



Ride the Fire

Pamela Clare

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Ride the Fire

Pamela Clare

Ride the Fire Pamela Clare

Sometimes survival isn't just about staying alive...

Widowed and alone on the frontier, Elspeth Stewart will do whatever it takes to protect herself and her unborn child from the dangers of the wilderness and of men. Though her youthful beauty doesn't show it, she is broken and scarred from the way men have treated her. So when a stranger wanders onto Bethie's land, wounded and needing her aid, she takes no risks, tying him to the bed and hiding his weapons before ministering to his injuries.

But Bethie's defenses cannot keep Nicholas Kenleigh from breaking down her emotional walls. The scars on his body speak of a violent past, but his gentleness, warmth, and piercing eyes arouse longings in her that she never imagined she had. As Nicholas and Bethie reveal to each other both their hidden desires and their tortured secrets, they discover that riding the flames of their passion might be the key to burning away the nightmare of their pasts.

Ride the Fire Details

Date : Published March 6th 2005 by Leisure (first published March 1st 2005)

ISBN : 9780843954876

Author : Pamela Clare

Format : Mass Market Paperback 368 pages

Genre : Romance, Historical Romance, Historical, Westerns, Historical Fiction

 [Download Ride the Fire ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Ride the Fire ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Ride the Fire Pamela Clare

From Reader Review Ride the Fire for online ebook

Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

I'd probably give this one 4.5 stars. I thought it really was an excellent book, but the whole conflict between the Native Americans and the settlers is just heartwrenching. I think the characters in this book were driven to their brink in many ways. It was so well-written and I loved it, but because the tragic elements hit so close to home, and this affected my enjoyment factor, it's hard to give it five stars.

There are incidents that occur in this book that I found downright disturbing. Maybe I'm too sensitive, or I read it on a week where my life stress level was too high, but I found it hard to get past some of that.

I take the whole Native American situation deeply personal, partly because that is part of my heritage, but also because I hate persecution and unfairness. I can totally see what drove the Natives to fight back so hard against the settlers, but I can never condone the murder of innocent people on either side. History is brutal and tragic, and it shows that humanity does not have the best motivations. Again and again we see nations and civilizations conquered by cultures that are more powerful in an integral way that allows them to decimate the so-called "weaker culture." It is something that I do not like facing, but unescapable. It's one of the reasons I love historical romance, but at times it is hard to deal with in the scope of a book about a romantic relationship between a couple.

I do love that Clare always presented a balanced perspective. She didn't make the Natives always the good guy and she didn't make the settlers always the bad guys. There were atrocities committed on both sides, as she is unflinching in describing some of those acts in this book.

I found Nicholas and Bethie both to be characters I liked, admired, and wished well for. They were both strong survivors who had gone through hell and back. What they suffered in their lives was almost too much to deal with at times. I love angst, so don't get me wrong, but probably I just read this during the wrong few days where my angst tolerance level was lower. Nicholas was just a delicious hero. I couldn't get enough of him, but I like that he wasn't a perfect, plaster saint. He didn't always do the right thing, although he was deeply principled in his own way. Survival had motivated him for so long, but when it came down to it, his moral compass did not forsake him.

I am curious about Nicholas' parents and his young uncle Jamie, so I hope to read Sweet Release and Carnal Gift soon. Clare definitely is an author that I want to read more of.

If you're already a Pamela Clare fan, or interested in learning more about her and her books, be sure to stop by our Pamela Clare Fan Group here on Goodreads!

Yomi M. says

Rating Clarification: 4.5 stars

What a beautiful story!! I will post my thoughts later.

UniquelyMoi ~ BlithelyBookish says

Ride the Fire is one of the most amazing historical romances ever written. Today, February 5th, 2013, it's been re-released with new content, and an epilogue. I never imagined this story could get any better, but it just did! And, it's in ebook for the first time!

Congratulations, Pamela. I know how much this story means to you. You're an incredible lady, and your fans are so, so happy for you!

The new cover:

Now, stop what you're doing, get this book and prepare yourself to meet Nicholas Kenleigh, one of the most incredible heroes ever written. I'm sitting here with tears in my eyes as I remember his story.

My original review:

I find that the best books are often the hardest for me to review and, as is always the case with Pamela Clare's books, *Ride the Fire* is no different. Once again this author has given us a deeply emotional story and characters we can't help but admire. They are honorable, courageous people who understand that doing the right thing is often the hardest thing to do.

Nicholas Kenleigh is a man with a tortured past – literally. And as *Ride the Fire* opens, his torture is shown to us in explicit detail, but to truly understand the man he was, the choices he made and the man he became, we had to see that. We had to experience it with him. Every. Horrific. Moment. And let me tell you, it wasn't easy to read so be forewarned. I wept for Nicholas and for Eben and Josiah. I can't begin to comprehend the physical and emotional pain these men endured, but due to Pamela Clare's amazing writing, I can certainly imagine it – vividly.

And years later, as the story continues, we meet Elspeth "Bethie" Stewart living alone, a widow, on the dangerous American frontier during the French and Indian War. It's not easy being a woman alone, and to make matters even more complicated, she's pregnant. Bethie is a brave and resourceful woman, and while she also has a nightmarish past she wishes she could forget, she's quite capable of taking care of herself. Bethie's life has been every bit as emotionally and physically painful as Nicholas's was and I found myself once again weeping, this time for an innocent young woman who endured the worse kind of abuse imaginable, and was then married off by her family who blamed her, ridiculed her, and was ashamed of her. While deeply painful, their treatment only served to make her stronger, something Nicholas learned the hard way when he showed up at her homestead, badly injured, seeking shelter and aid. He thinks he knows what

to expect from this little bit of a woman, but he finds out quickly that there's more to her than meets the eye when he wakes up bound to her bed. Granted, he was badly injured, but not *so* badly that he shouldn't have been able to keep that from happening!

And so the story begins and it's a tale of two incredible people whose hearts have been broken and whose souls are deeply scarred. Fate has brought them together because they are each other's only hope for healing, but before the healing can begin, they must learn to trust one another. They'll have to face their pasts head on to escape the nightmares which bind them to a life of fear and loneliness, keeping them from a life they so deserve - one of peace, happiness, and something neither of them ever expected to find – love.

Once again Pamela Clare has taken my breath away with a story that is touching, tragic, uplifting, full of hope and as always, comes straight from her heart. It's exciting, intensely emotional, and very, very sexy and a book I couldn't put down! And here I am going on and on and yet, I find I'm at a loss for just the right words, the words that will convince you to pick up this book. Please, just trust me and so many others who have read and loved Pamela Clare's novels and read *Ride the Fire*. You'll laugh, you'll sigh, you'll cry, but above all, you'll come away with your heart full of joy for Bethie and Nicholas who are no longer fighting their demons alone, but who together have vanquished them once and for all and have found in each other a *happily ever after* for the ages.

If you're already a Pamela Clare fan, or interested in learning more about her and her books, be sure to stop by our Pamela Clare Fan Group here on Goodreads!

Penny Reid says

I'm in a historical western kind of mood...

Rachel says

[No (hide spoiler)]

KatLynne says

5+++++

A Masterpiece! My favorite in this series..I loved it so very much. I don't have the words to write a review that would do justice to this amazing read. It is easily one of my fav all time Historicals.

Jennifer Lane says

The Fire Burns Brightly...

...in this historical romance series. I bow down to Pamela Clare—there's not one book of hers I've disliked. And I *loved* book three in the Kenleigh/Blakewell series. I felt a lump in my throat for most of this novel. Ms. Clare can evoke such emotion!

Nicholas Kenleigh is the oldest son of Cassie and Alex, the heroes of *Sweet Release*. He fought with General Washington against the Indians and was believed dead after the Wyandot captured him.

Six years later (1763), Nicholas is a shell of his former self, hollow and bitter. There's no way he *couldn't* have PTSD after what he endured. Being burned alive is only the beginning of his torture. Nicholas tries to make a go of his former life in Virginia, but he's too scarred and too numb. I about lost it when his departing words to his mother are:

"I regret to inform you, madam, that your son is dead."

Nicholas lives a cold existence in the wilds of colonial America, needing nothing and nobody. Until some Frenchmen stab him in an altercation. He barely sustains consciousness long enough to procure the help of a pregnant widow: Bethie Stewart.

Can you imagine a seven-month pregnant woman chopping wood with a heavy axe? That's what Bethie has to do to survive, all alone in her cabin. Turns out she has a trauma history of her own, and she's terrified of Nicholas hurting her.

But despite his corded muscle and ferocious energy, Nicholas shows Bethie all the gentleness she needs to heal. She learns what a *real* man is: trustworthy, respectful, strong, and kind. And she shows him how to feel again. This story features one of my favorite tropes: the healing power of love. Life is full of pain and darkness, but love reveals the light and hope we need to carry on.

"No, Bethie. I was a dead man, blind to their love. I cared about nothing, not even my mother's tears. I lived without joy, took life without remorse. You made me feel again, forced me to face my past. You saved my life, but more than that, you saved me."

What a savage yet beautiful historical romance. C'mon and RIDE THE FIRE, baby!

Ridley says

Not in the mood to write a full review, so I'm bringing back the bullet list.

The Good

- The pacing. In romance, "suspense" invariably refers to some sort of mystery that needs solving. In this book, however, the specter of unnamed danger hovering in the near distance creates a sense of dread that

leaves the reader in suspense. Can Nicholas and Bethie trust each other? What will she do when the baby comes? Will they outrun the Indian war party? Will they outrun their personal demons?

- The characters. I liked the strength and the vulnerability in them both. Each had horrible pasts that prevented them from getting close to others, but they didn't use them as shields, like is common in romance. Their pasts inhibit them almost subconsciously. When they notice their attraction to the other, they resist it more from a position of awkward discomfort than from an angsty determination to remain alone. They felt real to me in the ways they reacted to their experiences.

- The plot. Sick to death of pampered broads dancing in regency ballrooms, a gritty road romance set in western PA during the French-Indian War is a refreshing breath of fresh air. It's well-researched and immersive. Rampaging Indian war parties and a siege on a colonial frontier fort aren't a mere background for sexxing, Bethie and Nicholas are intimately involved with the upheaval around them.

- The cultural sensitivity. I liked that neither the English nor the Indians were the good team. Both had their flaws. It wasn't "PC" or anachronistic, just a fairly honest look at an ugly period in our shared histories.

The Bad

- Bethie's tendency to feistiness. In the midst of all this upheaval and danger, Bethie seemed determined to get herself killed by ignoring Nicholas' instructions. I'm a pretty headstrong person myself, but if I'm out of my element and an expert in that element tells me to do something, I'm gonna do it. Whether it was shooting when he told her to sit tight, running to the fort walls in the middle of a battle to fret over him or riding out to meet an angry mob, I thought she was acting recklessly, not bravely, despite the positive outcomes.

- The last few chapters. After getting through the siege at Fort Pitt, things got a bit flabby, I thought. When the bulk of the book was marinated in gritty realism, an ending full of fluffy wish fulfillment and past protagonists felt out of place. Compared to the way previous issues were handled, the facile treatment of their disparate social classes at the book's finish was jarring.

The Verdict

Definitely another great book from Ms. Clare. I read it in a single sitting, much to my arms' and back's despair, and can't stop thinking about the story and the characters. Highly recommended to anyone who loves an emotional romance mixed with history and adventure.

Kristen says

IT'S FINALLY HERE! The release of Pamela Clare's *Ride the Fire* with the much anticipated epilogue. Woohoo! I've waited a whole year to read the epilogue to my all-time favorite historical romance. What's even better...the book is now offered in e-format. Life just doesn't get better than that!

Huge 5+ stars

Once again Pamela Clare has left me in awe and thoroughly entertained. *Ride the Fire* is one of those books that not only draws the reader in right from the start, but also holds their attention to the very end. It not only

delves into the historical aspects of the Pontiac's Rebellion, but also into the darker parts of the human psyche, leaving the reader with a renewed sense of optimism in the resilience of the human soul.

Of all Ms. Clare's books I've read, I felt *Ride the Fire* is her most heart-wrenching, yet uplifting story. I experienced emotions ranging from elation, to empathy, to horror. The book deals with the reality and consequences of mental, physical, and sexual assault - for Nicholas during war and for Bethie growing up.

The novel begins with Nicholas Kenleigh, a tracker in Washington's Forces, being captured and held prisoner by the Wyandot Indians. He is brutally tortured and kept alive for the selfish desires of the Chief's daughter (for breeding purposes!). He is forced to watch the two young men he took under his wing slowly burned to death over the course of a few days. Eventually he escapes and returns home a bitter and changed man. No longer comfortable around his family, he leaves to become a trapper in the wilderness. After six long years full of apathy and loneliness, a wounded Nicholas stumbles upon a small cabin, where a very pregnant, very beautiful, and very alone Bethie lives.

Elsbeth Stewart "Bethie" is a young, newly widowed, eight-months-pregnant woman living alone on the frontier when Nicholas happens upon her. Holding her at gun point, he forces her to care for his wound. While aiding him, Bethie drugs his whisky and ties him to the bed, hoping to protect herself and her unborn child. Smart girl! Loved that part. Soon a truce is formed, with Bethie allowing Nicholas to stay until he's fully healed. Nicholas, in return, offers his protection and help with the more strenuous chores. It isn't long before Nicholas realizes that Bethie has also been abused. Slowly the two develop a sweet and tender friendship that eventually turns to an erotically passionate love.

The birth of Isabelle was my favorite scene in the book and the turning point for these two damaged and lovable characters. It isn't often I cry when reading an emotional story; however, I found myself teary eyed during this segment of the story. It was emotionally, tenderly, and beautifully written. The moment I finished the book, I quickly went back and read this segment again. That's how much I loved it.

What I love most about this book is the message that love has the power to heal. *Ride the Fire* is one of the most beautiful, tender, powerful, triumph-of-the-soul love stories I've read.

Pamela Clare is definitely in a class all her own when it comes to writing historical romance books full of strong memorable characters, engaging tight plots, scorching sensuality, and powerful love stories.

I highly recommend this book.

Gina says

I waited for what felt like forever to read this book. I had finished the first two books in this series in October 2012, just to discover that this book was in the process of a new epilogue and would not be available until February 2013! Well now that I have finally read it I can honestly say the wait was well worth it. This story captured me from the start and I couldn't stop reading until I finished, the only things that got in my way was work and sleeping. (and it irritated me too).

Nicholas Kenleigh is a tracker who was taken prisoner by the Wyandot Indians, he is horrendously tortured.

Honestly it was difficult to read at times. I found myself fighting back tears, and anger as I learned the entire extent of what he went through. Not only was he tortured physically in ways I cannot comprehend, but sexually tortured as well. I don't think I have read a book so far that was this heartbreaking to read. And my heart didn't just break for Nicholas, but for Bethie as well. Suffering from years of physical and sexual abuse by her step father and step brother, then forced into a marriage to a much older man she didn't love because her family wanted rid of her. Her husband dies and she is forced to fend for herself and her daughter in the wilderness alone.

Nicholas living alone in the wild for 6 years is injured and stumbles upon Bethie's home. Nicholas is desperate for help, if his leg is not treated he is going to die, so he forces Bethie to treat him. Slowly they get to know each other and their feelings for one another grow. Neither wants to share their past with each other, but as they get closer it gets harder to keep their past secret.

Nicholas is your strong, handsome, rugged man of the wild, but he is tender and patient with Bethie. He gets hints of what she is keeping from him and knows forcing her to trust him is not the way to reach her.

This story was a heart wrenching and difficult to read at times, but it had wonderfully tender moments, swoon worthy intimate moments that kept me glued to my chair (I have the stiff back from sitting too long to prove it).

And of course the war that is going on, the fight for survival, fear of being killed or tortured by Indians. These two tortured and scarred souls got right into my heart. I was crying throughout this story and the end left me crying like a baby and hoping no one would catch me.

Pamela Clare you continue to have my devotion!

Buggy says

Opening Line: *"Nicholas leaned back in the wooden tub, closed his eyes, let the hot water soak the chill from his bones."*

Well, that's it I'm no longer a Pamela Clare virgin. Although I may just become an addict now. And lucky me, I have SO much good reading to look forward to.

This was easily one of the best historical romances I've read. Now I know why everyone keeps recommending Pamela Clare. I just can't seem to bring myself back from the frontier of 1763, nor do I want to, and then there's Nicholas... Sigh

There isn't much I can say really that hasn't been said already, Ride The Fire is an epic read, with characters that will stay with you long after you've finished. By the end I couldn't believe how far they'd come and what they'd been through. And the detail paid to historical accuracy here is simply amazing. Down to the smallest of facts, including actual soldiers, battles, forts, and sieges. You'll have no trouble being transported away and imagining yourself there. And how fun was the inclusion of "Ben" in the closing chapters?

In regards to the romance (big sigh) Bethie and Nicholas are just perfect; with a realistic, slow building love forming between two equally wounded souls. I love a tortured hero and Nicholas is about as good as it gets without being a bully (as most tend to come off before they fall in love) and I appreciated how his dark

secrets weren't given away all at once either. I was on pins waiting to hear exactly what had taken place after he was tortured and why he continued to live amongst the Wyandot. Surprisingly though it wasn't his brutal torture but the scene where he drops to his knees in front of his mother and begs forgiveness that got to me. There were no TSTL moments on the heroine's part here, no dumb misunderstandings to plod through or exaggerated conflict it was all just beautifully done.

I should also mention that while this is the third part of a trilogy I read it as a stand alone with no problems whatsoever. I have of course just ordered the first two books because I can't seem to find anything else to read that even comes close to capturing the magic I found here. Cheers

Karla says

5+++ Stars! AMAZING!

I read this book first, not realizing that this was part of a trilogy. I wasn't too much into historical romance at the time, but this one changed my mind, boy did it ever!! One of the **best books** that I have ever read. It is my number one comfort read! I could read it a million times and it just never gets old! **Pamela Clare does it all and does it best.**

One day I will give this book the proper review it deserves, and it deserves nothing but the best!

Auntee says

Words can not adequately describe how much I enjoyed this amazing book--to me, it was just awesome! At times it was so emotional, it had me tearing up. And then the graphic scenes of violence had me tearing up, dying inside for the hero and heroine and all that they went through. And the beautiful love scenes had me tearing up. And the fighting scenes and the arduous trek to Fort Pitt while trying to avoid the Indians had me gripping my chair and biting my nails. This was just one big fat emotional read for me, and at times I was just rung out!

I won't get into the plot, because the synopsis handles it just fine. Just know that it takes place around the time of the French and Indian war, late 1750- early 1760s, largely around western PA, and what later became Pittsburgh. Perhaps this was an added bonus for me, since I am from the area, and recognized a lot of the historical names and places. It's obvious the author did her homework, and when the H/H (Nicholas and Bethie) were trying to flee from her frontier home to the relative safety of Fort Pitt, I had my map out plotting their course!

The hero, Nicholas, is one of those to-die-for heroes. Strong, sexy, incredibly brave and oh-so-gentle with the emotionally scarred Bethie. And he had to be one of the most tortured (literally) heroes that I've read about in a long time. What he went through both physically and mentally just about tore my heart out. Boy, did this guy ever deserve a HEA!

And Bethie was no slouch either. Although she started out incredibly naive, every experience she went

through just made her stronger and stronger. And even though she had her own emotional scars to deal with, she somehow found a way to keep plugging along and not give up on life. She was a heroine I admired more and more with each page I read.

And Nicholas and Bethie together? Let me tell you it was worth the long wait! Although technically they weren't 'together' until about the 3/4 mark of the book, there's lots and lots of sexual tension that leads up to the big moment(s), more than enough to keep the reader satisfied. I love how the author handled their romantic scenes, having Nicholas help Bethie overcome all her fears and misconceptions about sex. It was just beautifully done, and very erotic too. They were an ideal match for each other--physically and emotionally.

So if you're a fan of historicals set in Colonial America, I urge you to try this book. If you can get past the graphic violence in the prologue, you will be richly rewarded as this beautiful love story between two wounded souls plays out. I think Pamela Clare outdid herself with this compelling romance. This was one of the best historicals I've ever read, so it's easy to say "Five big stars"!

Mo says

How do I love thee? Let me count the ways.
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace.
I love thee to the level of everyday's
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.
I love thee freely, as men might strive for Right;
I love thee purely, as they turn from Praise.
I love thee with the passion put to use
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose
With my lost saints,—I love thee with the breath,
Smiles, tears, of all my life!—and, if God choose,
I shall but love thee better after death.

- Elizabeth Barrett-Browning

Ok, I thought nothing could top the story of Jamie and Brighíd in Carnal Gift - it was special for me because of the Irish connection but also of course for the great writing. Had been hounding Pamela asking her if Ride the Fire would be coming out on Kindle - she assured me it would in the future..... how did I wait so long for it to be released on Kindle without trying to get a paperback copy? But I was patient and it was worth the wait. Oh, Nicholas, you poor, tortured man - in every sense of the word. To be alone for so long and feeling not worthy of love. And Bethie, you are a tortured soul also but what a strong, feisty girl you are. Won't go into detail on the story - it has been done in other reviews. Just to say that it is a FANTASTIC book, the Historical aspect, the characters, the drama, the violence, the LOVE! Was great to catch up with characters from the previous books. And the Epilogue - Sigh.....If I could give it more than 5 stars, I would. Problem with reading a great book like that it spoils you and you find it difficult to start another one because you know it will not be as good.

Go raibh maith agat, Pamela.

Kathrynn says

First read: November 15, 2008

Loved it! This is book #3 in the Blakewell/Kenleigh series and other than a few references to some of the other characters in the series and the last chapter of reunions (that had me in tears), this book could be read as a stand alone...fyi.

NOTE: Nicholas Kenleigh is the first son of Alec and Cassie from the first book in this series. Jamie (from book #2) is in this one, but a very minor role.

This one reminded me a lot of the movie Last of the Mohicans. Lots of action, adventure, horrors, suspense and romance. The romance was so nice and sweet. Bethie's character was Nicholas' breath of fresh air. She was so kind-hearted and her compliance with his instructions--not questioning his directions on the frontier was...refreshing. Nicholas had some horrific memories to deal with and was running from them. These two meet in the wilderness near present-day Detroit (as best I could tell). Poor Bethie was alone on the frontier--very pregnant--and surviving as best she could when Nicholas came to her cabin in need of medical attention. It was very touching how these two grew into their relationship. Both characters needed a hero and found that in each other.

The author used flashbacks and flashforwards too many times and that became annoying for me. Right in the middle of an important scene, she changed to something else, then went back to the previous scene in a flashback. Ugh! I ALMOST gave this one 4 stars based on that and the recapping that was just insulting. But the story was absolutely wonderful as were the characters!

I loved how the author introduced a famous historical person toward the ending. Nice!

Another favorite for This Reader.

Second read: March 14, 2009

I still enjoyed this colonial frontier with two great characters. How they grew from events in the beginning to how they ended up in the ending was amazing. Seemed like almost different characters.

I think what I liked most about this was the two main characters were not arguing and bickering. They were too busy surviving in the wilderness, surrounded by Indians that wanted to kill them. Bethie was like a rainbow bringing Nicholas back to the real world.

Third read: September 22, 2010

Still enjoyed it. Having recently been to Philly, I got a kick out of reading the "historical" aspects of the story.

Bethie and Nicholas were fun to read and follow. The story and characters evolved so much from the

beginning to the end, and Nicholas was a true hero.
