



Fire and Rain

Diane Chamberlain

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Into the drought-weary California town of Valle Rosa comes a stranger who promises he can make it rain. All he asks for is a place to stay and complete privacy. But he is too charismatic to maintain a low profile . . . and the adobe cottage he's given to live in is owned by an investigative TV reporter struggling to revive her career. Fire and Rain is a love story filled with mystery and heart.

Fire and Rain Details

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Author : Diane Chamberlain

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From Reader Review Fire and Rain for online ebook

Kirstie says

You can tell this is an old book of hers by the style. Ok storyline but a bit predictable

Andrea says

Another engrossing and interesting book by Diane Chamberlain.

Debbie (Doc) says

I absolutely adore the narrator! Karen White could make a Steven King novel soothing. While I do have favorite authors that I go to when in a reading slump, I also locate books narrated by Ms. White. She always gets me out of my reading or listening slump!

This is one of Diane Chamberlain's older books. However, this was just recently published as an audio book. Thanks to Tantor Media for sending me this audio in exchange for an honest review.

Valle Rosa, California has been ridden with drought over the past five years. The valley has all but withered and died. Fires are out of control and water supply is extremely low. A stranger comes to town and promises the mayor (ex. major league baseball player) that he can make rain. His only request is that he be given complete privacy and a place to stay. Each character has their own burdens to hide.

Chris Garrett's (acting mayor) house burns to the ground thanks to the wildfires that are out of control. He was only able to save some scrapbooks detailing his frail son's life. Chris decides to give Jeff a try at making rain. Jeff is Valle Rosa's last hope. Jeff ends up staying in an adobe cottage on the grounds of Chris' ex-wife, Carmen Garrett's home. Carmen has her own demons and wants to prove that she is still on top of her game as a news reporter.

Carmen has been out of the limelight for a few years and wants her show back. She must first prove to her boss that she still has the energy and charisma that she once had. In order to prove herself, Carmen begins to unravel Jeff's past. Another character that had a supporting role was Mia Tanner. Mia is Jeff's secretary and also has a past to hide. Mia and Jeff strike up a friendship then become lovers.

The characters were well flushed, and their backgrounds were slowly unraveled. As bad as Carmen was, I was rooting for her and Chris. The unthinkable happened to this couple, which ultimately split them up. I also felt bad for Jeff and for the demons that he was running from. However, my favorite character was Mia. She was loving to a fault. I gave this book a 4 star rating, because at times the story was slow. Had I simply read this book, I would probably only give a 3 star due to the lack of a plot. While the storyline was suspenseful, I felt that something was missing. I kept wanting for something major to happen, other than rainfall. The ending left me with wanting more and appeared to end very abruptly without answers to some unresolved questions.

Lesley says

Whilst I really enjoyed the book, the ending was another disappointment for me.

I've read all of Ms Chamberlain's books, and this isn't the first one that just doesn't have a real ending, but seems to leave it open for a follow-up which never appears.

I'm afraid I do like a proper ending, not a "I've run out of pages! I'd better finish it now!" type.

Nicole says

This was not my favorite Diane Chamberlain book, however, compared to her other earlier books, I liked this one better. The story had several holes and did not always make a lot of sense. At the same time, I could start to recognize this as a Chamberlain book. Worth the read.

Erin says

Originally published in 1993, "Fire and Rain" takes place in a southern California town that has not had any significant rainfall for 5 years. Our story, begins with veteran reporter, Carmen Perez racing to cover the story of a devastating house fire. Carmen, who has taken an absence from her job is resolved to find herself back at the front desk. She soon finds herself at the home of her ex-husband, Valle Rosa's acting mayor and former Padres pitcher, Chris Garrett. Chris, has also suffered damage to his home, homeless, Chris moves back to the cottages on his and Carmen's shared property. There is plenty of history between these two that kept me riveted to their story.

It is while at work one day, that a mysterious stranger, going by the name of Jeff Cabrio, walks into Chris's office, and claims that he knows how to make it rain. All that Jeff asks is that Chris gives him the freedom to do what he must and keep others away. Chris, is willing to give this man a try and offers him a place to live at Carmen's ranch. However, Carmen becomes convinced that Jeff is nothing but a charlatan and sets out to find about the mysterious man in order to jumpstart her career.

Added into all this mix, is sculptress, Mia Tanner, Chris's secretary, who strikes up a friendship with Jeff and is also running from her own past. I would have to say that Mia was my favorite character as DC unfolds her story with such care and plenty of emotion.

Diane Chamberlain presents readers with strong characters in a very vivid setting that I found myself hard to peel away from and finished in one sitting.

Laura says

Originally published in the early nineties and now re-released in the UK with a more modern look, this is an

unusual tale of four people brought together through an extraordinary situation. I can't say I enjoyed this novel as much as Chamberlains others, I felt it was missing some of the heart which makes her other books so captivating. The story came across too sterile at times and occasionally I felt my attention wavering.

Mia is a talented sculptor now working as personal secretary to ex baseball star and reluctant new town mayor Chris. Carmen is the tv reporter trying to increase her air time and her credibility as a serious journalist; she also happens to be Chris' ex wife and mother to their institutionalised young son. As their Californian town is destroyed by wildfires and drought, a mysterious stranger suddenly appears and claims he has the knowledge and tools to be able to make it rain. As the town mounts pressure on Chris to save their homes and lives, Chris takes a leap of faith and employs Jeff to do what he ensures him he has the capacity to do.

As per the time when this book was written, there are many references to now outdated technology, which makes for an irregular perspective. One character listens to tapes for instance, and there is no such thing as the Internet. As Carmen does much of her research using the telephone and calling directory enquires, I happened to think that with the addition of Google, much of the story wouldn't have been created!

There were a couple of aspects of the story I found particularly heartwarming, chiefly Chris' relationship with his disabled son. Conversely, it was interesting to see the total difference in the way in which Carmen addressed her offspring. The author is well known for her ability to create realistic emotion in her writing; as a long-term fan of her work, this was familiarly pleasing to see

A real mixed bag of a novel. I thoroughly enjoyed some parts and felt frustrated by others; perhaps the dated storyline worked against its overall success in my opinion.

Carol says

I'm having a hard time reviewing this piece of work. I needed a light read over the holidays that wouldn't consume too much of my time and that I would be able to pick up for a few minutes and put down easily. Did I say light reading? Well, I got my wish – this was so light, it hung in mid-air most of the time!

The author's audience was definitely not intended to be anyone with a memory since she explained everything in minute detail several times in case you didn't understand it the first time around. And the story line was just a fairy tale. A strange man shows up in a town that hasn't seen rain for quite some time and is suffering fire problems. He tells the acting mayor he can produce rain. The acting mayor says "OK, sure, I'll give you the town's money – go to it!" I mean, that's what any acting mayor would do. Right? The mayor's ex-wife is a has-been news reporter trying to get her job back so she digs up a few scraps of the "rain man's" past and the news station suddenly thinks she's the greatest reporter since soda pop was invented. It all goes downhill from there.

This author didn't make me care one whit about anyone in this book except for the rain man's cat. I don't know if the rain man ever "produced "rain or not – I couldn't stay with it long enough to find out. I mean,

really!!!

Gina *loves sunshine* says

It took a bit for the story to build and characters to develop but I really enjoyed the whole story and was hooked! I'll have to check out more from the author

Diana says

Meh. Probably my least favorite Chamberlain book. Glad it's done. Nor horrible, but more of a filler book. Filled the space while I waited for others to come available at the library!

Cathryn says

What a shame!!!

I went on a marathon audible reading session with this one, sacrificing a day & night.

This was heading in the right direction & I was thoroughly enjoying it but the ending totally floored me. It wasn't an ending in the true sense of the word but more like a summary. I kept reading (listening) and waiting for an outstanding ending, which I'm sure was possible, but zip..nothing..zero - it finished rather abruptly with no surprises, reveals or anything.

Very disappointing!

Debbie says

Not my favorite offering by Chamberlin. Story line was a bit far fetched. Really interesting, well-developed characters, though.

Mariann Primus says

I enjoyed the book but did not like the ending. I don't expect everything to be tied up in a neat bow but this one left a lot of loose ends hanging. Overall, she tied four characters together well with a host of minor characters and her creativity was ingenious with the rain maker.

Suzie Flohr says

First of all I really love your writing Diane, but this one for me started off very slow it really didn't pick up till half way through. It was then I wanted to keep reading and know more.

Amy Flick says

I adore Diane, with every fiber of my being. Her writing style speaks to me in such a way no one else does. I loved this book! But, oddly, it was a slow starter for me. introduction of characters (each one having a background worthy their own book) made it (for me) a little slow in the beginning BUT once I got over that wee hump I couldn't put it down. ignoring headaches to keep reading. One more thing, I'm DYING to know what happens with Robby!! The end felt rushed, leaving many expected details. I assumed to read Jeff and Mia found each other again, or Carmen decided to take her boy on board and care for him and you know.. the happily ever after.
