

AFTER THE FIRE

BY WILL HILL

Read by Monty Nelson & Mrs. Clarke.

Moonbeam is recovering from trauma – 'The things I've seen are burned into me, like scars that refuse to fade...'

Father John controls everything inside The Fence. And Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. Moonbeam is starting to doubt, though. She's starting to see the lies behind Father John's words. She wants him to be found out.

What if the only way out of the darkness is to light a fire?

After the Fire is an incredibly tense, constantly suspenseful book

The story begins with a prologue describing the siege.

The book has a very clear and distinctive structure, moving back and forth between before and after.

Will Hill is known as the author of a scary fantasy thriller series, and fantasy writers have to be good at world-building.

The cult community seems to be a world of totally innocent, powerless people being manipulated by totally guilty, powerful people.

Father John, the 'prophet', is a totally repellent character, so how does the author make us believe that this community comes to trust him and put their faith in him? We see Moonbeam living in her lie (before), and we see her facing up to the terrible truth (after) - was she happiest, actually, when she was most deceived? Can you imagine what it would be like to discover your entire world was based on a deception, that everything you'd been told wasn't true?