



## Firestorm

*Iris Johansen*

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## **Firestorm** Iris Johansen

#1 New York Times bestselling author Iris Johansen turns up the heat in this explosive new psychological thriller. This time a gifted arson investigator teams up with a mysterious operative to stop a killer raging completely out of control...

*For Kerry Murphy, the inferno is never far away. The flames of that long-ago night still burn in her nightmares: the heat, the choking smoke, the helplessness. She can never run fast enough...*

Now Kerry works as an arson investigator with her evidence-sniffing dog, Sam. Together they're a great team, but her life is about to change in the time it takes to strike a match. The deadly flames of her past are back, and from out of the ashes a stranger appears. Who is Silver? And why has he chosen her in the desperate race to find a killer determined to ignite hell on earth? Kerry and Silver may not have a chance against a psychopath as coldhearted as his method is red-hot. To save themselves and the innocent lives at stake, Kerry will have to do what she hoped she'd never have to do: *fight fire with fire*.

*From the Hardcover edition.*

## **Firestorm Details**

Date : Published 2010 (first published December 16th 2003)

ISBN :

Author : Iris Johansen

Format : Kindle Edition 368 pages

Genre : Mystery, Suspense, Fiction, Romance, Thriller



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# From Reader Review Firestorm for online ebook

## Arthur says

I fell fast into involvements between Kerry and Silver who was clearly two nutcases, who are really normal people. In contrast they have their differences but Silver has always a way to manipulate others. Until Kerry. Then both their lives begin quickly to change. Before their meeting, Kerry had been a good fire fighter, now she has turned arsonist investigator with her newly arson trained pup, Sam. Sam is quickly becoming well known in the community as a tough arson dog. Together they try to fight fire by cracking suspected arson cases. Which gets Silvers attention. He then begins by trying to get Kerry's. Other stories with similar themes are given to pique with interest their readers, but weren't nearly as modern as this one is by other writer's standards.

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## Vanessa says

This one didn't suck me in right away, but after about a chapter, I started really enjoying it. It's part government, part psychic, part serial killer and thriller. Kerry is someone who is currently working as an arson investigator. She's very good at her job; she can pick up impressions from the remains of an arson scene. However, this gift also proves difficult for her as she can not control it if she is personally linked to the crime in any way, and refuses to let anyone teach her. Enter our hero, Silver, who has a unique gift as well, although he can control it, almost too well. I won't go into the details of this as it may spoil part of the story. He maneuvers Kerry into joining in a government investigation into a secret project involving a mad serial killer who with fire.

It's an interesting plot with great action and a nice twist at the end. I half guessed the twist, but there was enough mystery to still make it thrilling and interesting, wondering just how it would actually play out. The characters are well defined.

The reason this didn't get 5 stars is because at times, I felt the urge to roll my eyes at some of the dialog. Also, Kerry was a frustrating character. Strong and purposeful yes, but continually second guessing the obvious things she needed to do to achieve her goals. While I can't really relate to some of the "intrusions" she feels are not acceptable, I still found myself wanting to shake her, she was so dense. The reader was good, and I didn't have much trouble differentiating the characters for the most part. I think the voice of Silver could have been done a little better, and Kerry almost always sounded a little too dramatic, which worked in the actions parts of the story. I would recommend the book over the audio on this one.

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## Diane says

Enjoyable read! a roller coaster ride of intense action,an exciting and maybe an unpredictable outcome at the end..no one knows (paperback!)

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## **Rusty says**

This was a good read but when one gets near the end the author's plot weakens. Kerry, the heroine, and Silver, the hero, begin doing things they wouldn't do earlier in the novel. I was disappointed because they focused on what had happened and thus miss the signs of trouble developing closer to Kerry. They should have foreseen that Trask would turn attention to Kerry's brother, Jason, and their father. Instead they failed to recognize that the bond between Jason and their father that would put Jason at risk. Until that point the book was a four star read. Why does an author have the characters act contrary to their developed personas?

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## **Dannielle says**

This book started out good, and I was interested in where the book was going.

However, as soon as Silver came onto the scene Kerry changed. It's not often that I dislike a heroine. I've read numerous different types, and I like them all. I can admire a strong female who likes her independence. But at some point you need to give in to help, and accept that you can't do everything yourself. Kerry bugged me throughout this book. She could get so upset and angry over the littlest thing.

So while I spent most of the book being annoyed at Kerry, I wanted to finish to see how they caught the arsonist. I also wanted to see how the relationship between Kerry and Silver ended up.

While it ends well I'm not sure I'll read more by this author if other heroines are like Kerry.

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## **Charly says**

Johansen writes interesting pieces but each that I've read involves a heroine and someone with extraordinary talents or skills. Still in all they are generally a decent read in the "thriller" category.

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## **Anita says**

### **2.5 Stars**

So here's the problem with rereads: Sometimes they just don't stand up to what seemed like an enjoyable read from the first time around. Not all rereads are disappointing, but this one certainly was.

I've read other Iris Johansen books before and remember finding them good, riveting, intriguing. And if memory serves, I remember liking *Firestorm* enough to call it enjoyable when I read it for the first time years ago, sometime during the first few years of college. At least I remembered liking it enough to consider buying and owning the book.

Now I'm wondering what happened. Was it the romantic suspense and the psychic angle that seemed to entice me? I certainly didn't have as many of those books under my belt (and I don't really today, either) when I first read *Firestorm*. Though I have read a lot of romantic suspense novels and a lot of books in

general to form opinions about how I like my stories, my mysteries, and especially my characters and my heroine.

For purposes of entertainment, the book itself was enjoyable enough. But then you get into little details that seem to fail to make sense or that just don't entice me like I had expected. But for the most part, this isn't a bad book, and as a romantic suspense with a paranormal spin, it's decent enough.

I'm going to say that it was the characters that didn't do it for me. At the beginning, I liked Kerry enough, and I thought that Silver was a bit too harsh and a bit too much of an asshole--a manipulative asshole. This was typical, standard hero/heroine dynamics in a romantic suspense and I figured that things would get better as we got to know Silver.

After the second half of the book, however, it was like the two switched places. Silver became more endearing, more relatable... and Kerry turned into a much more irrational, untrusting, bitchy, and hypocritical person. I couldn't help getting angry with this, because typically, I like to like both characters by the end of the book; I don't like to start liking one character only to start getting annoyed with the other. The characters usually start growing on you even if they were annoying to begin with; Kerry just got annoying, period.

And while I understand that Kerry is wary of trust because of what Silver can do, I think she took it too extreme because of her cowardice. She knew what needed to be done to find answers, but she kept being too stubborn about it, refusing to actually acknowledge what she had to do. Then she kept complaining about not making any progress and blaming Silver for anything that went wrong.

She wanted to know who the arsonist who killed her mother was, but she wouldn't admit it to being able to find her answer. When Silver tried to help her remember, she got angry at him and told him to quit interfering; except that this was one of the caveats of her helping him find the big baddie in the first place: that he would help her remember the arsonist from her past. She wanted Silver to help her with her psychic abilities, but she wouldn't let her help him in his way. He never lied to her and told her honestly what would happen and how best he could help her, but she made it seem like a betrayal when his way of helping her wasn't what she wanted. And then she complained about lack of progress.

She didn't like the idea of people thinking her a "freak" because of her abilities, but she treated Silver like he was a dishonest monster just because of *his* abilities. She didn't want to have to use her abilities, but knew she had to learn in order to find the arsonist, but she refused to make it easy for Silver to teach her what she needed to know. At the same time, she's been using her abilities regularly anyway.

She disliked it whenever Silver tried to jump into her mind to help her hurting go away, but when Silver was in his own agony, she did the exact same thing. And apparently that was alright because she couldn't stand feeling his hurt. When Silver tries to help her, she calls it an "intrusion" or him interfering with her own ability to cope.

She keeps saying that Silver is someone who can be trusted, but she keeps questioning whether or not he's leaving posthypnotic suggestions or continuing to manipulate her. You either trust him or you don't. You don't say that you trust him and then continue to *not* trust him. You can't have it both ways.

There's being a strong, independent person who can take care of himself or herself, then there's paranoid and untrusting and a martyr who feels like she needs to do everything herself. It can either come off as a survival instinct as someone who's always been alone and done everything by herself, which is fine if it makes her seem stronger; but with Kerry, it came off kind of condescending. She questioned everyone else's ability to

do their jobs with equal parts scorn and distrust. She went out on a limb to do someone else's job because she didn't trust them to do it right; she tried to play bodyguard when she probably doesn't even have the proper training for it. She keeps saying that, "of course she knows they can be trusted", but she continues to question their integrity and their motive.

Sometimes you need to learn to lean on others for help and trust that some people have their own skills to do what needs to be done. I got tired of her sharp questions that usually came across sounding like, "Are you sure you know what you're doing? Because I know what needs to be done. But do you know what needs to be done?"

It got tiring.

I had a hard time caring for Kerry by the time the ending came into view; although it sure also doesn't excuse the way her own father treated her.

Silver came off looking better than Kerry did, but that doesn't mean he was fun to follow with either. It got tiring trying to skirt around his secrets (even if he was usually honest about what he said or did, omission of the truth is close enough). That was the first half of the book. At the second half of the book, Silver lost his personality and became Kerry's whipping boy, so I felt sorry for him, but I lost interest.

George wasn't bad. That's all I have to say about him because he wasn't really all that memorable either. Nor were any of the other characters; not even Sam, the arson dog.

The book stands alone well as a romantic suspense with standard plot and characters, and if not for the characters in this book, I might have enjoyed it a bit more.

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## **Gerry says**

Johansen writes a great book - Loved it

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## **Sheila says**

Iris Johansen continues to one of my favorite authors. Firestorm did not disappoint. This was a thriller about a murderer that uses his new invention as a weapon of terror. The protagonist, Kerry, has the ability to sense how a fire was started and the absolute terror that people including her fellow firefighters feel when encountering a blazing inferno. 4 star book.

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## **Judith Wrinkle says**

Different for Johansen. I enjoyed it, but not as much as her other books. Scary concept, people starting fires. On to the next novel

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## **Sandy says**

good book lots of twists

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## **O says**

There is a proverb...proverb 21: 9 to be exact, that says, it is better to live on the corner of a roof than to share a home with a quarrelsome woman...older versions say contentious woman. And let me tell after reading this book, I realize that is completely true!!

At the beginning with Charlie she seemed to be a nice, reasonable, wily gal. Then enters silver...and I get that he didn't have the most suave entrance...and he did prance around in her mind...I get the whole "I feel violated" bit, but man give it a rest!! He wasn't even as much a hard ass as most leading men, and definitely not as cryptic, but this gal could not be pleased for shit!!

She bitched about any and everything! Bossing Silver around, George too! What the author probably tried to make strength of character, became the making of a world class shrew!!! It ground my gears to read Kerry's crap for the entire book! She just couldn't SHUT UP and admit she needed a lil help!

I actually liked the idea of the book. I have never read anything like it before...that is the telepathy part. I even liked Trask. He was perfectly creepy. I see Johansen has a thing for hannibal lecter\*(sp?), because these bad guys like making personal phone calls and chatting amiably with their prey, even doling out clues!

However this is the second book I've read from her, Reap the Wind being the first and that heroine was a complete washout to the other females in the book, and now this one is an uncooperative bitch and three quarters ! So I guess it would take a third book to be the deal breaker, on whether I give up on Iris Johansen altogether!! I don't know if I can go through it again though!.....

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## **Cheri says**

This started out a little slow, but progressed nicely. I know some didn't like it because of the portrayal of the main characters. I understood why they acted the way they did. The who dunnit part was a surprise to me!

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## **Rachael Uponen says**

Well, it wasn't Iris Johansen's worst book I've ever read.

Kerry is an arson investigator who survived a horrible fire in her childhood. Unlike most of Johansen's heroines, Kerry actually has a family and didn't "grow up on the streets." She has a father and a brother (her mother died in the fire). She adores her brother, but she's distant from her father because he had her involuntarily committed after she started having "delusions." (As per the usual Johansen fare, these are real visions of fires actually happening.)

Like most Johansen books, Kerry has a close friend whose only purpose is to be killed off. While she's grieving, a guy named Brad Silver enters her mind to calm her down. Why? Because he needs her powers to help him track down and kill the bad guy, Trask, who's obsessed with his "child," a secret government weapon called "Firestorm." This weapon can torch any place in a matter of minutes, and could incinerate an entire city within a few hours.

(view spoiler)

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### **Jeannine Stewart says**

I do not have the ability to write and I do not like criticizing someone with the talent to put pen to paper and create a novel. However, I am a reader and I know what captures my attention. Sorry to say that I couldn't make it past page 33 of this book. Everything was flat and confusing to me.....the characters, the plot, even the dog.

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