

Stupid Sexy Romance Episode 2 – The Flame and the Flower

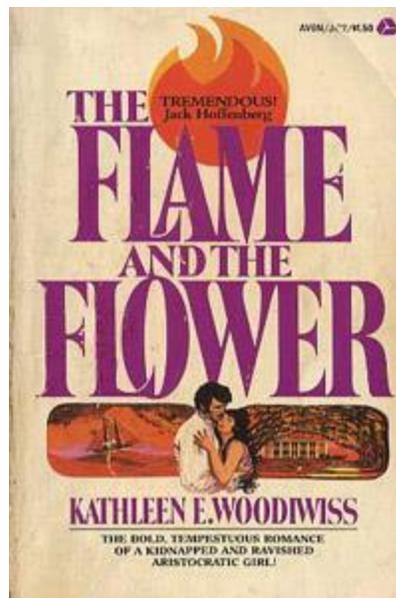
Show Summary

Part 1 - Join Em and Jamie on a comedic, dour, cringe-filled journey back to 1972, and then back again to 1799ish! Written by Kathleen Woodiwiss and published as the first mass paperback in 1972, this somewhat historical romance novel (where underwear doesn't exist!) is the story of Heather and Brandon- two lovers that are forced together after an unfortunate misunderstanding. This book spans the seas, and tests Em's modern sensibilities and patience. Full of swashbuckling, ab-rippling, and chest ogling, the first modern romance novel, "The Flame and the Flower" was a bit of a tough read for Em and probably worse for Jamie's ears...

Jamie and Em decided to look into the one that laid the groundwork for modern love lit. This book is a tad dated so please remember to pack your patience with the naughty bits... They take a while to develop!

Part 2 - Finally! Like Prince Akeem, we have come to America! But, it's not cool and dangerous 1980s New York, it's Charleston in like, 1800. This episode follows Brandon Birmingham and his wife Heather in America. She tries to fit into her new life as mistress of a plantation, while he slowly realizes that his wife isn't the manipulative she-devil he thought she was. It's almost like a sitcom except it has rape, murder, slavery, and no underwear.....What will those silly Birminghams do?

Cover Art



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Flame_and_the_Flower

About the Author

This is Kathleen Woodiwiss' first novel and it was the first novel ever to be printed as a mass paper back.

Characters

Heather Simmons

A naïve, 17-year old orphan who is living with her evil aunt in squalor

William Court

Heather's aunt's brother. A man of some means. Gluttonous, owns a fabric shop, attempts to rape Heather.

Brandon Birmingham

Captain of a ship. Rapes Heather, impregnates her, and is then forced to marry Heather.

Book Summary

Romance genre: Historical Romance

Heather, a poor orphan is taken to London with the promise of a better life. When the man that is taking her to London attempts to rape her, she stabs him and flees to the docks of London where she is picked up by sailors who think she is a prostitute. These sailors take her to Brandon Birmingham, a wealthy ship captain from South Carolina, where he proceeds to rape her.

Page 20 "He moved closer and in a rapid movement slipped his arm about her narrow waist, nearly lifting her from the floor, and then covered her mouth with his, engulfing Heather in a heady scent, not unlike that of a brandy her father had been fond of."

Discussion about how you should never mention one's father in a romance novel.

PAGE 21 "She felt his hardness searching, probing between her thighs, then finding and entering that first tiny bit."

Post attack, she steals a gun that she finds and escapes, and goes back home.

Her evil aunt finds out that Heather is pregnant and forces Heather to marry Brandon

In the marriage chamber, he refuses to sleep with her because they're at Lord Hampton's house and he explains how he was blackmailed in marrying her.

Page 72 "I don't like being forced, my dear. It goes against my grain. If you had come to me when you first learned of your pregnancy, I would have helped you. I may have even married you if you had acted as if you desired marriage with me, but to send your mighty friend and threaten me, it was a most unwise thing for such a little girl to do."

They board the ship to sail to America

They get off the ship and meet Louisa at the dock (who is Brandon's ex-fiancé), they go back to the house.

Jeff (Brandon's younger brother) finds out how Heather and Brandon met and got married when he walked into the stable where George sleeps, and heard George talking to his cat about how upset he was responsible for bringing the two together.

They are at this point becoming closer, perhaps more intimate, however still childish. Neither of them will talk to each other about their desires, they're just expected to know what each is thinking.

Heather finally has the baby and he buys her a horse so that he can entice her to allow him into the master bedroom. They ride, and of course, sexual tension builds.

Brandon comes to a breaking point and tells her they must have sex. She thinks he is going to rape me again. Which is quite interesting because technically, under law, this probably would not have been illegal for a husband to take advantage of his wife:

According to British law, which got transferred to early Colonial America

[Sir Matthew Hale](#) (1609-1676), stated the position of the common law in [The History of the Pleas of the Crown](#) (posthumously, 1736) that a "husband cannot be guilty of a rape committed by himself upon his lawful wife, for by their mutual matrimonial consent and contract the wife hath given up herself in this kind to her husband which she cannot retract".

Jamie and Em discuss how ridiculous this notion of consent was in the past (above quote).

Other Notes

Em's favourite quotes from the book

"With his nearness Heather was aware of the masculine smell of horses and sweaty leather."

"She paused but a moment beside Louisa's bed and realized that here was where Brandon most likely had exercised his manhood on that woman's charms. In a quick, **bitchy rage**, she tore the satin covers from the bed and trod across them to continue her search."

Key words: history, romance, rape, colonial America, sailing, ships, swashbuckling

Verdict

2/5 Bodice Rips

Contact

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Any questions?

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