RHONE ATLESHEN

BOOK CLUB KIT

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

A READER'S GUIDE



GASLIGHT

Apex Society • Book 1

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 FIREHOUSE MENU

A LITTLE HEAT FOR YOUR BOOK CLUB

BITES

Firehouse Chili
Slow-simmered, hearty, and ready for a crowd.

Hot Under the Collar Poppers
Jalapeño poppers with a little kick.

Found Family Snack Board
A bring-your-favorite spread of cheeses, salty bites, fruit, and something sweet.

Fireman's Hose Pretzel Rods
Chocolate-dipped pretzel rods with a red-hot drizzle.

SIPS

Slow Burn Margarita
Lime, tequila, and a jalapeño spark.

Smoke & Sparks Old Fashioned
Bourbon, bitters, orange, and a hint of smoke.

Firehouse Punch
Cranberry, orange, and ginger beer; add spirits if you like.

Flameout Zero-Proof Fizz
Blood orange, lime, and ginger beer. All spark, no spirits.

Heat levels vary. Keep water nearby. No actual emergencies, please.



By The Numbers

Gaslight is book 1 of The Apex Society Trilogy. It was the DEBUT novel for Rhone Atleshen, launching 10/7/25. In print it's a tidy 424-ish pages, and its final word count is 97,064. The original draft took Rhone approximately 45 days to complete and her editor turned around the final edits in about 30 days. It holds only two POVs, Moira the FMC and Chase the MMC. The Antagonist is Dean Jensen (we hate that guy) and there is a super cool supporting cast by way of Chief, Carol, and Nonna (long may she reign).

By The 'spicy' Numbers

There are only a handful of true open-door spice scenes in Gaslight, and as the first one doesn't arrive until Chapter 27 - is technically classified as a SLOW-BURN romantic thriller. That said, the spice is spicing in chapters 27, 32, 33, 35, 41, and 42. And as for the spice level, general reader consensus is 3 outta 5 chili peppers!

How About Your Numbers?

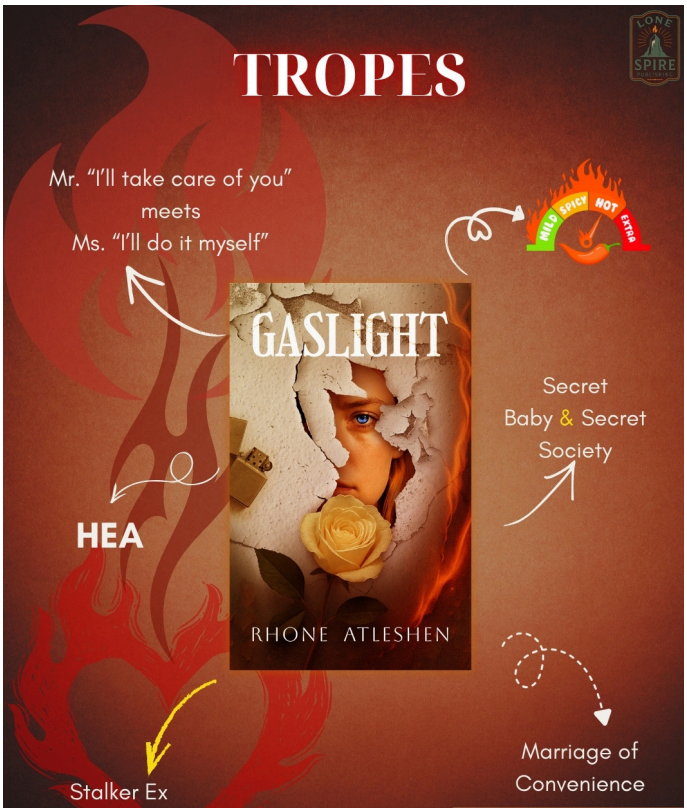
Reading format: print / ebook / audio
Time to finish: _____
Favorite character: _____
Character I loved to hate: _____(it was Dean wasn't it).
Rating: ___ / 5
Would you read the next book? yes / immediately / already did

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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 Gaslight?



The brothers have a close-knit bond that anchors their actions, but Chase relates to his brothers differently. Did you catch 'the why' of that in Rhone's work?

Did you feel that Chase was true to his upbringing in how he treated Moira?

Moira meets the brothers under a stressful situation. How did you find her interactions with them versus Chase?

What do you think helped Moira connect with the brothers most? What they said, what they did, or how they showed up when things got bad?

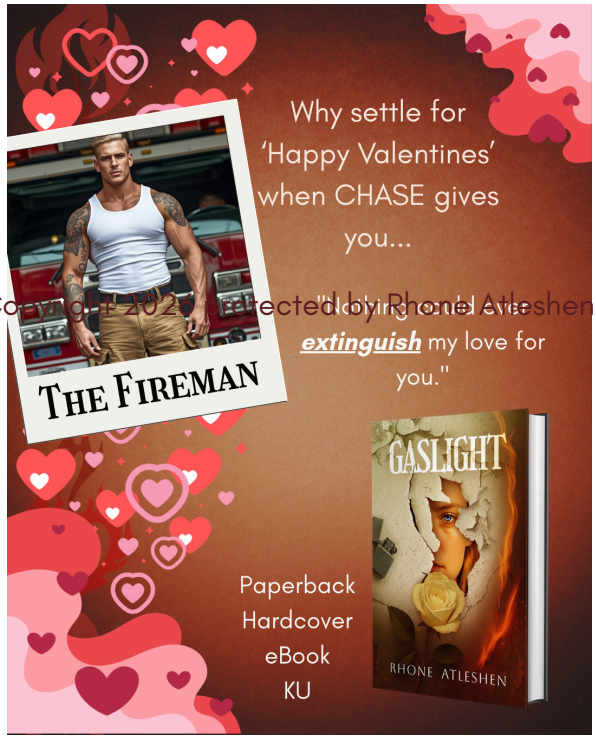
The opening prologue introduces us not only to Moira's journey into town, but also into the absolute mind-job of her ex, Dean Jensen. How did you feel about Dean in that opening scene and why was it instant hatred? ;-)

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 Moira, her situation, and her inclusion into the Wilder Family?

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FUN FACT: Rhone uses actor visuals to help her find her character's unique voices. Chase was inspired by JOHN CENA (she loves that big lovable goof) and Caroline from The Vampire Diaries!

Character and Romance (spoilers)





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Moira is intelligent and resilient but she made a critical error in judgement with Dean. Why or how do you think that might have happened? Do you think she ignored red flags, or do you think Dean was just that sneaky?

Moira is in big fiery crisis when the relationship begins. How does that affect the balance between needing help and making her own choices? And did that power imbalance put her in a place of weakness, or did it activate her inner strength?

How did you feel about Chase hiding his connections to Dean?

Chase ultimately accepts Moira and Dean's child(ren) as his own. do you think that says more about his love for Moira, or his character and upbringing?

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR
Rhone Atleshen

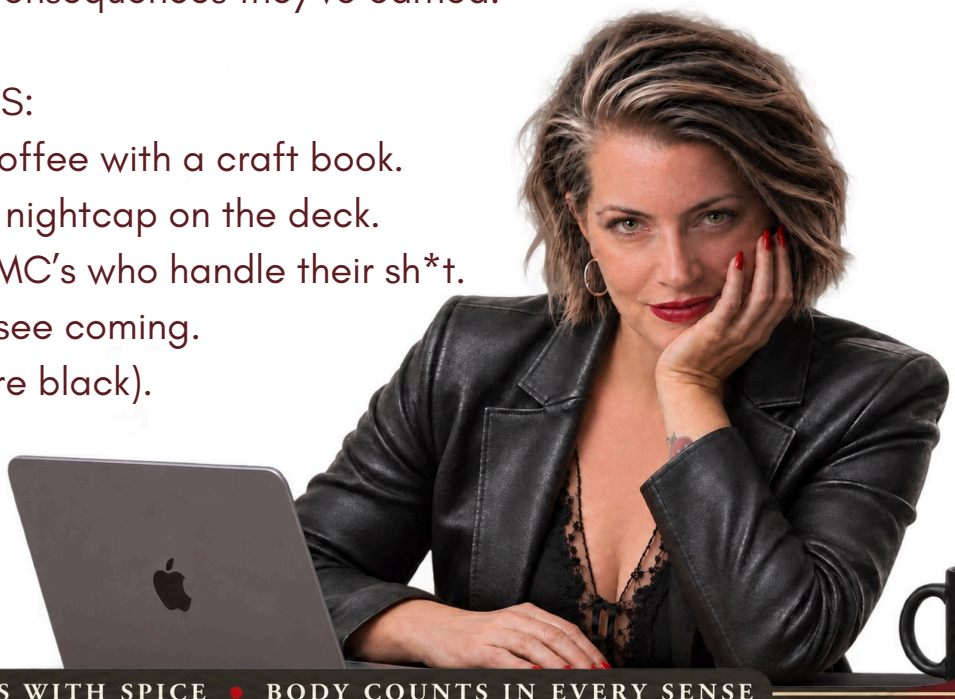
Rhone Atleshen is an Amazon bestselling author of dark, emotionally charged romantic thrillers that blend atmospheric suspense, searing romance, and villains readers love to hate.

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.