



## Through the Fire

*Beth Trissel*

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Will love inflame these two natural-born enemies in fiery destruction?

Passions run deep in the raging battle to possess a continent, its wealth and furs. Both the French and English count powerful Indian tribes as their allies. English lady Rebecca Elliot, having eloped to America with a British captain, finds herself a widow. When she ventures into the colonial frontier with the militia to seek her uncle, she unwittingly enters a dangerous world of rugged mountains, wild animals, and even wilder men. The rules are different here and she doesn't know them, especially those of the savagely handsome warrior who captures her body and her heart.

Half-Shawnee, half-French warrior Shoka, former guide for English traders, is the hawk, swift, sure, and silent as the moon. He knows all about survival in this untamed land and how deadly distraction can be. His intent is to sell Rebecca to the French before she draws him under her spell, but if he lets her go he can no longer protect her. If he holds onto her, can he safeguard his heart? With battle looming and an enemy warrior bent on vengeance, Shoka and Rebecca must decide whether to fight together or be destroyed.

## Through the Fire Details

Date : Published February 21st 2013 by Beth Trissel (first published April 22nd 2009)

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Author : Beth Trissel

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Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Westerns, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction

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## From Reader Review Through the Fire for online ebook

### **Lisa says**

I like this genre but I tend more toward the supernatural and fantasy. Having said that I go through periods where I can't get enough western and native American romance stories; let's face it they can be the best. This book was a great quick read but the characters seemed too silly without much depth. The two lovers talk about his home (somewhere far away) and his children but the heroin seems to gloss over this like everything will be perfect just like it is on their journey. It feels like that stuff was thrown in to add some depth but it was never developed so it was just left hanging. Besides that I don't think the story flows well. To much is left undeveloped like the attack on the fort which left me confused about timelines and the ending felt abrupt. Overall a good read but there isn't much to it and not worth reading a second time.

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### **LeeAnn says**

Received the book yesterday afternoon and finished it about 15 minutes ago. Absolutely loved this story. The characters jumped off the page and either you loved them or hated them they are great characters. The main love story was beautiful to watch unfold along with the interwoven second love story. Mythical things happen in this book that make it such a wonderful read.

What I learned from this book was that I need to get a hold of alot more of Beth Trissel's work.

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### **Mary Adair says**

#### Through The Fire by Beth Trissel

Through The Fire by Beth Trissel takes place during one of the most turbulent times of American history, the French and Indian wars. Rebecca Elliott is fleeing an abusive father and taking her sister, Kate, with her to Fort Warden. The plan is to meet up with an uncle she has not seen in many years but remembers him as a kind and loving man.

As they travel by horse back through the forest. They are attacked by Shawnee warriors who are allied with the French. The battle is fierce, many men are killed, and a few are taken captive. Rebecca helps Kate to escape capture, but is captured herself by a warrior named Shoka.

This battle scene reminds me of the movie version of Last of the Mohicans. Beth Trissel's ability to bring together the sight, sound, and emotion of the scene is amazing. This scene in her story places me perfectly into the time and fills my mind with a perfect representation of how it would look and feel to be there. Ms Trissel's story, Through The Fire, is not a rehash of the classical Last of the Mohicans. After that first scene, so brilliantly told and placing the reader right where she wants them, Ms. Trissel weaves a beautiful story of growing love and respect between Rebecca and Shoka.

This journey through the frontier is nothing short of just plan hard for a woman raised as a Lady. But you soon learn there is more to Rebecca than just a pretty face. Her past abuse has molded her into a person

determined to take care of herself and those she cares about. This inner strength helps her to survive and to help others dear to her heart to survive as well.

I love when a book is so well written that it transports you right into the story and holds you captive. This book did that for me all the way to the end. Through The Fire is filled with tremendous challenges, and heroic rescues. It contains a touch of Native American mysticism and ends it with a mystery.

Need I say it? This story rates 5 STARS for me in all aspects, plot, strong characters, adventure, and I always get excited when an animal wanders into the story and you just know there is a special meaning.

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### **Christine Bode says**

Publisher: The Wild Rose Press

Released: 2008

Pages: 332

ISBN-10: 1601544715

ISBN-13: 978-1601544711

Stars: 3.0

First of all, I'd like to apologize to Historical and Paranormal Romance Author Beth Trissel for the ridiculous amount of time she's had to wait for this review. She's a lovely person with quite a respectable following and has written no less than 8 books that are available through The Wild Rose Press. I am not a huge fan of traditional romance novels – I prefer contemporary chick lit or historical romantic adventure novels like those of Diana Gabaldon – so I'm an admittedly tough critic in this instance, but I'll share my thoughts with you and let you decide for yourself.

Through The Fire is an old-fashioned colonial frontier romance set in June 1758 in the Allegheny Mountains of Western Virginia. Its heroine is a feisty, stubborn and beautiful blond-haired, blue-eyed English lady named Rebecca Elliot. Rebecca is an unusual woman for her time, and along with her younger sister Kate, they escape the clutches of their abusive, alcoholic father in England by traveling to the New World with Rebecca's husband, Captain John Elliot, Lieutenant McClure and a group of British soldiers.

The story opens with them trekking through a forest near the Shenandoah Mountain in Western Virginia, en route to join Rebecca's uncle, Henry McCutcheon, in the safety of a nearby fort before either the French or the Indians take them prisoner or worse. Rebecca is grieving the recent loss of her husband but before you know it (page 6), a tall, handsome, black-haired Indian warrior jumps right in front of her path and is so taken with her fair beauty that he's driven to distraction. It doesn't take long for Rebecca – who falls from her horse – to become separated from Kate, while a Shawnee clan who is allied with the French, take Rebecca and her escorts, prisoner.

Shoka, a half-Shawnee, half-French warrior, speaks perfect English. He was a guide for them and was taught many of their ways by the mysterious Father Andrew, who we come to know a bit better, along with the white wolf "Gabe" near the end of the story. While he's a lovable character, the relationship between Shoka and Rebecca develops so quickly that it's a bit unbelievable. At first, Shoka's plan is to sell Rebecca to the French for the cost of a new rifle, but after a few blood-boiling arguments stoked with sexual tension and many tears shed by Rebecca, she is falling into his arms, kissing him and declaring her love for him, all

during what seems to be only a couple of days. Their entire relationship is carried out on their trek to the fort and there's only one somewhat sizzling love scene between them in the entire book (to be fair it was quite good) while during the rest of the story they're either fighting off a rival tribe of Catawba Indians, the French, their own English soldiers, or arguing amongst themselves.

"Shoka knew he shouldn't be off by himself with Rebecca Elliot, let alone holding her. The last thing he wanted was to lose his head and already shredded heart to yet another beautiful woman...this one with blindingly blue eyes. So why was he sitting her cradling her? He knew that too. Even wrapped in a blanket, she was so soft and curved. Sweet perfume clung to her, but she'd given him a blistering taste of her fury. Not only that, she was English. Worse – a lady and totally unsuited to his way of life." (pg. 19)

Rebecca's character waffles between being outspoken and assertive and scared to death and ready to faint at any moment. Every man who comes into contact with her is seemingly unable to resist her beauty and if they don't outright fall for her – letting her get away with scandalous behavior from a lady of that time – they want to steal her away from Shoka with brute force. Shoka nicknames her Peshewa (the devil cat) and by Chapter 2, Rebecca is already stirred by her emotions for him although he maintains that he must make her his wife before he can bed her.

Rattlesnakes, freezing cold streams, torrential downpours, soaked petticoats, and evil Catawba warriors are just some of the trials and tribulations faced by Rebecca and Shoka on their journey to the fort. We are led to believe that Rebecca's strength in the face of adversity comes from her having endured cruel beatings by her drunken father who left her back covered in scars. Shoka is a more interesting character and I would have liked to have known more about his history. There are also a couple of secondary characters that are interesting including Meshewa, Shoka's young cousin who succumbs to Rebecca's spell, Capitaine Marc Renault, a charismatic French soldier who wins the totally naïve Kate's heart, and Tonkawa, a fierce Catawba warrior whose mission it is to kill Shoka and claim Rebecca for himself. We know none of their histories either. I can't help but feel that the book needed to be considerably longer in order for Trissel to have the opportunity to fully realize these characters.

Through The Fire, for me, was tedious at times but Beth Trissel writes well (her descriptions of the scenery were vivid and visceral), if not cautiously and conservatively, and over all, the story isn't bad, it's just not great. There's nothing unique or exciting about it that makes it memorable and the ending gets a little preachy for my liking. Traditional romance fans will probably appreciate this book more than I did.

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### **Miriam Newman says**

A nice, solid, good read--just what I want when I sit down to read a book! So nice to see this area of the genre represented.

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### **SheLove2Read says**

Since I'm apparently not allowed to leave a negative review without some people losing their freakin' minds over it....lets just say I did not enjoy the book. Everyone has different tastes, people. Respect my opinion and I will respect yours.

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### **Elizabeth Shelley says**

Definately 5 stars. Would give more if they let me!!!! Beth is an amazing author who can grab your attention from the beginning and hold it to the end. Her way of describing things make you really see and feel them. You can almost smell the flowers!!!! I have read all 4 of her books and looking forward to the next one. Keep up the good work, Beth, and don't let one comment ever stop you from doing what you love.

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### **Petula says**

Poor Rebecca has such a dangerous journey. She is a young English widow traveling with her sister, to find their uncle in the pioneer days. They are with a small company of soldiers who are on their way to the fort where Rebecca's uncle is. It's a war torn land they journey across, with some of the native Indians siding with the English army and others with the French. The travelers are attacked by a band of natives, and Rebecca is taken prisoner. Her sister disappears on horseback. Most of the soldiers are dead. Shoka is the warrior that keeps Rebecca alive. Not an easy task in a war, and with every man that sees her wants her. A book full of adventure.

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### **Tammy M. Mongold says**

#### **Great read**

Another great book written by Beth Trissel!!! If you love historical action packed romances, you need to read this book!!!! I can't wait to get started on the sequel to this book! Thanks Beth Trissel!!!

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### **Mary says**

This book was a wonderful story with great imagery and emotion. Someone commented they didn't like this book and gave it a one. This person in my humble opinion, needs to change genres to sci fi or something else, as she cannot recognize a good romance. Not only is it hurtful to say things like that, and I challenge your knowledge. Maybe she ought to read bodice rippers cause she can't recognize good when she sees it. I thought it deserved a five myself!

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### **Heather says**

This is my first book from Beth Trissel. I loved the plot, story, location, era, and even the hero and sub characters in this book. I wasn't crazy about the heroine, Rebecca, making it difficult for me to love the book as much as I wanted to. Like a lot of heroines, she is stubborn and strong willed, but it seems over the top or

just a bit too much, and even after proclaiming her love from the hero, she still argues and defies him. It was frustrating for me. I still enjoyed the book and my next read is going to be another Beth Trissel book.

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### **Kelly says**

Never has an author taken me on such an enjoyable journey!! I can't wait for the next adventure!! A great book to curl up with on a chilly Autumn evening!!

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### **Clarke says**

2.7 stars. Liked the story idea but wasn't impressed by the book. So much more could've been done to explore the social/cultural aspect of people from different worlds and the hardships they face. Shoka and Rebecca fell in love very quickly and for such a short about of time a lot happens (too much to seem realistic). Rebecca came off as an ill tempered hapless woman and a bit of a floozie. Hearing how beautiful she was and the men falling all over themselves to help her got old quick.

If you like pain in the ass women who don't listen, shoot their mouth off, are a little spoiled, and are always getting themselves into trouble with a dash of brave men who save them this book is for you.

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### **Mona says**

I enjoyed every page of this book, the plot, action, emotion and characters. B. Trissel has a lovely voice and makes you share her love for the Shenandoah Valley.

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### **Heidi Marier says**

A beautiful story line, that embraces you and takes you on a beautiful journey, leaving you wanting more, hard to let go off! Excellent book, highly recommended~

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