

Fire Danger

When conditions are right it takes only the smallest spark to set the entire forest on fire. Like love, kindled by the merest glance or a smile, even though the two of you have nothing at all in common. It's the chance arrangement of positive and negative ions. You say, "We have so much in common, so much more than Elaine and I ever had." You say, "Sometimes we talk for hours. We have so much to talk about." All summer, all through September and October the winds stirred in the dry timber. Now in November, the leaves are down, and the cold rain falls day after day. "So what?" you say to yourself, "so what?" You tell your friends, "It's wonderful. I've never felt like this before. I'm so unhappy." And your friends run away when they see you coming.