



Melting Fire

Anne Mather

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"I want to live my own life!" But Olivia's bid for independence was swiftly rejected. Richard replied with the hard assurance of a successful businessman. "I've paid for your upbringing, Olivia, and everything you possess. I expect to collect the dividends from my investment." Olivia gazed at him in disbelief. She was his stepsister, the only person he truly loved. She had always been spared his ruthlessness. Why now did Richard intend to control her, to use her in a way that both shocked and frightened her...?

Melting Fire Details

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Author : Anne Mather

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From Reader Review Melting Fire for online ebook

iamGamz says

All the drama of an excellent classic HP written by the master of drama Anne Mather.

This was sooo un-PC and naughty. The innocent and her guardian, who also happen to be her stepbrother. He basically raised her from the time she was 8 years old and still fell for and seduced her.

The “ick” factor was strong in this one! In the real world, this would make an excellent Jerry Springer episode!

Even when I found myself cringing as I read, I still kept on reading. It was too intense to put down. An excellent read for anyone liking their romance with a touch of “ick”!

Rgreader says

This was a re-read. Heroine annoyed me and ruined the book. I read this ages ago and she didn't bother me then. In my youth I had a lot of tolerance for annoying immature heroines.

StMargarets says

I'm too old for this story.

If I had read it in 1979, when I was 17, I would have lapped it up with a spoon. Now the 19 year-old heroine fresh from her finishing school stint in Europe and making vague noises about being "independent" just seemed like a spoiled brat rather than a sweet girl who was hopelessly confused about her feelings for the hero.

The hero was not confused about his feelings for his step sister he had been a guardian to for 12 years. He wanted her and he was going to get her - he just left out his feelings of love that went along with the lust.

Ah well, to pass the time until the H/h finally realize Anne Mather is going to tie them together for all eternity, the heroine dangles an OM in front of him. There's also a forced seduction. A scolding nanny. A flight to a bedsit in London. A pregnancy. An ailing hero who is working himself to death. A tumble down the stairs, etc . . .

This story exemplifies the classic HP May/December trope. If you like it, you'll love this story. It's just not a trope I enjoy very much anymore.

Chantal ♥? says

I liked this book and yes while it is true that most of the book the heroine seems to see her step brother as her brother she does things to push the envelope. The pool scene for one the kissing one the lip thing and I am

telling you that having a picture of your sister by you bed side is not normal!!! It was too obvious that he loved her to bits and even though he said some crazy things "I will kill you if you leave" type. He did nothing of the sort when she did leave. He was not a bad guy just really wanted her and you could feel it in the story. Lost a star for because of the way the heroine was willing to kill her baby to prove she loved him. Wft! That is some crazy talk!

Chitra *CJ* says

"Melting Fire" is the story of Richard and Olivia, and is an old Harlequin stepbrother romance. Olivia returns home after finishing her studies, to find her stepbrother Richard has "changed" and her nursemaid Bella encouraging them to be together. She is exasperated, as she's just found her independence in her new boyfriend, the rockstar Jules.

However, it is not Jules's kisses who make her squirm at night.

You have a crazy-ott-old school obsessed hero and a "bold" (childish) heroine. TBH in like 80% of the book she behaved like a bratty teenager and seemed more attracted to Jules than Richard, unless Richard paid attention to anyone else. Even after they sleep together, she runs to the om. She was even (view spoiler) Even Bella was unlikable!

TBH I felt bad for the hero for being in love with her because the chemistry was VERY one sided. I respect her bid for independence if she behaved more maturely.

Not safe

1.5/5

p.s. Just an FYI. When you almost have an miscarriage due to trauma, and the dr advises you bedrest, it also means avoid coitus and not jump on the hero.

Jenny says

Heroine was too fickle and annoying for my tastes!

LLC says

This is so not my trope. I have a major ick factor for step-sibling relationships. Especially when they've been raised together as siblings or as in this case the much older step brother basically raised her and was a father figure.

Having said that. This was a well written, angst filled, highly emotive typical Anne Mather book. For those who like these elements and don't have a problem with the step-sib issue then this could be a good read.

Chrisolu says

The Heroine is nineteen years old and she has just returned home from a Swiss(?) finishing school. The Heroine, Olivia and hero Richard are step siblings. Richard has taken care of Olivia since their parents passed away. Overall, I just found this book a bit dry. At times it was a bit difficult to read because it sort of dragged along. As an analogy, Melting Fire is to reading what dry meatloaf is to eating when you are hungry.

There were minor flirtations between the hero and heroine one that really caught me off guard was when the heroine was nude by the pool working on her tan, and Richard walks up to greet her. Well she jumps up to hug him without giving a thought to her nudity. Then again, maybe it's not a big deal. I'm an American and we are kind of skittish about nudity.

Things you may/may not like about this novel:

1. The hero wore the same outfit two days in a row. When I read that I was like huh??? Why did Anne feel a need to tell us that? I mean it is not as if they were into being green back then.
2. The hero RAPES the heroine her first time. Yes that's right, not even a forced seduction like Lynne Graham had in her earlier books. This heroine fought desperately to get her brother off of her.
3. The heroine finds herself pregnant after the rape. Therefore, the hero wins in the end because the heroine is trapped.
4. The hero is a smoker. Now I am not an anti-smoking person, but for some people that is a big turnoff

If you want to read better written "keeping it in the family" type romances I recomend Green Lightning (Harlequin Presents No. 626)by anne mather and Forbidden Fireby Charlotte Lamb

Diya says

This kept me intrigued through out to see how this played out but the heroine, Olivia got on my nerves. Richard was in love with Olivia but her attitude towards him and her overall fickleness almost spoiled the story. There was chemistry between them but she kept denying it and she lacked self awareness. The last two chapters was pretty uncomfortable read and I didn't like her. The ending was sweet though. Only Mather's superb writing kept me going despite all that drama or I would have quit reading but I continued because of that.

Julz says

Guardian/ward story involving step-sibs with an ambivalent heroine and some serious dubious consent. Has all the wtfery that I love. Some might be squicked out or want to neuter the H. If you generally don't (or at least don't let that stop the enjoyment ;), I don't expect you'd want to here.

Noël Cades says

Melting Fire is *hot*. There is a very edgy, forced-seduction first-time scene that may be too much for some readers.

Olivia, 19, has just left finishing school in Paris, where she picked up a famous French popstar boyfriend, Jules Merignac. However, her stepbrother Richard, 37, who has acted as her guardian since she was four-years-old, has other plans.

The nanny/housekeeper, Isabella "Bella" Ponsonby, is a bit of a pain. She is constantly critical of Olivia for being spoilt and taking people for granted, while opposing any attempt for Olivia to actually get a job. She is horrified by the idea of Olivia getting married, but then all on board with her shacking up with her stepbrother.

Richard is creepy. I wish he wasn't, but he is. There's the framed schoolgirl photo of Olivia he keeps by his bed. There is all this weird kissing they do, and have always done. On the mouth.

"Come on," he said dryly, "let's kiss and make up!" and with a rueful smile she lifted her face to his.

His mouth came down on hers, his hands holding her shoulders, not cruelly now, but warmly, familiarly, the long fingers probing inside the sleeveless shirt to stroke the sun-warmed skin. He had kissed her before, many times, he liked to kiss her, she thought, and she liked him to be happy. But this time it was different, this time her lips parted in remembrance of Jules's kiss, and Richard responded with an urgency that was alien to her.

Later on he does this in front of his dreary personal assistant, Alex Bishop (male):

His mouth found hers with unerring accuracy, and because her lips had parted in protest against this unexpected assault, his kiss was moistly intimate and her hands groped for him as her legs shook beneath her.

"I needed that," he murmured, for her ears only, as he drew back from her, and she trembled uncontrollably at the realisation that again he had robbed her of all resistance. It was doubly humiliating when he could turn back to his assistant without any apparent concern, and she guessed Alex had no conception of the intimacy of the embrace he had just witnessed.

How? They're French-kissing right in front of him, at a time when they're not even in a relationship. It's weird.

Then there's the Seduction Scene, if one can call it that.

(view spoiler)

(hide spoiler)]

But it's all okay, because Olivia ends up (view spoiler)

I'm pro-choice but I struggled to get past that. She also leaves the kid at three-months old to go on holiday with Richard for several weeks. (hide spoiler)]

sbf20112011 says

3.5 stars for this older HP. This is a guardian-ward story, but what makes it more unusual (though I'm not sure better for it) is the fact that in this one the guardian really wants the heroine, and she's not sure about it. Normally I feel like it's the heroine who has determined that she loves the guardian, and while of course he loves her too, he feels he has to hold back or not act on it because of their guardian-ward relationship. The fact that the opposite was going on here, and it was the heroine who was saying that they shouldn't be kissing/making out/etc. made it a little squickier. Because of course, in real life a step-brother who has raised a girl from childhood should NOT be going after her once she's 19. And although I prefer stories where the hero is more in love than the heroine to start, in this one it wasn't all that clear that the heroine loved him -- it would have been better if she'd realized she loved him a little earlier. Still though, definitely a readable, interesting story.

Also, side note that I think applies to this book (though lately I've been reading a lot of older HPs so I might be mixing it up) -- what is with all the drinking of the heroine's tears? All over the place in older HPs, and really weird when you imagine it. Kissing someone's tears a little, fine, but would you really want some licking all over your face?

Booked says

This one took my breath away! It's a fun ride from beginning to end. I love that he is so decided and without a doubt in love with her. She was a little stubborn to admit it to herself.

Hemavathy DM Suppiah says

Weird little romance. Controlling, possessive, bitter, mean housekeeper. Controlling, possessive, angry hero. Annoying, gasping heroine. This book should be retitled "How mother figures and boyfriends bully girls into accepting abuse as love".

Melanie♥ says

Don't think I am crazy for giving this book a 4 star rating! I really don't know why I liked it so much. It was dated (1979), the hero was uber-to-the-extreme-psycho un-PC and the heroine was too young. This book read like a Harlequin in gothic land and had this dark, "gotta look at the accident" vibe to it. She is alone in the world except for the hero and the housekeeper, her father long dead and her mother and stepfather also dead in an accident when she was very young. The hero raises her from age seven. The hero at one point says he would rather kill her than let her leave him...I think he almost meant it. He does almost work himself to death when she does finally leave him. A strangely compelling book – emphasis on the strangely.
