



Fires of Destiny

Linda Barlow

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Loves endures, even in the face of danger and death.

As a child, Alexandra Douglas adored her older, wilder friend Roger Trevor, a troubled lad who turned his back on his family. Ten years as a sellsword and pirate have transformed Roger into a darkly handsome but enigmatic stranger. His sudden return to his father's castle causes a passionate uproar in the bookish and otherwise sensible Alix.

Dangerous to know...

Surprised by his unlikely desire for his childhood friend, Roger is determined to encase his heart in ice. Haunted by his past and trapped in a lethal web of intrigue, he fears entangling Alix in a plot that could doom them both to a traitor's death.

But destiny has set them on colliding paths, and Roger can no more resist the fire in Alix than she can turn away from his increasingly ardent touch.

New, revised edition of a classic, award-winning romance.

When the original version was published in 1986, Linda Barlow received the Romantic Times award as New Historical Romance Author of the Year. *Fires of Destiny* was also a finalist for the Rita Award from Romance Writers of America.

This special new edition has been revised and edited by the author, but her beloved characters and their sensuous, suspenseful adventures remain the same.

Accolades

"Linda Barlow's sexy, suspenseful page-turners are pure pleasure to read." Susan Elizabeth Phillips.

Jayne Ann Krentz describes Linda as "a wonderful story-teller. She grabs you on the first page and plunges you straight into the tumultuous lives of her fascinating characters."

Catherine Coulter called *Fires of Destiny* "a bold and clever tapestry, provocative and seductive."

Romantic Times said in their 1986 review: "Weaving together a strong historical background, an intriguing mystery subplot, along with a touch of mysticism, Ms. Barlow crafts a marvelously textured novel that mesmerizes the reader on every level. The timeless magic of this outstanding romance will guarantee recognition of Linda Barlow as a powerful writer with the talent to surpass all genre boundaries."

Fires of Destiny Details

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From Reader Review Fires of Destiny for online ebook

Isis Ray-sisco says

I received this book free from Net Galley for my honest review. This does not affect my opinion in any way.

Fires of Destiny by Linda Barlow is an action packed historical romance novel. It is full action from the very beginning of the book. Fires of Destiny will have you sitting on the edge of your seat and keep you reading until the very end. There are a lot of twists and turns in the in the plot and it makes for an interesting read. Fires of Destiny is Roger and Alexandra's story. This is the first book by this author that I have read and I would pick another book by her up based on how much I enjoyed this one.

Alexandra has always had feelings for her friend Roger. At first they were just feelings of admiration but as the years went on her feelings developed into something more. The two of them could never be together though because she is betrothed to his brother. Her father had made this arrangement years before. There is also the fact that Roger left and no one knew if he would return. When her betrothed meets his untimely death everything is up in the air. Shortly after that Roger returns and he has awakened feelings within her that his brother never could. He insists that he doesn't want her but she can tell that he isn't being entirely honest. Things go from bad to worse and things around her spin out of control. She doesn't know what will happen but she does know that she loves Roger and that she will never love anyone more than him. When their paths cross again she knows that she still feels the same way and she will do just about anything to win his heart. When she finally does she will do anything to keep him safe. Will she be successful when he lands himself in trouble? Will she end up losing the love of her life? Or will they find happily ever after?

Roger lives his life the way he wants. He won't answer to anyone but himself. That is why he left his family behind years ago. When he returns he returns to the town of his birth he doesn't even visit his family until his brother dies. When he does go back there is nothing but tension. There is tension between him and his father and there is tension between him and his childhood friend Alexandra, his brother's fiancé. The tension between him and her grows and he desires her but he isn't willing to marry her so he tells her as much. It doesn't quell the attraction between the two of them but he knows he will be leaving again soon so he continues to keep her at arm's distance. He also knows that what he endeavors to do is very dangerous and he can't have any entanglements. When he leaves he doesn't expect to see her again but their do cross again. He is finding it harder and harder to resist her. In fact he is realizing that he is in love with her. When he finally accepts that they are meant to be together that's when all the trouble really starts. She is determined to keep him safe but he is more determined to keep her safe. Will they be able to survive all those who have come against them? Or will their love be doomed?

I liked Fires of Destiny a lot. I liked that it was action packed. I liked that the story wasn't a perfect girl meets boy, boy meets girl, they fall in love and live happily ever after type of story. I liked that they had to fight for their love. I liked the characters as well. I disliked the ones that you are supposed to dislike. I didn't really have a favorite character at all. I liked Roger and Alexandra equally. The only problem I had with Roger was the fact that he was in such denial about his feelings for Alexandra. I could understand it at first but he spent far too much of the book in denial. I also didn't like that Alexandra would assume the worse about Roger a lot of the time. I like a certain amount of drama in stories but I think it can be over done at times, and when that happens it distracts from the story itself. It wasn't the case in Fires of Destiny but it did get on my nerves from time to time and found myself screaming "Come on already!" Over all, though Fires of Destiny was a great read and I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys historical romances with a lot of action and tension within the pages.

Lauren says

Well I have to say my expectations weren't high given the title. "Fires of Destiny" just doesn't really inspire confidence in a reader. It's the kind of title you'd rather not admit to a stranger on the metro or a coworker in the lunchroom. I am not a huge historical romance reader, but have recently been giving a few books in the genre a try. This one has actually been my favorite of my recent historical reads. I really could never have pictured myself liking a book that used loins with such disturbing frequency and yet here I am writing what is going to be a very positive review.

This book really keeps you guessing. Both as far as the romance and the plot is concerned. Usually during a romance you just know that the two characters are going to end up together. With this book I really wasn't confident that Alexandra and Roger would end up together. The danger was very real and I was very afraid for the characters lives at different points. The story itself had a good flow and was very exciting. There were many mysteries to be solved and the wonderful historical context really kept everything together. I'm not a huge history buff, so I can't be sure everything was accurate, but it seemed pretty authentic to me. The plot was really interesting, but I do wish there had been a little more character growth on Alexandra's part. Roger on the other hand seemed to grow a lot as a character and I really enjoyed his worldly views compared to Alexandra's more sheltered ones. I was also pleased with how well rounded the other characters were as well. Finally the story really wrapped up in a way that was a bit too much like "this is the moral" and I think it would have been a stronger ending without it. But I can see why the author wanted to include it.

All in all it was an edge of your seat historical romance, that I would highly recommend to anyone interested in the genre.

Diane Madison says

This is a wonderful book! I read it after I finished FLAME OF DESIRE by Katherine Vickery. Both are about the reign of Mary Tudor and are keepers. Once I started this I couldn't put it down. I have both the paper copy and ebook versions.

Arshia says

This ARC was provided by Net Galley.

I'll tell you honestly that I was expecting nothing from this ARC. I was bored and the ARC was available to download so... This has been one the few unexpectedly good books. A historical romance novel which is rich with history and romance in equal measure. Intriguing nefarious plots, big government, heretics in danger, and in the midst of it all a tempestuous love. The kind of love that is slow to build and burns hotter because of it.

Alexandra Douglas and Roger Trevor are childhood friends, she has loved him for a long time now. However, the love she has at the beginning is nothing compared to what she feels at the end. Both of these characters were indescribable. No words can really do them justice. It was hard to like them in the beginning,

it was even hard to like the plot in the beginning, but if you stick with them then you'll love them and their story.

Roger was a hard hero to like but a good man nonetheless. There are insights into his character that make you really see him as a well rounded person. He has faults and he is the first to acknowledge many of them. Many times he's portrayed as the villain, especially in the beginning, but later we learn the truth behind his actions. Alexandra is brash, quick to judge, and really naive in the beginning. She's lost in her own world and you can't hate her for it because she doesn't know any better. She grows up though; she is assigned as a lady-in-waiting to Queen Mary and at court she learns the art of courtly manners, intrigues, and flirtation. All in all the characters are very exciting, the plot is diverse and attention grabbing. LOVED IT!

Jon Shea says

Against the backdrop of England during the time of Queen Mary, *Fires of Destiny* follows the lives of Alexandra and Roger as they twist and turn down the path to true love. Facing everything from religious persecution, mental illness, and family suspicions, the two face a long and bumpy journey.

Barlow's historical research is sound and realistic, although I'm no expert on this era in history. Her characters come to life as real players in this fragment in history. Save for a few "slower" moments during the story, there wasn't anything that made this fictional story anything less than real history. Barlow is an accomplished author, one who knows what it means to create characters and tie them together with words on a page.

All in all, this was a great read. A little slow at times, but I'm not big into romance, so please take my interpretation of "slow" with a grain of salt!

Dlrox12345 says

When I saw the cover and read the blurb, the impression I got was misleading. I thought it'll be a typical historical romance, which normally runs; boy meets girl, they fall in love *or* unavoidable circumstances force them into marriage, have to face hard obstacles, one of them have an epiphany about how they can't live without the other and HEA. Well those things did happen in this book. But that was only halfway through the book. The story didn't end there.

From there on the plot went sideways. We have a slight love triangle with Alix, Roger and his best friend(guess who it is). And of course the historic part of the events, Queen Mary Tudor's reign. And the hint of mystery also worked. It wasn't much, but it worked.

About the characters all I have to say is that they were well written and interesting. The only thing I didn't like was the cover. (The male model had his back turned. I would have preferred to have both models side ways.) But the title gave a bit of a hint. There certainly was many fires. All in all I enjoyed reading this book.

My rating:3.5 stars

ARC courtesy of Netgalley

Karla says

When I opened this book to a random page and saw this little dialogue exchange...

"I forget. Did you rape me while I was screaming down there or did you decide it would be more aesthetic to do it in comfort?"

"When I rape you, you will remember."

...I thought I was going to get a freaky deaky bodice ripper. It's certainly one of the more floridly dramatic ones I've read, but the plot itself is rather subdued and quite slim. For such a long book, it should have dragged. But it didn't. Instead, the added length gave the author plenty of time to flesh out her characters. (And for the record, despite copious threats and fears of rape, there ain't none.)

Alexandra Douglas has grown up with the three Trevor boys, and has a contracted marriage with the heir, Will. But Will dies, either a victim of accident or murder, and she feels her contract is null and void. But with Will's death there is a new heir, Roger, the most bullying and intimidating of the 3 boys and the blackest of black sheep. Alexandra is not alone in thinking that Roger had a hand in helping Will along to his death. But as time passes, she discovers there's plenty more going on under the surface than what she's believed. And when Roger gets in trouble with Queen Mary's anti-Protestant crusade, Alexandra is determined to rescue the man she loves.

So yeah, it's real simple when it comes to the bare bones, but there is **so much** that goes on at an emotional and character development level. The secondary characters aren't shabby either, with Roger's best friend Francis Lacklin being a main catalyst for the events that propel this couple along their path of destiny.

Roger was a good character, starting out all shady and threaten-y as he's seen through the eyes of those who he grew up with (and tormented). He was also beaten within an inch of his life by his dad, so to think he turned into a twisted individual isn't that much of a leap for those who wonder what he's up to (if anything). But of course we discover he's not the demon everyone thinks he is, and instead has a real conflicted and tormenting relationship with his best friend.

Alexandra had her shining moments as an overreactive twit, but she didn't annoy me all that much. The first part of the book, with her thinking Roger was a murderer, reminded me a lot of a gothic. There's also witchcraft and prophecies that drive Alexandra's decisions and doubts. She ends up turning into the kind of heroine any hero would want.

The two of them reminded me a lot of the hero and heroine in Barbara Kyle's *A Dangerous Temptation* (aka *The Queen's Lady*), both in what they get up to (smuggling Protestants) and how they think (shunning dogma of any faith). I recommend that one, too. I read it several years ago and it's really stuck with me, despite the hundreds of books I've read since then.

The best thing is that everything seemed organic, gradually progressing, realistic. Nothing seemed rushed, except the obligatory tacked-on epilogue where romances got tied up and babies were born and that barfy stuff. I'd have been very happy had the book ended where it did without the superfluous epilogue. I'd quote it, but it's spoilerific. Damn, it was soooooooooo good.

Apparently this is being reworked for a re-issue, so I have no idea what she'll change. I'd recommend getting the original, just because that's how I roll and there *are* a few places where political correctness and an urge to tone down the WTF could prevail.

Linda says

Welcome to the new, revised edition of my classic historical romance, *Fires of Destiny*. In 1986, when the novel was originally published, I was thrilled to win the *Romantic Times* award as New Historical Romance Author of the Year. The novel was also a finalist for the Rita Award.

Although the text has been extensively revised, polished, and re-edited and polished, the story and characters remain essentially the same.

If you like your heroes a little dark, your heroines adventuresome and brave, your romance steamy, and a story packed with danger and suspense, please give *Fires of Destiny* a try.

If you have read this novel before, I'm delighted that you've returned for a re-read; if this is your first time, I welcome you to the book of my heart.

author: Linda Barlow

Robert Clark says

Fires of Destiny by Linda Barlow is a historical romance. Alexandra and Roger, friends during childhood, meet years later and fall in love. Fine, simple, and straightforward. Not. Set in the England of Queen Mary with her brutal prosecution of Protestants, everything is complicated. Francis Lacklin, who Alexandra at first despises, has converted Roger's family to a Protestant faith. Roger, burdened with guilt because a woman in his care has died, has returned to his family after years of absence. One of Alexandra's best friends is a follower of the old religion, or, in the terms of the times, a witch. The brother of the woman who died in Roger's care, Geoffrey, blames him and wants revenge, pushing his desire to hurt Roger to pathological extremes. Roger's younger brother is in love with Alexandra, who, up to his recent and suspicious death, was betrothed to Roger's older brother. Alexandra's father, an agent of the Queen, considers Roger a scoundrel and possible traitor and doesn't want him near his daughter. Roger and his own father are constantly fighting. At this point the complications are just starting.

As in almost any romance story, girl meets boy, girl and boy are separated (several times), girl and boy get back together. That part is expected and, to some readers, may become a bit tedious after the first few misunderstandings and separations. The *Fires of Destiny* starts slowly, but moves inexorably on, drawing the reader with it, looking for the next twist and wondering, as the protagonists often are, exactly what is going

on. Was a death an accident, a suicide, or a murder? Where do a person's loyalties lie? What is the mysterious connection between Roger and Francis? Is there a supernatural force at work or are the witch's predictions and the premonitions of others just the ability to make good guesses? By the middle of *Fires of Destiny* it is difficult to put the book down, because the reader wants to know what happens next. At that point the pace picks up, with chase following battle following personal clashes, duels, and one crisis and revelation after another.

Barlow adds Love triangles in several forms, although physical love is not always a factor. The physical contacts between Alexandra and Roger, when they finally occur, are often described in explicit sexual detail, but make up only a tiny fraction of *Fires of Destiny*. Aside from the romance elements *Fires of Destiny* is an excellent swashbuckler and a good historical novel. In fact, I'd consider the second half of the book more a swashbuckler than a romance, although the romance element is a constant force in the plot.

None of the major characters are one dimensional or unbelievable, although the mentally ill villain Geoffrey stretches the limits. Even he, when compared to some of the fanatics and psychotics who exist in real life, is marginally within the bounds of realism. In several cases the reader might think, "Wait, no one could get away with that disguise, escape, plot, whatever", only to realize more fantastic things have happened not once by many times.

Because of the tangled webs of intrigues and interactions Barlow weaves skillfully into *Fires of Destiny* it is difficult to say much about the plot with introducing a spoiler. What I can say is this. I enjoyed the book and sincerely recommend it.

Sara says

I won my copy through a Goodreads Firstreads Giveaway contest!

[PART I]

Chapters 1 – 6 (pp 1 – 100)

So far, this is possibly the best romance novel I've ever read. Murder. Intrigue. Steamy foreplay scenes that almost get there, but don't, and isn't that half the fun? I like Alix. She's feisty and pretty much doesn't give a hoot. She speaks her mind, and I like that. I'm in love with Roger. Of course, I always do like the dark ones that need help. Alan is annoying and whiny. Man up, please. Oh, wait! That's Roger's job. Never mind. I like Merwynna, though we haven't seen much of her. And now since I've given you general information, I'll give you some spoilers thus far.

(view spoiler)

Chapters 7 - 12 (pp 110 – 184)

OK. I love how well this book is written. Surprises at every turn, and I can't really guess what people are thinking. I love that. I hate when a book is so obviously written that I get to the point before the characters do. It's annoying. Alix is my new role model. She's tough, courageous, and strong. Roger is just... every woman's dream, yes? And now for the spoilers...

(view spoiler)

More as I read on.

Chapters 13 - 14 (pp 185 – 202)

I can never say more without giving away spoilers, but this stuff just keeps getting hotter. Now that many of the secrets are out, and Alix no longer suspects Roger of the terrible things she thought he'd done, we can move on with the book. Alix's father is upset, and he's about to send her off to court in London. Should be interesting. That will be Part II. For now... Some Part I spoilers...

(view spoiler)

[END of Part I]

[Part II]

Chapters 15 – 21 (pp. 205-302)

So this new part is interesting. Alix is at court in London now, in the direct service of Her Majesty, Mary Tudor (AKA Bloody Mary). Alix of course, is adjusting to life in London, since she's a tomboy and used to climbing trees and running around with the Trevor boys and such. She runs into Roger every once in a while, and has met a new enemy for both of them, a French man named Geoffrey. He's come out of Roger's past, and it's not looking good. Alan has bucked up a little, though I still find him whiny in ways, but he's quickly becoming a man, and getting in trouble for it. When Chapter 21 ends, Alix and Alan are about to be in some major trouble with the new enemy. I'm almost scared to see what happens. And now, as usual, for some detailed spoilers...

(view spoiler)

Chapters 22 – 28 (pp. 303-390)

OK. So Geoffrey is creepier than I ever imagined and his unrelenting vileness brought to mind images of Captain Barbosa from *Pirates*, though that might be my brain's association with Geoffrey Rush. I still think the vileness is quite as equal. ~~shudders~~

Anyway, Roger gets Alix out of the scrape with Geoffrey, though not in the usual way. In fact, not in a way you'd expect at all. Her father helps some, too. Now we are on a boat, with injured people, and a lot of mistrust and misunderstandings. Thankfully, they are soon cleared up, and as Chapter 28 ends, we get almost everyone back to health. Whether that is a good thing remains to be seen. And now for actual detail of spoilers...

(view spoiler)

Part III should be quite interesting. I have work early in the morning, so, sadly, that will have to wait for tomorrow evening. Otherwise, I would stay up all night finishing this novel. Have I mentioned how fantastic it is? I already know it's getting 5 stars. I'd give it 10 if I could.

[END of Part II]

[Part III]

Chapters 29 – 41 (pp. 391 – 528)

OK. So now we're on a boat at sea, and we can't go home. Of course, Alix, stubborn as a mule does go home after some treacherous blackmail by none other than her father. Now Roger has to risk returning to go get her. Somewhere in there Alix almost dies, and Roger duels her attempted murderer. But now her father has found that Roger has returned, and the Part ends with Roger being led away to London on a horse for trial. And now for the detailed spoilers...

(view spoiler)

And so here we go into Part IV. I cannot wait. I cannot put down this book. Heaven help me! I don't know how this book only got runner-up for the RITA back in '86. I don't know if I could handle a book that was better. I really don't think it's possible there is one.

[End of Part III]

[Part IV; Epilogue]

Chapters 42 – 44; Epilogue (pp. 529 – 585)

Ahhh! The ending. I don't know how to talk about it without spoilers. Let's just say it was as adventurous and high-stakes as the rest of the book and that it was the perfect ending to a perfect story. Even Alan got a happy ending.

(view spoiler)

[End of Part IV]

{The End}

GENERAL COMMENTS:

I cannot say enough about this book, as you may have guessed from this five page long review/synopsis. This book has everything: mystery, love, sex, intrigue, murder, paranormal, and adventure. Plus it has a great, feminist heroine to boot. Alix is someone you can cheer, and Roger is, too. Plus Roger's hot. Seriously hot. As I said earlier, I don't know how this one didn't take the RITA that year, but it must have been a damned fine book that did, for this one certainly is.

Hildy says

I really enjoyed this book. I was in the mood for a change of pace and felt like I needed some historical fiction/romance in my life. I'd purchased this in the summer. I think perhaps I saw it mentioned in a FB post by another author and I can't even remember who it was. Anyhow, I bought it and suggested it to my friend Keryn and she really enjoyed it. I thought the time was right.

First of all, I like this cover a lot more than some of the older ones. I posted one of the other covers on Facebook and my sister said, "Really? That looks like a book mom would have read in the 80s." This had me a little worried. This book was written in the 80s and was recently re-edited and re-published. I was afraid it was going to be a cheesy bodice ripper but I trust Keryn so I dove right in.

The story is set in England in the mid 1500s during the reign of Mary Tudor. The history was fairly simple in the book. It set a great backdrop for the story but I never felt like it over-powered the romance. It took me a little while to really warm up to the characters. I liked them enough from the beginning but the story does absolutely build in terms of character development. The heroine was smart and brave and looks after herself. The male is essentially a 1550s bad boy who you get to know a little at a time. This worked for the story because it was so long. It took its time there. My only problem was that I REALLY wanted to love these two as much as some of the historical novels I've read and while they had their beautiful moments, I never really got to that point.

I think what surprised me the most was that this story unfolded around a mystery. As long as it was, I never got bored. It took me some time to get to the "I can't put this down" point but it didn't mean that I wasn't enjoying it.

I think if you enjoy some lighter historical romance books, you should give this a whirl. Let me know what you think.

Naksed says

I started off really digging *Fires of Destiny* by Linda Barlow. I am a sucker for historical romances and the beginning of this novel promised a heated and passionate courtship between Alexandra Douglas, a beautiful, educated and virginal country Lady in 16th century England, and her long lost childhood friend and next door neighbor Roger Trevor, who has just returned after ten years pirating on the high seas. There were initially a couple of scenes that had them circling each other, all volcanic sexual tension-like, promising an epic get-together. At one point, Alexandra comes upon Roger and his friend practicing sword fighting in the woods, their chests bared and sweaty. I mean how much better does it get? It's cheesetastic but it's also the reason why I relish these over the top bodice-rippers. LoL

As I read on, the romance morphed into a murder mystery-romance hybrid, with supernatural elements added in. Like, literally, Alexandra goes to visit the village witch in her cottage lost inside the woods, and the witch falls into a trance, predicting all sorts of cryptic things to Alexandra about the dangers she is surrounded with. Okay, not usually my cuppa but oh well, I was still intrigued.

At a further point, the murder mystery turns into a full gothic, as Alexandra and Roger are searching the woods at night in a deep fog, with Alexandra suspecting Roger of foul play. There is a bloated corpse, a cave

full of writhing snakes, a midnight swim in the lake, and a night spent sheltering in the witch's cottage where Alexandra and Roger proceed to maul each other while Roger's brother is sleeping steps away from them. Can I just say eek?

As if that wasn't bad enough, Alexandra is the worst detective in the history of the world and a TSTL doormat heroine while Roger gets more assholeish by the minute. Apparently, he used to like to tie her up and beat her up when they were children, even giving her a black eye once, and she licked that shit up! So now they are back to their dangerous games except they are adults now so they have added sex to their wrestling sessions.

"As a child, you loved it, being tied to trees and such. For a moment I thought you were playing a game with me, an adult version of our antics long ago." He paused, his eyes glowing with the reflected flicker of the flames. "For a moment, I wanted to play."

Barf.

Every five minutes, Alexandra suspects Roger of being a murderer, then he gets all rough and grabby with her lady parts and whaddya know? Holy Traitorous Body Alert, Batman! She is back to lusting after him and rationalizing that he couldn't possibly be a criminal. Then, when they get too far up his britches and her corset or girdle or whatever, he pulls back and reminds her that he will never marry her, because she is too innocent for him and he does not want to be tied down and other nonsense. Then five minutes later, she throws herself at him again and the cycle repeats itself. I just can't stand a wishy washy hero in a bodice-ripper. It was just so absurd.

— *"Virgins are a pack of trouble", he whispered in her ear.*

— *"I'll grit my teeth. I am not afraid."*

— *"You may not be, my Amazon, but I am." His voice sounded strained and breathless. "Afraid of hurting you, afraid of ruining your chances for decent wedlock, afraid of getting a child upon you. None of these things need happen, though, if we're careful. I haven't spent years in the erotic East for nothing."*

Sorry, Roger, this has to be the LEAST erotic dirty talk I have ever heard. Maybe you need to go back to that erotic East of yours for a refresher course?

I have a lot of tolerance for the campiness and hokeyness associated with bodice-rippers but I just could not get my mind around this TSTL heroine and her big, fat, jerk of an alleged hero, along with the ridiculous, unsexy dialogue and a boring murder mystery that I could not care less about. DNF at 30%.

Linda says

This was the book of my heart. I invented the characters when I was 14, and lived with them for many years before the book was actually completed and published. New edition.

Keryn Rhule says

All done it is so hard to review a book without giving anything away. *Fires of Destiny* is a romantic historical novel which is very well written but to the author's credit it didn't get bogged down in the descriptive prose that some books of this genre get bogged in - it moved along at a good pace. I enjoyed the story and really liked the two main characters in the book and the supporting characters as well. I will definitely be reading more books written by Linda Barlow.

Jane says

Fires of Destiny tells the story of Alexandra Douglas and Roger Trevor when he returned to the North of England after being gone for ten years. Alix, knew immediately that the one man she loved had returned to her but Roger, after ten long years at sea, resisted her and the temptation she was to him until it was almost too late.

For the first third of the novel he treats teases her and gives her only heartache. His father keeps up a constant verbal battle and when the local half-wit is found dead, he becomes suspect. As the story progresses he shows a kind and human side that is concerned with the poor and needy of the world and he strives to help them, even though to do so is treason at the time of Queen Mary's Catholic rule of England.

By the end, Alix and Roger are man and wife with a little girl and the new Queen Elizabeth has granted Roger a full pardon to allow them to return home to England the their families.

The main point of the story is between the beginning and end and well worth reading.
