



# Everlasting

By Kathleen E. Woodiwiss

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Once, Abrielle was a privileged daughter coveted for her bearing, her breeding, her wit, and her beauty. But when her stepfather is denied his rightful title and the wealth that accompanies it, Abrielle finds herself suddenly disgraced. Only one man would still have her: the oafish and grotesque Desmond de Marlé. To rescue her once-proud family's honor, Abrielle must sacrifice her virtue to this scoundrel she fears and detests . . . even as she yearns for another lover.

Dashing, handsome, tall, and kind, Raven Seabern is quite unlike any man Abrielle has ever encountered. But their love can never be, for Abrielle is betrothed to a monster. And the well-being of everyone she cares for demands that she honor her promise. Still, Raven knows he has found the true one and must never let her go—though secrets, deceptions, dishonor, and unimaginable peril will surely be their fate if they follow the dictates of their hearts.

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### Editorial Review

#### About the Author

(1939 - 2007) Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, creator of the modern historical romance, died July 6, 2007 in Minnesota. She had just turned 68. Her attorney, William Messerlie, said that she died after a long illness.

Born on June 3, 1939 in Alexandria, Louisiana, Mrs. Woodiwiss was the youngest of eight siblings. She long relished creating original narratives, and by age six was telling herself stories at night to help herself fall asleep. At age 16, she met U.S. Air Force Second Lieutenant Ross Woodiwiss at a dance, and they married the following year. She wrote her first book in longhand while living at a military outpost in Japan.

Woodiwiss is credited with the invention of the modern historical romance novel: in 1972, she released *The Flame and the Flower*, an instant *New York Times* bestseller, creating literary precedent. The *Flame and the Flower* revolutionized mainstream publishing, featuring an epic historical romance with a strong heroine and impassioned sex scenes. "Kathleen E. Woodiwiss is the founding mother of the historical romance genre," says Carrie Feron, vice president/editorial director of William Morrow and Avon Books, imprints of HarperCollins Publishers. Feron, who has been Woodiwiss's editor for 13 years, continues, "Avon Books is proud to have been Kathleen's sole publishing partner for her paperbacks and hardcover novels for more than three decades." Avon Books, a leader in the historical romance genre to this day, remains Mrs. Woodiwiss's original and only paperback publisher; William Morrow, Avon's sister company, publishes Mrs. Woodiwiss's hardcovers.

*The Flame and the Flower* was rejected by agents and hardcover publishers, who deemed it as "too long" at 600 pages. Rather than follow the advice of the rejection letters and rewrite the novel, Mrs. Woodiwiss instead submitted it to paperback publishers. The first publisher on her list, Avon, quickly purchased the novel and arranged an initial 500,000 print run. The novel sold over 2.3 million copies in its first four years of publication.

The success of this novel prompted a new style of writing romance, concentrating primarily on historical fiction tracking the monogamous relationship between a helpless heroines and the hero who rescued her, even if he had been the one to place her in danger. The romance novels which followed in her example featured longer plots, more controversial situations and characters, and more intimate and steamy sex scenes.

"Her words engendered an incredible passion among readers," notes Feron. Bestselling author Julia Quinn agrees, saying, "Woodiwiss made women want to read. She gave them an alternative to Westerns and hard-boiled police procedurals. When I was growing up, I saw my mother and grandmother reading and enjoying romances, and when I was old enough to read them myself, I felt as if I had been admitted into a special sisterhood of reading women."

*New York Times* bestselling author Susan Elizabeth Phillips, a leading voice in the women's fiction arena, says, "We all owe our careers to her. She opened the world of romance to us as readers. She created a career for us to go into."

The pioneering author has written 13 novels over the course of 35 years, all *New York Times* bestsellers. Kathleen E. Woodiwiss's final literary work, the upcoming *Everlasting*, will be published by William Morrow in October 2007. "*Everlasting* is Kathleen's final gift to her fans," notes Feron.

Kathleen E. Woodiwiss, who was predeceased by her husband and son Dorren, is survived by sons Sean and Heath, and numerous grandchildren.

#### From [AudioFile](#)

Xanthe Elbrick does an admirable job with Woodiwiss's final romance novel. Her voicing of heroine Abrielle is as crisp and sweet as Abrielle herself. Elbrick's bright British voice is well suited to the eleventh-century setting, and her treatment of the sometimes heavy-handed prose is tender enough to make the excessive summary of action seem just as engaging as the dialogue. Elbrick's only real weakness in this recording is her voicing of the male characters, especially that of the hero, Raven Seabern. Elbrick pulls off a decent Scots accent, but her performance is almost vaudevillian in its puffed-up exaggeration of the sound of a male voice. Despite the shortcomings of both prose and narrator, this volume is indeed satisfying (if a little predictable) to fans of the genre. A.A. 2008 Audies Finalist © AudioFile 2008, Portland, Maine-- *Copyright © AudioFile, Portland, Maine*

### Users Review

#### From reader reviews:

##### Keith Devine:

Playing with family in the park, coming to see the sea world or hanging out with buddies is thing that usually you may have done when you have spare time, in that case why you don't try matter that really opposite from that. A single activity that make you not sensation tired but still relaxing, trilling like on roller coaster you are ride on and with addition of information. Even you love Everlasting, you can enjoy both. It is good combination right, you still wish to miss it? What kind of hang type is it? Oh seriously its mind hangout men. What? Still don't understand it, oh come on its identified as reading friends.

##### John Herrera:

The book untitled Everlasting contain a lot of information on the item. The writer explains the girl idea with easy way. The language is very easy to understand all the people, so do not necessarily worry, you can easy to read the idea. The book was published by famous author. The author brings you in the new time of literary works. You can actually read this book because you can continue reading your smart phone, or product, so you can read the book within anywhere and anytime. In a situation you wish to purchase the e-book, you can start their official web-site along with order it. Have a nice learn.

##### Curtis Graham:

You could spend your free time you just read this book this reserve. This Everlasting is simple to create you can read it in the area, in the beach, train as well as soon. If you did not possess much space to bring typically the printed book, you can buy the particular e-book. It is make you much easier to read it. You can save the book in your smart phone. Therefore there are a lot of benefits that you will get when one buys this book.

**Thomas Garrett:**

A number of people said that they feel uninterested when they reading a book. They are directly felt the idea when they get a half regions of the book. You can choose the particular book Everlasting to make your current reading is interesting. Your own skill of reading ability is developing when you just like reading. Try to choose very simple book to make you enjoy to study it and mingle the impression about book and studying especially. It is to be first opinion for you to like to open a book and learn it. Beside that the book Everlasting can to be your friend when you're really feel alone and confuse with what must you're doing of these time.

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