



## Burning Down the House

*Allie Gail*

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## **Burning Down the House Allie Gail**

Rob Kensington is just your typical high school senior. Athletic, intelligent, handsome. Sees a therapist once a week. Because his parents just died in a house fire of questionable origin. And he doesn't seem to care. Maybe he isn't so typical.

Sara Marsh had no clue when she returned to live with her divorced father that the bedroom down the hall would be occupied by a stray with a major attitude problem. The last time she saw Rob, he was a brooding goth who could have passed as Marilyn Manson's love child. But at some point during her three years away, Creepy Kensington managed to evolve into a sizzling hot star running back with smoldering hazel eyes. The attraction is undeniable. The temptation is irresistible. And soon they're sharing more than just an address. But with another life lost in a deliberately set blaze, Sara's trust is faltering. Has she lost her heart to a serial arsonist? He's already shown her the allure of playing with fire. And someone's about to get burned.

\* This book contains strong language and sexual content and is intended for ages 17+ \*

## **Burning Down the House Details**

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Author : Allie Gail

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## From Reader Review Burning Down the House for online ebook

### Jen ♡ says

Loved this character-driven novel with Sara's voice narrating the story. Her down-to-earth and sometimes dry sense of humor was great, and it gave us the ability to see why Rob was so gone over her. He was such a wonderful young man! The lunch room dialogues were funny, too, and allowed us to get to know a great cast of supporting characters, which ultimately built the suspense of who was the culprit in the arson/murder. This is a suspenseful, sensual YA/NA true love story with a great mystery to unravel, and I thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Job well done, Ms. Gail!

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### Rebecca says

I really liked this book! I should let you know that I was given a copy of the book by the author in order to review the book. This book is a romantic suspense with lots of romance. Sara is a young girl moving back in with her dad for her senior year of high school. Her parents got a divorce and she moved with her mom to Illinois. When her mom finds a new love in her life Sara proposes that she move back with her dad. Her dad is an airline pilot so Sara gets to fly for next to nothing, unfortunately, she also has to fly coach! When she gets to Maryland her dad has a surprise for her, and in her mind it's not a good one! Her father's best friend and his wife were killed in a house fire a few weeks ago. They had a 17 year old son who survived the fire. He's in the same class at school as Sara and she remembers him, however, she also remembers that he hated her and she has no idea why! Sara can't believe that her father took in this kid without letting her know but she does know one thing and that is she really wants to graduate from Cumberland high school with the friends that she grew up with and Rob is one of them whether he likes her or not.

For the first few weeks Rob and Sara barely talk to each other. They are together only when they share a ride to school and at meal times. Sara tries to be nice but Rob wants nothing to do with her. Then one day Rob catches Sara spying on him after his shower! That's when the fun begins. The romantic fun. There is also something else happening in town. One of Sara's classmates gets pregnant towards the end of the year. Everyone assumes that it is her "boyfriends" but is it? She says that she's trying to make "someone" jealous. There are many twists and turns to the plot which kept me wanting to read more of the book.

All in all this was a top notch book. I did have a couple of issues with it however. I realize that some high school kids are having sex but I don't know if it would be as much as these kids did it, although they were living in the same house, so that would make it easier. To be honest although I loved the book I don't know if I would want someone in High School to read this book. There was a lot of sex in it and I wouldn't want high school age students reading this and getting the idea that having sex, protected or not, is the right thing to do at that age.

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### Talltree says

Mature, likeable h/H. I loved the sweet and sexy progression of relationship with a perfect bit of rom. suspense. I usually can tell, but this time I didn't guess the villain at all!

4 stars!

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## Mary Tatar says

Burning Down The House was the first book I have read by Allie Gail. I really enjoyed reading this book it had the perfect amount of mystery,suspense, humor, and romance. When I read the synopsis my interest was piqued. It exceeded all my expectations then some. The story was filled with some intense twists and turns. It had me guessing till the very end.

Sara moves back home to live with her father and finish her senior year of high school. She has been living with her Mother since her parents divorce. Upon returning she finds out that Rob has taken up residence in her childhood home. Rob's parents were killed in a house fire. Sara's Father decides to take him in being that his parents were friends of his. The last Sara remembered Rob wore dark clothes and make-up and was considered a goth. When she returns she finds a totally transformed Rob. He is now replaced with a beautiful, sullen, and surprisingly athletic Rob. Sara is instantly attracted to the new Rob. She doesn't have to worry about the attraction because Rob seems to want nothing to do with her. He is rude and plain mean! She tries to keep her distance, but they do attend the same school. Which makes avoiding him extremely difficult. While they are forced to spend time together they start to get to know one another and quickly develop strong feelings for each other. Only problem is Sara's Dad. They start a relationship and decide to hide it from Sara's Father. Sara soon discovers Rob may be hiding more then their relationship. When strange things start happening will Sara be able to put her trust in Rob? Or will Sara be the one to get burned in the end.

I loved Sara and Rob in this book. The relationship that evolves is a sweet and tender one. The close bond these characters form is simply lovely. They go from a tense relationship to one of trust and love. That paired with the cloud of suspense and mystery kept me on my toes.

I would definitely recommend this if you are a fan of this genre. This is one good book and I look forward to reading more from this author.

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## Casey says

Review originally posted at Ramblings From This Chick

Burning Down the House was the first book that I have ever read by Allie Gail, and I absolutely couldn't put this one down! It kept me awake until the very early hours of the morning because I absolutely had to keep reading. I enjoyed this story so much, and I can't wait to read more from Allie Gail. This book was the perfect combination of sweet moments, steamy scenes and enough suspense to keep you turning the pages. I am definitely a new fan of Allie Gail's, and I really enjoyed her writing style.

When Sara moves back with her father, she never expects to end up sharing her house with the creepy goth kid that was her father's best friend's son. After his parents died in a questionable house fire, her dad took Rob in because he had nowhere else to go. But when Sara shows up, Rob is no longer the same goth kid dressed in black but now is a super hot football stud. Only problem is, Rob still has a major attitude problem and Sara has no idea why he hates her so much. Even though they barely talk and when they do its only to argue or insult each other, the attraction between them is undeniable. However living under the same roof, they begin to get to know each other and the more they are around each other the more their attraction and

feelings grow. Unable to fight the passion that is growing between them, Sara and Rob finally give in and are soon together. But when another house fire happens killing a girl they go to school with, Sara begins to wonder if maybe she is dating an arsonist.

I really liked Rob. I didn't understand why he was so rude when we first met him, but I did get that he had been through a lot. As his past is revealed though, you really get to see just how much he had to deal with and why he was the way he was. I really liked how he was with Sara though, and I thought that he was really funny and sweet. He was also protective and possessive of her, but it was in a way that was really attractive rather than being overbearing. I liked that he wanted to take care of her and look out for her. Sara was smart and funny also, and she was also really nice and kind. I loved how she kept trying to be friendly even when Rob wasn't very receptive at first. I also really loved how sweet she was with Peyton, the little girl that she babysat. She was always thinking of others, and it was really nice to see a girl that I would actually be friends with and that didn't annoy me. I thought that Rob and Sara had a really great relationship together, and I loved watching as it evolved and happened naturally rather than instantly. I liked that they took their time and that it wasn't rushed at all. It made what they shared real and believable. They were also really hot together, but it was so much more than just steam. They really belonged together, and you could really see the love they shared. I just really adored Rob and Sara as a couple!

Overall, I thought that this book was fantastic. It was so much different than anything I have read before, and I liked that it was something completely new. I loved all the twists and turns, and I will admit that I honestly didn't have a clue what would happen next. I had no idea who had done what, and this book was impossible to put down. I had to keep reading to see what would happen next, and I loved every second of it. This book was one of the most well written and entertaining books that I have read in a really long time. I highly recommend this book to not only New Adult fans, but also Romantic Suspense fans as well. This book is one that you definitely won't want to miss out on. I look forward to reading more from Allie Gail in the future and can't wait to see what she writes next!

**\*\*ARC provided by Author\*\***

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## **Varied Books says**

I am not the target audience for this book. I could be the H's young mom. But I still enjoyed reading.

Sara the h was a cool chick. She believed in herself. She knew that she deserved respect. I loved the lunch scenes. I lol on what all her friends were saying.

Rob the H is a fantastic boyfriend. They love & respect each other. They were sweet to each other but not sappy. There are a few sex scenes. Sensual but not real explicit.

Book is only told in h pov.

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## **Sheryl says**

**This was HANDS DOWN one of the BEST NEW ADULT/SUSPENSE books I have read in a LONG TIME!!!**

**Another book I bought on a WHIM from Amazon and I was COMPLETELY BLOWN AWAY!!! It was not what I expected at all... and I have to say, I "seem" to have developed a "crush" on Rob \*SMIRK\***

**I will write my full review soon...**

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## **Rustys says**

If you enjoy young adult novels then this one is for you.

Come along for the ride as Rob Kensington and Sara Marsh rediscover each other.

Sara remembers Rob as her Gothic neighbor, black clothes, black makeup and anti-social.

Spending the summer with her father has an unexpected surprise, Rob.

When his parents were killed in a house fire Sara's father offered him a place to stay, the guest room.

Rumor around town is he may have been responsible for the fire.

Rob a senior and football player has changed from his Gothic days and when Sara sees him she feels tingles all over, he's gorgeous.

When there is another fire and loss of life speculation begins, fingers are pointed and the suspects are Sara's friends.

A very clever whodunit, like playing the game of Clue trying to guess who the guilty party was and when you find out you're going to freak out.

It took me by surprise and yet made perfect sense.

A combination of texting, homecoming dance, school plays and football studs gave you the feeling of being back in school again.

I don't want to give too much away as the uncertainty of the guessing game is what will have you biting your nails.

Yes, there are some sex scenes as Sara and Rob take their relationship from barely tolerating one another to young lovers.

I liked Rob once he started to open up and shed his cold and closed off disposition.

I thought he was a sweet caring and protective boy for his age.

I cracked up when Sara was caught spying on him and his retaliation was two thumbs up.

I don't often read young adult but this one held my attention from the beginning to the end, no dull areas.

It moved smoothly and the suspense of who and why was killing me, I was drawn in and couldn't put the book down.

The ending, OMG what a freaking surprise I couldn't believe it!

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## **seton says**

Genre: New Adult Romantic Suspense

Sensuality: PG-13

18 yr old moves back in with her father for her last yr of high school and finds the orphaned H is living in her home.

This is my second AG after The Firefly Effect. It wasn't bad but a bit disjointed.

The H was great and surprisingly well-adjusted considering his issues. I never warmed to the h tho. I thought she was a creeper and oft-times TSTL, esp in service of the suspense. Nobody deserves some silly chick who constantly thinks you are an arsonist and murderer when she is not drooling over your hot bod, that is.

Rating: 3.25

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## **Court says**

I reviewed this at MustReadBooksOrDie with my friend Shelley!

Shel: This was a super quick YA-ish read. It's set during the senior year of Sara and Rob's senior year and though they start as less than friendly, they make up for that..eventually. The problem is that Sara and Rob are holding on to ideas about each other that are no longer true. He's no longer a goth boy and she's not some spoiled princess. Once they get that out of the way things heat up. Truly, it's the perfect teen scenario. No parents for most of the week, hot teen couple, sexual tension out the wazoo...you see what's happening here? Because it did; it happened.

Court: I am still somewhat shocked about that fact, because holy crap was that one naive Dad! Just, wow! Lol. After that though, it really worked for this story. I was attracted to this story by the parts that included them in a coming of age situation, a tragedy, misconceptions on one another based on appearance and actions...all set up for a great concept that I was very intrigued by.

Shel: But in the midst of that happening...other shenanigans ensue. There's weirdness between a girl named Jordan and ..well..just about everyone else. This weirdness spills into Sara and Rob's relationship..but to their credit, they do tend to discuss the problems as they arise. There's also Riley...a boy who insists on creating drama between Rob and Sara too..high school drama....it never leaves us, does it?

Court: That weirdness just set up a suspenseful tone for the story. I was like, "What on Earth is going to happen here." Wild events ensue. Cryptic messages are given. Mixed messages on what is going on had me

pointing fingers at people I didn't want to point them at. My heart was racing because I had no idea what in the heck was going to happen! Riley. Asshat, extraordinaire. But...is he? Hhhmmm.

Shel: Anyway.

The two main threads of this story are the romance of Sara and Rob and the mystery behind an arson; as the story builds..so do the clues. Courtney warned me that I might be a little surprised at the end..she was right...the last 10% was not what I expected at all.

Court: I am still quite surprised by what happened. The suspense about killed me. I was ready to throw things. I almost did...because well, teenage boys are unpredictable and can be total dicks. I was expecting dickish behavior from several boys, got it from just as many as I had anticipated...but enjoyed the laughs and shenanigans at lunch on the way.

Shel: Overall this was a quick read. Lots of high school drama and fun. Lots of steamy scenes. There were a few places I found the pacing to be a little off..but overall, it was something I think a lot of readers would enjoy. Court: Agreed. There are a few things that happened either a tad slow, or super fast, but that is the part that knocked off a bit of my rating. The story, the characters, the premise...I enjoyed very much. I say give this one a whirl if you're looking for some young adult with a bit of a twist.

Shelley: 3.5 stars

Courtney: 4.5 stars

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### **Michelle Cornwell-Jordan says**

I have read other works by Ms. Gail and I will say that I have truly become a fan... she is a dynamic writer who has a way of pulling the reader into her world and becoming invested in her characters whether love or hate, there's never indifference. The other works were adult reads, *Burning Down the House*, a New Adult with its slightly younger characters still delivers that heat which I believe is Ms. Gail's signature. This author also has a way of creating realistic interactions between her characters, their love, passion, angst or hate all very convincing and rings true. I love the interaction of these characters, Rob with a chip on his shoulder, which is understandable after losing so much and after previously having made strides to become more present in life and school; he had through his running and in other areas become more "present" in his day-to-day life. Until the tragedy hit and once again he reverts back to the shadows and is distant...seeming not to care; but it comes to a point where he will need to start caring again to save himself... and to save his relationship with Sarah now that suspicions have risen on whether he is the arsonist or not???

Sara holds her own with Rob and is truly his match, and although not her intention falls for the beautiful Rob. Their relationship heats up and passion ignites, while the shadow of what actually happened the night Rob's parent died?

I loved the interactions and dialogue with the two characters. The dialogue was fun, fresh and entertaining. I enjoyed the flirting and teasing and as the relationship deepened...I enjoyed seeing the raw honesty the two shared. I was kept very edgy as the mystery played out, wanting to hope beyond hope, just as Sara... that Rob was innocent, hoping I wasn't being fooled:) Ms. Gail is truly a talented writer, fast past, awesome ability to create fun, thrilling story lines, not weighed down and flowed well.



I truly recommend *Burning Down the House* for older teens to adults due to sexual situations and some language. I also recommend checking out this author's other stories where the heroines are feisty and strong like Sara and just as crush worthy as Rob:)

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## **Gwen ~the Book Diva says**

**4 stars!** This was a good New Adult-*ish* hot romantic suspense.

*\*ARC provided to G the Book Diva Blog in exchange for an honest review\**  
**SEE GIVEAWAY LINK BELOW!**

Sara returns to her hometown to live with her dad and finish out her senior year of high school. She is surprised to find that her dad has become guardian to Rob, a neighborhood kid who has lost both his parents in a house fire. She remembered Rob as an anti-social goth kid who always gave her the creeps. But three years is a lot of time for people to change. Sara is forced to interact with the now sexy and all filled out 18 year old Rob who has traded his black eyeliner for football gear. She discovers that not only has Rob changed but so have a lot of things in her town.

Outcasts are now the cool kids and ugly ducklings are now in the homecoming court. She soon finds out that there are plenty of secrets swirling around and things aren't as they appear. She and Rob eventually give into their attraction to each other, and he starts opening up to Sara just as strange things start happening around them. Things she can't help suspecting Rob of. Can she overlook her suspicions and just love the person he is with her even if it means possible danger to herself and others around her.

**"So you can't leave me, Sara. You just can't, and that that's all there is to it. As long as I'm breathing, you have to keep breathing too. That's the deal."**

It really kept my attention and I honestly didn't see the ending coming. Which was brilliant. I felt it was so unpredictable yet made sense at the same time.

Great read!

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## **Lustful Literature says**

**\*\* JEN'S 4.5 STAR REVIEW \*\***

If you are in the mood for a fun, flirty, suspenseful story then look no further. *Burning Down the House* was

that and so much more. Every word Allie wrote had me completely consumed and I was anxiously turning the pages not wanting to miss a thing.

***“You never really know anyone “***

And oh how true this was throughout this book. There are a lot of characters mixed into the story but every single one of them plays an important role. Some will make you laugh, some will have you cringing and some will just be a complete enigma to you. This is definitely one of those books you will completely fall in love. Rumors, secrets and misunderstandings are just one of the things that will keep you glued. Allie really nailed this one with just the right amount of angst mixed with a sexy hot athlete and a very observant, compassionate girl. Definitely the perfect mix and the very reason why I love reading romance novels so much. Throughout the story I kept questioning the characters. Who was being honest? Who do I trust? And of course my thoughts kept screaming please don't make it be him. Confused?

The story starts off with Sarah moving back in with her father. Unbeknownst to her, upon her arrival to her dad's she is told that his old friend's son is living with them because his parents died in a house fire and he has no real family left. Rob and Sara grew up with each other but they never really got along all that much. The last thing Sara remembered about Rob was that he was a brooding goth with a major attitude problem. People grow up and people change because but she never thought she utter these words where Rob was concerned.

***“All I could do was stand there frozen like a mental defective. Because he was hot...and by hot I mean abso-freaking-lutely droolwothy jaw-on-the-floor gorgeous.”***

So things don't start off with a bang with these two. Rob still seems to be harboring some anger and maybe some resentment. He may no longer look like the boy she remembers but his attitude at least towards her hasn't really changed. No matter how hard she tries to get him to warm up to her, he wants nothing to do with her.

***“He'd never had much tolerance for me and it appeared that hadn't changed.”***

She's a bit nosey, she's curious, talks a lot and of course has many questions surrounding not only what happened to his parents but also the rumors that she's heard. However, Sara being who she is isn't one to just lay down and take it. After some time passes Rob ends up opening the door to her and from there things start to grow between them. When another tragic house fire rocks their community Sara and Rob's relationship is really put to the test. Can they trust each other? Can their love endure all the rumors surrounding this community? And I'm not really going to say much more because honestly you need to read this book so you can see how everything plays out.

***“A person can learn a lot in a very short time.”***

I really loved that the characters in this story for the most part were strong individuals. There was no whining or crying or those little annoyances we sometimes find in some books that have us saying god I can't stand that girl. I LOVED this girl. Sara was no pushover. She definitely could hold her own and I think she gave Rob a run for his money. I loved the chemistry between all the characters and how easily I fell in love with this storyline. The banter was fun and witty, the progression didn't feel rushed. The relationships didn't happen to fast for me. I have to congratulate Allie on the biggest twist of all. I never saw that one coming. You got me good with that because I was completely convinced I had it all figured out. I'd definitely recommend this book.

\*received a complimentary copy from the author/publisher in exchange for an honest review\*

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## **Nerd Alert says**

\*\*\*I was given a complimentary copy of this book from the author in exchange for an honest review for Nerd Alert Book Love Blog\*\*\*

Sara Marsh is a sweet, feisty, funny, smart seventeen year old. She is moving back to her father's for her senior year of high school after her mother gets remarried. She is looking forward to moving back and settling back into her old life she had to leave years ago. But Sara is in for a surprise when she comes to find out creepy goth boy Rob Kensington is now living at her father's house as well. And she definitely wasn't prepared for Al all grown up, gorgeous, football star, Rob.

"...he was hot...and by hot I mean abso -freaking- lutely drool worthy jaw on - the - floor - gorgeous..."

Rob Kensington is trying to adjust to his new life. After losing absolutely everything when his home burnt down, killing his parents and leaving him in therapy. Sara's family was at one time good friends with Rob's family, so her father opens his home and heart up to Rob. Unfortunately, there are a lot of rumors surrounding Rob's involvement in burning down the house and killing his parents.

Sara and Rob share an attraction towards each other. They have a constant banter and teasing attitude towards each other which eventually develops into a much more heated up and passionate relationship.

Can Sara get past Rob's walls? Can they learn how to trust each other? Will the rumors flying around turn Sara against Rob? And what will happen when a tragic death and another house fire shock the community?

"...you reminded me what it was to feel something. To want to open up and let someone in. To trust again.

You literally picked me up and put me back together..."

I was blown away with how much I loved this book. Allie Gail knows how to write strong, brave, and incredible characters. Just when you think you have this story figured out, Allie Gail throws in another twist. I have never been much of a mystery fan but this book has enough romance and mystery to keep me going. This was a, I could not put this book down, kind of read and most definitely earned a Nerd Alert A+ or 5 stars! I look forward to reading more books by Allie Gail.

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## **Danielle from Short and Sassy says**

I am sitting down here, trying to figure out how to write this review without giving anything away. It was too good of a book to ruin with spoilers. *Burning Down The House* is a Romance/ Suspense novel. It is a really good read. Really Good. There is so many components of this book that made it amazing. There is romance, arson, murder, love, falling in love, affairs, you pretty much name it. I never thought the book was going to be like this, especially since the characters were younger. I was more than pleasantly surprised.

Ok I am going to try to not spoil anything here.... Sara decides she wants to move back with her dad after her mom gets remarried. Sara thinks it will be good to be back to where she grew up and be with her old friends again. When she arrives, she finds out that Rob, a boy she grew up with, parents were killed in a fire and he is now living with her dad. She is not sure how she feels about this. Sara remembers Rob as a goth kid who was odd. Now he has grown out of that stage and is hot!! Except now Rob is rude and doesn't seem to want anything to do with Sara. Rob has just lost both of his parents and has moved in with a stranger. You can't really blame him for being mad at the world.

When Rob and Sara start to develop feelings for each other, it is fantastic. I found them to both be characters I was truly invested in.

But then rumors and lingering thoughts start to pop up. Could Rob be the one that killed his parents? Did he set the fire? You will never figure it out. There was so many twists and turns, it kept me guess right until the end.

I was more than pleasantly surprised by this book. I thought it was going to be a high school romance. This book far exceeded that. If you are looking for a good book, this would be it!!

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