



## After the Fire

*Jane Rule*

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In this fluid, often witty novel set on a small rural island off the coast of Vancouver, five solitary women at different stages in life learn how to function alone as well as together. Canadian-Japanese Karen, who has left her lesbian lover of eight years, befriends Red, a young woman with an unknown background who cleans houses for three others--acrid Milly, divorced by her husband after a 20-year marriage; Henrietta, whose husband is institutionalized in Vancouver; and Miss James, an eccentric, elderly spinster. Birth, illness and death follow one another, uniting the five independent and incisively drawn protagonists. "All that time I was trying to teach you how to live alone and really take care of yourself, I was teaching myself, too," Henrietta tells Red. The resulting warmth is not saccharine but realistic, as Rule illuminates the vagaries and pain of abandonment and loss, and the fragile joy of new bonds.

## After the Fire Details

Date : Published December 31st 1990 by Naiad Press (first published January 1st 1989)

ISBN : 9780941483452

Author : Jane Rule

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Genre : Fiction, Glbt, Lesbian, Lgbt, Cultural, Canada, Literature, 20th Century, Queer

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## From Reader Review After the Fire for online ebook

### RoseMary Achev says

Four women on island in Canada and how they have helped each other.

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### Jeannie says

I enjoyed this character novel about four women at different ages and stages of life, and how their lives interconnected. The ending seemed so abrupt that I wondered if a page or two had been left out of the e book.

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### Westcoast\_girl says

This was my first Jane Rule book. Now I see why I've heard so many good things! The characters in 'After the Fire' are so dynamic and interesting. You get involved with everyone. But that's not to say they are all wonderful likable characters. Each one has their faults of course, but even the ones that seem to have many many faults still have their good points too. Jane Rule also does brilliantly in describing the west coast. Yes, I'm sure I'm a bit bias as an island girl myself but she really was quite good. While you're reading you'll mostly just be enjoying the story, but after you will realize the metaphors, symbolism etc. I recommend this book!

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### Darlene says

On a Gulf Island off the coast of Vancouver, we are privy to the interconnected lives of women, some elder and ailing, some young and bruised, each tending to and learning from one another.

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### Cynthia Karl says

Not a bad book that explores the lives, interactions and personalities mostly of women in a small town.

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### Aryeh says

Not really what I expect from this author. The dialogue was not even remotely intriguing and the plot was downright boring. Yes, there are strong women, and one is even a lesbian. But seriously, there's no action whatsoever. Someone gets a dog and has a kid. Someone else dies. Someone beats cancer. These are all great

things, but I feel like this book is like a cafeteria brownie. I mean how could you mess up chocolate?! Apparently there is a way.

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### **Erika Nerdypants says**

One of the few books which I feel should be required reading for women of all ages. The story is about a group of women who all, for one reason or another are learning to live alone, rely on themselves while still making community for one another. They learn to find their strengths, come to terms with their limitations and thrive. A very positive read.

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