



Burning Embers (The Shadows Return, #1)

Fiona Jeeves

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The empire has been crumbling for three hundred years. But among the kingdoms fighting for dominance, Feia must learn that the most powerful thing in any world, is to be able to accept and love who you are.

Abandoned as an infant at a Temple, it is time for Feia to break free. Persecuted and held at knife-point, she is forced to defend herself and destructive magic awakens within. This new power brings premonitions of her homeland, Arngeir destroyed by a mysterious army. In order to warn the nobility, and save Arngeir, Feia must leave everything behind and make the dangerous journey north.

Beyond the Temple boundaries there is no protection from the elements, the dangers of the road or the Champions of Light, hunters of anyone who dares to be different.

Her power could be her salvation or her damnation.

A young adult fantasy, with danger, romance and a desperate need for self-discovery.

Burning Embers (The Shadows Return, #1) Details

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Author : Fiona Jeeves

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From Reader Review Burning Embers (The Shadows Return, #1) for online ebook

tina l myers says

Interesting

I love the story! Courageous characters, you'd think they're real people. Very VERY well written!
Thankful for the experience or sure

Alison Ingleby says

One of the best books I've read this year! I loved this fantasy tale of magic, romance and a girl trying to figure out the truth about her past and herself. The writing is fluid with vivid descriptions that bring the world to life. Feia is a great character, though I got a little frustrated with her toward the end of the book (no spoilers!). Rhyode is excellent as the brooding, mysterious protector and love interest and Vesta was a brilliantly well-rounded character. I'd definitely recommend this book and hope to see a sequel soon...

I received an advance copy to read, but this is my honest review of the book.

Kelsay says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

OMG THAT ENDING. I don't know how I'm going to wait for the next book. I found it highly engaging and almost impossible to put down. I enjoyed the originality of the story line, and I found Feia very relatable.

Denise Worley says

This was a really good book!! It was hard to put down! There is magic and a little romance and friendship all mixed in! I give this four stars because the ending confused me but wanting more!

Leanne says

Be ready to relive your whirlwind of teenage emotions.

Through one girls experiences of being outcast, shamed and attacked, you still can't help but feel her compulsion to save the lives of people she doesn't know and her own personal growth figuring out her identity and own desires.

This story was gripping throughout, and you want to see Feia through her whole journey. Probably my favourite character was Vesta, Feia's friend who winds up travelling with her. I couldn't help but be swept up by her. There is a depth there that made me so vested in knowing more about her.

What I loved about this book was that it brought in so many strong women, but they were all strong in very different ways, and not all of them in a way that helped others. Feia herself developed far more strength as a result of being around these women, though she still found her own way of expressing and using it.

It finished a little abruptly for me. It's hinting heavily at a second book. If there is another, then this book was great, because I want to know what happens to Feia next, I want answers to the things that were scooted passed, and I want to know far, far more about this Rhyode guy! If there isn't another book... well. There'll be hell to pay.

Kira says

I received a copy of this book for a honest review

So all I can say is WOW! This book had me from the start. From the beginning it pulls you in and keeps you there. Even during some "slow" parts, I found myself wanted to read more just to find out what happens next. From open to close, I wanted to keep reading. I found Feia to be kind of cowardice at times but then again I could not blame her, to have that much power thrust to you and be expected to use it without killing anyone is scary and I understand her hesitation. When Vesta joined the group, I thought she had an alternate motive for joining them other than just wanting to get away. I am happy that she found a "family" in the end and I hope to see more of her in the next book. Now Rhyode, I want to love him, but I feel like there's stuff about him that we don't know yet and that he's hiding something. He's your typical, mysterious male character but I still found him intriguing. I'd like to find more out about his powers, what he did at the end of the book makes me wonder if he might be part Nethari. But the ending of the book was perfect, it left you wanting to read the next book, left the right cliffhangers and introduced a possible new plot for the next one. I did love this book! I can't wait for the next one!!!

Caitlin says

I received a copy of this book from a Goodreads Giveaway

I enjoyed Burning Embers. It certainly starts out with a bang. In the first 10 pages, Feia has her life seriously threatened by a classmate. Knife to the throat kind of stuff. And her reaction releases a hidden magic within her that starts her out on a heavy mission to save the people of Arngeir. She hesitantly bands together with Rhyode, who she meets on the road and who saves her life. Together they travel to the Spire, the center of Arngeir, and in so doing Feia learns to trust, to believe, and to love herself.

It was a cool world and I liked the mythology and magic. I did feel a bit disconnected from the characters, though. I'm not sure if that was because it was written in 3rd person pov so I wasn't getting a lot of emotional insight or if it was just lacking in the writing. The journey was exciting with lots of action. Feia learning to come to terms with her new powers and find some acceptance of herself was great. The romance aspect between Rhyode and Feia - I wanted it to smolder more. I craved more tension between them. And there

were events that happened a little too conveniently and easily for my taste.

Overall, it was a pretty solid story that I enjoyed reading. I think my main issue was just that it felt like there wasn't enough. I wanted more. More of everything. But I think that will make me enjoy reading book 2 to satiate that craving.

Cassandra MADEUP BookBlog says

This was a wonderful Young Adult Fantasy story, and I enjoyed so much!

I will admit that in the first couple of Chapters, I wasn't certain how i was going to feel about the story, but by the third chapter I was hooked. The more I read about Feia the more I loved her.

This is a girl who, through no fault of her own, is in a position where her situation gets less and less desirable in the beginning, she goes through an awful lot in a short amount of time, and there are themes woven into the story that are so important for some to read about.

Feia doesn't know anything about her father, about why she is where she is, and she doesn't have an easy time of life where she is. Being different to the others, Feia is picked on in brutal ways, and makes the decision to take some big steps and risks to try and figure out who she is.

I adored the story, because it's not just about literally finding out who she is in a genetic sense, but also about learning who she is as an individual, and who she wants to become. The type of person she wants to be and be seen to be, and the type of acceptance she wants to gain. She is far from a weak person, but she is learning her strengths as she goes.

I adored the magic and Romantic elements, they were each just that bit different! I didn't think I would finish this today, but in the end I read instead of watching a film, because I was desperate to see how things would turn out. Now, after that ending, I NEED more, I NEED to know what is going to happen in this world next!

A great book from Fiona, and I will be eagerly awaiting the next!

My only comment would be that the names of the places took some getting used to, with all of them being different, it took me a while to get them straight in my head. For myself, I prefer to have places added gradually, as with unusual names. It helps to get them to stick in my head! But this didn't effect my enjoyment at all!

Energy says

Once the background information was laid out, Burning Embers picked right up and turned into a really good book. Feia has spent her life in the Temple, raised as a Foundling, being the butt of others jokes, constantly picked on and hurt. She's been told to ignore the powerful dreams she's had, she's been told she doesn't have a Gift, and years of hearing that you're less than can wear a person down.

When she finally decides she's had enough, she leaves the Temple to branch out on her own. She knows it's

dangerous, that she could be caught by the Champions, but she would rather risk it than keep living the life she's leading inside the safe walls of the Temple.

But she's off to a rocky start, and thankfully, a man named Rhoyde is there to help. We follow Feia on her adventure to not only fulfilling her promise to Rhoyde, but following the dreams that are leading her back to who she suspects is her birth father. Her powerful dreams spell of destruction and she hopes they can arrive in time.

This was a fun book to read. I liked the various magical elements, the "Gifts" as Jeeves puts it, that people are able to control. I think that even though Feia was off to such a rough start, it was great watching her find her inner strength, even if it took a really long time to do so. Her friend, Vesta, could be a really great character and it would be nice to read more of her. I also hope to read more of Rhoyde in the following books. Overall it's a fun read pulling in mythological elements to create an entire fantastical world of the authors making.

Saundra Wright says

A fabulous coming of age epic set in a magical fantasy realm where being different will get one killed! Fiona Jeeves' *Burning Embers* was so captivating that I fell asleep reading and grabbed it up again upon first waking. With well-rounded characters, a fully imagined and wonderfully described world, and intense plot, one would like to read this straight through.

Faia was raised a Fouldling, left abandoned at the Temple of Dancing Light. Abused by the other girls, most there for their education until of age and a suitable marriage will be arranged by their families, Faia is a loner. Mostly she doesn't mind. She avoids the others as much as she can, but it is impossible to get out of all the bruises and scrapes, usually minor injuries they inflict.

Though most people exhibit some magic from the Spirit Saelil, as the Temple teaches, Faia's magic hasn't shown itself. She was told it should exist, and she is far past the age, at sixteen, but it still eludes her, no matter how hard she tries.

Saka, Faia's personal nemesis since childhood escalates the violence against her, and enlists her group of followers until it becomes life-threatening. Faia's magic erupts far differently than the power of Saelil. Now Faia has more to fear than the children of the Temple. Should she ever leave the Temple grounds a Seeker for the Champions of Light may find her. Having power other than Saelil's is a death sentence!

Faia also has dreams that predict the future, another strange magic. When her dreams turn to the safety of the realm, Faia must find a way to warn the ruler of impending danger. How can this be done when she cannot leave the Temple walls? If Faia does leave her home, how will a lone girl travel the length of the kingdom? How will she gain an audience? Will she be able to avoid the Champions?

Get this epic adventure today and journey with Faia across her land as she discovers the world beyond the Temple walls and who she ultimately is.

Kindle Unlimited edition

Risa says

I received an advanced/review copy of this book. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content and honesty of my review.

This book took a bit for me to get into, but once I did, I really enjoyed it. At the heart of the story, it's a coming-of-age novel filled with magical intrigue, the strong bond of friendship, action scenes, and some light romance that left me wanting more.

This book *does* end on a pretty major cliffhanger, so be warned about that. I definitely want to know how the story continues in the rest of the series, and I think this is the perfect book for anyone who enjoys young adult fantasy and paranormal with a smidge of romance :)

If you'd like to read my full review, check it out on my blog :)

- alated bibliophile
