic dreams, she must follow Brae and risk uncovering a secret that will ruin everything she holds close.

I'm very suprised how much I liked this book after I finished it. When I first started reading it, the switching of the point of views really confused me until I figured out what was going on with the characters and what kind of world they lived in. I didn't really understand the romantic connection between Roxy and Brae though, It just felt under developed. I loved Roxys personality and it's awesome when the heroine makes her own rules. Jazz's character was alright, but I think I know where the author is going with the purple strands in her hair, but I could be wrong. I loved the end though and it makes me want to read the next one!

I would like to thank the author, Heather James, and the YA Readers Lounge for this opportunity and I loved reading and reviewing the book!

Emma says

This was one of those serendipitous findings; it simply appeared on my home page and I was immediately intrigued. It was clearly meant to be!

World-building is a major strength of the novel; the author has clearly spent a lot of time getting to know every detail of her fantasy world and it shows in her writing. The history and politics of the realm are revealed using the right balance of show and tell so that you do not feel like you are having information thrown at you, or that the story is brought to a standstill. I particularly thought that getting Roxy to display her powers whilst at the same time meeting a historian with a first-hand (and thus quite passionate) account of an important historical event was very clever.

Roxy herself is a very interesting character; she has a lot of admirable qualities but also a lot of flaws which we can see are a result of her upbringing as a princess in the Helian Realm. Though the reader can of course empathise with her a lot through the link of POV her selfishness, and even at points her relish in creating misery, is rather shocking. She is exciting and I wanted to know how the events of the novel would affect and change her.

Jasmine at first runs the risk of being seen as the wet blanket as she is a lot quieter and is finding it difficult to adjust to the changes happening to her. And yet as her story progresses we recognise in her a strength which she does not even seem to realise that she has. She worries, yes, but never about herself, and she rushes off into the unknown without hesitation to save someone she cares about. Jasmine's powers and

heritage are a mystery; though I think I may have some idea of her parentage (I may be completely wrong!).

The romance in the novel was refreshing; there is no heroine who is new to town and has boys falling at her feet, or has to choose between the mysterious stranger and the reliable best friend. Having two viewpoint characters with feelings for the same boy is of course interesting, but their feelings develop and express themselves in very different ways; love is not the same for every person. There is no sudden love at first sight or long descriptions of how every physical aspect of the hero is perfection. The author recognises that love is hard, and can actually make you feel awful as well as great, and leads you to do things you never thought you were capable of.

It was also very interesting that Brae remains a bit of a mystery throughout as we never see inside his head. We know he cares for both girls but for the most part I could not guess whether he is in love with one or the other, or both, or if he even thinks of either romantically at all. I can't wait to see this love story develop!

The only issues that I had with the novel are very small. I felt that the party, including the setting up and the cleaning up, which is part of the introduction to Jasmine's home life, dragged on for too long. It seems that the purpose was to introduce Jasmine's friends and their powers and to let us know that Brae is worried about her and knows something is wrong, but I think there could have been a different way to do this. In fact the aftermath is actually the most interesting part of this scene and so maybe the party could have been summed up in a few lines and then we learn more in the following section. This was the only part that I skim read – and I'm glad I didn't put the book down because I would have missed out on a great story.

One other tiny issue is that when describing a certain power of the Helians the phrase 'like honey' is overused. It is a very effective description but it is used several times within the same scene, or scenes which are very close together. As I say this was just a tiny detail that I noticed, and it didn't tar my enjoyment of the novel.

The ending is very fast-paced and it is one of those endings where you get to that page saying 'Now you are finished...' and cry 'NO! I want to find out what happens next!' It feels like there is much more to come, in terms of story, but also for the characters; their relationships and personal development.

Heather, please say that you are working on the sequel ... preferably literally right now this second!

Heather B (Owlnestly Reviews) says

I am always a bit weary (but I do it anyway) when it comes to reviewing indie books, because they are normally a hit or miss. This book thankfully was a smashing hit. This book consists of characters that come from four realms, with representation of each element. The main focus is on the characters from the Helian (fire) and the Arcan (wind) realm. Each realm does not rally mix with the other, but the water, wind and earth realms have managed to have a happy balance between the three through trade and alliances. The fire realm wants in, but not in a good way. They have a secret gift that the other realms do not know about. The reader finds out that this gift is the gift of Control. They can make any do anything to their bidding, including suicide if it comes to that. In the story, the Helian realm invites representatives from each realm to "negotiate" because they are the only realm that has been left out of alliances, for a good reason to. The rest of the book tells about what happens during this conference between the realms.

The three main characters of the story were Roxy, Jasmine, and Brae. Roxy, hmm how do I even start, I did not like her. At all. She was just too confident and conceited and I just did not enjoy her at all. When she seems to be having a change of heart throughout the story, I still didn't like her. I felt no sympathy for her, maybe I am just a bad person, but I just was not feeling her character. Jasmine on the other hand, I loved her. She was shy and a bit timid at times, but she got things done. Also, I really like her powers and the fact that she is so different from the others. Brae, was nice but he just didn't have any spunk. I felt that he fell for Roxy just a tad too easily. Jasmine had to save his little cute behind in the end.

Overall, I was entranced by this book. I am itching to read the sequel in order to read more about Jasmine and what is to come. I believe that Heather James takes her time in detailing her world she has written about, and I was pulled right into the settings of the book. I recommend this to those that love young adult fantasy!

Sarah says

(Source: I received a digital copy of this book for free on a read-to-review basis. Thanks to author Heather James, and Never Too Old For Y.A. & N.A. Books.)

Roxy is a fire mage, and she's also a princess of the Helian realm. She has long been trained to be a 'protector' and she will soon get to put her powers to the test when delegates from the other 3 realms travel to Helian to discuss trade agreements.

Jasmine is a friend of Prince Brae of the Arcan realm, and she is hiding a secret. Streaks of colour appear in people's hair as they gain mastery of an element, Prince Brae is gaining silver streaks which show his affinity for air, whilst Jasmine has suddenly developed purple streaks – the likes of which have never been seen before. Afraid that people will think her a monster, Jasmine hides the streaks in her hair, and can't bring herself to confide in anyone.

As ambassadors for the other three realms arrive in Helian to discuss trade agreements, most are a little wary – whilst the other three realms trade openly and use each other's waters, nobody trusts those from Helian after a previous war, and such grievances are difficult to forgive and forget.

Will the discussions be worthwhile? What is happening to Jasmine? And can the four realms come to some sort of compromise?

This book wasn't for me. The characters annoyed me, and the story dragged.

Roxy had such a temper. Her interactions with Brae were less conversations, and more arguments. Even when he was being conversational, she immediately jumped to the offensive, and started arguing with him, which got really annoying. It was like she had constant PMT, and if I knew her in real life she would be the sort of person that I would avoid. I just got so sick of how on-edge she was, and how ready she was to attack everyone – either verbally or with fire.

Jasmine was quite a weak girl if you ask me. She hardly had the nerve to do anything, and hiding what was happening to her from her own best friend was just cowardly. I know she believed that he would hate her if he found out, but I really think that she should have at least tried to confide in him. I just wanted her to grow a backbone and stop being such a wuss.

I found a lot of the storyline a bit dull unfortunately. I thought that there were too many info-dumps where

large chunks of information would just be thrust upon us like a lecture. There were also great big sections where I felt like the story went off on a bit of a tangent, and we were forced to go through things that had very little if any significance to the storyline.

The constant arguments and back-stabbing grew old quick, and I'm sorry, but if you don't trust the people of Helian, why even go there to discuss things? If they're that bad, why even consider trading with them? And if you must (I know – keep your enemies closer), then would you do it on their home turf? Wouldn't you invite them somewhere else rather than going to their lands where they obviously have the home turf advantage? To be honest it seemed like the Arcan's and Helians had little intention of ever being friends, so the whole trip just seemed a little futile.

In the end I can't say that I enjoyed this book. The dull parts of the storyline just bored me, the constant arguing and Roxy's high stress levels made me feel on edge, and I got to the point where I just felt so bogged down in the story that I had a hard time pushing myself to finish. I won't be reading the second book in this series, but some die-hard fantasy fans may enjoy this.

Overall; YA fantasy that just had too many flaws for me.

4 out of 10.

Candace says

I received a copy of Fire from the author in exchange for an honest review.

Fire was an amazing book, written with edge-of-your-seat action and a bit of mystery and romance thrown in. It appeals to all demographics, from teens to adults, as it is not dumbed down nor too mature. The pacing seemed appropriate, with enough time given to action without dwelling too long. There is also a varied cast, each with a role to play, but thankfully were not too confusing. The characters seem relatable and are well written, so it is easy to feel for them and become invested in their story.

One critique is that the romance seems a bit forced but with hopefully become more natural in later books. Another critique is regarding world building. While the characters are well written, it was a bit hard to imagine the world it was based in. Is it modern? Apocalyptic? Medieval? Also, I HATE cliffhangers! I hate them because I loathe anticipation, however, it does make me super excited for book 2. ;)

This was a great book to read and I look forward to seeing where the characters go!

aprille says

Fire by Heather James is an enjoyable fantasy that follows the stories of Roxy, a fiery Helian Protector, and Jasmine, the girl who doesn't quite belong.

I really liked this book. I loved Roxy's chapters, watching as she was brought in on the scheme that follows the Helian pattern of generally just being nasty to the other nations. It's not often that we get a point of view from the antagonists, and Roxy was such a convincing character that I was really unsure of how this was going to end up.

Jasmine and Brae have been friends for a long time; so when Brae announces his intention to travel to the Helian realm for the 'conference', Jasmine immediately worries. After a few disturbing dreams and some unusual developments of her own character, Jasmine sails herself to the Helian realm to save her friend.

The characters in this book were so defined that even if they didn't have their names above their chapters, you could still tell who was narrating, and I find that to be an exceptional thing. Too often characters sound like sock puppets and to read a book that finally bucked that trend was extremely refreshing.

During the second half of the book, I was surprised at how much I felt for a certain development on Roxy's behalf. I did not see it coming and I cannot explain how grateful I am that I was completely blindsided by this. I love when the author takes me completely unawares; it's part of the reason I read!! This is certainly one development that I can't wait to see in the sequel, Water.

Jasmine's ... unique... development was also very well executed. I figured it out about three quarters of the way through the book and had to put down my phone and go 'ohhhhhh' because it made perfect sense and yet *I didn't see it coming at all!*

Recommend those who love surprising novels and the elements.

Sarah Martinson says

It's been a while since a book has captured my complete interest and that I couldn't figure out the ending before halfway through reading it. Fire managed to keep me entertained- nay, enthralled- as well as kept me guessing.

Heather James has created a world of wonder and amazement, filled with magic, good vs. evil, and even a second sun! The world is filled with different realms that each contain a population as different from each other as, well, fire and water. ;)

Throughout the book it switches between the perspectives of Roxy and Jazz. Roxy's character is both infuriating and somewhat appalling, yet I also found myself rooting for her and loving her development. Jazz is easier to relate to at first. She is filled with many insecurities, but rises above them to do what she believes is right.

Overall, this book is a *must* read, and one that will keep you up at night (either because you won't want to put it down, or because you can't help but wonder what will happen next and reliving events.) I highly recommend reading it, and can't wait for the next book in the series!
