RHONE ATLESHEN

BOOK CLUB KIT

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

A READER'S GUIDE



MATCHSTRIKE

Apex Society • Book 2

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.

MARGE'S DIVE BAR MENU

Bad decisions. Good company. Excellent snacks.

BAR BITES

Marge's Loaded Fries
Crispy fries, melted cheese, bacon, scallions. No sharing required.

Last Call Sliders
Mini burgers with sharp cheddar, pickles, and a little attitude.

Pool-Hall Pretzel Bites
Warm pretzel bites with beer cheese dip. Keep your eye on the table.

The Side-Eye Snack Mix
Salty, spicy, sweet, and absolutely not here to behave.

HOUSE POUR

Marge's Old Fashioned
Bourbon, bitters, orange, and a cherry. Strong enough to mind its business.

The Break Shot
Tequila, lime, and jalapeño. One sip and the night gets interesting.

Roadside Red
Cranberry, ginger beer, lime, with vodka optional.

Designated Driver
Ginger beer, cranberry, and lime. All bite, no booze.







By The Numbers

Matchstrike is book 2 of The Apex Society Trilogy. It was the first to hit number 1 in its category on Amazon after launching 11/4/25. In print it's a tidy 440-ish pages, and its final word count is 98,553. The longest of the trilogy, Rhone had THE most fun crafting Lila and all her sass. It also holds a dual POV for the FMC and MMC and all your favorite characters from book 1 come back. Even Moira and Chase continue their arc which only deepens Lila & Sam's relationship arc!

By The 'spicy' Numbers

Unlike Gaslight, Matchstrike opens with a spicy one-night-stand that kicks off a higher heat level than any of the books in the trilogy. Therefore, she's not a slow burn romantic thriller. As always though, the spice is spicing in chapters 8, 15, 28, 30, 39, 40, and 46. And as for the spice level, general reader consensus is 4 outta 5 chili peppers!

How About Your Numbers?

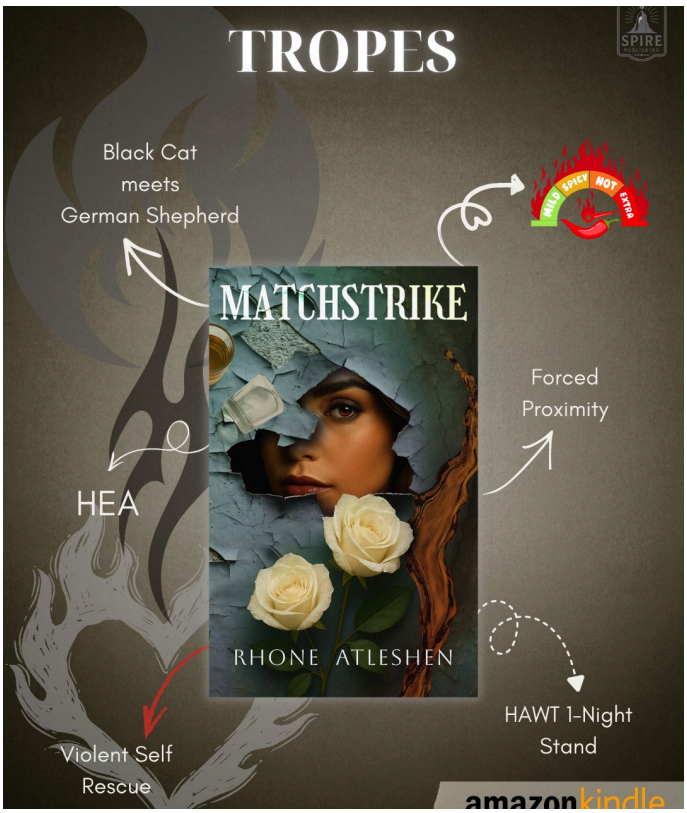
Reading format: print / ebook / audio
Time to finish: _____
Favorite character: _____
Character I loved to hate: _____(Dean or Marcus?)
Rating: ___ / 5
Would you read the next book? yes / immediately / already did

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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. In what ways did that show up most in Matchstrike?



Sam has an entirely different energy from Chase and Troy. Do you think it is because his entrance to Nonna's house was less scarring?

Was Sam was always a player, or did his reputation grow from his playfulness?

Do you think Lila and Moira would have been friends without the brother's connection? They are so different.

What do you think helped Lila connect with Moira? Was it respect for what Moira had gone through, or did she see a strength in Moira she recognized?

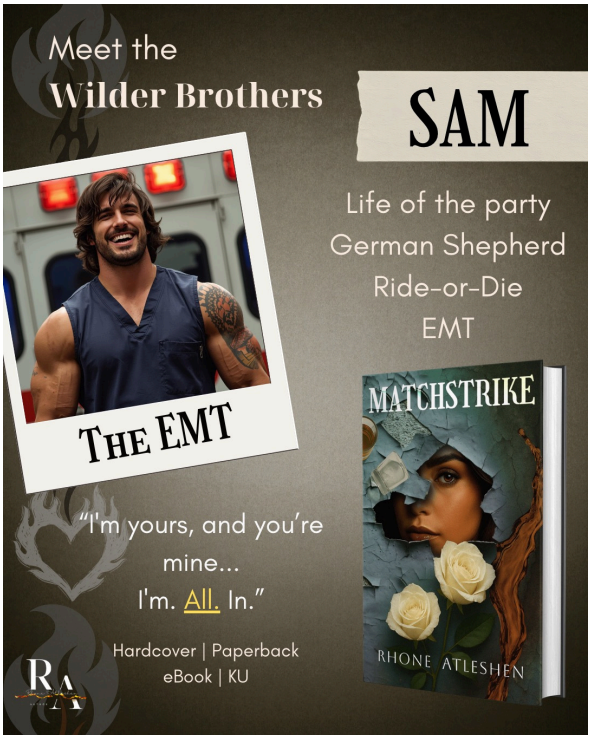
The opening prologue introduces us not only to Lila's journey into town, but also into the absolute wreckage of the life she left behind. Were you surprised at how she'd been fired, and that Marcus Brinks was such a vocal villain? ;-)

The found family extends to some of the side-characters, chiefly Chase's boss Chief Brandt and his wife Carol. But Nonna was never far from the page. How do you think Nonna would have felt about Lila's losses, her situation, and her inclusion into the Wilder Family considering Sam's...mistake?

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FUN FACT: Rhone uses actor visuals to help her find her character's unique voices. Chase was inspired by Jason Momoa (she is obsessed with Khal Aqua Drogo Man) and Bonnie from The Vampire Diaries!

Character and Romance (spoilers)





Lila is a fiery force to be reckoned with but after her family's murder she throws her entire life away for vengeance. Do you think that was driven in part by having already lost her mother? Or do you think it was her 'dog with a bone' tenacity gone rogue? Or both?

Sam is shifting his priorities when he meets Lila and is clearly more hooked on her than she is at first. Do you think his tenacity and hers collided to shove that chemistry higher, or do you think their situation would have been so 'end game' even if Sam hadn't just seen what Chase and Moira went through?

How did you feel about Sam's secret new breeding kink? (bad dog).

Do you think Lila connected with Troy and Chase faster or slower because of the loss of her own brother?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Rhone Atleshen

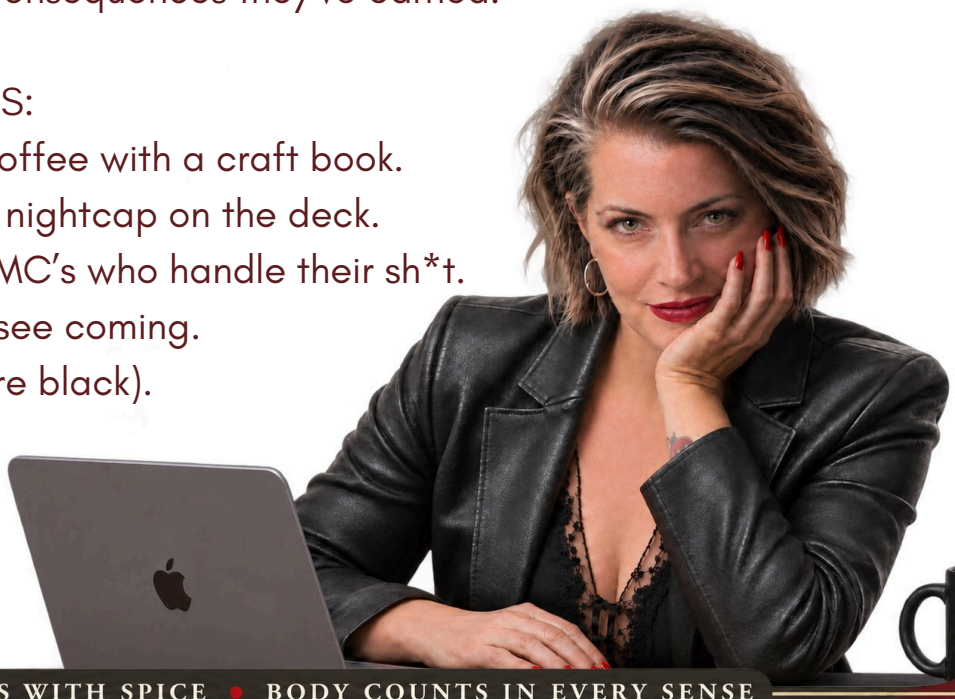
Rhone Atleshen is an Amazon bestselling author of dark, emotionally charged romantic thrillers that blend atmospheric suspense, searing romance, and villains readers love to hate.

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.