

Loves Elusive Flame By Phoebe Conn At the beginning of the book Flame lives in Philadelphia with her grandmother Fanny Bellefontaine who is pressuring her to marry Alex Richmond a rich but uncouth male because Richmond's family is well rich.

Which includes threatening to take her children from her if she doesn't come back to him. Bottom Line: I haven't read many books published in the 1980's-"Love's Elusive Flame" was published in 1983-where the hero and heroine were equals. The cruelty and lack of warmth really bring "Love's Elusive Flame" down several notches in my eyes, Romance Phoebe Conn is the maiden name and pseudonym of Phoebe Jane Conn a best selling American author of thirty seven romance novels: She has also published three futuristic romances under the pseudonym Cinnamon Burke: SHE WAS HER OWN WOMAN With her golden-red hair and sparkling green eyes.

There was no doubt that Flame was her own woman, She would find the man of her dreams if it took forever - but she didn't have to wait long once she came up against the roguishly handsome Joaquin. She could still feel the strength of his muscular body and the hardness of his bronze flesh: He had taught her how to return his ardent kisses and respond to his tantalizing caress. But if he wanted her completely she would have to be his only woman - she wouldn't settle for anything less. HE WAS HIS OWN MAN Joaquin considered himself far too clever to ever fall under any wench's spell: He had always been free to take women as he wanted.



This review is of "Love's Elusive Flame" by Phoebe Conn. The story centers around Linda Lannier hereafter known as "Flame" a nickname given her by her father Andre due to her hair color. Flame is not interested in Richmond and she and Fanny have many arguments one of which ends with Flame telling Fanny "You'll never live to see me marry Alex Richmond!": Sadly that statement turns out to be prophetic as the next day Flame discovers that Fanny died during the overnight: Heartbroken and fearing she will be forced to marry Richmond Flame flees for California to see Andre. Things go from bad to worse for Flame when she arrives in California to discover that Andre is also dead. Flame then becomes the ward of Joaquin Villarreal the hero of the book, Joaquin and Flame are immediately attracted to each other-they nearly make love when they reunite (Flame had been to California years earlier): To prevent Joaquin from sending her away Flame lies about her age (She tells him she's 18; she is actually 16; this lie will come back to haunt Flame later). Flame moves in with Joaquin and is courted by several men most notably Rafael Ramirez Joaquin's best friend and attorney. (Rafael quickly gives up his suit when he realizes that Flame doesn't reciprocate his feelings), Richmond shows up in California and reveals Flame's true age and twists a series of actions into sounding more sinister than they were. Joaquin believes Richmond and forces Flame to marry him; on their wedding night he discovers Richmond's lies, Flame realizing that Joaquin doesn't trust her leaves afterward and takes a job as a governess for San Francisco businessman-and widower-Seth Randall. Flame also discovers she's pregnant from her one night with Joaquin and later gives birth to a son whom she names after his father, Joaquin comes to get Flame and take her back to his home but their relationship doesn't improve, In fact it gets worse resulting in Flame leaving Joaquin for Rafael. Joaquin finally realizes the error of his ways-somewhat-by going to his

mother Marissa who divorced his father Miguel under similar circumstances: After speaking with Marissa and understanding the cruelty Miguel passed down to him Joaquin goes to Flame to try to reconcile their differences. Downside: That emotion is mostly negative especially Joaquin towards Flame. While this is explained somewhat at the end of the book the cruelty Joaquin shows to Flame throughout the book is very depressing to me: Yes Flame lied to him about her age telling Joaquin she was 18 when she was 16 but that lie doesn't justify the levels of cruelty Joaquin shows to Flame: Both Joaquin and Flame for much of the book act like bratty children: Of the three primary characters only Rafael is particularly likeable. Sex: The love scenes in "Love's Elusive Flame" are seriously mild and not at all exciting nor erotic. Later Joaquin's men kidnap and beat Flame to take her aboard one of his ships, Then there is Joaquin's emotional cruelty to Flame whenever he wanted and not one had ever refused him or pretended to try. Her kiss was a long lingering gateway into the depths of passion. He needed her he wanted her and he was determined to have her. Only one night of wanton ecstasy just wasn't enough - once he was touched by LOVE'S ELUSIVE FLAME Loves Elusive Flame.

. They start to which leads to their Happily Ever After.Upside: "Love's Elusive Flame" is a very emotional book. Joaquin in particular acts like a hypocritical bastard.Violence: Flame is nearly raped twice by Joaquin's vaqueros. In the first instance she is beaten as well. But none of them was Flame. Her figure was perfection her creamy skin like silk