



# Burning Embers

*Hannah Fielding*

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## **Burning Embers** Hannah Fielding

An unforgettable passion ignited in the heart of Africa. A fragile love tormented by secrets and betrayal.

Coral Sinclair, a beautiful but naïve young photographer, learns within days of calling off her wedding that she has also lost her father. Leaving her life in England, she sails to Kenya to take up her inheritance – Mpingo, the plantation that was her childhood home.

On the voyage, Coral meets a charismatic stranger and their mystifying attraction shakes her to the core. Later she finds out his identity and is warned that the man is not to be trusted. Rafe de Monfort, owner of a nightclub and the neighbouring plantation, is not only a notorious womanizer, but also his affair with Coral's stepmother may have contributed to her father's death. Or so the rumours go.

As Coral is swept up in the undeniable chemistry between her and Rafe, a tentative romance blossoms in the exotic, dangerous wilderness of Africa. But when Coral delves into his past, she questions his true motives. Is the infamous lothario just after her inheritance? Or does Rafe's secret anguish colour his every move, making him more vulnerable than Coral could ever imagine?

Praise for Hannah Fielding's novel, *The Echoes of Love*:

'One of the most romantic works of fiction ever written ... an epic love story beautifully told.'  
The Sun

## **Burning Embers Details**

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Author : Hannah Fielding

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# From Reader Review **Burning Embers** for online ebook

**Jelena Bosh says**

Wow.

This love story just makes me want to crawl into the **Burning Embers** world, find Rafe and never look back.. But let's be real..

So beautiful, sad, heartbreaking but overall, an amazing journey of what it feels like to finally fall in love. And I mean, the heart-wrenching and strongly surreal kind!!

I cannot get over how Hannah Fielding once again managed to craft 2 souls of characters that seem to have evaded my mind since I am leaning towards my bookshelf wanting to read it again.. Must resist. Other books to get through first.. Ugh. ;)

The storyline develops and evolves and changes at an **addictive** pace that just wants you to keep reading. And so I did. But boy was that the wrong idea. It's a type of love hate relationship because I couldn't do anything else but think about what Rafe will say next or how Coral will respond. There are just so many aspects of the character development that I only wish I had the talent to do.

I mean, yes it is a love story between two people that are not necessarily meant to be together but eventually are head over heels for each other. **BUT** there is just so much more to the story.

**Beautiful setting.**

**Breathtaking views.**

**Action.**

**Humour.**

**Deep attraction.**

**Instant Chemistry.**

**Alpha male.**

**Lovely.**

**Cute moments.**

**Sexy.**

**Pure love.**

--What more could you want in a story?!--

I can only ever wish that Rafe was real... Sigh.. the problems of falling for *yet another gorgeously sexy fictional man*..

Thank you **Hannah Fielding** for another opportunity to read yet more of your beautiful and heartfelt stories!! This book will be one to beat when it comes to a sweet but sexy **TRUE/PURE** love story. Definitely. I cannot wait to read more of your books!

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## Amy says

Coral Sinclair has returned to her first love, her first home, Kenya after the man she planned to marry cheated on her and after she learned of her estranged father's death. All of her years in England with her mother and stepfather had not thwarted her desire to return to her beloved Kenya. Upon arrival, she realizes that although her memories of Kenya had not changed, Kenya had and so had her beloved African home, Mpingo. Her thoughts of the past were only pushed aside by the thoughts that now plagued her regarding the attractive stranger that she met on the boat. There was something about him that would not allow her brain or her body's awakening desires to forget him. The last thing she expected to discover was that he was her neighbor and had been a good friend of her father, a lover to her stepmother, and an artist who had painted her without ever meeting her.

Rafe de Montfort is a wealthy, charming, womanizing, and tortured man. He knew Coral Sinclair the moment he saw her on the boat because he'd painted her image so many times that he was unable to not recognize every detail of her face. His attraction to her drives him crazy with want of her yet he believes himself to be the last man worthy of her, her innocence and her trust.

BURNING EMBERS by Hannah Fielding starts out slow - almost too slow. The first chapters are filled with too much backstory. It's information that we need to know but I think it could have been spread out a bit throughout the story. Once I was into the real story, I relaxed and tried to get to know the characters. The characters, although not as endearing as I'd like them to be, were interesting. They do fit the era of the book and they are believable.

A mystery is hinted at in the first chapters of the book but was never actually realized in the latter part. I never quite connected the mystery of the secret basement rooms - other than the portraits - to the warnings by the mishiriki or witch doctor and her yaha, Aluna's great dislike and distrust of Rafe.

The real star of BURNING EMBERS is the setting. Hannah Fielding created a backdrop for this story that held me spellbound. Using her travel experiences, she is able to weave a wonderful written image of Kenya and the time period so that I felt as if I was truly in Africa. It's her talent here that tells me that since this is her debut novel, she will grow as an author and I fully expect her next novel to be uniquely more intriguing. As a debut author, Hannah Fielding has won me with her imagery even as her storyline and characters were the weak points of her novel. I am confident, having experienced her ability to use the written word to paint such a scenic backdrop, that she will only get better with her next novel. I will eagerly look forward to reading her next endeavor.

I recommend reading BURNING EMBERS by Hannah Fielding not because it's an expert work of literature but because it's a work that will capture you with its unique time setting and its beautiful imagery. It's a romantic book without exception and whereas you may not necessarily fall in love with the characters, you will surely fall in love with the setting.

Reviewer purchased this book.

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### **Elsa White says**

I won this book in a giveaway competition - very exciting as I'm so new on Goodreads. The cover and the blurb suggested passion and intrigue, and it didn't disappoint. I found myself lost in the story, and ended up staying up late to finish it. I was pleasantly surprised by the writing style - more poetic than most contemporary romance I read. Looking at the author's website, I see she was brought up speaking French, and I think something of that comes through in how she writes. My favourite aspect of the book was the setting; I visited Kenya for a safari as a child and had remembered the scenery, and I think this book really conveys a sense of the country. All in all, a good read and I'll look out for her next book.

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### **Beth says**

Hannah Fielding's first book *Burning Embers* takes you on an unforgettable journey to Africa in the 1970's. Her vivid descriptions of Africa and beautiful love story will take you away. The story is about a very immature and sheltered young woman, Coral Sinclair, who returns to Africa following her father's death. there she meets Rafe de Monfort, a mysterious neighbor to whom she is attracted. They are drawn to each other but Rafe must face his demons and Coral must mature. The descriptions in this book are pictures painted with words. The love story is sensual without being crude. The characters well developed and the book totally enjoyable. If the sign of a good book is that it transports you to another place this book is it. It is a book that I would re-read and one that I will share with my friends

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### **Aditi says**

*In Kenya you've got the great birds and monkeys leaping through the trees overhead. It's a chance to remember what the world is really like.*

----Joanna Lumley, *an English actress, voice-over artist, former model and author*

Hannah Fielding, a French writer, enchanted my mind and heart, with her debut novel, *Burning Embers* which is set across the lush green and golden landscape of Kenya.

### **Synopsis:**

*Coral Sinclair is a beautiful but naive twenty-five-year-old photographer who has just lost her father. She's leaving the life she's known and traveling to Kenya to take ownership of her inheritance--the plantation that was her childhood home--Mpingo. On the voyage from England, Coral meets an enigmatic stranger to whom she has a mystifying attraction. She sees him again days later on the beach near Mpingo, but Coral's childhood nanny tells her the man is not to be trusted. It is rumored that Rafe de Monfort, owner of a neighboring plantation and a nightclub, is a notorious womanizer having an affair with her stepmother, which may have contributed to her father's death.*

*Circumstance confirms Coral's worst suspicions, but when Rafe's life is in danger she is driven to make peace. A tentative romance blossoms amidst a meddling ex-fiancé, a jealous stepmother, a car accident, and the dangerous wilderness of Africa. Is Rafe just toying with a young woman's affections? Is the notorious womanizer only after Coral's inheritance? Or does Rafe's troubled past color his every move, making him*

*more vulnerable than Coral could ever imagine?*

I was lucky enough to read Fielding's latest novel, *The Echoes of Love*, before reading her debut, *Burning Embers*, and her latest is equally enthralling like her first book. In the first book, she paints the picture of a passionate and heart-touching love story set across the backdrop of African beauty, back in an era when Africa was a gold-digger's land.

Coral is a young English woman, who is also a passionate photographer, whereas Rafe is an old and cunning businessman, who happens to be a womanizer. And the author crafted them like some divine, rare and exotic species of the human race. The author flawlessly portrayed their perfect beauty and their inevitable attraction for each other. And yes, in a way, while I was reading about them, I felt passion in my mind and body. The story started with Coral's arrival in her father's estate in Kenya, and on her journey from England to Kenya, she met a handsome, tall and dark stranger who made her fall in love in the very first sight. However, upon her arrival, her old care-taker filled her heart with hatred for that mysterious man. The more she tried to stop thinking about Rafe, the more he became close to her own heart, and with each passing day, their attraction increased for each other, despite the rumors about Rafe's identity. And my friends, you need to read the rest of the story, to know how Coral gets adjusted with her heart and mind's tug-of-war.

The author created her characters strikingly, like every individual has something power in their demeanor to capture your attention as you read on.

But what kept me glued till the end was the author's writing! Her writing is something so exquisite and smooth that it pulls the strings of your heart into the core of the story. I moved along with her story, with the emotions, and with the nature! Africa welcomed me with its open arms and I was completely lost into the African aura that the author created simply with words.

Not only the author captured the beauty and the golden soil of Kenya vividly into her story, but also she showed me the unexplored side of Africa- the tribes, the language, the food, the exotic and uninhibited culture, and oh-so-gorgeous African safari. It is not every day that you come across a tale- a simple tale, I must say, that enraptures your soul, mind and body with its beauty.

Yes, to be honest, the love story is not any extraordinary tale that will bring out all the emotions out of you, but the way the author represented it, it'll bind to bring out every form of emotions out of your heart, but the exoticness of the whole story will absolutely intrigue you, amaze you and will keep you on your edges. Apart from that there is a mystery, that too keeps you turning the pages of the book and the author unfolded that mystery piece-by-piece. Moreover, there's a lesson in the end that enlightens our mind that how not to trust the word of mouth and to believe in what's in their heart.

**Verdict:** *Read this book to feel the beauty of Kenya and to feel the passion of an captivating love-story.*

**Courtesy:** *Thanks to the author, Hannah Fielding, for giving me the opportunity to read and review her debut novel.*

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## **Eileen says**

What a great book! Truly worth 5 stars.

I love Africa and have always been interested in the country. This author makes you believe that you are

there in every way. I would read this before I went to sleep at night and would dream about being there , her description was that Good.

The two main characters are in love with each other but they must endure many hardships in order to keep that love strong. The story isn't some typical mushy romance book. It's very intriguing, and keep you wanting to read more to see if their love can endure this country and overcome all their problems.

The story takes place back in the 70's in Kenya. Africa it's a country trying to gain independence and so is the young woman. But love is stronger in this case.

I highly recommend you reading the book. It's fabulous.

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## Lisa says

2.5 out of 5 stars

I received a copy of this story for an honest review for Amber's Reading Room.

When her father dies leaving her Mpingo, a lush estate in Kenya, twenty-five year old Coral Sinclair sets sail from England hoping to use the opportunity to recover from a humiliating heartbreak and re-establish herself in a country she has not stepped foot in for almost two decades.

On her journey abroad, Coral encounters the enigmatic Rafe de Monfort, a man who gives her comfort in a moment of weakness. Little does Coral know that Rafe will keep popping up in her new life, bringing both happiness and frustration. When painful ties between Rafe and Coral's deceased father emerge, Coral must decide if the fire she feels when she's around Rafe should burn with love or with hate.

Fielding creates striking images of Africa that helped me to visualize her settings clearly.

*“Variant tones of pink were gently spreading into the sky, struggling to seep through the symphony of blues. A few moments later the sun burst forth, dazzling in this multicolored canopy, and the dark outline of the landscape gradually loomed on the horizon, transforming first into the dark green, gray, and russet skirt of the jungle before revealing the bush, rising in layers toward the backcountry.”*

Visuals aside, I confess I struggled with *Burning Embers*. I found myself stepping away from the story

multiple times and each time I jumped back in it was a little harder to reinvest. I could not connect with Coral as a heroine. *Burning Embers* is set in 1970 and even for that time period, Coral seems much younger and immature than 25.

Rafe also rubbed me the wrong way. Coral's father was a notorious ladies man and his philandering contributed to Coral's mother leaving him and taking Coral to another country. By falling for Rafe, Coral is falling for someone just like her father. The fact that Rafe not only kept a dancer as his mistress, but also had an intimate relationship with Coral's stepmother, just left a bad taste in my mouth. I'm typically a sucker for a happy ending but when Coral and Rafe found theirs, it wasn't enough to change my opinion on the overall story.

*Burning Embers* is not poorly written, it just was not my cup of tea. If you're a fan of historical romances or period dramas, it could be just what you're looking for.

The best comparison I can give is Academy Award-nominated movies. When Academy Award nominations come out, my husband and I use those nominations to create our "must-see" viewing list. Every year as we burn through that list, we come across one or two movies that after we finish watching we just look at each other and give a little head shake in confusion. We know the movies are artistic, they have merit, and somewhere somebody identifies with it and loves it. We're just not those people. I am just not that person for *Burning Embers*.

Happy reading.

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## Angela Stokes says

*Burning Embers*, the debut novel by Hannah Fielding, is a contemporary historical romance set in the world of the privileged classes of 1970s' Africa. The story is centred on the return of Coral, the book's main character, a young girl returning to Africa after many years to reclaim her inheritance. The plot essentially follows her first year in Africa as she matures emotionally and falls in love with a handsome but complicated older man, Rafe, her neighbour, who is not at all what he first seems.

I love the detailed description used in this book, and the author's obvious passion for the setting, its people, wildlife and scenery – it really made the book come alive. For a few hours I was whisked away to somewhere hot and exquisitely beautiful. My favourite location in the book is the waterfall and lake: *'There, in the middle of the depression, entirely enclosed by flowering shrubs, lay a phosphorescent expanse of water, shimmering like a sheet of silk in the rays of the midday sun. High above, a solid mass of white foam thundered from a narrow gully; it leaped down, rolling over part of a sheer wall of mountain that stood like an impassive sentinel, its head in the clouds.'*

As expected, this book delivers many surprising complications in Coral and Rafe's love story, including a step-mother, ex-lovers, illness, accidents, misunderstandings and sorcery – all of which make this book a real page turner. At first, Coral is naive and she has to learn to make her own judgements in many aspects of her life, despite the unhelpful input of others who want to influence her to behave in certain ways for their own ends. The author's description of these characters brings them leaping from the page, so much so that despite Rafe's tumultuous past and dark secrets, and Coral's sometimes immature behaviour, I really wanted to get to the bottom of what was going on, and see them happy together in the end.



*'One can't talk, touch, love in the way he did with me last night if one's soul is dead.'*

You will love this book if you enjoy fantastic description, steamy and fiery characters and romances, and a little bit of mystery too.

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### **Keenreader says**

This book is enchanting from the moment you begin reading it. I am not a regular reader of romantic fiction but I was swept away by the charm and quality of the writing. The style has a nostalgic innocence which is so rare in modern novels and some of the descriptions, particularly of the African wilderness, are breathtaking.

The two key characters, Coral and Rafe, are both captivating and attractive without becoming stereotypes, and the story of their love is believable as well as romantic. The historical and Kenyan setting are both well-researched and provide a wonderful backdrop, while many of the secondary characters (such as Aluna the nanny and Morgana the dancer) have real depth and complement the main storyline. The romance scenes are also beautifully well-written and add vivid context to the developing relationship between the central couple.

I would recommend this book as a rare gem with wide appeal, a really excellent read.

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### **Carla says**

After his father's death, Coral Sinclair returns to Kenya to claim her inheritance. She has fond memories of Mpingo, the place where she lived as a child. But now, her return is bound to show her something different. When she meets the mysterious Raphael de Monfort, both of them feel a burning attraction... and something stronger between them. But Rafe is a known womanizer and a man with a past. And Coral is young and innocent... and slightly immature. Can the feelings between them burn true and surpass the secrets and rumors that surround Rafe's past?

Part of what makes a romance really captivating is the interaction between the main characters. And, being the connection between Rafe and Coral the main focus of this story, it isn't a surprise that their differences and interactions are the most interesting in this book. They could hardly be more different, but their personalities complete each other, overcoming their individual flaws. Rafe is an experienced man, but the shadows of the past and the secret guilt he carries with him made him indifferent to love. Coral, on the other hand, is an innocent woman, almost a girl. She is, also, almost alone in a new place, and that makes her easily manipulated and, sometimes, she judges too quickly and with few information. But, different as they are, there's something strong between them. And the way this relationship is explored, with all the misunderstandings and quarrels, but also with many beautiful moments, is the base to some very good moments.

But there is more than romance in this book. The setting is also fascinating, with Coral's work of photography – and, yes, also some of her moments with Rafe – introducing beautiful scenarios and allowing a better perception of their time and place. And Rafe's past, the reason why he is as he is, also allows some thoughts about one's personal secrets and demons and the need to judge only with all the information. And not judging at all, sometimes.

Well written, with a beautiful setting and interesting characters, Burning Embers tells the story of a

complicated romance, but also, in some way, a tale of redemption and the overcoming of one's past. A good read, over all, and a book I'd recommend.

**\*\*I won this book in one of the Goodreads First Reads giveaways.**

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### **Jan Moran says**

Burning Embers is an evocative story, full of lush imagery, fascinating characters, and exotic locales. Hannah Fielding's use of the English language is inspiring, her descriptions of Kenya are utterly mesmerizing, and could only have been written by one who knows the subject first hand, which the author does. Her writing is vivid, compelling, magical.

The story of Coral Sinclair and Rafe de Montfort is not the usual romantic tale. It's an upmarket saga, full of mystery, twists, and turns as Coral seeks her just inheritance in a country in political upheaval and an expatriate English community. Coral is a strong, independent woman who knows her mind. A truly cinematic story.

Hannah Fielding's elegant prose drew me onto the story right away, and I was sad when it was over. I'm definitely looking for more from this author. Burning Embers is smart, sensual, contemporary fiction with a seamless five-star execution.

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### **Valentina says**

I found this book a great read. It captures the reader's attention from the beginning, weaving the story in such a manner that it is easy to slip right into the plot.

Something that I really enjoyed and appreciated, since I know how difficult it is to get right, was the believable relationship Fielding created between Coral and Rafe. It's so easy to overdo the romance in these kinds of books, that I breathed with relief when I saw that this author knew just how to write it believably. The setting itself is almost a character of its own. The way Fielding writes, with lush detail that never overwhelms or bores, really takes the reader right to the places she describes.

The plot is quick, as it should be in this genre, with nice sense of timing. I also enjoyed how Coral's character grows as the novel progresses, leaving behind that air of naiveté that she begins with and becoming a fully fledged woman by the end.

I do recommend this book for all lovers of a romantic story that is well written and highly entertaining.

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### **Archit Ojha says**

**Elegant!**

An enchanting and captivating romance novel.

Carol's marriage has been just called off because of her cheating boyfriend. She is yet to dwell in the misery and grief of such sudden predicament but a call changes her life. This call was to inform her that she has inherited a large property in Kenya, the place where she had spent her childhood. She starts her journey to Kenya and what she finds out in that land, is equally thrilling and surprising.

This is a kind of book that I wanted to read real slow so to get plunged with the beauty and magic the author had built and at the same time, I desired to read it fast so to know how Carol's life turns out to be. Set during the time of 1970, when things were moving and changing fast, *Burning Embers* proved itself to be an awesome historical fiction.

I was walking in the shoes and skin of Carol. The romantic aura is created around me was unforgettable. I was attached to the characters and their behavior. Their ways of attending each situation. The author has a talent of writing stories in poetic and classic manner.

The author has shown her prowess in successfully capturing the reader's attention and writing him a memorable tale. I had not much experiences in Africa, but thanks to the author for showing me the culture there.

I have no reservations in my mind to think that in the future, Hannah Fielding's works are going to be remembered as classics. She writes as if water is flowing from a fountain. Sharp and crisp. Descriptive and precise. She had all these combinations in this novel.

***Verdict : Embers burned right through the pages onto the fingers.***

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## **Katrina says**

An engrossing read!

I've never been to Africa, nor do I often read romantic novels (apart from, in the past, the odd Mills and Boon out of curiosity). But with Hannah Fielding's book I felt I was transported straight to Kenya and into a world far removed from the usual romance fluff on offer these days.

The writing lifts this book out of the conventional romance genre, with descriptions of the exotic backdrop of the African wilderness so evocative and enchanting that you can almost see the country around you as the love story develops. The plot had me hooked, with a touch of mystery surrounding the character of Rafe that charges the romance story with enough intrigue to make you want to turn the page to find out what he's hiding... and what his demons are. And the hints of African black magic, together with the exotic backdrop of the African wilderness, were reminiscent of the old Hollywood films and adventures they don't seem to make any more.

Not only does the story move along at a good pace, but I equally liked the fact that Hannah Fielding also takes the time to let us get to know the characters - where they've been in life and what makes them who they are, which is unusual in modern romance novels as far as I can tell. I liked the way that Coral's character moved in a rites-of-passage style from naïve girl to a grown woman, through her love of Rafe and discovery of herself. And Rafe, both frustrating and highly attractive at the same time, is someone who has a

past that you know has shaped him but you're fascinated to find out how. Hannah Fielding makes her characters more than two-dimensional figures, making the romance so much more believable and absorbing.

The romantic scenes are wonderfully written, managing effortlessly to be highly erotic and sensual without resorting to overly-explicit and obvious language. And the writing builds enough sexual tension in between to keep the reader engrossed in Rafe and Coral's unfolding relationship and looking forward to their next steamy encounter.

I thoroughly recommend this book to anyone who expects a little more from a romantic novel and I shall be looking out for Hannah Fielding's next book with great anticipation!

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## **Lili says**

In the opening pages of this book the romantic aspect is set, two people meet, the tall, dark and lean stranger asks Carol Sinclair "Are you cold?" The attraction between them is immediate and emotional; yet even before the chapter is concluded the author evokes in us a sense of mystery and intrigue.

The initial background chapters are perhaps a little too long before the real story of guilt, desire, jealousy and love develop; however the descriptions of people, places and the scenery make up for this and transport us to Mpingo and show us an idealistic and sentimental view of Kenya in the 1970's.

A beautifully written book by a 'wordsmith' who clearly loves Africa, especially Kenya, it is a compelling, passionate love story that will thrill and grip any devotee of romantic fiction.

I received this book free from the author as a Goodreads Giveaway.

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