



Embers of Love

Tracie Peterson

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The logging industry in eastern Texas is booming, and Deborah Vandermark plans to assist her family's business now that she's completed college. Unexpectedly, her best friend, Lizzie Decker, accompanies her back home--fleeing a wedding and groom she has no interest in. Deborah, the determined matchmaker, puts her sights on uniting her brother and dear friend in a true love match.

Deborah soon meets Dr. Christopher Clayton, a much-needed addition to the town. As their lives intersect, Deborah realizes that she has a much greater interest in medicine and science than the bookkeeping she was trained in. But when typhoid begins to spread and Lizzie's jilted fiance returns, Deborah wonders if true love can overcome such obstacles...for those dearest to her, and for herself.

Embers of Love Details

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Rita says

Embers of Love was an enjoyable book overall. It had a good storyline with well-developed characters. My only complaint would be that some things seemed a bit rushed. That being said, I'm glad Deborah's story continues throughout the series and I look forward to reading *Hearts Aglow* and *Hope Rekindled*.

Bailey says

Embers of Love was a very entertaining read. I found the anti-literacy culture fascinating. Considering today's culture of unending learning, this hard work and no need for reading mentality was an intriguing twist added into the story. Additionally the medical knowledge of the time along with the superstitions made for interesting drama throughout the book. There are a lot of pivotal moments throughout the novel. The characters get hit with curveballs from all sides and it is wonderful to see how they maneuver through them. Deborah's thirst for knowledge is addictive. I love her feisty spirit and hometown heart. The story with Lizzie was a great accomplishment for this book. The storyline with Lizzie's mother was so relatable. I love the opposing take on Women's Rights. Even today, I see women shamed if their dreams are to be a wife and mother. This vocation should be just as acceptable as any other. Just because this used to be the traditional role does not preclude it from still being the goal of some women as any other profession would be. This perspective was very refreshing, and I appreciated the drama it added to the storyline. I'm so glad we get to continue Deborah's story in books to come. I can't wait to see where she ends up. The recipe for Black Grape Tarts at the end of the book is very good. :)

Rachel Thompson says

I downloaded this as a free ebook for my Sony reader.

Lizzie is about to marry a man she doesn't love as a means to show her mother that she can make her own decisions, as a strong, independent woman, yet she panics at the last minute and her best friend, Deborah, convinces her to run away to Texas with her. There, Lizzie is readily accepted by Deborah's family and learns how to cook, sew, and do other 'womanly' duties that her own mother always thought were beneath her. Lizzie finds something satisfying in being able to provide for those she loves, especially when Deborah's brother G.W. takes notice.

This book is split between Lizzie and Deborah as each young woman finds herself. Overall I found the book a bit boring as it dragged on and on. At first, I thought the story would be exclusively about Lizzie since we start out with her fleeing a loveless marriage in order to search for something more meaningful, but a good portion of this book also shows Deborah's struggle as she wonders how she's ever going to meet a nice, educated man in her hometown of Texas when people are more interested with hard work -- a lot of people don't even know how to read. Deborah spends a lot of time worrying that she might be a snob, which got on

my nerves, especially since she came across as one.

When Lizzie's mother and jilted fiancée, Stuart, show up in Texas to drag Lizzie back home, the story really starts to drag. The characters go round and round in circles for pages as they fight over the ridiculous question of whether or not Lizzie is actually married to Stuart. Neither side is willing to listen to the other. Instead of creating good conflict, the whole concept is stupid.

There is very little romance in this book, so those looking for good romantic elements can look elsewhere. Especially in the case of G.W. and Lizzie who don't seem to spend any time together. Yet their story resolves itself by the end of the book. I'm not sure I can say the same for Deborah's relationship with the new town doctor. The book's ending was pretty weak, and I understand there's more than one book, so I think that's part of the problem, but still, it was a huge disappointment.

Jennifer Pryke says

My complaint about this book is much the same as any written by an author who pumps out a prolific amount of books. It is shallow and predictable. The characters are not overly well developed leaving me wholly indifferent to their fate. The setting is uninteresting and the storyline is about as deep as the water stagnating in the bottom of a cracked thimble. There is a mass of subplots that don't seem to affect the story or its main characters at all and serve only to distract. It is as though the author has too many ideas in her head and rather than taking the time to flesh them out and use them to add depth they are simply thrown in pell mell as page fillers. The whole thing feels rushed and you can almost hear the authors editor asking if the book is ready to print so they can move on to the next in the assembly line.

All that said, it's not a horrible book and does make for a decent light read despite its faults. I consider it a waiting room time passer. Much the same as leaving the tv on in the background, it serves to entertain without distracting your attention overly much.

George Mcmillin says

Medicalodges Herington Nursing Home Book Club selection. We enjoyed reading this book together. Some staff are cousins of the author's husband. One had a full collection of Tracie Peterson's books. Selecting to read this book due to it's acclamation. Being followed by the Striking a Match series.

Marie says

I was somewhat disappointed in the lack of depth. It was very predictable and I do not like predictable. When I know what's going to happen it's very hard to read. I've heard T.Peterson is a great author so I'll definitely read more from her.

Carina says

Before writing this review I had a quick look at the author page on Goodreads to see what the next book in this series was called but couldn't seem to spot it anywhere. It is kind of a shame because, although this book doesn't end in such a way as to force you to read another book (as so many series do) I do find myself wanting to return to these characters and see how they get on...

The characters that you are meant to like you like, and the characters that you are meant to dislike you dislike - I wouldn't say they are all well rounded and developed but the development they have works for the book.

There are some plot elements that feel like they were just forgotten about (the threat the ex-fiancee levies, the result of the tour at G.W hosted) - but if there is a second book (or even plans for one) I guess they could be picked up again in that.

This is a very... Christian book, characters pray to God a lot and the bible is discussed but the usage of these elements is very in-keeping with the period of the book and it never felt like the author was trying to impose a religious belief on the reader (again I have seen this happen sometimes).

I would be most pleasantly surprised if I discovered some other books by this author on my Kindle and I would certainly consider getting some more of her books (if I ever finish reading all the books I already own!)

Joy Gerbode says

I actually enjoyed this book more than I was expecting to. It is a good love story, historical record, and thought provoker in many ways ... but mostly just an enjoyable read.

Amy says

Allow me to begin by refreing you to the title.

Embers of Love.

I should have been warned right there. Should have been, but I wasn't. And that isn't neccesarily a bad thing. I'm impressed with Tracie Peterson. She writes good Christian romance. The problem is, I don't *like* Christian romance novels. And I can't seem to remember that. The first half of this book was really good, maybe even the first three-fourths. And then it kind of...lost me.

Plot

Deborah Vandermark is returning home from college out East to help her family's logging business in Perkinsville, Texas. Along for the ride is her best friend Lizzie who is litterally leaving her groom at the alter and making a run for it. Deborah is a highly educated woman in a town where education is not highly valued. She struggles with the ignorance she sees all around her and longs for someone who appreciates learning. In steps Dr. Clayton. He's young, single, and believes Deborah ought to be a doctor. Which happens to be exactly what Deborah secretly longs for. Certain her family cannot survive without her, though, she refuses to seek an education in medicine.

Meanwhile, Lizzie is rapidly falling for Deborah's kind but sorrow-laden older brother, G.W. When her ex-

fiance shows up with her mother in tow, Lizzie finds herself in over her head.

Thoughts

I enjoyed the characters in this book. Of course, they tended to be a touch overdone...the sort of characters that are driven by perfectly pure motivation. Unless of course they are supposed to be antagonist, in which case they are driven by selfish ambition until experiencing a miraculous change of heart. But overall, they are good. Round, with problems, defects, humor. Generally likeable. Just sickeningly good.

Their problems/resolutions did get a bit baffling though. Deep, emotional issues are solved quite rapidly. For example, (bit of a spoiler here), G.W. blames himself for their Father's death. Lizzie has one conversation with him and suddenly, BAM! he's all better. Despite the fact that his family have been trying to tell him for months that it wasn't his fault, a few well-placed comments from a pretty girl and he's set. Maybe believable but that is not the only time something like that happens. Take Dr. Clayton and Deborah. They struggle with their growing affection, and a few placed comments from Mrs. Vandermark and they tread forward with hardly a qualm. It is not that something like this might not happen, it just is it happens a *great deal* in this story where a lot of the driving difficulties or problematic themes get lightly swept away.

Despite this, there is actually very little resolution within the pages of this book. I'm assuming that is because it is the first in a series. While Lizzie and G.W. seem to smooth out their difficulties early on, the hidden threat from her ex-fiance is never lived out. The cowboy who likes Deborah is simply set aside after two scenes. G.W. is left potentially crippled. Dr. Clayton is going to trian Deborah and court her...but its after an almost laughably-awkward scene that doesn't really come across as romatnic as its supposed to be. Peterson sets up for a "more in the future..." without a real resolution except maybe a temporary pause. Will the next book open up with Lizzie's baby? A nice blank space to skim a few months? Who knows. I'm not feeling particularly inclined to find out, but curiosity did kill the cat.

The thing I didn't really care for about this book are my usual complaints. I can pretty much sum it up in the last two pages with lines like:

"He felt the embers of love that had been smldeirng within him spark a flame. This woman was simple and complex, all at the same time. How was that even possible?"

He gently took hold of her face..."

Good Lord, (I'm turning into a Southerner, I tell ya) why do I do this to myself? I know I'm going to dislike it and yet I read these stories anyway.

In conclusion, I like Tracie Peterson. I'll probably talk myself into getting another one of her books, though I doubt it will be in this series. Thank you Rebekah for lending a bored-college student a quick read on her week off. If you like this sort of thing, go for it! Its good.

Jaime says

Boring. Predictable. Mindless.

Darlene says

just in the first couple of pages I was hooked in this book. the way the book is written I can feel what the characters are going through. love the faith that they have. the thing they go through and the faith they have I am sure we all can relate in some way. can't wait to read the next 2 books

Talia says

It took me more than ten chapters to actually get into this book. I usually just quit reading at three if I am not interested, but I had the second book at the time as well so I figured I might as well.

First off; there was a lot of emphasis on etiquette. Yet, in the end, nobody seemed to obey it. I get that we're in Texas here, & things are a little bit looser but not all etiquette is thrown out the window. Especially when *SPOILER ALERT* somebody kissed a certain somebody & got way too in-their-space-y. I didn't like it.

I liked it when Deborah wasn't going to let that punk in that alley beat her & Lizzie up. I also thought it was hilarious when she accidentally punched Jake. (Sorry, Jake. You gotta admit, it was pretty funny.) In that area, by all means, I don't mind the breach of etiquette. Why sit there & let you & your friend get beat up, murdered, etc. & scream like a wuss when you could be defending yourself? Right? ;)

& Jake.. *sigh* You were nice at first but after a while, you got on my nerves. & I know, it was heart-breaking whenever so-and-so didn't accept your love. But you did kinda butt in a proposal so... *shrug*

Christopher had me worried there for a bit.

So in the end... I rate this book three stars. 1 because there was way too many mentions of delicious food that I could not eat. :P

2. Because Deborah went into ninja mode once that creeper got in their space.
3. Because she finally got to be with *not mentioning his name*

Why I subtracted two stars:

Way too much innuendo for a book in the era it was in.

I didn't appreciate the mental picture of a make-out session.

Sensitivemuse says

I enjoyed this book somewhat. Deborah was enjoyable to read as a character, she's very strong willed and knew exactly what she wanted from life. Especially during this particular time period where she had an interest in medicine and science, it would have been hard for a woman during that time to pursue these types of interests. Her strong and likable personality was what made the book a nice read.

So! why did I say I enjoyed this book 'somewhat'? a few things. The pace of the plot was a bit too slow for my tastes. The characters are great and all, but if the plot is going nowhere, or it's going at a snail's pace well, there's only so much the characters can do to capture and maintain your attention.

Then come the 'convenient' bits. Not going to go into much detail here to avoid spoilers, but let's just say some people just pop up magically, while others just disappear and you're wondering where the heck they went to. It seems like a cop out, and it's like these characters can't have anything wrong happen with them, and if it does, it'll be swept under the rug conveniently. This gets tiresome and it makes the story dull and predictable possibly warding off potential readers.

I haven't read the second or third yet, but I don't think I'll rush to go ahead and do so. If I find the second

one, I'll take it, otherwise I'll take my time. Take it or leave it on this one.

Linda Christofferson says

Love

This was a great story. I love a great historical romance but this one has a bit more substance than many. Tracie Peterson is one of my favorite fiction Authors

Emily says

Free for nook. Not bad, other than the horrible title. There were also a few story threads that were dropped. I know there are more books in the series, but unlike the last Tracie Peterson book I read, it ended happily enough that I could imagine "happily ever after" if not for those few dangling storylines. Still, I can't imagine I will go out of my way to read the rest of the series. If it falls in my lap, perhaps.
