



## Consumed by Fire

*Anne Stuart*

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## Consumed by Fire Anne Stuart

Evangeline Morrissey remembers the last time she saw her husband: it was during their honeymoon, right before he stole her grandmother's earrings and abandoned her. Now, five years later, the enigmatic man who'd broken her heart and destroyed her trust is back. But she's not the same naive young woman who fell for him so easily.

Marrying Evangeline and letting her think he was nothing but a common thief had been James Bishop's plan all along. As an assassin for the Committee, a covert agency dedicated to stamping out international crime, he had no business even thinking about marriage. But it was the only way to protect Evangeline after she'd unwittingly wandered into his operation against a group of human traffickers, placing herself in grave danger. And now that James's vigilant watch over Evangeline's life has revealed to his enemies that she's his one true weakness, he must set out to have, to hold, and—above all—to protect his bride.

## Consumed by Fire Details

Date : Published May 26th 2015 by Montlake Romance

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Author : Anne Stuart

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## From Reader Review Consumed by Fire for online ebook

### Danielle The Book Huntress (Back to the Books) says

My, my, my! This is Anne Stuart doing what she does so well and without any filters. I loved it, rawness and all.

Reviewed for Affaire de Coeur Magazine in the May issue. <http://www.affairedecoeur.com>.

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### Ingela says

*Review written August 3, 2016*

#### 3.6 Stars - Sizzling hot good romance suspense

I really liked my first by Anne Stuart, *Shadow Lover* (4 stars) a quite old romance from 1999, then some months ago. This one, *Consumed by Fire* is the first installment in a pretty new m/f suspense series (a spin-off to the popular Ice series).

**A lot of heat, good action and thrilling suspense.** There are also some heartbreaking touching romantic moments and a surprisingly drool worthy quite nasty anti-hero to look forward to. Maybe a tiny bit too much focus on the steamy parts for this lady, but nevertheless all in all to my like.

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The American Uni Professor **Evangeline Morrissey's** and **James Bishop's** (an dangerous assassin for the *Committee*) bumpy acquaintance, to maybe be a lovestory, started in Italy five years ago. A priest was murdered, the night was steaming hot, life changing stuff happened and hearts were crushed...

‘She was a fighter and she never gave up. Thank God she didn’t trust him—otherwise she would have been trapped...’

“...I’m not one of your polite academics, Angel. I’m something you’ve never seen before, and you need to know who you’re with.”

As if she could forget, she thought weakly, staring at him, into his eyes, shaking so hard she thought she would fall apart. She tightened her grip on his shoulders, and he moved closer still, his strong, wet body covering hers,...

**Quite intense...** dramatic, bloody and somewhat raw, but hot, steaming hot, and we know from the start how it will end. The rock-hard (always painful horny) very tough hero, without both soul & heart, will eventually soften and the (never ever girly-whining) heroine's tender heart will heal. We get a pretty edgy and simple dialogue with many angry 'bad' words and thoughts of revenge. Sometimes it gets a bit exaggerated, but our tough characters are always rudely rough ... and needy wistfully. — A adorable clever (guard-trained) German shepherd doesn't make it less interesting. Lovely, lovely dog *Merlin*.

I listened to the 10:47 hrs audiobook perfectly narrated by Jill Redfield. Looking forward to listen to book #2 (Driven by Fire) and get a more whirlwind scenes and high speed adventures with a fresh new lovecouple.

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### **I LIKE - non-sweet romances like this at times**

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#### **WhiskeyintheJar/Kyraryker says**

3.3 stars

No one and I mean no one, writes assholes better than Anne Stuart. I hate myself for loving them and turning me into a damn cliché but they "ultimately have heart!", I say. No excuse, but there it is.

The ~~hero~~...~~anti-hero~~...asshole from this story crosses over the line so many times I lost count and in the beginning-ish, he says a comment about rape that would normally have me putting the book down and not finishing if Stuart didn't already have my trust as a reader, I know how her assholes work and knew what was truly going on.....or maybe Stuart has me brainwashed and scared to leave her. I don't know. I just know I loved to hate James Bishop, asshole extraordinaire.

\*Reading other books by other authors and what others consider assholes, let me clarify something, this asshole is literate, not physically abusive (does kick the heroine at one point), and not gorilla in his possessiveness. I guess I just want to say he is a grown-up asshole. There is no doubt, he's an asshole and you're going to have find these type of men redeemable in order to like this story, assholes aren't for everyone, as it should be.

The story itself started off incredible, then started to slow down with repetitiveness of running from danger and the asshole wanting our heroine only to push her away again and again.

I don't know what to tell you all, I'm a Stuart addict and this story's asshole was so damn easy to hate/love. Also, their first sex scene in the shower is getting stored in the ol' memory banks for future considerations.

(Yes, I realize this isn't even a review but me trying to justify or talk through hate/loving the lead male character. But, you guys, I buried the lead,

(view spoiler)

I never had a chance)

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#### **Crista says**

Review posted at: Swept Away By Romance

**5 stars!!!!**

If you've never read a book written by Anne Stuart, and want to read the very best she has to offer, then Consumed By Fire would be a fabulous place to start! This is quintessential Anne Stuart and can only be described as a nearly perfect read.

James Bishop is an operative in the top secret Committee (an organization that specializes in covert

operations aimed at maintaining freedom throughout the world). The operatives are highly skilled assassins who are capable of just about anything to achieve their objective. They are mercenaries for hire and are ruthless killers.

Evangeline is an American and an extremely brilliant academic. She is a bit naïve and is initially completely taken with the enigmatic James Bishop. Their initial whirl wind romance ends in heartbreak for Evangeline wherein she is betrayed and ultimately abandoned by the man whom she thought she'd spend the rest of her life with.

Fast forward several years and James Bishop is forced to reenter Evangeline's life in order to protect her. Little does Evangeline realize whom she married years ago, and the lengths to which her husband has gone to protect her throughout the years.

No author has the ability to engage me the way that this author does....and she does so repeatedly. She can make the most dangerous of men seem interesting, attractive, and irresistible.

What sets this book apart and puts it in my favorites of what she has written is her characterization of Evangeline. Stuart brilliantly portrays her not as a weak victim of James Bishop's schemes and crimes, but as a brilliant and confident woman. She is furious with him for deserting her years before and doesn't instantly fall into his arms. Her ability to challenge him on so many different levels was simply amazing. James Bishop, a man who has seen it all and who has done it all, is completely shaken off his firm foundation by this woman, and readers, this is a beautiful thing to behold.

Anne Stuart has really upped the ante with this book, and if this is any indication of what's to come, her FIRE series will rival (if not top) her brilliant ICE series. I for one am ecstatic to on board for what is shaping up to be the reading ride of my life!

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

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

Consumed by Fire is a spin-off of Anne Stuart's ICE series. It is stand-alone.

I am a fan of Anne Stuart's anti/gamma heroes. Like Bastian in Black Ice, James Bishop did not disappoint!

What to expect in many of Stuart's RS books:

annoying, sometimes tsstl heroine  
fast-paced, predictable storyline with plot holes  
romance without heart and flower, cheese  
ruthless hero

James Bishop was not a swoony hero, but he gave the heroine two precious gifts that many alpha, beta, so-called swoony heroes out there should take note of. (view spoiler)

## ♥Sharon♥ says

This is something I haven't done in a long time. I'm sitting and writing a review moments after finishing the book!!!!

I am one happy lady! I have found another author that has tickled my fancy when it comes to the ultimate prick for a leading man. And may I add she can writes some pretty HOT sex scenes!

**Consumed by Fire** is my first Anne Stuart book and I LOVED it. I'm not going to go into the plot because any little thing could ruin it for you but I will tell you why I loved it.

First and foremost, James Bishop. He was the ultimate prick. Even when he was trying to be nice he was a prick. His character was perfectly written (IMHO) and I couldn't get enough of him. The minute he engaged in a relationship with "Angel" everything between them was volatile and intense.

And Evangeline Morrissey was perfectly written too. She was one sassy smartass that would take James Bishop on a ride he had not expected. Nor did she for that matter. When she wanted calm in her life she got turbulence, when she wanted simple she got crazy. I'm not sure who got under whose skin first but these two could not get enough of each other.....not that either would admit to it.

Then we have Merlin. I want a Merlin in my life. ♥ I loved the relationship he had with Evangeline. You could just feel how perfectly they fit together. What a protector he was and as everything came full circle in the book, well that was perfectly written too. Wait until you meet him.

And finally, the story line was unique in some ways and in other ways it wasn't. But it was those unique things that made such a big difference for me. There was enough suspense that kept me fully engaged and wanting more. The hating and lusting that went on between Bishop and Angel created that thin line between love and hate and not knowing where they would land drove me crazy!

Have you not read a book by Anne Stuart? Then you must. She is a wonderful author. I didn't know much about her so I decided to GOOGLE her and quite frankly I was a bit surprised with what I found. I would have NEVER thought a woman at the age of 68 could write the sexual and sensual scenes that was in this book. I sure hope my mind thinks that way when I'm that age. :) God Bless her!

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## Duchess Nicole says

★★★★★

### 5 Only-Anne-Stuart-Can-Write-These-Heroes Stars!!!

Un-put-downable!!!! It's no secret that I'm a huge Anne Stuart fan, and Bastien from Black Ice will always be a favorite hero of mine. While I can't say that James has usurped Bastien's place in my heart for best ass hole gamma hero, I can say that he is neck and neck with the other Ice series heroes. This is what I feel like I've been waiting for since consuming the Ice series three years ago. More of the Committee...only Peter

Masden is in charge now, and we have a whole new set of nearly-unloveable heroes and the women who effing OWN them.

Let's see if I can reel in the gushfest that's trying to spill onto my review space :D

A huge reason that I fangirl over Anne Stuart is because of how true she stays not only to her characters, but to her overall series. The Committee has never been (and I'm assuming never will be) anything less than a hardhearted, cold as ice group of people who do whatever it takes to right some wrongs. That's not to say that everything they do is ethical or legal. Hell no. But they get stuff done, and lucky for us, they give rise to some of the **most** intense heroes and heroines that have been written into romantic fiction. These people are just the same as they were when the series started.

In this book, the heroine starts out somewhat naive, somewhat lonely, and definitely searching for something that she doesn't know is missing. Somehow the universe deems it a fit time to introduce Evangeline to Bishop, a Committee operative and intrinsically hard hearted man. When she witnesses a murder, Bishop's sadistic partner insists on executing her. But as with all of Stuart's heroines, Evangeline has that intangible *something* that pulls out James' (Bishop's) protective side. But only for long enough to save the girl. Then, he abandons her and disappears.

And the rest is golden. It's a mental battle for a man who is as cold as they come...a man who has spent his life living with no emotion and no remorse, not to mention no tenderness or love. And poor Evangeline! Trying to move on and yet tied to a man she still loves, even though he wrecked and ruined her. It's the ultimate in the good vs evil dilemma. There is most definitely some evil in James, but his demons come out to play when his "wife" is threatened once again.

Throw these two together again, and the magic that is Anne Stuart is back with a vengeance! I am *unreasonably* excited about this new series. Especially if this is indicative of how much I'll love it!

*Advance copy provided by the publisher for review*

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## **[Aengell] says**

Anne Stuart clearly has her own voice and her own place in this genre, and I respect her very much for being unique and not interchangeable in a subgenre where every plot and all characters seem to be the same.

You can expect action, thrilling plot lines that make you want to read on and on. You can expect an outstanding, kind-of-asshole hero who somehow worms his way into your reader's heart. And finally you can expect a heroine that is typical for Anne Stuart: overly naive and cheeky at the same time, some times overly annoying but somehow bearable.

A good, solid read with the cold, laid-back attitude expected from the author.

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## **Jacqueline says**

4-1/2 stars rounded up. This was a tense action filled story that still managed to focus pretty closely on the main couple. As usual with AS the hero was pretty Gamma. He was not nice to the heroine much of the time. Although of course he was trying to protect her. She was naïve when she first met him but 5 years later when

they meet again she has toughened up. She tried to fight back at least. Still if you're looking for a heroine who wins over the hero look elsewhere.

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

### *5 Consuming Anti-Hero Stars!!!!*

Anne Stuart is the master at writing this genre, she is a absolute genius when it comes to anti-hero's!!!!

This is book one in her "Fire" series, a spin-off of her "Ice Series", *The Committee* has expanded their operations to the United States and Bishop (the hero) is in charge of getting the new Community U.S. Branch up and running.

Five years earlier Bishop married Evangeline "Angel" after a whirlwind courtship...she doesn't know that he married her after she sees something she shouldn't have and to protect her from being assassinated by The Committee he decides to marry her. After three days of wedded bliss for Evangeline, he disappears without a trace with a cherished and expensive memento her grandmother left her, she was crushed that she was taken in by a con man and common thief.

Now five years later and unbeknownst to her, her life is in danger from Bishop's enemies who learn of her existence from someone within "The Committee", someone holding a grudge against both of them, they know he has a soft spot for her, they target Evangeline to make him vulnerable which forces them back together and on the run from his enemies much to Evangeline's dismay.

*"You're my wife. If anyone's going to kill you, it's going to be me."*

The plot was fast paced, intense at times, and very exciting, the bad guy's are bad but Bishop is even BADDER. I absolutely love AS's anti-hero's, as I've said in the past, her hero's are definitely a guilty pleasure!!!!

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## Lady Gabriella of Awesomeness (On Hiatus) says

### ★★★3 WHY ME Stars★★★

So, *Consumed by fire* started off as a really difficult read for me and that's putting it lightly.

The storyline began initially as dry as sandpaper and the characters turned out to be even more difficult to relate than I anticipated. I didn't really root for James&Evangeline to end up as a couple even by the very end. In fact, It would probably make more sense if this book ended up with them parting ways since there was absolutely NADA indicating that their relationship was a love rather than just a lust story.

Character wise, James Bishop really came across criminally insane. I mean I know the author probably meant for him to be an asshole the first part of the book. But God ! Did he really have to stay that way to the last page?

**Manhandling, threatening and insulting woman IS NOT A SEXY trait,at-least NOT to me.**

If my (imaginary)ex-husband came back into my life and threatened me to murder while I was tied me to the bed, kidnapped me and hurled insults at me every 5 minutes and continued to mock me about my past. I would probably hate him with every fiber of my being and probably resigned to the fact that he was going to dump my body into the first river he came by.

**What I would NOT do is jump into bed with him.**

So WHY A 3 STAR ? Why not just give this a one or two ?

About 40% into this book I was almost 100% sure I was going to end up giving this a 1 star. The only reason I went ahead and finished this book was because of the sole reason that I don't do DNFs. About 60% in we get to see a few chapters in his POV and for a moment their his characters seems almost redeemable TO THE READER mind you, AND NOT THE HEROINE since he doesn't open his mouth to offer her a kind word and just kept all his feelings in his head.

Even the ending didn't feel right and almost ended in a very unbelievable anti-climatic way. Just for the bit of action,steamy scenes and the heroine 's attitude I've given this book a very lenient rating. (Huh,I guess I'm just in a good mood.)

**WOULD NOT RE-READ or RECOMMEND.**

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**Jill says**

***Consumed by Fire is the first title in Anne Stuart's new Fire series, and is in the same vein as her Ice series, with the return of the Committee and new operative, James Bishop.***

When Evangeline Morrissey first meets James Bishop in Italy, she is swept away by his looks and charm. After a whirlwind few days, she winds up in Venice married to him. But one morning a short three days later, Evangeline wakes to find James has just up and disappeared, taking her expensive diamond earrings, giving her no explanation. But none is necessary; he was a conman and thief. Or so Evangeline thinks.

But James Bishop works for the *Committee*, the covert organisation that fights terrorism and international crime in ways other international organisations can't sanction. When he first meets Evangeline, she has just walked innocently into a hit on a crime figure. When his partner wants to eliminate Evangeline as well, there is only one way for Bishop to protect Evangeline: marry her.

Fast forward five years, and James Bishop is back. With the *Committee* widening their base of operations from their London headquarters, Bishop has been tasked to set up the American branch in New Orleans. But when the crime family discovers Evangeline's connection to him, Bishop has his work cut out trying to keep her safe on their road trip from the Canadian border to New Orleans.

If you've read and enjoyed the *Ice* series, you know what you'll be getting here with this new title. It runs pretty much along the same lines. I'm actually surprised that this series isn't on more peoples' radars, especially given the popularity of the *Ice* series. One problem here may be that cover. Personally I don't think it stands out.

As with her *Ice* series, the romance here didn't exactly do it for me. Almost everything between the main characters is sexual, either innuendo or blatant. The answer to all their problems and the mysteries of life itself, is sex. From the first moment he lays eyes on her, Bishop wants Evangeline. He's never had it so good; neither has she. He's constantly dealing with his errant erection. Admittedly, it's pretty impressive.

*...but it seemed as if he'd come three times on the same erection, something he would have considered a physical impossibility.*

There's a fair amount of sex, but not much romance. Given Bishop's occupation and character, I wouldn't expect too many sappy declarations from him though. Admittedly, Bishop does have some sweet thoughts about Angel (as he calls her), and he has looked out for her (covertly) over the years, with one particular gift. And another gift to her at the end of the book is a real gesture. Both of which are in line with Bishop's personality. But as a reader I need something more than the sex to make me believe in the romance and a happily-ever-after. However, I'm probably in the minority here.

For me though, it's Ms Stuart's ability to write fast-paced action and suspense that really provides the majority of the enjoyment in *Consumed by Fire*. If James Bond, Jason Bourne and Agent 47 (Hitman) had a love child...yeah, a threesome...he would be James Bishop. Not quite the b\*stard that Bastien, the Iceman, is but readers who love Ms Stuart's gamma heroes, will still appreciate Bishop's character.

Although there are brief mentions of characters from *Ice*, this book can be read without reading any books from the previous series. Despite the lack of romance, I really did enjoy the read. It is a little over-the-top, but if you suspend disbelief for the duration, buckle yourself in, you'll enjoy the ride. And maybe even the romance. My four stars are almost entirely for the suspense part of this romantic suspense.

Recommended for readers who enjoy Anne Stuart, her *Ice* series, and her cold, ruthless anti-heroes.

**Steam:** 3.5

*ARC courtesy of Montlake via NetGalley*

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## **Karen says**

Loved this! Not perfect... but pretty damn close. The hero is a bit of an asshole... And you all know how much I love the jerks! This was my first Anne Stuart book.. and I must say.. I like her style! On to book 2!!!

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

Consumed by Fire by Anne Stuart is the 1st book in her new Fire Series, a spin-off from her Ice Series.

James Bishop is an agent working for the American branch of the very secretive Committee. He had married American academic, Evangeline Morissey and during their honeymoon disappeared without a word.

Five years later, he resurfaces in her life, after discovering that her life is in danger because of her links to him.

Evangeline is reluctant to trust him again but is soon on the run with him trying to evade the killers on their heels.

This was not one of my favourite books by this author. Whilst there's a lot of suspense and action, I found the lack of romance between the two main characters made me not engage totally with the story. The hero spent most of the time being totally nasty and snarky to the heroine and the plot relied more heavily on too much violence that I was not crazy about.

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## **Blacky \*Romance Addict\* says**

**The convos between them, the constant barbs and fighting, the TENSION! aaah. Perfection.**

**At the end of the book there is a short something about the author where it says:  
"She has so many books she still wants to write that she plans to live forever."**

**I support this plan with all my heart :)))**

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