



# Ignite

*Tricia Barr*

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## **Ignite** Tricia Barr

Phoenix Blake has a secret. When she wakes in a dungeon with three strangers, she is forced to face it, which isn't easy seeing as her cellmate, Sebastian, has starred in her dreams. As days pass, they learn they are each one of the four elements bound in human form and they have been abducted by an ancient society that plans to kill them and steal their powers. If they hope to escape, they must master their powers, and Phoenix must learn to let go of fear and let love in, before it's too late.

## **Ignite Details**

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Author : Tricia Barr

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Romance

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# From Reader Review Ignite for online ebook

## ?Tara Sheehan? says

Tricia Barr has put out a novel that hits all the high notes to draw readers in with her talented writing and imagination. The super hero / gifted powers plot device worked well within the context of this story and was a welcome break after being inundated with Marvel and DCs monopoly on the themes.

The suspense filled action, romance and a whiff of humor combine to create a well thought out plot in this first book of the series.

The characters are fleshed out very well so you get a good sense of who they are and can easily believe in their interactions and motivations. As you move deeper through the story you can't help but cheer on the characters you've become invested in and hope that all their sacrifices will pay off. The main female character is strong and a great example of what women are capable of particularly in adverse situations.

Though the idea of using groups of teens has been done many times over in movies and books Barr somehow took a long used idea and made it fresh. The value of friendship is a beautiful theme woven along the pages in this mystically unique novel.

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## Augustine of Elsinore says

For more reviews, author interviews and picks of the month check out my blog:  
<https://inkandpapercuts.wordpress.com/>

I received Tricia Barr's ARC via the "Read it & Reap" programme of the Goodreads group Shut up & Read in exchange for my honest review.

### WHAT IS THE BOOK ABOUT?

Phoenix Blake finds herself locked in a dungeon with three complete strangers belonging to different backgrounds and abducted from different states. Days pass and well-hidden secrets come to surface—secrets that stem from the characters' unique power to communicate with the four elements of Earth. In order to eliminate those that have taken them by force, the group has to unlock the true potential of their paranormal gifts. But when push comes to shove and ashes spring into existence, will they be able to control the shape of things to come?

### WHAT DID I LIKE ABOUT THE BOOK?

It has been a long time since I have last read contemporary YA fiction and Tricia Barr's Ignite successfully reinitiated me in the genre. The novel was extremely easy to read, it was fun and entertaining. The characters easily grew on me after some time and I found myself not being able to stop reading in order to see what comes next. The sexual undertones between two of the main characters stirred up a flame of long-lost adolescent enthusiasm in me—one that only YA and New Adult books are able to ignite in readers who take pleasure in identifying with the thoughts and wishes of the characters.

Barr's novel is well-written and it has a nice layout; the flow is smooth and the transitions from chapter to chapter are coherent. The descriptions are rich and embroidered with high register while the dialogues are just as natural as they need to be.

### WHAT DID I NOT LIKE?

Unfortunately, the novel fell short of my expectations for an action-adventure twist in the ancient myth of the four elements. Barr's idea was extremely appealing and yet it was overshadowed by an unjustified emphasis on any interaction among the characters including the romance subplot. Instead of taking advantage of the main plot, Barr shifted the focus from the elements and the magical powers that had mysteriously been bestowed upon the four teenagers to their meeting, chatting and falling in love.

As a result, Ignite turned out to be a fun YA romance novel with a fantasy twist which did not live up to its potential.

Verdict: Regardless of its smooth flow and engaging tone, Ignite dismisses the main plot of the elements in connection with the four young people. It rather situates them in a dungeon in order to accentuate their coming together and getting to know or even being enamoured with each other. An easy and fun YA read, the novel promises a trip from ignorance to knowledge but with a focus on relationships rather than plot development.

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### Beverly Laude says

The story begins with two young college-aged women being held in a cell by parties unknown. Then, two young men are put into the cell next to them. What in the world is going on?

Phoenix Blake is a young woman with a lot of guilt over her father's death. Sebastian and Skylar are basically con artists from Las Vegas, using some mysterious powers to trick people out of their money. Lily is a non-descript nursing student who seems afraid to open her mouth.

Phoenix and Skylar have dreamed about each other, but why? Have they known each other in a former life?

The premise of the story is interesting: each of these characters are actually embodiments of the 4 elements. Phoenix is Fire (of course!) and hasn't yet realized the strength of her powers. The quartet finally figure out that they are being held by a group called the Four Corners, who want to sacrifice them in order to unleash the elements.

The book is interesting enough to hold the reader's interest, but parts of it are a bit of a stretch, even for fantasy. Since this is the first book of a trilogy, I was not surprised or disappointed by the cliffhanger ending.

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### Charlotte says

Appropriate reading for all ages.

This book was okay. There was some originality with the four elements being housed in humans. It's typical

of a "club" wanting something of power for themselves and then making some sort of justification to get it, so not so original there. I guess I thought this one would be more interesting, I think the holding cell, imprisonment thing, was dragged out to long..

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### **Kristen says**

I love this story for a YA novel. While reading, it seemed very alternative universe but still high schoolers learning about who they are. The story is about a group of teenagers that find themselves prisoners due to their special powers. In a very superhero / Hercules / Percy Jackson way, they work together to defeat those trying to steal their gifts.

The protagonist, who goes by Pheonyx, is a great strong woman character. Her fellow inmates, Lily, Sebastian, and Skyler make the story what it is. It reminds me of many great teenage groups that emphasize friendship (Harry Potter, The Breakfast Club, Ferris Bullers Day off). I love YA books that emphasize this for teenagers. When you are a teen, your friends are your world and any book that can show what real friendship looks like is great in my book!

There is a lot of character development, which I enjoy. It give the book more depth, rather than just another superhero, good guys vs bad guys, novel. You can relate to the characters on some level and watch them evolve throughout the story as they face the adventure together.

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### **Ramona Plant says**

Caloric is a very well written book by Tricia Barr. This book drew me in from the very first page. It follows a great pace and has a unique plot that is rather intriguing. The pace of the book is perfect and never feels like it is dragging out or is rushing you through the story. There are some neat twists hidden within that keep you reading on. I pretty much read this book in one sitting, it captivated my attention that much.

Phoenix is a very likable character and you can definitely see her growing in this book. I am definitely looking forward to read the next book and see what is next in store for her. Lily, Sebastian and Skylar add perfectly to this story and are also great characters that are very likable.

All in all I really enjoyed this book. It has everything from paranormal, some romance and action thrown all together with a well developed plot. Not much more you can ask for.

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### **Tiffany Jones says**

**\*\*FTC DISCLAIMER: I RECEIVED AN E-ARC FROM GOODREADS IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW. RECEIPT OF THIS BOOK IN THIS MANNER DOES NOT AFFECT MY OPINION OF THE BOOK OR THE CONTENT OF MY REVIEW.\*\***

After a night out, Phoenix Blake wakes up to find that she and another girl, named Lily, have been locked in a dungeon cell. They have no idea how or why this has happened. A couple of days later, two guys, Skylar

and Sebastian, are thrown into the cell next to theirs. Phoenix is shocked when she realizes that Sebastian is the man that she's had recurring dreams about for years. The four of them need to figure out exactly why they were kidnapped. Since they were not in the same places when they were abducted, they couldn't have been taken randomly. Someone has gone to the trouble of targeting them specially and, now, they need to uncover the reasons why. Other than Sebastian and Skylar, who grew up together as foster brothers, the four of them are complete strangers, but they quickly feel a deep connection with each other. At first, they chalk that up to the traumatic experience they're going through, but as they talk, they discover that all four of them have secret abilities that they've never told anyone about. As the days pass, they manage to learn from their captors that each of them is one of the elements bound in human form: Fire, Water, Air, and Earth. The people who have captured them are part of an ancient society that plans to kill them and steal their powers. Now, they only have a couple of days to learn how to harness and control their powers and use them to escape or it will be too late!

Even though there wasn't a huge amount of action through a lot of the book, it was still incredibly interesting and I was hooked from the moment I picked it up. Most of the real "action" takes place towards the end with their escape because, after all, they are locked up in two tiny cells. I honestly loved reading their backstories, especially as more details were given as to how the elements came to be bound in human form. Tricia Barr obviously has an incredible imagination to be able to think up this storyline and displays a thorough eye for detail as she kept everything moving in a direction that made sense and kept it interesting. I'm so excited that the rest of this series has already been published because I can't wait to see what happens next!!

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## **Eric says**

Really enjoyed this book. A lot of books have lulls where the author was trying to give the appearance of time passing, what I call filler, and those parts are always boring, but Caloric was interesting right from the beginning and stayed that way through to the end. And there were quite a few surprising twists you wouldn't expect from a YA novel. I highly recommend it.

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## **Rosemary says**

Ignite - a review by Rosemary Kenny

This clever novella, part of a series, is suitable for a wide audience as it is devoid of extreme violence or graphic sex scenes. I would recommend Ms Tricia Barr's offering to young [or older] adult fans of Harry Potter, (due to its theme of a magic world living in tandem but unseen by everyday people) and fans of fantasy/overcoming-the-odds stories of all ages.

Themes include overcoming issues and difficulties of the common rites-of-passage type, experienced in the transition to adulthood we all go through. Also how community spirit and strength coupled with friendship and on occasion self-sacrifice, benefits all who are part of the whole. The characters are well-portrayed and engaging and the plot is interesting overall.

Phoenix and her fellow prisoners are held captive by and unknown entity; only by teamwork and combination of the disparate hidden powers they reveal to one another can they gain their freedom in more ways than one.

The reader will be spirited away to another realm, where events will inspire, enlighten and entertain you in equal measure.

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### **Clare O'Beara says**

Four young adults - student age - are abducted and jailed in a strange bleak cell. Two girls and two guys from various American cities, and they each turn out to have an innate power like telekinesis which is unfortunately no help in freeing them. They immediately get chatty and reveal all about their powers, despite the fact that the abductors could be expected to be spying on them. The main character we follow, Phoenix, is living with the fact that she may have sparked the fire which caused a family death.

And that really is most of the book. I could not believe how long they spent in that cell.

YA readers might get into the situation or they might want the story to move forwards with more than one problem to resolve.

I'm disappointed with the spilling mistakes in my copy - sleep proved elusive while a crying girl really started balling. The hollow pain of hunger in her stomach. Did someone dictate this book? Don't.

Lengthy backstory / dream sections at chapter starts are written in italics, which I don't read because they are hard on the eyes. I didn't seem to miss anything relevant so this is just padding.

"a swarm of dalliant butterflies" Butterflies don't come in swarms, dalliant is an adjective meaning flirtatious. No sense here. "To have telepathy was one thing all by itself, but to use it with such artistry, such a spark of the imagination, it was simply awe-inspiring." Edit that sentence. "slower than molasses dripping down a tree on a cold day." Why is molasses, which is a byproduct of cane sugar, up a tree?

I'm sure the author has put a lot of thought into the tale but it comes across as fairly immature with not much depth or action. Later stories about these characters could be better now they are established.

I received an e-ARC from the author through Instafreebie. This is an unbiased review.

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### **Beaches&Books says**

Phoenix Blake has a secret. When she wakes in a dungeon with three strangers, she is forced to face it, which isn't easy seeing as her cellmate, Sebastian, has starred in her dreams. As days pass, they learn they are each one of the four elements bound in human form and they have been abducted by an ancient society that plans to kill them and steal their powers. If they hope to escape, they must master their powers, and Phoenix must learn to let go of fear and let love in, before it's too late.

This book was really well written and had a fabulous story line! It really kept me interested from start to finish. Which is amazing since most of it took place in a cell, Tricia Barr is an amazing writer to be able to pull that off. The only reason I gave this book a 4 star is because of the ending, it kind of felt like there should have been more. Good thing it's the first in the series and we can find out what happens next!

Thanks to Tricia Barr and netgalley for the ARC in return for an honest review

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## **Colleen Scidmore says**

First off I would like to thank Tricia Barr for allowing me to review her book.

I wasn't sure how Caloric was going to turn out because my initial thought was there is probably going to be some slow going since the characters are confined to one area pretty much throughout the book. But that wasn't the case at all! Caloric had quite a bit of action surprisingly. There was never a dull moment even when all the characters got to do at times was sit around and talk. Each of the characters had endearing qualities and personalities, I liked all 4 of them. There was Phoenix who had a strong will and never give up attitude, Lily the sweet, nurturing and quiet girl, Sebastian the jokester con artist who tried to keep everything light, and last but not least Skylar, Sebastian's partner in "crime" and brainiac. Maybe being a con artist is not that admirable but when you learn the way they lived prior you have to cut them some slack and they weren't exactly hurting anyone.

Tricia has a great imagination that kept me on my toes and intrigued throughout the whole book. Especially when learning about each persons individual gift and how they tried to master them so they could attempt to escape from the crazy cult who wants to steal their power and then kill them.

I'm looking forward to continuing the foursomes saga. If the first book is any indication this is going to be a really good series!

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## **Lene Blackthorn says**

Elements might be captured. But their raw power remains untamed and only the Bound Ones can control them.

Phoenix was preparing to start her studies at UCLA when she found herself kidnapped and locked in a prison God knows where. She shared her prison cell with sweet and kind Lily, and later, two young men, Skylar and Sebastian, were thrown and locked into the adjacent cell. Growing closer to each other in their misery, they not only become friends but also learn the truth about their supernatural nature. To avoid death and save everyone from the evil society behind the abductions, each of them must explore the powers within and learn to use them.

Although much of the story takes place in a dark underground prison, the story is full of light. Of hope, friendship and eternal love, care and devotion, protection, determination, and awe-inspiring magical abilities. Being one of the elementals might be frightening, but the magic within elements might do much good - everything depends on the holder's intentions. And our characters' intentions are noble deep in their hearts. They are all complex and unique personalities, from innocent and kind Lily through just and fierce Phoenix and caring, protective and responsible Skylar to mischievous but warm-hearted Sebastian. One could even see the reflection of the elements in their individual qualities and personalities.

I loved the story, its fast pace and quick development, focused on the people but developing the backstory as well. And I would love to know more about them, too.

I got a review copy from the author and provide my opinion voluntarily.

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## **C. Erani Kole says**

\*voluntarily and honestly reviewed the ARC I received from the author\*



It's a story of four strangers waking up in a cell, being fed once a day, not knowing what any of them have in common or what's going to be done to them when their captors finally come for the last time. At first it was exciting because no one knows what's happening (well you know, unless you read the blurb then...) and then you do find out what's up, and things take a more romantic turn. I had a few moments of wondering if this was all that was going to happen, so I was glad that Phoenix had another story aside from the one of being locked up. I liked the exploring of their powers and the general story of people becoming friends in horrible situations and learning to create great bonds. The ending was totally cool and made up for the moments when they all went through their little training sessions. I liked the characters, enjoyed their back stories and support for each other. The writing was pretty cool, easy with that YA flavor. I really liked Phoenix. Overall a pretty fun read of elementals.

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## **Sarah says**

Disclaimer: I received a free copy of this book in exchange for an honest review. The premise of this series is that the elements of earth, air, fire, and water have been bound into human form. That's not a spoiler, even though the characters aren't in on the "secret" with us. I kind of wish the reveal built up for the reader the way it does for them.

The characters are fun, and mostly have enough back story to interest the reader (except Lily, who seemed like an afterthought). The names are obvious (Skylar, Lily, Phoenix - wonder which elements they correspond to?) but the story moves along at a good pace and the book as a whole is a worthwhile introduction to what seems like an interesting series. If you're looking for a light, fun read - you may enjoy this book. Don't go looking for a lot of depth, though... and don't ask how Sebastian got his name. (Seriously, though, how is Sebastian related to water? Is he named after the crab from Little Mermaid?)

3 stars because even when I'm reading fluffy junk food I prefer to not have it spoon fed to me. The foreshadowing and plot development are a bit heavy-handed.

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