RHONE ATLESHEN

BOOK CLUB KIT

THRILLERS WITH SPICE. BODY COUNTS IN *EVERY* SENSE.

A READER'S GUIDE



BURN

Apex Society • Book 3

DISCUSSION • SECRETS • BEHIND THE STORY

RhoneAtleshen.com

Dearest Gentle Reader (or however that goes),

WELCOME to the inner workings of your favorite twisty little romantic thriller author. I am, as always, beyond thrilled that you have chosen to invest your time with my book. I know there is a vast wide world of authors to choose from and I am so grateful that today, you picked me. You rock!

This book club guide has been provided as a way to spark fun and lively discussions about the book, its themes, and maybe even delve into some of the more sensitive topics as they may arise. I hope you and your book club will enjoy the discussion with the care and sensitivity you all deserve, and I hope it's really freaking fun.

I have tried to mark areas where spoilers exist, alas, things can slip through. That said, if you are in a book club I'll presume it's not a problem....unless you are THAT member who never finishes the book.
Boo and hiss.

And, for those of you who actually DIDN'T like my book, thank you most of all! Look at you...sitting in a room full of people with a book you didn't even like. GOOD ON YOU! You still invested your time and money in taking a chance on my characters and my storytelling. As they say, not every meet is a match and that's okay. I appreciate your willingness to enjoy the discussion part still and hope you can return to one of my other works in the future.

Either way - have a laugh - have a snack - keep reading!
Rhone.

ps - As for anything that might have had you clutching your pearls...you're welcome.

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Rhone likes a snack when she's creating so it's only right that you enjoy one while you read! Below are some fun on-theme ideas for your book club to help make the night a full event! Post pictures, tag Rhone on all the socials (@rhoneatleshen) and see if your book party gets shared!-- spoiler, she totes will.



THE PENTHOUSE *MEETS THE* PASTA POT

A little caviar. A lot of red sauce.

GIA'S UPPER EAST SIDE

Senator's Daughter Crostini
Whipped ricotta, hot honey, and a little political influence.

Penthouse Pear & Prosciutto
Sweet pear, salty prosciutto, shaved parmesan. Impeccable optics.

The One-Percent Olive Board
Good olives, sharp cheese, marcona almonds. No lobby guest list required.

TROY'S FAMILY TABLE

Troy's Sunday Red
Slow-simmered tomato sauce, garlic, basil, and the kind of patience that means business.

Beast-Mode Spaghetti
A generous bowl of pasta, red sauce, parmesan, and absolutely no dainty portions.

The Wilder Family Garlic Bread
Crusty bread, butter, garlic, herbs. Make enough for everybody.

DRINKS FOR BOTH WORLDS

Penthouse Spritz
Prosecco, elderflower, and a splash of soda.

Red Sauce Red
Chianti, if you're feeling traditional; sparkling water if you're driving.



By The Numbers

Burn is book 3 of The Apex Society Trilogy. It was the dark horse of the three and launched on Amazon after launching 12/2/25. In print it's a tidy 441-ish pages, and its final word count is 98,683. Troy's unique inner story made this the most complex book, and one of Rhone's true favorites. It also holds a dual POV for the FMC and MMC and all your favorite characters from book 1 come back. With all the couples completing their story arcs right on through to the very end of Troy and Gia's story.

By The 'spicy' Numbers



Burn is a return to the slow-burn approach of Gaslight, and has far fewer spicy scenes, but the additional BDSM undertones make the scenes more intense in many ways than any others in the series. As always though, the spice is spicing in chapters 28, 29, 30, 35, and 40. And as for the spice level, readers are rather split but I consider it still a 3 outta 5 chili peppers!

How About Your Numbers?

Reading format: print / ebook / audio
Time to finish: _____
Favorite character: _____
Character I hated: _____(The Doctor or the Senator?)
Rating: ___ / 5
Would you recommend the trilogy? yes / immediately / already did

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The following are a series of questions to guide discussion. You are not obligated to follow them. Let them get you started, then enjoy the bookish rabbit trails your group takes you on!

Themes and Choices

Found Family is a prominent theme in the entire Apex Trilogy. Did you notice how the ultimate villain was literally the antithesis of this?

Troy's role as defactor 'eldest brother' is Apex cannon. Knowing him now, do you agree with the title?

Were you surprised to learn of The Beast, and how Troy's military trauma influenced everything he did?

Do you think the brothers knew about Troy's private inner struggles.



Each of the FMC's brought their own strength. Moira's resilience, Lila's fierce tenacity, but Gia's strength was softer. Which of the three do you feel was the strongest?

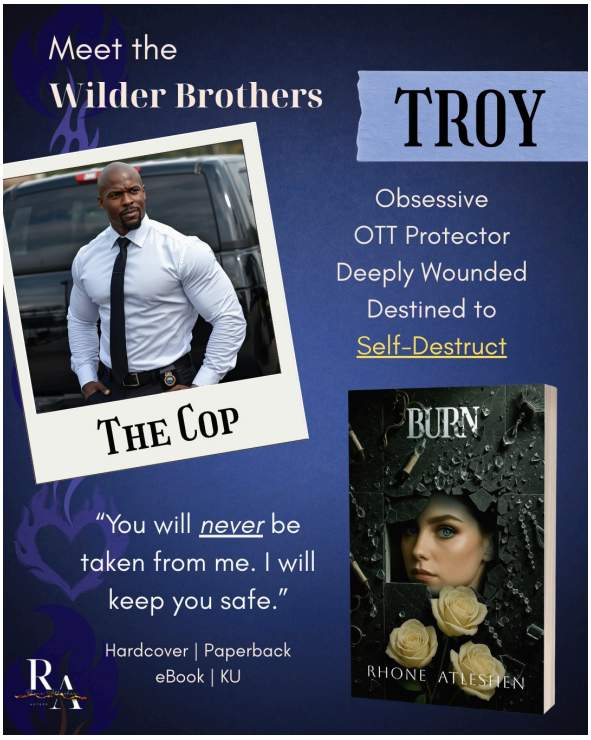
The opening prologue wasted no time in reveaing exactly who the villain was, though the story peppered in more behind the scenes of Gia's life via flashbacks. Did those help shape your insights into past villains from Books 1 and 2?

Chief and Carol take a more prominent role, but the rest of the town is mentioned as well as the police chief. Do you imagine the full town was in support of the brother's and their families at the end? Maybe parades and cookie platters delivered? hahahah.

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FUN FACT: Rhone uses actor visuals to help her find her character's unique voices. Troy was inspired by Terry Crews (i mean...who isn't obsessed) and Gia was inspired by Alexandra Daddario from the Mayfair Witches.

Character and Romance (spoilers)





Gia's alter ego Jane is built in a hasty moment of fear and exhaustion. Troy instantly knows she's lying, but never pushes. Do you think it was desperation, or something more, that helped her trust him in those early days?

Troy is quiet, stoic, and instantly obsessed over Gia/Jane. But he spend his early days protectively watching over her nights without her knowing. When he finally lets it show, and she knows he watches her sleep, why do you think she allowed that?

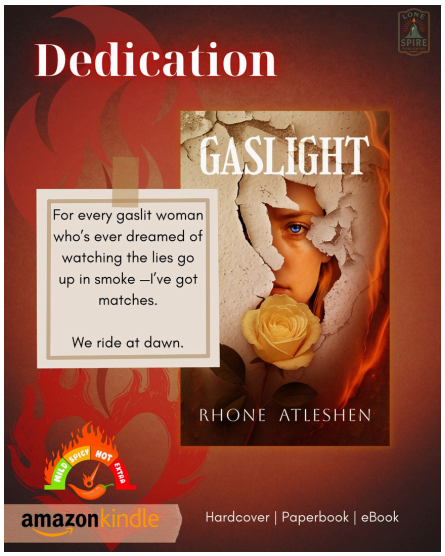
There was a moment when Troy's protective instincts go off the rails in the store, and at first he seems almost angry with himself more than her. Why do you think his anger didn't scare her the way her father's did?

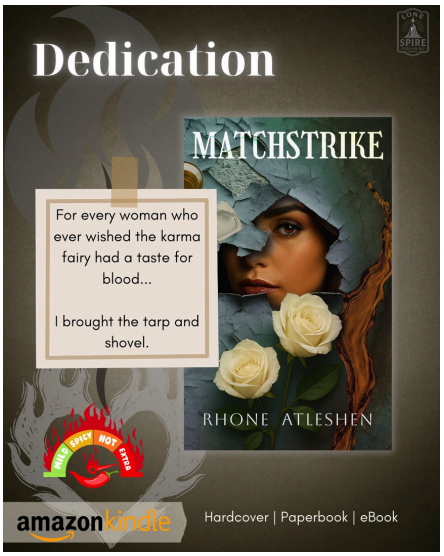
Did you mourn the chair?

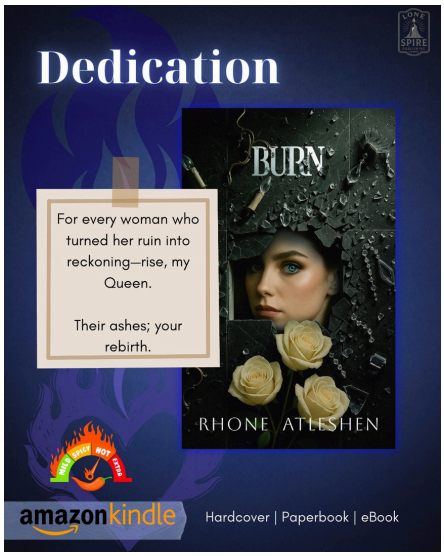
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The trilogy looking back!

- Across the three books, what did you think about the danger evolving—from the threats faced by individual characters to the larger force connecting their stories?
- Thrillers are supposed to follow the antagonist. As such, did the villain arc build in a satisfying way? Which reveal, confrontation, or payoff landed hardest for you?
- Looking back, what clues or moments in Gaslight or Matchstrike took on new meaning after you finished Burn?
- The series features fiercely loyal characters and a found family that keeps expanding. What does the Wilder family's loyalty make them stronger at—and where can it get them into trouble?
- The covers evolve from one rose to two, then three; from flames to bourbon to shattered crystal; and reveal more of each woman's face. What patterns did you notice as you read? Did the covers suggest anything about the trilogy's growing stakes or the characters' journeys?
- Which moment, character, or relationship best captures the trilogy for you—and why?
- Did you notice the dedications? Did you love or hate em?







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ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Rhone Atleshen

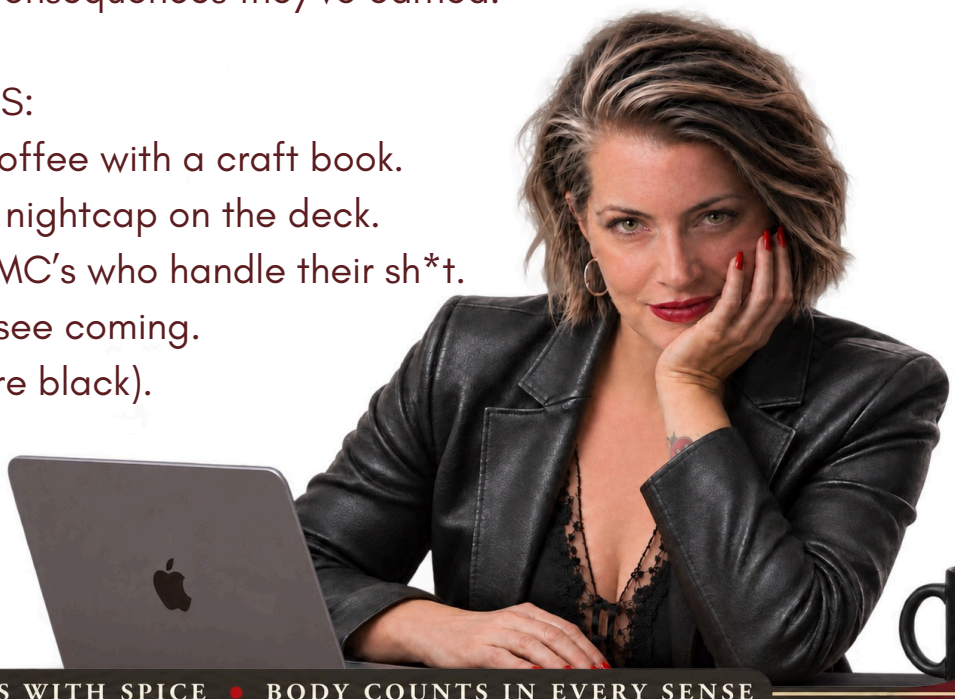
Rhone Atleshen is an Amazon bestselling author of dark, emotionally charged romantic thrillers that blend atmospheric suspense, searing romance, and villains readers love to hate.

Her debut trilogy, The Apex Society—Gaslight, Matchstrike, and Burn—received a Readers' Favorite Honorable Mention and finalist recognition from both the Next Generation Indie Book Awards and the CIBA Chatelaine Awards for Romantic Fiction, as well as a PenCraft award. Her books have also earned five-star professional reviews from Readers' Favorite, recognition from IndieReader and Writer's Digest, and hundreds of happy readers.

Publishing independently through Lone Spire Publishing, Rhone writes stories where love is hard-won, danger is intimate, and morally black villains eventually face the consequences they've earned.

HER FAVORITE THINGS:

- Quiet Morning Coffee with a craft book.
- Smooth Bourbon nightcap on the deck.
- Fiercely strong FMC's who handle their sh*t.
- Twists you never see coming.
- Sparkles (if they're black).
- Puppies.
- Flowers.
- You. *muah*



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THE BOOK'S CLOSED. THE PARTY'S NOT.

Make it a night worth talking about.



Host a Gaslight-inspired gathering. Pour something good, bring the snacks, and let the conversation get deliciously out of hand.



POST YOUR PARTY

Share your book club photos, tag Rhone, and use **#RhoneReads** so I can find your fabulous little gathering. @RhoneAtleshen



WANT A CAMEO?

Hosting a virtual or in-person book club? Reach out through the Contact page at rhoneatleshen.com and ask about an author pop-in. I'd love to see if we can make it happen.

Keep the group chat lively. Keep the snacks close.
And if anyone asks, the alibi is that you were discussing the book.