



## Driven by Fire

*Anne Stuart*

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## Driven by Fire Anne Stuart

Pro-bono lawyer Jenny Parker is the only true innocent in her family. The daughter of a New Orleans crime lord, she's tried for years to make her own way, but family ties always have a way of pulling her back in line. When her younger brother gets involved in human trafficking, Jenny wants to believe him innocent and tries to protect him, even though it means covering for his crimes.

Matthew Ryder knows Jenny is hiding something, and he couldn't care less about her motives. As a member of the Committee, a covert anticrime agency, he's dealt with the worst the world has to offer. To him, Jenny is just another criminal. But when she asks for help, things turn dangerous quickly, and though he can't trust her, he can't turn her away.

Now, Jenny and Ryder must head to South America to stop the trafficking ring. To find the truth, they'll have to survive untamed jungles, hostile rebels, crushing betrayals, and—perhaps most dangerous—the fire of their undeniable attraction.

## Driven by Fire Details

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Author : Anne Stuart

Format : Kindle Edition 288 pages

Genre : Romance, Romantic Suspense, Contemporary, Suspense

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## From Reader Review Driven by Fire for online ebook

### Dorsey aka ♥? Wrath Lover Reviews ♥? says

Blog Review: <http://www.sweptawaybyromance.com/201...>

#### **3.5 Frustrating Stars!!**

Let me start by saying I *LOVED* Matthew Ryder, he's everything we expect from an Anne Stuart anti-hero. He's unfeeling, dark, extremely sexy, and definitely dangerous. His job is to eliminate those "The Committee" deem dangerous, powerful, and on the wrong side of the law. In this case the head of a flesh peddling ring importing young women and children from South America to be sold to the highest bidder and once The Committee learns that someone has taken over the flesh trade enterprise from the *Corsini Crime Family* (From book one Consumed by Fire) and they are determined to end the trade once and for all!

Jenny Parker is a bleeding heart lawyer who works mostly pro-bono cases for the poor, and in this case, the victims from the shipping container seized by The Committee, local New Orleans Police officials, and the FBI. In actuality, she gets involved when her crime lord father contacts her to get to the shipyard and look for her baby brother who may have, willingly or unwillingly, gotten involved with the business. When she arrives and heads to the ship rather than the bus housing the women and children, she stumbles over countless bodies obviously assassinated. She locates her brother and covers for him when caught by Ryder nosing around.

Next thing you know she is the target of some very bad people and Ryder tries to keep her safe all the while knowing she's hiding something from him which she is.

Great storyline, with fast paced action, intrigue, shady characters, vile relatives and many twists and turns! My issue was with Jenny...she was way too stubborn, naive and couldn't see anything beyond her own wants and fears even if it slapping her in the face and putting others in danger....I wanted to shoot her myself at times!! If the heroine was different, I can see myself giving this a five-star rating, but Jenny as a heroine had me wanting to hurl my kindle across the room at times!! But if you're a fan of Anne Stuart's hero's it's totally worth the read just to meet Matthew Ryder!!!

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**\* A copy of the book was provided by the publisher via NetGalley**

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### **-y.a says**

2.5-stars

It is my 16th book from Mrs. Stuart, and her books are easy to read, mostly entertaining. That said, I think book 1 'Consumed by Fire' is a better read than this new installment.

Ryder just doesn't have Bishop's edge. ( the MC in book 1)

Jenny character:

I expect an annoying heroine in AS's RS book. Omg. Jenny was not only annoying, but also kept talking loads of bs. I couldn't remember how many times I rolled my eyes over her exchange with Ryder. It was a chore to read her inner monologue.

Romance: Nothing swoony. Not to mention it ends with (view spoiler)

This is not Stuart's best because of a thin plot, an awful heroine, and repetitive dialogue.

arc provided by Publisher via Netgalley in exchange for an honest review

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### **Jane Stewart says**

Too much heroine stupidity. Not fun. Painful to read.

Heroine is repeatedly stupid throughout the book. Hero is stupid in the major climax scene. It's like the author didn't have any good ideas so she had them do stupid things just to have something to write about. I skimmed over some of the mental pondering parts and the sex scenes.

Aside from stupidity, hero Ryder and heroine Jenny argue and insult each other. That's part of what made the series good. But here, the reason for the insults didn't make sense - like the author couldn't think of a good reason to argue. For example, the second time they meet Jenny asks Ryder to do her a favor. Ryder said ok and then said "what more do you want?" Jenny said "to see the last of you."

Another part of that conversation did not make sense. Ryder's people killed bad guys and freed a group of kidnapped sex slave women. Jenny helped the women find work and a place to stay. Then Jenny brought one woman to Ryder asking him to help the victim find work and a place to stay. Why didn't Jenny take that woman to the place she took the other women? Ryder is in the business of killing bad guys, not helping victims.

There are explicit sex scenes.

### **THE SERIES:**

This is book 2 in the Fire series. Book 1 was better than this but not as good as some of the Ice stories. My favorite Ice books are Black Ice, Ice Blue and Ice Storm.

### **DATA:**

Narrative mode: 3rd person. Story length: 288 pages. Swearing language: strong. Sexual language: strong. Number of sex scenes: about 4. Setting: current day New Orleans and Calliveria (a fictional south american country). Copyright: 2016. Genre: romantic suspense.

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## **Ezinwanyi says**

When a human trafficking operation went wrong, Jenny Parker, the bleeding heart of the Gauthier crime family, put on her cape to save her little brother Billy Gauthier from both the law enforcement and the criminals who would want to silence Billy.

Agent Matthew Ryder suspected Jenny had the evidence, but he wasn't sure if she was an implicit member of the crime family or if she was just caught up in a situation that she didn't fully grasp. Either way, in Ryder's mind, Jenny was aiding human traffickers or that wasn't worthy of his restraint nor respect. So he was verbally caustic.

As the story progressed, Ryder and Jenny fought an attraction to each other as well as gained some insight to their true motivations. But trust was still a work in progress. Right after Jenny was forced to confess all to Ryder, she was kidnapped. This led Ryder to go after both the human traffickers and Jenny, and this journey led them to South America.

The narrator Jill Redfield did a great job with both Jenny and Ryder. Her voice was able to animate both the hostility and the sexual tension between Jenny and Ryder. The narrator also made me have just a little sympathy for Jenny when I would have written her off as a clueless do-gooder. However, the author did a good job juxtaposing the naïve and obtuse heroine with the cantankerous and callous hero. I do like how it took time for their attraction to turn into affection. I kind of liked Jenny, but I wanted to yell at her as well. I did like Ryder because he did not cut her any slack. He didn't wine and dine her because he was focused on the getting the bad guys in jail.

I still liked Consumed by Fire more than this book, but I still enjoy the author's weaving of plot. It seemed predictable and straight forward in the beginning but then the author added layers and things got complicated. The non-stop action kept me interested and engaged.

The writing is fluid and I listened to this book in one sitting. I will definitely try the Ice series since I have now learned that this series is a spin-off.

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*\*\*Special Thanks to Montlake Romance via Netgalley for the e-book given in exchange for an honest review*

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## **CD {Boulder Blvd} says**

I really liked how the two MC's personalities butted heads as they focused on their own agendas. Even though they didn't agree, you can feel the attraction and desire waiting to come forward. The plot sounded really good but lost a little in translation. There were definitely moments where my suspension of disbelief came roaring through with the question of "WHY?"

What really worked for me:

The two main characters in this book were nicely fleshed out and you can see them fit the roles they play. Matthew Ryder is the perfect characterization for a covert operative and I liked the organization referred to as the Committee that tries to right grievous wrongs and bring the bad guys to justice. Justice may not necessarily be the US Court system. Matthew makes his own rules and lives by his own rules. You don't label his behavior; he is who he is.

Jenny Parker is a strong female and I relish books with strong female protagonists. She walks away from her crime family (can't blame her as they are not the father and brothers anyone would want) and sets her own course. Her own course being a pro bono lawyer.

The set-up for Matthew and Jenny to meet fits both characters. Jessica, using her status of helping those in need, tries to rescue her baby brother who she is hoping is not involved in human trafficking. Matthew is present trying to bring the human traffickers to justice by the barrel of his gun. He's scary, dark ,intense and awesome.

In trying to save her brother, Jenny's life becomes endangered. Matthew is trying to find the king pin and knows Jenny is keeping secrets; secrets he wants to know. This puts our MCs pitted against each other and the friction if palpable. The set-up of the conflict between the characters worked really well and their attraction to each other was not instant and they did have to work through some differences. I really liked a lot of the scenes and dialogue between these two, but there was a little Stockholm Syndrome feel to the relationship as well.

Which leads me to the parts that didn't work for me:

My strong independent female becomes too stubborn when the obvious is staring her in the face which just makes her look stupid. Please, please don't take a smart woman and make her look dumb. Loyalty is good, but when the facts are screaming loud and clear... you get my drift...

Names and people involved in the Committee where thrown around with little development. I felt like I had definitely missed prior book(s) and the stories around some of the characters. This made these individuals just a group of unknown names.

Although I liked the plot I found the scenario of them going by themselves down to Calliveria a little too contrived. My suspension of disbelief didn't stretch that far.

I lot of the book I liked, but my enthusiasm was tampered down by some big misses. I still recommend this for those of us who are enamored with romantic suspense. I intend to continue reading this series and will read the 1st book in the series "to catch up".

I would like to thank Net Galley, Montlake Romance publishers and Ms. Stuart for the opportunity to read this ARC in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Shari Kay says**

So the heroine is dumb. Not naïve, but TSTL. If you can get beyond that...it was an entertaining enough book.

Jenny is a pro bono lawyer, but she's also the daughter of a crime boss. She doesn't want anything to do with her family, except her baby brother...who she still finds some good in. She sets out to protect him from himself and the clusterf\*ck begins.

Ryder is part of the Committee. A govt. agency that has a lot of latitude when dealing with the bad guys and apparently really sh\*tty security. He is the typical Alpha A-hole Stuart likes to write and writes well.

He's mean, he physically hurts her, he belittles her, but he still makes her panties wet. What can I say? He's hot? Oh, and he *does* have a habit of saving her bacon. There is that.

He winds up in the role of protector and is pretty grumpy about it. He takes her with him to the jungle on a covert mission...cuz that would happen...and they get it on while surrounded by the enemy. Jenny is obtuse until the very end. I'm talking the **very, very** end. They rush to the 'I love you's' in the last chapter and run off to mate like rabbits. The End.

Would I read more by this author? Of course. Alpha asshats are delicious.

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### **Duchess Nicole says**

I just can't bring myself to dislike these unlikeable heroes. I can't. I love them all. Ryder says some very hurtful things to Jenny while trying to keep himself emotionally unavailable. Stuart excels at creating a false distance between a couple. Each of them thinks that they are doing their best not to fall for a person that would seriously mess up their life and emotional well being. And she makes it realistic. Then she makes the pages melt with hotness and sexual tension, and all the anger and frustration is worth it.

As with most Anne Stuart stories, this one ends abruptly with little romantic resolution beyond the very basic will they or won't they. Ryder is a Committee man...we don't really learn a lot about him other than the fact that he's cold hearted to a point. Jenny is the daughter of a major leader in the New Orleans criminal world, but she's separated herself and tried to make up for her family's evil by doing good. Always, always with the sweet, down to earth girls falling for a Committee man. It's such a fantasy...when he sees something in her that makes him feel differently than any other woman in the entire world has...that's what women look for in romance. It's intense, it's scary, it's suspenseful, it's super sexy. It's what I adore about Stuart. She truly is a master of her craft.

*Advance copy provided for review*

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### **Karen says**

#### **4.5 STARS**

Loved it!

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### **Anita says**

ARC provided by the Publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

If you are looking for an Alpha take charge hero, he's not here. Same for the Beta nice guy - no luck here. But Gamma, this guy is here and makes you reevaluate just what you look for in your hero. He lives by his own code and you better not cross him. That could be the last thing you will ever do.

Jenny Parker is a Pro Bono attorney who is doing penitence for her wealthy New Orleans crime family by taking on people and causes. She has nothing to do with her family and when her father calls and asks her to

intervene for her little brother, Billy, when he is caught up with a boat full of women and children being trafficked, she really has a moment. Guilt over Billy and compassion for the victims sends her to the scene where she saves Billy's behind and at the same time draws the notice of Matthew Ryder, operative for the Committee, who is trying to round up the bad guys. Jenny has a martyr complex, she is strong willed and obstinate when she believes she is right, which just might get her killed.

Ryder doesn't for a second buy her story about aiding the victims. When Jenny and the last victim end up on his doorstep, he takes advantage to press her for more information. Ryder knows she is holding out information on him and makes it his mission to uncover the whole truth. Problem is, he becomes a little distracted and misses some important clues as to who is really behind the trafficking ring.

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## **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

I received this book for free in exchange for an honest review. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review.

Jenny has tried to move beyond her mobster family ties and has used her law degree to help people but when her father calls her and asks her to help her baby brother out, she can't help but run to his aid. She still believes in her brother's innocence, no matter what hard and cynical Matthew Ryder says. When Ryder, working for The Committee (an organization dedicated to taking out the really bad guys), finds Jenny stumbling around a ship transporting human cargo, he thinks she is one of the bad guys. Her demeanor has him questioning that though, but he can still tell she is lying to him. As Jenny fights to maintain her belief in people, Ryder fights his attraction to her and to keep her alive.

***He caught her chin in one hard hand, holding her still as his blue eyes blazed down into hers. "I'd be more than happy to demonstrate just how much you really hate me," he said, his mouth hovering over hers.***

Second in the Fire series, we focus this time on Matthew Ryder, one of the American Committee's super agents. He has the usual hard, cynical, and stepping over the line jerk-ness that all Stuart heroes' personalities come equipped with but there are a few instances that I think some readers will have a problem with. (view spoiler) If you don't like your main hero physically dominating the heroine, this would not be for you.

From the start when our couple meets, they hate one another and I mean hate. Their bickering wasn't so much sexually charged denied lust to me as forced animosity. I kept thinking that maybe they had met previously and had developed a loathing over a period of time but no, they're just incredibly venomous right off the bat. The whole thing didn't make me anticipate their eventual get together, as give me a headache. I like a bit of friction between my leads at the beginning but this felt over-the-top and heaped on readers' heads.

Stuart heroes are mainly why I read her books and despite feeling uncomfortable at the times Ryder crossed lines (my views on heroes' actions in fictional works could definitely be considered problematic at times) and a lack of any real background relayed about him, I still found him compelling to read about. He's the hero that gets the job done, regardless to how it affects him physically and emotionally. Our heroine, Jenny, is where my biggest problem originated. Jenny was the TSTL (too stupid to live) romantic suspense heroine to the nth degree. She keeps pertinent information that could save lives (even her own) from the hero, she refuses to see the hugely large and clear writing on the wall about two characters, and basically acts like a

naïve child. This all from a lawyer who works a lot with victims of the sex trade, I imagine she has seen some awful things that would have opened her eyes. She annoyed, angered, and had me rolling my eyes constantly.

Most of the story is Ryder and Jenny flinging vitriol at one another (some making out interspersed) but the suspense plot of someone trying to kill Jenny and them trying to figure out who is the new head of the sex trade, also pops in and out to keep them in danger and together. The two main puzzle pieces were large and clear but the way they fit together was a bit vague, the danger aspect felt off to the side for me.

I know that I complained a lot but I'm usually am a big fan of Stuart, so there is some sad disappointment happening here. I also read the whole story without skipping and very minimal skimming of certain parts, so I guess you can say there was some entertainment factor here. Stuart is one of the best in the romantic suspense game, you just may want to check her backlist out instead of this new one, though.

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## **Mo says**

You might have to suspend the disbelief here a bit. Jenny's family situation is a bit unbelievable but hey, it's fiction.

### ***MATTHEW RYDER***

**He was ... mesmerising. He was a tall man, six feet or so, with a kind of lean build that was deceptive in its strength. She didn't for one moment underestimate just how dangerous he could be.**

### ***JENNY PARKER, ESQUIRE***

**She had secrets.  
He never trusted a woman with secrets ...**

This one started off a bit slow for me and I stopped reading it. Eventually got back to it and the "action" started. NOT that kind of action. Get your minds out of the gutter. We have to wait quite a while for THAT kind of action ... but it was worth the wait.

**He was all around her, in her head, in her heart, in her cunt and she wanted to devour him, own him, never let him go. His slow steady thrusts made her gasp, getting her used**

**to the size and the power of him, stilling her apprehension, stoking her desire, as sweat slicked their bodies**

Matthew was a coldhearted ass for most of the book. Then again, most of the heroes in these books are. That is why I like them!! He doesn't believe in love, he doesn't want love, he doesn't need love ... or so he thinks.

**He looked down at her for a long moment and said succinctly, "God damn it to hell." A moment later he was gone.**

**"We're gong to drive until we feel like stopping, and then drive some more."**

**"And when we stop?"**

**"We'll fuck like rabbits. Does that suit you?"**

LOL. Fucking horndog.

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**willaful says**

(Reviewed from an e-arc provided by NetGalley)

If you've read any of Stuart's "Ice" series, you know pretty much what to expect here. Ruthless hero, innocent but feisty heroine who steals his heart very much against his will, lots of bad guys doing bad things. There's a particularly sad tinge to this story though, because the heroine loses so much.

The "white sheep" of a family of powerful racketeers, Jenny Parker tries to serve justice and help the helpless as a lawyer. But she finds herself unexpectedly on the wrong side when she tries to protect her younger brother from what she's sure is an innocent mistake. The other side is Matthew Ryder, a member of the super secret "Committee" (American branch) who has no compunctions about doing anything he has to do to get information out of Jenny... or has he?

As often happens in Stuart's books, the line between good and evil can get so thin as to disappear. As the heroine of *Ice Storm* once thought about, "In their life there was no such thing as good guys and bad guys. He was still a monster. He was simply the same kind of monster she was." Be warned: Ryder is not just your standard romance asshole; he literally tortures Jenny to get information out of her. Readers may or may not feel he's adequately redeemed for this. (Though I actually think, in Stuart's strongest books, redemption is pretty much besides the point.)

I enjoyed this, yet didn't feel there was anything special about it to make it rise above its formula. Since it's one of my favorite formulas, I didn't mind that much. But I would have liked to see a bond between the main characters based on more than sexual attraction with a huge dollop of romance style Stockholm Syndrome (made even more pronounced by Jenny's overall suffering) and also fewer repetitions of thoughts/ideas.

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### **Pattrycia says**

*Available as read-now on Netgalley*

HOLY SHEEEETTT! The sexual tension between them is just.... Review to come when I've calmed my damn tits!

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### **♥Sharon♥ says**

#### **Short and sweet ~**

Still a happy lady. Another intriguing story with another ultimate prick and fantastic leading lady.

In *Driven by Fire* , AS introduces you to a leading man by the name of Matthew Ryder. You meet him briefly in *Consumed by Fire* . Let me take a line from the book that describes him perfectly. “He was an ornery son of a bitch with a nasty tongue.” But ladies he was sexy as all hell too. Some of the things that rolled off his tongue.....

And leading lady Jenny Parker was far from docile. There was a sweet side to her but she was also combative which only fueled the relationship she had with Ryder. She was always doing something that would draw his attention. Not that she wanted his attention. He was a son of a bitch after all. But at some point something changes and Ms. Parker would find herself losing her heart to the devil.

I found the plot to be intriguing and appreciated the development of Ryder and Jenny's relationship. There was no insta-love between these two. But in the end the heart wants what the heart wants.

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Definitely a worthy read. Both books. I may not have loved it to the extent that I did *Consumed by Fire* but it was still a great read and Matthew Ryder is worth meeting ladies! ♥

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### **Alex is The Romance Fox says**

The Fire Series, starting with the 1st book, Consumed by Fire, which was a bit of a disappointment...see my review here <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...> , continues with the 2nd book, Driven by Fire.

This was even more of a let-down!!!

Whilst I kind of liked the hero, Mathew Ryder, secret superspy/agent for the committee is your typical dark, sexy snarky guy.....tracking down the bad guys, this time a gang of dangerous human traffickers - it was the heroine, Jenny Parker, pro bono lawyer, goody two shoes, who drove me absolutely insane!!!!

Listen up, this is a girl, whose family is into organized crime and she finds it hard to believe that her little brother could be a baddie!! Really!!! All that crying and moaning....bah bah bah.....

... just got more and more on my nerves. She spent more time sulking and drooling over the hero.....feeling sorry for herself!!! She just plain ANNYOED me to no end.

Again there's lot of action, suspense...and sex.....but no really believable connection between the hero and heroine. Romance.....what romance!!!! Was there any?????

Read the Ice Series instead.....it's so much better than this one.

Check out my reviews here.....

<https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/2...>

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PS.....WISHING THAT THE NEXT BOOK IN THE FIRE SERIES WILL BLOW ME AWAY!!!!!!

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