



Heaven's Fire

Patricia Ryan

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LOVE'S UNCONQUERABLE POWER

Young Constance was practically a slave, waiting to be taken at will by the cruel Sir Roger Foliot, lord of the village of Cuxham. But Sir Roger did not count on her ability to escape from him into the protection of priest, Oxford scholar, and sworn celibate, Rainulf Fairfax. Rainulf noticed Constance's intelligence as well as her beauty the first time they met. Once a soldier in the Crusades, Rainulf understood battle, but he didn't know anything about the war of passion that was about to erupt between them.

Drawn into a love that was forbidden, Constance desired the proud, honorable Rainulf not only as her teacher but as much more. Now they have a lesson to learn about love ... how unstoppable it is ... what it will cost them ... and what the priceless ecstasy of sharing a future --- forever --- can be.

Heaven's Fire Details

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From Reader Review Heaven's Fire for online ebook

Natward1yahoo.com says

I really like this author. Every book I've read from her I've been pleasantly surprised by. Normally I'm not very into historical romance. And often times historical romance novels are corny or boring. But this author is truly awesome! I really loved this story. The characters are so pleasantly non-cliche. They are completely real, genuine, and original. And so likable and alive. I also love a slow building romance in which I can see the characters falling in love and see all the reasons why they'd fall in love vs. the author just telling me they love each other and for no reason I can even see. This author handles this romance flawlessly. It's a breath of fresh air to read a romance where the characters are actually interesting and have interesting conversations. Instead of just generic, mind numbing interactions. The thing I most look forward to when beginning a story is the first interaction between the male and female lead. So often I'm tremendously underwhelmed by the way so many authors handle this part. With generic, boring conversations and even more generic situations. In this story though, the first interaction between the two characters is so well done. Their conversations during their first interaction were thought provoking, interesting, and emotional. And the situation itself was very unique. There was no stupid insta love. And I think the first interaction between the two was so good because Constance and Rainulf are two excellent characters by themselves. So together they make such a great pairing. Constance is the epitome of an awesome, strong female lead. She does what needs to be done without over much whining or fussing. Even though things she has to do are just terrible. But she bravely faces her challenges head on. Her circumstances try to hinder her but her strong will and sweet spirit overpower her challenges. I love that she is child like but fierce at the same time. She is kind to others. I loved that she was digging her own grave close to the beginning of the story just because that's what needed to be done. No balking or complaining. Just doing what was necessary with her head held high. Which is what she does her whole life. I also love Rainulf. He is emotionally and spiritually troubled. He is emotionally closed off, but he's not done in such a way that most authors do their "closed off emotionally males". He's still loving and nurturing and kind. But just troubled is the best way to describe him. He's trying to find himself again. And I just can't say enough of how much I loved watching their relationship unfold. The author did an amazing job at showing me how each of them contributed to the others life. They both change each other for the better. She teases him, he slowly opens up to her. He challenges her to gain more education. She challenges him to be happier and not worry so much. Their relationship is so genuine. I am in love with them both so I can see why they'd be in love with each other. And when they finally come together, the author has built it up to where it's a very emotional, intense and loving encounter, with just enough of a long slow build up as not to be overly drawn out. It was perfect and I very rarely feel that way about how relationships are handled. The only draw back to this story is that I don't love all of the different points of view we hear from. Especially that we hear from the bad guys points of view from time to time as well as other minor characters when the author wants us to see what's happening from others view points. I'm not too fond of that and wish there was a more creative way the author could have used in order to show us what the bad guy is doing and that someone is after Constance and stuff. It's just too convenient when we kinda know a lot of what is going on behind the scenes if you will only because we are in these side characters minds. It is definitely not horrible or anything. I didn't mind it terribly because the story really is so perfect to me, but this would be my one critique. I hate to even complain at all because I'd take this over lame generic characters and insta love any day. I very much recommend this story if you are sick of cliche writing and you love unique and interesting characters who don't always do just what you'd think or expect.

Michelle says

Just no. First, she married a man old enough to be her grandfather. Imaging sex between these two, ewwww. Then she runs to the village priest to protect her from some guy that is after her. He's old as well. The evil guy, Roger, says that she's not going to be safe for long (imagining him twisting his mustache here) because the priest is old, and when he dies, Roger will be back for her. The priest says she can stay and be his housekeeper, and he has sex with her that night as part of the deal. I was just completely grossed out by this time and had to quit reading.

Debbie Allen says

Like Falcons Fire it was a bit tedious in parts but I kept turning page after page. Glad the good guys won and survived. And Pigot was NOT who I expected. That threw me for a loop

Jamie says

I tend to keep picking up Patricia Ryan's books when I see them for free. They are always well written. But I really have to be in the mood for them. You see, the story is always a tease ... right when you think the main couple will finally get together, nope. Miss Ryan is great at this, and I think it makes the couple's joining even more spectacular because I am so ready for it by the time I get to it. There is always wonderful medieval facts, as well. Even though a lot of information is repetitive in her books, I never feel like I'm reading the same story. I really liked the heroine in this book, Constance/Corliss. She was very strong willed, determined, and smart. Mr. Fairfax was very supportive of her strong willed nature. This is a great read!

Denise says

Creative medieval romance unfortunately hampered by 2D villains and a TSTL heroine.

Tanya says

This book represents an interesting intersection of genres; it is part historical romance, part medieval serial-killer mystery. Taking place in 12th century England, Heaven's Fire brings together a Norman priest, soon to become chancellor in Oxford, and an unusually educated Saxon peasant. We soon find that she is the target of a sadistic murderer, who will soon see through her young male scholar disguise.

The history is not sophisticated, but it's kind of fun. The romance is pretty well done. The mystery is predictable, but still provides some suspenseful moments. 3.5 stars.

Dawn says

++Spoilers+++

Well this is the last book I read from this author. I am actually surprised I was able to finish it.

I am sorry for the angry reviews as of late, but I am growing quite tired of being kind after finishing a book that has left me angry. Since I wasted my time and money I no longer feel the need to be kind.

Although the writing was decent there are many elements that I dislike.

First, I DNF the first book in this series which started out pretty good, until the author made a potentially great hero into an unlikeable one. This second book, did exactly the same thing except this hero was a little less douchbaggy.

Here we have a young hot priest/scholar who has been celibate for 11 years. He comes across the h when summoned to give last rites to a priest in a neighboring town who was dying of small pox. The dying priest was an old man who had taken the h as a mistress in exchange for protection from an evil man who wanted her for his own abusive sexual purposes. Upon arriving, said old priest has already died and h is already with fever and may die as well. Young hot priest saves her with healing methods learned while on crusade (he also gives her some small holy relic). He leaves her in the care of a friend once he is sure she will live. The h having survived and now has no protection from evil man flees her town disguised as a boy and changes her name. . Of course she seeks out hot priest in Oxford to return a relic he left with her when she was ill. Evil man is not happy when he learns the h's death was faked and sends extra evil guy to locate her. Extra evil guy loves to torture and disfigure women.

So do you see where I'm coming from? First a big pet peeve of mine are antagonists that are evil for no reason.. cartoonish. We get 2 of them in this story. I also abhor long winded dialogues from the evil guys. It is a cheap ploy to buy time while the H swoops in for a rescue. Again cartoonish.

What I hate most of all is the fact I start out loving the Hero until the author felt it necessary to describe in detail his past sexual exploits before he took his vows. I also hate that the hero is so arrogant and proud of himself for it..bragging in front of the h like he's some sort of sex God. And of course the h has only had old men and never experienced pleasure in the bedroom. But what truly dumbfounded me was the h asking the H to tell her about all his "conquests." Who does this?

AH but the real kicker that made me lose all liking for this book was when the h asks the H how it felt when he made one of his ex woman orgasme. He tells her he doesn't know how it feels for a woman and he won't tell her how it felt for him. So he decides (feeling sorry for that she never climaxed) to take it upon himself to pleasure her (with fingers), this is right after telling her of course that he wished he never met her.... And she lets him. WTF? I wish I never met you? And you allow his hands on you right after?

Need I go on?

I guess I am the odd one here against all these 5 star reviewers, but I prefer more likeable characters, more realistic antagonists and realistic conflict. I also suppose my idea of a lovable hero differs from others. I guess I have a bit more of a higher standard for a "HERO." I don't care if they have a past, but I find it unnecessary to have it detailed and thrown in my face--arrogantly no less.

Lastly.. all this sex and not one child has come of it? Past and present? Please..

Wont recommend, wont read this author again for she seems to keep the same patterns that I don't care for.

Oh if you get upset with violence, torture disfigurement and attempted rape... this is not for you. These things don't bother me but for others it may.

Sharon Harris says

Great read

This is one of the best author I have found in this time period. A bit unusual story. Loved how she showed a female could learn as well as any man when given instruction. Great love story. Worth your time.

Rachel says

Better than the other book I read in the Lords of Conquest series. Decidedly less non-consensual sex, so I suppose that's a plus?

I keep waiting to enjoy these books because I love Patricia Ryan's 19th century mystery series. How can an author's books vary so much between series?

Mary B. says

Like its predecessor, Heaven's Fire is a 5 stars, without question. I loved both Falcon's Fire and Heaven's Fire so much, that I can't even really separate them and think of them as two different books.

My Review for Falcon's Fire: <http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...>

In Heaven's Fire, we get to hear Rainulf's story. Rainulf is the elder half-brother of the heroine in the first book. He is a brilliant scholar, teacher, and former soldier of the Crusades. He is also a Priest whose faith has been badly shaken, and he questions the validity of the Church and of God (as I stated in my review of the first one, these are most definitely NOT inspirational books, but they do have a lot of religious themes as the Church was a significant institution during the time period that these stories take place).

At the beginning of the book he finds out that the Church has released him from his Priesthood. He is teaching at a new school in Oxford, which Rainulf believes has the potential to be a great university one day (teehee). The Bishop also has set his sights on Rainulf to be the Chancellor of Oxford, which is a post he desperately craves. He was a celibate Priest for eleven years, and although he has been recently released from his vows, he still intends to remain celibate so as to be awarded the prestigious post of Chancellor.

Constance of Cuxham has spent the majority of her young life trading her body for protection... specifically

protection from Sir Roger Foliot, a sadistically evil knight who brutalizes all who are under him, especially women. And Sir Roger is obsessed with Constance. She has managed to stay protected from his wrath because she married an old man when she was quite young (and Sir Roger fears the fires of hell, and would not violate another man's wife). Then after she is widowed she takes up with Father Osred, an elderly priest, and lives as his mistress and housekeeper in exchange for his protection from Sir Roger. She is tired of being used, and longs for freedom. Years later, when a small pox epidemic kills the old Priest, Constance is once again left open for Sir Roger's taking.

Rainulf is asked to go into Cuxham to deliver Last Rites to those who've been stricken with small pox, as Rainulf has had the disease and is therefore immune. He finds Constance digging a grave for Father Osred. She is also stricken with fever, and Rainulf sees her through the night. He feels an instant connection to the young widow, and also notices that she has a great talent for copying text and illuminating. After he leaves Cuxham, however, Rainulf receives news that Constance has died, and he feels a profound sense of loss that he cannot explain.

Constance hasn't died. She has faked her own death, and has escaped Cuxham. She goes into hiding from Sir Roger, and makes her way to Oxford to seek out the young priest who helped her. She now calls herself Corliss, and is very convincingly disguised as a boy. Rainulf, relieved to see her alive, finds himself unable to let her go. He takes her into his home to protect her, but if she is discovered to be a woman by the people of Oxford, Rainulf's reputation would be ruined, and Constance would leave herself open to being kidnapped by the man Sir Roger has sent to find her.

As they spend more time together, Constance and Rainulf are drawn to one another forcefully and undeniably. Their attraction and growing love is so powerful, that the reader can actually feel the distress and the sheer emotion flowing from these two characters. Patricia Ryan seems to love writing stories where the characters desperately try to resist one another for a long time, creating a tension so thick that by the time they give in and release the tension, it's a veritable explosion. And this book was the most explosive so far.

By the time these two characters give into their passion, they are completely in love and have longed for one another so much, that their coming together is one of the most intense I've ever read in any romance novel. Their first love scene is one that I may go back and reread several times. Seriously, seriously hot. Not only was it hot, but the reader also had the emotional involvement as well. These are two characters who have essentially given up on falling in love, and are surprised to find in one another everything they have ever wanted. Once they figure out how they feel about one another, the expression of that love is so beautiful and moving.

In addition, reading about Rainulf's personal journey towards finding himself and what he wants was interesting to read. He is a fabulous teacher, and although Corliss/Constance can see that it is his passion, Rainulf seems blind to this notion. She helps him find himself, which only adds to the genuineness of their feelings for one another.

This could be read as a standalone, but both of the Fairfax books were so good, that I would recommend reading them together and in order.

What are you waiting for? Just read it! You won't regret it!

margaret stallings says

Vivid characters

This book has a good story line and keeps you entertained while reading. The characters are well defined and can make you smile as you read. The book had a good build to the end, which will take you by surprise.

Maria Foley says

Light reading for an entertaining evening

Suspenseful, historical romance with a surprising twist in the storyline. You're expecting one thing, but you get something else. Antagonists are punished, and the protagonists live and love happily ever after. So entertaining that I finished reading it in one sitting.

Cozen says

This was a fairly good read. It wasn't bad and the writing was also good. There was a couple of editing errors. One missing quotation mark. And one other maybe due to digital conversion error? Chapter 14, Rad was in my eBook as 'R ad.' Clearly a misfortunate typo.

Also, I'm not a historian and I feel some error of sway when reading something of a much earlier time. But I do find it hard to believe that in the year of 1161 they had indoor running water in a sink from a spigot that gets turned on. Again I don't know much about the history of running water in sinks, I thought it wasn't until 650 years later that it was invented without use of an outside well and pump. This might be explained better if there was a better description of the sink e.g. wooden or something. And apparently there was soap this early in the 1100's. I thought it was soap cakes that were used more accurately. I always thought that people barely took baths, washed dishes using flour, and didn't have tubs readily movable and at the ready. I know they did have baths but in the 1100's so much effort to boil water from cauldrons that weren't in use.

I guess what I am say is that this story would have been more believable if it had been written in the 1800's. But, again I could be totally wrong about my history of things.

Overall, I finished this book and since of lately that has been exceptionally rare, I'd say this story should be given half the chance.

babyfishmouth says

Solid 5 stars.

It's the second book in a series and can easily be read as a stand-alone. The couple from the first book FALCON'S FIRE, Thorne and Martine, make an appearance but they were very inconsequential to the plot of this book.

I enjoyed this one even more than *FALCON'S FIRE*. It had less violence, limited POV from the villain, a bit of mystery, a much easier to admire heroine and a celibate former priest. Watching Rainulf (hero) fight his carnal urges was over-the-top fantastic if you're a fan of unresolved sexual tension like I am. I couldn't turn the pages fast enough wondering when/how they were finally going to end up in bed together. And for a book written in the mid-90's there is a nice level of steam. The scene where Corliss(heroine) experiences her first orgasm is worth the price of the book alone.

Corliss/Constance (heroine) was smart and the perfect match for Rainulf. The romance takes place over the course of several months and, even though they're both initially attracted to each other, it's not lust-fueled with page upon page of repetitive internal dialogue. They become friends first and that adds a lot of richness and poignancy when they finally realize they're in love. They're both open and honest with each other. No silly secrets or big misunderstandings. No unnecessary second characters. No big info dumps about politics or the church. Just enough rich detail and description to give you a sense of time/place. These characters didn't feel like 21st personalities plopped into the Middle Ages.

Overall, just the kind of romance novel I love to read. Highly recommend!

Verity says

I adored this buried treasure to pieces, I'd rate it 10 stars if I could. From the gripping Prologue to the Epilogue, I was spellbound.

Since she's 16 y/o, Constance's been the object of the obese Sir Roger Foliot's lust. Constance married the village smithy (ancient enough to be her grandpa) to avoid the lecherous evil Lord's clutches. When the smithy died in his sleep & w/ Sir Roger nipping @ her heels, she became the elderly rector's housekeeper cum lover. Thwarted 2 X, Sir Roger vowed that he'd be damned if he let Constance get away the 3rd time.

Rainulf is the academic son of a powerful Norman Baron & the cousin of the Queen who's trained from childhood & came back from the pilgrimage suffering from a crisis of faith. He's petitioning to have his priesthood vows renounced. His current ambition is to be appointed as the prestigious Chancellor of Oxford. After sowing his wild oats during his University days, he's been a celibate priest for helluva long time = 11 yrs. Observing a vow of chastity is a prerequisite for this position, his conduct is being scrutinized until the end of summer. In the interim, he's serving as the elected Master of Schools & a highly regarded teacher.

H/H are drawn to each other like a moth to a flame from the moment fate (or rather, the smallpox epidemic) brought 'em together. Reluctant Rainulf is summoned to perform the rector's last rites. Rainulf is astonished to find Constance digging her own & the deceased rector's graves. She's already afflicted w/ the early stages of the deadly yellow plague & death's just around the corner. After nursing her, he goes back to Oxford, only to hear 2 weeks later from the traveling surgeon, that Constance has died.

To his shock & disbelief, Constance shows up @ 1 of his lectures, w/ a shorn hair & all dressed up like a boy. She's changed her name to Corliss & is hunted by Pigot, an unknown Jack-the-Ripper-like monster whose mission is to bring her back to Sir Roger. Rainulf throws a cloak of protection over Corliss, offering her to live w/ him – disguised as a young man. Wary @ 1st, Corliss realizes that it's the best solution to her predicament.

Impressed by her workmanship, Rainulf helps Corliss – a talented illuminator – find work. Proximity breeds angst. Corliss gets mixed signals from Rainulf. She suspects that Rainulf is a virgin & prefers men to the fairer sex, but @ times she catches him eyeing her. Corliss's disguise works so well that she inadvertently receives a most unwelcome attention of a 14 y/o gal (whose intended is enraged & threatens Corliss to stay away, much to Rainulf's amusement). A suspicious-looking peddler also follows Corliss around. She cherishes her newfound freedom. When Rainulf forbids her to befriend this peddler, she tries to leave him & he won't let her go. Their sexual tension escalates as she begins to 2nd-guess the handsome magister's disinterest in women.

When he learns that she's fluent in multiple languages, Rainulf offers to polish her in anything she wants & teaches her self-defense. Rainulf falls deeper in luv w/ Corliss, the more he gets to know her. She teases him & makes him laugh. Life becomes more colorful & he comes alive when he's around her. She challenges his intellect & his raging hormones. Rainulf thinks Corliss is a temptress incarnate, he aches & yearns for her, but he's bound by his vow of abstinence. He's so enchanted w/ her that he starts to doubt if the much-coveted Chancellor appointment is really worth the pain after all. I loved the sweet culmination of their pent-up desire. It's just icing on the cake when they finally come together. This beautifully-written book is a DIK.

Can't wait to read the prequel = Falcon's fire - Rainulf's sister & his BFF story (both show up here).
