



Fire at Dusk

Lila Ashe

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Ashe's writing sparkles with humor and twists you won't see coming but that have you unable to turn the pages fast enough. --Theresa Rogers

Samantha Rowe's never scared of anything, even when she should be. Whether it's jumping out of an airplane in the Andes or, like now, opening a martial arts classroom in tiny Darling Bay, helping women protect themselves from attack, she's fearless in everything except love. The only thing she really needs is an attacker to help her train the students.

Hank Coffee is way more used to putting on a fire helmet than a padded one, but when Samantha needs help with her new business, he's willing to be kicked and hit in the name of helping someone stay safe. Safety's his thing, after all, and he's good at protocol--dotting his i's and crossing all the t's. When it comes to Samantha, though, Hank is losing his heart and not sure how to get it back.

How will Samantha deal with this full-frontal assault on her heart. Will Hank find a way to make Sam follow the rules of the game?

The Firefighters of Darling Bay series

Book 1: Fire at Twilight

Book 2: Fire at Dawn

Book 3: Everyday Hero (A Darling Bay Short Story)

Book 4: Fire at Dusk

Fire at Dusk Details

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From Reader Review Fire at Dusk for online ebook

Lea says

3.5 stars rounded up. This was my least favorite of the three but it was still well written. I just couldn't get past seeing them not as Jr. College kids and not as more adults. Samantha acted very young and while she didn't want anyone to take care of her, she didn't really take care of herself. Hank seemed like a really nice, kind guy. It was a little insta-love, after years of unrequited love. Good story, less firefighter drama in this one.

Trigger warning for rape.

Read as "Flame" by Rachael Herron (which doesn't appear to be on Goodreads)

Ashley says

2.5

Tammy Tracy says

Another free book on Kindle and I enjoy Lila's work. This was a great read about a firefighters, which I am partial to as my daddy was one for 25 years. Samantha is a tough gal who has fought back from all the bad she let take over her life to make something of herself and stay in control of herself. She gets her sister to back off controlling her when she opens the door for Hank. Hank and Samantha knew each other back in college before she hitched a ride on Vincente's motorcycle and she let addiction take over. Now she has to decide whether to let Hank in.

Great story, touching and romantic. Loved it.

Ivy Deluca says

The Premise

The third book in the Firefighters of Darling Bay series focuses on Samantha, the sister of the heroine from the first book. She comes back to town after many years and a serious alcohol/substance abuse problem. She's straightened herself out and is giving self-defense classes so that she can help other women in Darling Bay feel empowered and able to defend themselves. Hank Coffee, a firefighter and friend of the hero from the first book, has a history with Samantha. A history where he loved her, and she left him to find adventure.

My Thoughts

I had needed a light and easy romance to delve into after the last few books I'd read so I was ready to indulge in this small town romance. I was initially drawn to this series in part because I like the little world Ms. Ashe has created and its quirky characters. The firefighter aspect isn't bad either. Hank and Samantha have a history that I think made it kind of difficult for me to get into them. I felt through much of it that she wasn't as into it as he was. Now I can handle that if the chemistry is off the charts, but I didn't feel that here. Even at the end, I didn't quite buy her love for him. As a consequence, I didn't connect with them and didn't buy the HEA.

The Bottom Line

I still like the series, but I don't think this was the strongest entry in it.

Karen Loomis says

Great romantic read! Good addition to the series. Sweet with an eventual happily ever after.

Jackie says

Samantha Rowe and Hank Coffee have history with each other so their second chance romance is not as far fetched a pairing as it would seem at first glance. After all Sam approaches life full throttle while Hank on the other hand always thinks things through thoroughly and chooses the safest manner in which to proceed.

At least he did so every day of his life until one heart stopping moment when all thought flew out the window and safety was the last thing on Hank's mind.

I felt like these two totally fit and it just took a while for them to realize that for themselves. It was worth waiting for that moment.

Kim Beck says

Yet another Firefighter of Darling Bay. This series is beyond great. I would suggest reading them in order because if you don't you'll find out how the previous couples are doing. This one was splendid. It was easy to relate to because the issues in this book are everywhere. Do yourselves a favor and read this series. Can't wait till the next one.

Kirstie Ibrahim says

I enjoyed this but not as much as the 2nd book. I felt like it needed something more as it was lacking a bit more like the first book. Still enjoyable though and I'm about to read book 4 so its keeping me interested.

Barbara says

Samantha, Grace's troubled sister, fights her addiction and past every day. When asked if she still drinks, she answers "Not today." Today is all she can think about and handle. One day at a time.

Hank, Darling Bay firefighter and Samantha's ex-boyfriend, as Samantha put, has grown into his lanky legs and arms and he excels in keeping the residents safe by following the rules.

They both reveal secrets from their past to each other. They both fall in love. Hank wants to take the leap, but Samantha, who likes excitement and daring, doesn't want to get hurt.

Samantha started a woman's protection class to help them overcome their fears to protect themselves. Hank becomes one of the "attackers" to help the women. Together, they make an awesome pair...taking it one day at a time completing their "someday list" together.

Shammy says

I didn't realize that this was book three in a series even when I was reading so I can definitely say it can stand on its own. Not a bad read if you don't have a lot of time. The characters are well developed and the story is sweet.

Cassey says

An okay read, the first two in the series were better for me. But Hank's grandmother is awesome.

Fate's Lady says

[the heroine and not the hero that was injured, as opposed to the firefighters in the last two books suffering on-the-job injuries that turned the romance around. (hide spoiler)]

Tonileg says

Contemporary second chances romance that is very close to clean with a firefighter and a reformed alcoholic party girl.

I did cry a couple of times while reading this story. The first day of defense class and the 'graduation' day made me reach for the handkerchiefs because it is so brutally honest about the plight of modern women being without the education/tools to defend ourselves from rapists. I really liked Samantha Rowe. She stayed away from the sweet Hank Coffee so that she wouldn't hurt him again because she already broke his heart when they were young adults. But she was underestimating how strong Hank and his feelings were for her because people need to start believing in the strength of first love.

Bittersweet romance about first loves, damaged people and making life better for everyone.

I liked this story but the 'Anchor cat episode' is too silly and no one would risk their life like that!

140 pages and kindle freebie

3 stars

A.M. says

Samantha is Grace's sister from book 1. She's had a rough life, made some poor choices and ended up in some dark places. Now, she's trying to get back on track. She joined AA and she's setting down some roots in Darling Bay. They're shallow and in danger of being ripped out with a minute's notice, but they're roots; she's closer to Grace than she has been in years, and she started a business teaching women self defence. She even has a little apartment above the bagel shop.

In book 1 she nearly drove off the pier and was rescued by the firefighters. Hank Coffee and she dated way back in college, but she dumped him and broke his heart. It's a long time later (he's 33 now) and when he saw her, he understood that his whole life he's been trying to date women who were basically Sam.

What if he just dated her?

The womens' reasons for doing self defense classes hurt my heart. After being called out to help her usual crash test dummy, after they put him in hospital, Hank offers to wear the suit instead.

The station know Hank as Mr Rule abider, but Sam makes him want to throw away the rulebook. And just maybe she needs someone who'll catch her when she falls.

(view spoiler)

I love the small town vibe. Ten minutes for the whole town to know she snogged Hank in his car. Bwahaha. It's cute and adorable.

4 stars

Melindeeloo says

2.5 stars - pretty good. This is my third foray to Darling Bay... As a young man, Firefighter Hank way burned by Samantha when she dumped him and rode off with a bad boy on a motorcycle. Now Sam is back in town, trying to recover from the consequences of her reckless youth, and she's opened a business teaching self defense to the women of Darling Bay. When Sam's 'attacker' partner need medical assistance after a session with Sam's students, Hank arrives with the rescue crew and ends up volunteering to be assistant.

I really like Hank, author Ashe really has her nice guy firefighters down to a science, but I didn't like Fire at Dusk as much as I did the other two stories from this series (Fire at Dawn and the short Everyday Hero) because I didn't like Sam all that much - she's got issues and she needs Hank to bend to her in order for them to have a HEA. I did like Hank's grandmother and thought it was good that she gives Sam crud for the heartache she caused Hank and that Grandma isn't quick to forgive and gets some things out in the open about Sam's intentions.

So, not my favorite, but still pretty good for a kindle freebie and I will still likely check out the first book in the series when I get a chance.
