



Fired Up

Anna Durand

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He sets women on fire, but the only one he needs is fireproof.

Humiliated by her cheating ex, control freak Mel Thompson has resolved to avoid sex and romance. But her plans skid off the rails on her birthday, when she overindulges in champagne and tries to seduce her best friend, Adam Caras, exposing her long-repressed attraction to him. She's determined to remain just friends, but her erotic fantasies have other ideas...

Firefighter Adam Caras has seduced more women than he'd ever admit to, earning the nickname the Arsonist, thanks to his explosive sensuality. Unfortunately, he realized he's in love with his best friend Mel five minutes after she hooked up with her sleazebag ex. For two years, he's kept his true feelings a secret. His libido, on the other hand...not so easy to rein in. Now that she's free, he has a plan of his own. He'll win her heart the only way he knows how--in bed--by employing every weapon in his lady-killer arsenal.

As their firecracker chemistry transforms into much more, past mistakes and a new crisis converge to test their loyalty to each other. But will it forge their bond into an unbreakable love or tear them apart?

Fired Up Details

Date : Published July 28th 2017 by Jacobsville Books

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Author : Anna Durand

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From Reader Review Fired Up for online ebook

Jennifer Soppe says

I am voluntarily reviewing an Advanced Reader Copy of this book that I received for free.

Mel, a web development business owner, has realized that she might have deeper feelings for her best friend Adam, a firefighter. Adam has known for two years that he wants to take their relationship outside the friend zone and cooks up a plan to make that happen on the night they celebrate her birthday. With plenty of downside to changing their situation Mel fights it every step of the way and they both make mistakes that could cost them everything. Only time will tell if these friends can become more after the dust has settled.

A great roller coaster friends to lovers ride.

Kristen says

If you want a chick flick type novel to read without analyzing it too much or feel overdone by romance novels then you will surely love Fired Up. There are parts that I feel are inconsistent or not probable but I find that common with this particular genre. And like many books in this drama there is a bit of a formula or themes that the story follows, i.e. forbidden love, crazy past relationships, and a whole lot of people who should probably seek therapy for clearly chaotic relationships.

But if you are looking for a romance thriller for your sunday night guilty pleasure, this book is perfect. The story is well written and provides enough hot scenes to be in the “romance” category, but not so much that you begin to roll your eyes at how much the author clearly wants to talk about sex.

Amanda says

I'm always looking for my new favorite romance book couple and unfortunately Mel and Adam fell a bit short. On one hand, I was thrilled that the two were actual friends and the author didn't try to sell insta-love to me. On the other hand, I feel like I was told they were friends rather than their friendship being developed in the book. I appreciated the mostly tasteful sex scenes and that their story was the real meat of the novel. Often that isn't the case in the contemporary romance genre so it was refreshing here. Of course we have the vengeful ex/villain with Devon, only Devon was just this nuisance character that I felt was only there to highlight how amazing and hard to lose Mel is. That could have easily been done in a dozen other, non-typical ways. Then we have the ever popular hero/heroine completely overreacts to some perceived betrayal, leading to the couple nearly breaking up for all of eternity, followed quickly by being mercifully brought back together after one of them has something incredibly dramatic happen to them which of course shocks the other into realizing they he/she absolutely, without a doubt cannot live their life without the other and they live happily ever after.

Now that all sounds a bit snarky and as though I didn't enjoy Fired Up but I actually did. Despite some tired, cliche moments, the dialogue was fresh, the story flowed and was well paced, and it was HOT! We read romance books for some hot romance, right? Well, you won't be disappointed with that aspect at all,

promise.

Deanna (A Novel Glimpse) says

Original review: A Novel Glimpse

Note: I received this book from the author in exchange for an unbiased review.

A while back, I read Anna Durand's novella Tempted By A Kiss. It was so much fun, and I wished it wasn't just a novella. I really wanted to read a full length novel about Mel and Adam falling in love. Luckily, I wasn't the only one who wanted more of them. I was very excited to get the opportunity to read their new, full length novel Fired Up.

Fired Up begins similarly to Tempted By A Kiss, but is slightly different. Instead of stopping after Mel's birthday night the story continues. Best friends Mel and Adam go through a torturous time of figuring out what their friendship really is and where it should go from there. I loved watching them navigate their newfound relationship and how they adjusted to no longer being just friends.

The one tiny issue I had with the story was Mel's instant forgiveness of Adam's secrecy. I expected more of a reaction from her at times. The one time she did react, I was a little surprised. It didn't seem like as big a deal as the other times when she didn't react.

Overall, Fired Up was a very fun friends to lovers story. It was sweet, steamy and everything you would expect in a great contemporary romance.

Carol Flythe says

Fired Up was one hot, steamy story from the start! I mean who doesn't love a romance that involves a hot firemen as I am sure I'm not the only woman who has fantasies about this. I have to give Mel credit because when I had bad dating experiences I swore off dating too. But then I met my now husband and here we are.

Mel didn't seem like your typical damsel in distress and could think for herself. Sometimes she over thinks things and I wanted to yell at her to enjoy life a little. Just because you're now 30 doesn't mean you can't enjoy what life has to offer.

It was also interesting that Anna chose to have them be friends from an early age because that complicates things which is understandable. Because of these things it made the story more believable and as such I enjoyed it. And this isn't my typical genre despite me writing my own steamy stuff in secret... shhh

Bella says

I really enjoyed this book, which I received for free and am voluntarily reviewing. I thought there was great characterisation, although the characters could have been developed a little more convincingly. There were

some very nicely composed steamy moments, but also some emotional and touching ones, and a fair few laugh-out-loud moments too. My only small complaint is that the ending seemed very rushed; whilst I don't think it needed to be drawn out more, the ending could have been set up better at the start of the story, with slightly more emphasis on character development earlier on that would better explain later actions. A good read, and will certainly read more by this author.

Emilie Sovis says

Fired Up is a sultry bit of heterosexual erotica and romance that centers around two lifelong friends who have independently, and secretly, developed feelings for one another. Their personalities couldn't be more different and therein lies the most intriguing aspect of Fired Up; the conflicts and compatibilities between their lifestyles and personality types makes for a rollercoaster that continues until the end of the story. Throw out-of-touch exes into the mix and the drama goes one step higher.

The writing style of Fired Up is fantastic, modern, and smooth. Character dialogue is realistic and believable. As an additional point of specific praise, the author clearly understands how to integrate modern technology into the story, which is an unfortunately rare talent.

The only downside of the story is that it is somewhat predictable in its outcome, but this may not be as great of a drawback for some readers as it was for this reader.

Katy says

If you're looking for a hot, sexy, erotic story, look no further. Anyone who loves fire fighters is in for a real treat because one of the main characters, Adam, is just that. I like the the romantic story-line begins with them being friends originally. Mel and Adam have been friends for years and Mel suffers through a breakup. Little does each of them know that they are secretly and wildly attracted to each other. as feelings and desires finally emerge after many years of being shut out, a hot and steamy relationship builds. The couple will face adversity- both separately and together, which only enhances the story further.

Julianne Macneil says

I read this book as part of an arc program. I enjoyed this story of best friends turned lovers. Mel was best friends with Adam since they were kids and after Mel breaks up with her boyfriend Devon because of his cheating, she goes out to a club to celebrate her birthday, even though she really didn't want to go. During the masked party at the club Mel is approached by a stranger to dance, she agrees and they have a really steamy dance and then he leaves. Shortly after the dance, Mel has a little more to drink and starts to wonder where Adam is and starts to think of him and wonder what it would be like to be with him. Mel is secretly attracted to Adam and fantasies what it would be like to be with him, but would never act on it in fear of losing his friendship. When Adam finally shows up, Mel is heated up from the dance and the alcohol and Adam decides it is time she goes home. Adam takes Mel home and she makes a pass at him. Adam is in love with Mel and it takes all of his control to refuse her, but he doesn't want to sleep with her when she is drunk, so he puts her to bed and then he sleeps on the couch. The next morning, Adam decides to make his move

and kiss Mel, only she is unsure what to do about it. Adam is going to convince her it is a good idea, but he gets a call and has to leave. Also Mel's ex shows up wanting her back. Mel has to decide what she really wants. I really enjoyed this steamy story. I loved Adam and thought he was a great guy. Mel was scared of her feelings but I also thought she was a little too controlling about things. They were good together and had great chemistry. Well done.

Rachel Kester says

This novel by Anna Durand tells the story of Mel Thompson, a woman who has started a new life after breaking up with her boyfriend after he was caught cheating on her. She claims she will never start a romantic relationship again, but that idea soon dissolves when she suddenly starts to become attracted to her best friend Adam Caras during a wild party. Both are very attracted to each other, but they each have a certain way that they plan to show this.

At 244 pages this book will keep you busy reading, so if you're looking for a quick read this probably isn't the best choice.

This book by Durand is filled with romance and passion which makes it great for those interested in the romance genre to check out. However, keep in mind that the story has quite a bit of adult language and suggestive situations scattered throughout it which might not be ideal to some readers.

Kameron says

(review request submitted by the author for an honest critique)

Firefighters are a hot commodity in both the real and fictional world because they are, for lack of a better word, HOT. People are drawn to them because of the uniform and the danger they face. They are the white knights rescuing us from the evil clutches of death and destruction. They are our heroes.

Oh, lets not forget, they look pretty damn good with those powerful arms and there's nothing sexier than a person who is able to carry us around with ease. That display of strength alone would ignite about a dozen or more fantasies.

Adam, however, was more than just a hot bod — a fireman. He was a sweetie, a charmer, a man you can count on, and a GENEROUS LOVER. He made sure Mel's needs were taken care of first — inside and outside of the bedroom. In a nutshell, he was pretty damn perfect. Sure, he had his faults; like all humans.

Yes, he kept secrets. One, in particular, added a bit more depth to this romantic tale. It made me connect more to the story since Anna didn't direct all her attention to the couple and how they can and did transition from friends to lovers. Would I have liked more attention spent on Adam's "secret mission with his dad"? Sure. However, books can't go on forever and Anna did make sure the couple had a HEA before the end credits and all us romantics sure do love a happily ever after.

(Find more reviews/ratings at www.superkambrook.com)

Pegboard says

This sensual and spicy novel delivers exactly what Anna Durand depicts in her description and cover of the book. The main plot begins with Adam and Mel meeting up to celebrate her birthday. Adam realizes two years previous that he was in love with his best friend but she just started a relationship with another man. Patiently he waits, for two years, before she realizes that was another wrong guy for her. Slowly they come to the realization that no one measured up to their best friend.

Mel is too afraid to start a relationship with Adam because it could blow up in their face if it didn't work. She doesn't want to lose the friendship she has and is unsure how to build up. Then throw in the jealous ex-boyfriend to keep their relationship in question.

Angela says

I think we've all been there at some point. Falling in love with our best friend. And if you personally haven't, the author tells the story of just that so you'll get an idea of how beautiful and trying it can be. This begins between Adam and Mel on her 30th birthday, which is how the story opens. I like that it hit the ground running with an impact of tension and lust, as opposed to a long and drawn out tale of their past.

For fans who love details of sex scenes, you'll find plenty. This isn't only a sweet, romantic story of two folks falling in love. Lots of naughty stuff to go along with it, which personally isn't my thing and resulted in my three-star rating. I enjoyed the story, but preferred a little bit more "meat" to it (well, sorry for the pun?).

However, there's no doubt that the author knows how to tell an intriguing story for fans of this genre.

Mary Lou Hoffman says

FIRE UP is a stand-alone friends-to-lovers contemporary romance.

Though this may not be a part of the Hot Scots series, there is an immediate overlap: Mel's birthday celebration is being held at Dance Ardor, the same club where Erica and Lachlan met (and Calli met Aiden.... Thinking he may be a firefighter.... Hmm have we come full circle?)

Starting from the opening scene, pictures were painted in my mind. The locations and the people became living and breathing parts of my world during my drive while I listened to this wonderful story. It is hot, intense, and sexy. It is heart-filling with family, friends, and love of all types.

Though repetitive at times, even that felt real. I know for myself, I tend to go into circular thinking and worrying until I finally make a decision.

I love romance stories. Anyone who has followed my blog for even a short time knows this, so it should come as no surprise that I would love this story of friends who are able to build that relationship into even more...a lifetime.

Narration: The narrator has a very sexy voice. In fact, even the scenes that were not erotic sounded breathless and ready to explode. This made it a little distracting for driving and inappropriate for some scenes, but better than being monotone.

Note: while I was given this book as a gifted audiobook copy, my opinions are my own and are given freely.

Title: FIRED UP

Series: N/A

Narrator: Talece Brown

Length: 9 hours, 59 minutes

Category /Genre: Erotic Contemporary Romance

Recommended for: 18+ due to sexual content

Listenability: NSFW

Received from: Anna Durand (as an Audible gifted copy)

Amy Alessio says

Friends to more romances are especially fun in books with smart dialog and plenty of steam. Anna Durand delivers a sharp, sexy story about Mel and her longtime best friend, firefighter Adam. Having a firefighter in a story alone brings the heat, let alone one who is ready to move the relationship with the woman of his dreams forward.

Mel is recovering from a breakup with her cheating ex and doesn't want to risk a romantic relationship with her best friend. But soon her fantasies and his sexy reality help her see that she and Adam could have so much more.

I received this copy in exchange for an honest review, and I am happy to continue recommending Anna Durand books. Her male and female characters are smart and realistic, and her sexy stories are a pleasure to read.
