



# Opal Fire

*Barbra Annino*

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**Opal Fire** Barbra Annino

**#1 Bestseller in the Kindle Store, August 2013**

Stacy Justice is just your average green-eyed, redheaded, twenty-something witch who would rather focus on her job as a reporter than practice the crazy magic her grandmother and great-aunts are into. She's perfectly content to spend her free time hanging with her cop boyfriend and her gassy Great Dane and helping her cousin Cinnamon run the Black Opal bar. But when the Opal goes up in flames, Stacy may need that magic after all.

The blaze was arson--and Cinnamon is the prime suspect. Determined to clear her cousin's name, Stacy digs deep into the crime and makes a shocking discovery amid the rubble. It's clear someone wants her dead--and she'll have to dodge everything from angry motorists to exploding chickens to survive. It's time to dust off her so-called magic skills. But will they be there when she needs them?

With its strong, sexy heroine and her razor-sharp wit, and its collection of eccentric small-town characters, *Opal Fire* introduces a bewitching new mystery series.

## Opal Fire Details

Date : Published December 18th 2012 by Thomas & Mercer (first published November 4th 2010)

ISBN :

Author : Barbra Annino

Format : Kindle Edition 276 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fantasy, Paranormal, Witches, Magic, Urban Fantasy, Fiction

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# From Reader Review Opal Fire for online ebook

## Eero says

Main character Stacey is described as hot shot reporter who is just come back her hometown to help her witch family. She herself thinks that she is not witch, but her family thinks that she is. Which could work, but our main character is such dull witted idiot, that one could not believe that she could be reporter especially good one.

When Stacey's cousins bar is burned down and official start to claim that arsonist was Stacey's cousin herself, starts Stacey investigate herself arsonist case, which lead to finding years old body from bar's cellars wall, which starts series of events that seems to mean to scare or kill Stacey.

Other major character of book are:

Stacey's current boyfriend, town's chief of police Leo. But I don't understand what self abusive reason is behind of this relationship, as Leo don't believe or support Stacey in anything and he is also overprotective and over authoritative, for example he puts Stacey in cell for reason that she don't do as he says. And he don't seem to like or want to understand Stacey's family's beliefs. But still Stacey's says she would fight to last nail for him against person whom she describes as town's slut. It must be said that Stacey says that she don't like how Leo acts, but her body can't resist him (which only lowers my opinion about her).

Stacey's old boy friend is also in picture as major character who is also macho man, but is bit more supportive towards her family's beliefs, but at end to seems to believe that Stacey could too anything by herself and helps Leo to stalk her (and of course because of this he and Leo can come save Stacey after she has saved herself first and they can show that they were right in first place that Stacey can't do anything by herself).

Stacey's dog familiar works as comedic relief. Dog is described as her protector, but all what he does is to irritate Stacey and don't be there when she feels that she needs him and in end I didn't feel that he was funny or had any real reason to have so much page space.

Then there is Stacey's work partner Derek who is also macho man who thinks that he is hot shot reporter but but only think what comes through is sleazy paparazzi who hunts sensations even if there isn't any.

So book's plot could work, but characters are so dull, idiotic, single minded that I could only hate this book and myself as I believed those positive reviews here that I bought this book and finished it to trying to find out why people liked it, but I just could not find any reason, as book was not even funny as it's jokes comes out more as forced than natural.

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## Wicked Lil Pixie (Natasha) says

Stacy Justice is a reporter in her small town but helps out at her cousins bar. When she is over there one night, a fire breaks out & insurance is claiming her cousin set the fire. Even weirder, they discover a decades old corpse in the wall & Stacy is determined to find out who the body belongs to. On top of that, she's a witch & trying to deny it....but her aunts won't allow that at all.

Opal Fire is Barbra Annino's debut novel & the blurb alone caught Pam & my attention. Hello, exploding chickens? Yeah, we were in! I was a cackling mess reading this book, it's full of the funny. I even stopped reading to write down parts that made me cackle, just to show you how much the funny is brought.

"Lolly fumbled around inside her cape and produced a bottle of milk, a poppy seed cake, and a bouquet of heather & myrrh. She set everything at the back entrance.

My mouth fell open. She was like Batman, except female, much older & less lucid"

Stacy's aunt Lolly is umm mental deranged, she's only lucid when she's drunk. Lolly ended up being my favorite character in the series because the things she said & did killed me!

"I looked at Thor (Stacy's dog) who was licking his carry-on bags."

OMG, that right there had me in tears. I will never hear the word carry-on without thinking of Thor & umm doggy bits.

The story was great, fast paced & you really had no idea who was the big bad until right near the end. I adored the pace that was set & the small town hijinks's Stacy got into. You know if she was a city girl she'd have been locked up for a lot longer then she was (her boyfriend is the Sheriff).

If you want a fresh new series by a talented debut author, get your hands on a copy of *Opal Fire*. You'll laugh, you will shake your head but most of all you'll adore it!

## Siv30 says

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[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

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## **Rebecca says**

I had a lot of fun reading Opal Fire! Opal Fire was a nice break from most of the paranormal that I've been reading--there were no vampires, wares, or the fey. Opal Fire is an enticing mystery with lots of witchin' good antics.

Stacy Justice is working at her cousins bar when a fire breaks out. Stacy and her huge dog just barely make it out with their lives. Stacy is also a journalist and is put on the Opal Fire story...well OK she puts herself on the story. I was completely entertained reading Stacy's character. She went from one disaster to the next, always just scraping by before peril ensues. I also love Stacy's sarcastic nature and quick wit. I would say that I wanted Stacy's dog as well, but after reading about said dog's nap time...lets just say I changed my mind. (Read the book to find out what I'm talking about!)

I loved all of Stacy's family, especially the Geraghty Girls. The Geraghty Girls consisted of Stacy's grandmother, Birdie, and her two great aunts, Fiona and Lolly. These women are all-powerful witches in their own right and they all had me in stitches. I would love to read a prequel that was all about the hijinks of these women in their younger years.

I thought Ms. Annino did a wonderful job in creating a small town were I felt like everyone would want to be in everyone's business. The pace was upbeat which kept with the fun. By the end I definitely wanted the bad guy to be hit by a bus, (If you read my reviews you know by now it's important for me to hate the villain.) a bus is always my weapon of choice I have no idea why:)

If your looking for something fun to beat the monotony, you should read Opal Fire. I know I will be continuing the series.

Happy Reading,  
Rebecca  
[www.bendingthespine.blogspot.com](http://www.bendingthespine.blogspot.com)

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## **Jeannie and Louis Rigod says**

I liked this book very much. At first, I will admit, I was a bit overwhelmed with all the characters that were being so quickly introduced but by the time I hit mid book, I was hooked in the story and the characters settled in.

Stacy Justice is a Wicca whom is just learning her way. She has the help of the women in her family. It was an interesting angle to the mysteries. I wanted more knowledge of the gemstones and beliefs but as this is, what I hope, the first in a long-lived series, I will be patient.

There is a fire in the Black Opal Bar which almost claims the life of Stacy and her Great Dane, Thor. You will grow to love both of these characters as they work to solve the murders.

This book has terrific potential and I was honored to be given the chance to read it early by the talented

## **Mlpmom (Book Reviewer) says**

I wasn't sure what to expect from this series but it looked really good and had some really good reviews so I thought I would give it a chance and I am so glad that I did.

Let me start off by saying that I love mysteries and I love reading paranormal so to have them combined is just perfect for me and then to throw in a little bit of romance with two great guys to choose from and that is even better!

This was such a fun read. It had me laughing out loud quite a few times through out it. I adored every single character from her crazy grandma and aunts to her adorable dog Thor and the ending, well that one shocked me. I didn't see it coming at all and I can't wait to see what happens next.

This was a great first book in a new series, which doesn't always happen with new series but Annino pulled it off beautifully. I think anyone who loves the humor of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series and H.P. Mallory's Jolie Wilkin series will really love this book as well.

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## **Jen says**

THIS is what a cozy mystery is supposed to be! Fantastically done, and a debut novel, to boot! I can only expect even greater things from author Barbra Annino.

This book first came to my attention, and my Kindle app, when the blog "Pixel of Ink" listed it as a free selection. I 'bought' it but that didn't guarantee that I'd read it. What made me read it was the cover illustration. I know they say that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover, but it appeared to have the same cover stylings as another series of cozy mysteries that I really enjoyed: the "A High Heels Mystery" series by Gemma Halliday. And while I am on the subject of recommending cozy mystery series, let me also put in a plug for the "Jane Kelly" series by Nancy Bush.

So I judged a book by its cover and wasn't disappointed.

This is the story of a young sleuth named Stacy Justice who just so happens to have all the right connections, be in all the wrong places at the wrong time, and attract all the wrong attentions. In true cozy mystery fashion, you jump right in and necessary background is delivered in succinct way that a second book in a series does; the one where it says, "Remember when you learned this?" except that you haven't actually learned it.

Stacy is a reporter for her small town newspaper, but was helping out her cousin (and best friend?) in her bar when the bar catches on fire. This is where the story starts. It turns out that her cousin, Cinnamon, is Italian and has typical Italian family who love and feed Stacy. Then there is Leo, Stacy's boyfriend, who is Greek and the town's police chief. Add to that Stacy's other family: Her three elders in the form of grandmother Birdie, and great aunts Lolly and Fiona. The latter three are witches, as in real practicing wiccans who believe in using magic to gain clarity in a situation and encourage Stacy to do the same in the course of her investigative journalism. Stacy is hesitant, to say the least, about embracing this piece of her Celtic heritage and her skeptical-yet-witty commentary on the rituals she is forced to participate in make this a paranormal cozy with large appeal.

The story is fast paced with lots of twists and turns that keep you guessing. I had no fewer than three different perps in mind and it turned out to be none of them! Yikes! And the ending of the book is a cliff hanger, starting right in on the very next in the series. My wishlist now has a new entrant!

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## April says

This story has many characteristics of the cozy mystery - the over-the-top characters, the mystery being investigated by someone not a part of the police force and the attempts by the culprit to keep the amateur investigator away from the case.

There is also a paranormal aspect in that Stacy, the main character, is a witch though she remembers none of her training and has no faith in it.

All of these elements added to an intriguing mystery should have created an enjoyable book. While for the most part it was ok, it fell down for me in a couple of places. The main character had a backstory that didn't seem to fit her character of today which created for me a bit of a disconnect as if the character was incomplete.

The actual plot also didn't resonate with me too much because there just seemed to be too many unanswered questions, inexplicable actions and illogical events that made the plot seem to me to lurch along in stops and starts instead of flow from one scene to another.

I have to admit that I did enjoy the parts of the story that contained Thor the Great Dane. He was my favorite character.

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## Katy says

**Book Info:** Genre: Paranormal Mystery/Chick Lit

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: fans of paranormal romance, chick lit

Trigger Warnings: murder, assault on women

**Spoiler Alert:** While it would be possible to write a review without spoilers, it would be difficult to adequately explain why I disliked the story without providing the specific example I chose. So be aware that there is a spoiler in the 3rd paragraph below. I will hide in on the two sites that allow such (and as a result, it won't be accessible at all on my blog), but the rest of you? Sorry, but it's there. It's marked, though, although without formatting it might be hard to see.

**My Thoughts:** I had already picked up the first two books in this series when the third one came up for my Amazon Vine selection, so I was very excited to discover that, since the books sounded like something I would like and this would save me having to track that third one down. This is the first book in the Stacy Justice series, followed by *Bloodstone* and *Tiger's Eye*. A fourth book, *Emerald Isle*, is scheduled for release sometime in 2013.

I sort of went back and forth on my feelings on this book. I would be enjoying it for what is was, but then I'd

stop and think about it and have all kinds of issues with it, which are mostly personal issues about not caring much for “chick lit”. I also kept wanting to compare it to *Practical Magic* because the Geraghty Girls reminded me of the aunties. But when it came right down to it, and despite how much I loved *Practical Magic*, I really didn't like the story.

The reason has to do with the reasons I don't much care for chick lit or many romances, and that is that too many authors think that “feisty” translates into a complete inability to deal with things rationally. (view spoiler) What on earth is WRONG with these people? "Oh, screw you for saving my life, how dare you do that!" That isn't “feisty”, that's “too stupid to live.” There is a major difference between being self-sufficient, and being reckless and stubborn, and all too often the women in these sorts of books are just stupidly reckless and stubborn.

If it weren't for the fact that a) I need to read the series because the third one is a Vine book and b) there is a twist at the very end that makes me hopeful the next book will be better, I'd just abandon this whole thing. However, if you like chick lit, if you like paranormal romances, if you like those sorts of stories, you will probably like this one, so don't let my grumpiness turn you off it.

**Disclosure:** I picked this book up on Amazon during a KDP promotion. All opinions are my own.

**Synopsis:** Stacy Justice did not expect to be set on fire that night, but being raised by witches prepares one for life's little surprises. In fact, she isn't the least bit shocked when her cousin is accused of arson, or when her divorced grandparents sign up for a marriage retreat, or even when her own boyfriend hauls her off to jail. But when a decades-old secret is discovered within the walls of her cousin's bar, even Stacy is rattled. Now, someone wants her dead and she finds herself dodging angry motorists, exploding chickens and a very creepy man who lurks around every corner. As she begins to dig up the past, Stacy learns that even those closest to her have something to hide—and she's about to discover a destiny she never imagined.

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## **?? Carmen the Bootyshaker Temptress ?? says**

### **Fun and entertaining**

The start of the series of Stacy's witch adventures is off to a good start. She is sure to have some weird things to happen but Thor will be by her side so I'm sure things will get done without too much harm to her. I hope. This was a fun, entertaining book with a bit mystery of course.

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### **Michelle says**

Opal Fire: A Stacy Justice Mystery (Volume I) by Barbra Annino is a cozy mystery with a side of paranormal and a chick lit twist. I would recommend it to anyone who enjoys a fast-paced, fun novel full of quirky characters and sprinkled with humor.

The book opens with a devastating fire at the Black Opal, the bar owned by Stacy Justice's cousin. When the insurance adjuster won't pay the claim because he insists it's arson, Stacy gets to work. Along with using her inside connections on the police force (her boyfriend is the chief), Stacy also finally, albeit clumsily, embraces her family's gift, witchcraft. While investigating the fire, she discovers a far more serious secret



buried in the rubble that ends up putting her own life in jeopardy. Exploding chickens and other antics ensue.

In case you can't tell from the exploding chickens reference, this is a book that never takes itself too seriously -- lots more humorous situations as well as quips throughout -- but it never loses sight of the importance of moving along the plot and character development.

Going into this, I knew I could either really fall into the story and characters or just find it kind of silly and get bored quickly; it was all up to the writer and execution -- and Annino pulled it off. Beautifully. There's an air of Janet Evanovich and Stephanie Plum in there, so if you like that series, I'd strongly suggest giving Annino's Stacy Justice mysteries a try.

I love this kind of book when I'm in the mood for a light-hearted escape, which Opal Fire absolutely delivers. Looking forward to more from Annino!

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### **Theresa says**

This book had me laughing out loud with the crazy antics of these characters and their sassy ways... An exciting magical mystery with unforgettable characters and a witty but smart dialogue that kept me invested in the overall storyline... I think my only mistake was not reading the prequel prior to diving into this book; it is written as though I should already be acquainted with these intriguing characters and their insane relationships which left me feeling slightly disconnected from the undertones of their connections; I will definitely go back and read the prequel and then happily continue with this series... 4 Stars:)

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### **Donna (BLHmistress) says**

This book is one of many reasons why I love my Kindle. I had been eyeing this book for awhile, so when it was free I snagged it and now I am so glad I did. Where to begin, I loved this book so much. I just finished it tonight, reading it in one sitting.

I love Stacy and her cousin, Cinnamon they are such a great pair. Her whole family I loved especially her grandmother and aunts, they were such fun and unique characters. Mario not quite sure how I feel about him. The men in Stacey's life, I think I am kind of leaning towards Chance though by the end Leo warmed up to me more.

The story was such fun to read, I didn't miss the romance that I am usually craving in the books I read. I seriously thought I figured it out and the author threw another twist at me I did not expect.

If you haven't read this book, I highly recommend it, you don't know what your missing if you don't. In fact, I am reading the second book just as soon as I finish with this review because she left me hanging and that can't happen. I just have to know what happens next.

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## **Mahoghani 23 says**

The story is mostly pertaining to murder, mystery, mayhem and witchcraft. I didn't enjoy the book because it's not one of my genres that I like to read. It basically deals with solving an arson (recently) & solving a murder over 10 years old along with understanding the skills she has as a witch.

Juvenile but funny. Cozy read but mysterious. Full of wisecracks but boring at the same time. Mayhem, clumsiness & deathly but full of incompetent people, especially the police force and mayor.

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## **Brenda says**

So much fun!

Helping her cousin Cinnamon set up at the Black Opal bar wasn't meant to end the way it did for Stacy Justice – but with the building on fire and Stacy unable to find Thor in the midst of the heat, she felt an intense panic as she saw the beam collapse in front of her cousin, trapping her on the other side. Dragged to safety by police chief and boyfriend Leo, Stacy was relieved to see both Thor and Cinnamon were fine. But the fire started a chain of events that both took lives and put lives in danger – mostly Stacy's...

Stacy was a reluctant witch – raised by her grandmother and her two aunts, she knew what they were capable of. And she had no desire to participate in witchery herself. But when Cinnamon was informed by the insurance assessor that it was arson, and he believed she was the arsonist so there would be no payout, Stacy – in her role as reporter for the local paper – decided to investigate and uncover the truth. The secrets Stacy discovered immediately put her life at risk – with Thor by her side though, she felt safe. But was she delusional?

*Opal Fire* by Barbra Annino is the first in the Stacy Justice Mystery series and it was loads of fun! Laugh out loud moments even among the (not gruesome) details of murder and arson – my favourite character would have to be Thor, Stacy's Great Dane. The start of a great mystery/paranormal series – and I was delighted to note I have book two waiting on my kindle! *Opal Fire* only took me a few hours to read – it's fast paced and kept me enthralled till the last page. Highly recommended.

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