



## The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)

By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss

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**The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)** By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss

The Flower

Doomed to a life of unending toil, Heather Simmons fears for her innocence—until a shocking, desperate act forces her to flee. . . and to seek refuge in the arms of a virile and dangerous stranger.

The Flame

A lusty adventurer married to the sea, Captain Brandon Birmingham courts scorn and peril when he abducts the beautiful fugitive from the tumultuous London dockside. But no power on Earth can compel him to relinquish his exquisite prize. For he is determined to make the sapphire-eyed prize his woman. . .and to carry her off to far, uncharted realms of sensuous, passionate love.

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*By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss*

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## **The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family) By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss Bibliography**

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### Editorial Review

#### Review

"A legend." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

"A phenemenon." (New York Times)

"The queen of historical romance." (Atlanta Journal-Constitution)

#### From the Back Cover

The groundbreaking classic love story from one of the most beloved authors of our time.

Fearing for her innocence, doomed to a life of unending toil, Heather Simmons commits a shocking and desperate act. Now she must flee -- and seek refuge in the arms of a virile and dangerous stranger.

Captain Brandon Birmingham is a lusty adventurer married to the sea. Though courting scorn and serious peril through his actions, he abducts the beautiful, sapphire-eyed fugitive from the tumultuous London dockside. For it is destiny that brings Heather to Brandon's side, and no power on Earth will force him to relinquish his exquisite prize. Only she can unlock the tenderness in his heart; and Brandon vows she will be his -- to love, to cherish, to desire, and to carry off to far, uncharted realms of sensuous passion.

#### About the Author

(1939 - 2007) Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, creator of the modern historical romance, died July 6, 2007 in Minnesota. She had just turned 68. Her attorney, William Messerlie, said that she died after a long illness.

Born on June 3, 1939 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Mrs. Woodiwiss was the youngest of eight siblings. She long relished creating original narratives, and by age six was telling herself stories at night to help herself fall asleep. At age 16, she met U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant Ross Woodiwiss at a dance, and they married the following year. She wrote her first book in longhand while living at a military outpost in Japan.

Woodiwiss is credited with the invention of the modern historical romance novel: in 1972, she released *The Flame and the Flower*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, creating literary precedent. The *Flame and the Flower* revolutionized mainstream publishing, featuring an epic historical romance with a strong heroine and impassioned sex scenes. "Kathleen E. Woodiwiss is the founding mother of the historical romance genre," says Carrie Feron, vice president/editorial director of William Morrow and Avon Books, imprints of HarperCollins Publishers. Feron, who has been Woodiwiss's editor for 13 years, continues, "Avon Books is proud to have been Kathleen's sole publishing partner for her paperbacks and hardcover novels for more than three decades." Avon Books, a leader in the historical romance genre to this day, remains Mrs. Woodiwiss's original and only paperback publisher; William Morrow, Avon's sister company, publishes Mrs. Woodiwiss's hardcovers.

*The Flame and the Flower* was rejected by agents and hardcover publishers, who deemed it as "too long" at 600 pages. Rather than follow the advice of the rejection letters and rewrite the novel, Mrs. Woodiwiss instead submitted it to paperback publishers. The first publisher on her list, Avon, quickly purchased the novel and arranged an initial 500,000 print run. The novel sold over 2.3 million copies in its first four years of publication.

The success of this novel prompted a new style of writing romance, concentrating primarily on historical fiction tracking the monogamous relationship between a helpless heroine and the hero who rescued her, even if he had been the one to place her in danger. The romance novels which followed in her example featured longer plots, more controversial situations and characters, and more intimate and steamy sex scenes.

"Her words engendered an incredible passion among readers," notes Feron. Bestselling author Julia Quinn agrees, saying, "Woodiwiss made women want to read. She gave them an alternative to Westerns and hard-boiled police procedurals. When I was growing up, I saw my mother and grandmother reading and enjoying romances, and when I was old enough to read them myself, I felt as if I had been admitted into a special sisterhood of reading women."

*New York Times* bestselling author Susan Elizabeth Phillips, a leading voice in the women's fiction arena, says, "We all owe our careers to her. She opened the world of romance to us as readers. She created a career for us to go into."

The pioneering author has written 13 novels over the course of 35 years, all *New York Times* bestsellers. Kathleen E. Woodiwiss's final literary work, the upcoming *Everlasting*, will be published by William Morrow in October 2007. "*Everlasting* is Kathleen's final gift to her fans," notes Feron.

Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, who was predeceased by her husband and son Dorren, is survived by sons Sean and Heath, and numerous grandchildren.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

#### **Michelle Porter:**

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important behave, like looking for your favorite guide and reading a guide. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the publication entitled *The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)*. Try to make book *The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)* as your close friend. It means that it can become your friend when you sense alone and beside those of course make you smarter than previously. Yeah, it is very fortunate for you personally. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know almost everything by the book. So, we should make new experience in addition to knowledge with this book.

#### **Greta Rivera:**

In this period globalization it is important to someone to obtain information. The information will make professionals understand the condition of the world. The health of the world makes the information better to share. You can find a lot of sources to get information example: internet, newspapers, book, and soon. You will see that now, a lot of publisher that print many kinds of book. The book that recommended for you is *The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)* this book consist a lot of the information on the condition of this world now. This book was represented so why is the world has grown up. The words styles that writer value to explain it is easy to understand. The actual writer made some exploration when he makes this book. Honestly, that is why this book acceptable all of you.

**Alma Driver:**

In this era which is the greater particular person or who has ability in doing something more are more treasured than other. Do you want to become among it? It is just simple approach to have that. What you have to do is just spending your time almost no but quite enough to possess a look at some books. On the list of books in the top listing in your reading list will be *The Flame and the Flower (The Birmingham Family)*. This book that is certainly qualified as *The Hungry Mountains* can get you closer in getting precious person. By looking up and review this publication you can get many advantages.

**Sylvia Langley:**

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