

## Transcript

00:00 You're listening to the My Simplified Life podcast and this is episode number 234. Welcome to the My Simplified Life podcast, a place where you will learn that your past and even your present don't define your future. Regardless of what stage of life you're in, I want you to feel inspired and encouraged to pursue your dreams, simplify your life, and start taking action. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac, author of How to Get on Podcasts.

00:28 the podcast matchmaker and CEO and founder of the MLG Collective. I'm excited to share my stories and life lessons with you while taking you on my own journey. This is my simplified life.

00:43 Hey friends, welcome back to another episode. I'm your host, Michelle Glogovac. Today is the kickoff to Summer Beach Reads because I have such a good one for you today. I am joined with author Jane L. Rosen, who is the author of the book, Seven Summer Weekends that comes out today. Last year, she published On Fire Island, which took us all to Fire Island, New York.

01:12 I didn't even know this was a place that existed until I met Jane and read her book. And I'm honestly ready to go buy a beach house. We know that already, but I could go buy a adorable beach house on Fire Island and get to know these incredible people that are not necessarily in her book, but a bunch of them might be combined into certain characters. I adore Jane. We've gotten to meet in person and she is.

01:39 just the sweetest, the most beautiful, kind woman ever. I am so excited for you to get to meet Jane and for you to have the perfect summer read to add to your beach bag, to the pool in the back, or just to your couch, because I promise you, you will love this escape, seven summer weekends. Hopefully we all have that many weekends this summer to enjoy this amazing book.

02:09 Hello, Jane. Hello, Michelle. I feel like we're two giddy schoolgirls, so excited to see each other. It is, it's just great. We should have like had a glass of wine and some shit. Oh, that would have been smart. Yeah. That would have been smart, but it's only 10 a.m. here, so. Whatever. Mimosa's. What was that, Hoda and Kathy? Oh yeah, with the big wine glasses. Yeah. Yeah, I need one of those Costco sized ones.

02:39 Okay, well next month we'll do that together. Can you take a moment and introduce yourself to everyone please? My name is Jane L. Rosen. The L is from my maiden name, just to be different I guess. Mine too. Oh really? I didn't know we had that in common, yeah. And I live in New York. I spend a lot of time on Fire Island. My fifth book, Seven Summer Weekends, is coming out June 4th.

03:09 which is gonna be today. We're pretending today is June 4th. So happy pub day. Oh, my fifth book, Seven Summer Weekends is coming out today. And I am so excited to share it with

the world and with all of you, all your listeners. Can I tell you about it? Yes, it is so freaking good. Yes, tell us about it. You're loved in the self-themed. I loved it, I did. It's somewhat of a follow-up to On Fire Island, but completely standalone. You could be...

03:38 in any order. There's another book coming, which is in the same situation, by the way, next year. Yes! Oh, this makes me so excited. And I did not know going in, by the way, that it was like a continuation. And it took me a few pages until I went, wait, Shep. Oh, we're back together. It made me so excited and happy that it was a continuation. So tell us more. And it's not a continuation. If no, if people have not read on Fire Island to like

04:06 I don't know how to explain it. It's not a sequel, but it's all in the same village, same place, same people, a lot of the same people, a lot of different people. It's the story of Addison Irwin, 30 years old, a Zoom disaster derails her career just as she inherits an estranged aunt's house on Fire Island, a beach house, complete with seven weekend guests, which is the thing that I think makes it a little different than anyone inheriting a beach house.

04:36 There's meddling neighbors, there's family secrets, and of course there is the big romance. And I think there's a lot of laughs, there's some tears, there's a lot of growth. And I think it's just a nice check in to say, wait a second, am I happy in what I'm doing? Cause like I can pivot, this does not have to be forever. And I think a lot of people don't do that. I think COVID made a lot of people do that, but I think in general.

05:06 It's rare. So that's what it's about. A fun journey of self discovery and romance. I love it. I love that there was a review that you posted that somebody said she's looking for her estranged aunt who owns a beach house. I'm like, yes, I wish we all had, we all need that because if somebody gave me a beach house, I would do exactly what Addison did and be like, I'm there. Yeah, she went, but I mean, you know.

05:34 It was, it's been up in the air if she was going to keep it or sell it or what was going to happen with Addison Irwin and her sudden inheritance. So I hope everyone will pick it up. I promise it's a page turner. I promise you'll laugh. Promise you'll feel good. Meet some great people on Fire Island. And how did you come up with it? I loved On Fire Island. That's last year's book for everybody. Go read that too because buy all the books by Jane. They're fantastic. But how did you come up with?

06:03 this storyline. I pitched this book, Seven Summer Weekends, to my editor about a girl who lost her job, and I think her boyfriend broke up with her fiance, and she went to seven different places over the summer, like the Jersey Shore, Fire Island, the Hamptons, a whole bunch of different places to visit people. And she said, I love this idea, but could you put it on Fire Island again and come back and visit some of the same people?

06:31 And I said, I would love to visit some of the same people. I miss them. And that's how it came about. So were some of the characters in the book based on real life people that are on Fire Island that you know? The characters are not based on real life people, but they are based,

especially Shep, who's the older man, on a compilation of people on the island. There are like 10 old men, like Shep's little...

07:00 different idiosyncrasies all combined into one person, you know, that kind of thing. But it's not, I get asked this all the time by people on the island. Am I this person? Am I that person? I'm like, no one is anyone. And my friends get phone calls all the time when people are reading the book. I know this is me, they're like, it's not you. They wish it was them. It's so funny. There's a lawyer in the first book named Renee. Is she in the second book? I'm not.

07:29 or maybe a tiny bit. She's in a little bit, but she, everyone thought they were Renee. Every lawyer of 50 years old, of 40 years old was like, I'm Renee. I'm like, no, you're not Renee. That's hilarious. Yeah. So funny. I love it. Share with us some of your background, your journey, because you are on your fifth book with another, the sixth one coming next year already. So what does your career look like? Because I know you're a big deal.

07:57 Jane Elrose. Oh, I am not a big deal, Michelle. But that's nice of you to say. What does it look like? I used to write all the time when I was a kid. I'm starting from the beginning. It was like a lot of my identity was my writing, my creative stories. And then I just got way late during college and I went into the Garmin Center after college and I went to University of Maryland, went to the Garmin Center, had a lot of fun selling coats, designing coats, traveling to Europe.

08:26 traveling around America, and then I had kids. And when I had kids, I started writing again. And I became a screenwriter. And I was a screenwriter for many years, and I never got, I sold things, but nothing ever got made. Which means basically my family read my scripts and the executives who bought them, and that was it. And one day I came up with a story for Nine Women, One Dress, which is my first novel.

08:55 And I said, I'm writing this as a book because I want someone else to read it besides, you know, the 12 people that have been. And I did. I wrote it and I sold it. It was pretty crazy. And it all happened quickly and got me and I haven't stopped writing novels since. I love that. What is that like? Why would somebody buy a screenplay and then do nothing with it? It seems like it would be wasted money. It happens all the time. Right now.

09:24 I've sold in terms of my books, I've sold nine women, one dress twice. I sold Eliza starts a rumor. Someone's interested in a shoe story right now. Someone else is interested in something else. Nine women, one dress again, because I got that one back. Have you ever seen any of these on the television or on the big screen? No. They just, it's like renting them.

09:54 you know, books to make movies off or TV shows off of, but they don't always make them. It takes a lot, a lot to make a movie or a television show, as you could imagine. We need one based on Fire Island. Like that could be a whole, that could be a series. It could be three years right there with these three books at least. Yeah, it would be. I think the characters are great. I am talking to people about that too. It's great. I would love to see my characters alive on a screen one day.

10:22 I would too because they're all in my head too. Now I'm living the life with them. Yeah. I'm pretty close with Eliza though. So fingers crossed. Everybody cross your fingers right now that Eliza will be a television show in the near future. Yes. And then the other one that we had talked about, we won't talk in detail about in her shoes, right? That one. No, shoe story. Shoe story. We talked about that one last time. Right? Jennifer Reiner. Yes.

10:51 Okay. Fingers crossed on all of it because I want to see this all come and I can be like, yeah, I know Jane. Yeah. Me too. I'll have to say the same thing about myself. I don't think it's going to happen. Now take us to Fire Island because you have your real life experience there. So it's not like setting a book for me. Like if I set something in the Hamptons, I've never even been to the

11:21 So how has that influenced your writing and how are you like, this is what I want to write about? Well, I've always wanted to write about it. And I literally wrote three books first. Yes, just to make sure I was worthy of writing about it. And I wrote On Fire Island as a screenplay first. So I held onto the screenplay, wrote three novels, and then I said, OK, I'll tackle this now.

11:49 Fire Island's in my blood. I met my husband there, I raised my three children there. It's only really a summer place for us, but me and my kids went out there June, July, and August every year from birth till through college, basically. And that's a long time. So I know every inch, every step that's taken in that book in my head has a movie in it. It's, I see it.

12:20 You know, Ben's house is my house. Shep's house is the house across the street. The baseball field is the baseball field that I play at every Monday night. I play women's softball. So the market, I could tell you like which aisle, right now, if you said where is the X, I could tell you what aisle it's in. So it's just a canvas that I know so well to put a story on.

12:47 I love that. And it seems to me like all of a sudden Fire Islands become more popular, even with other books that are being written there. But I feel like yours is the genuine you live there. Like this is your island. This is for you to write about. But what why is it gaining so much popularity? All of a sudden in literature, there's two other books that came out last year. That took place in Fire Island Kismet, Becky Chousen. She has a new book coming out.

13:16 Serendipity, if you liked Kismet, pick up Serendipity, they're both wonderful, rom-coms. And there was another book, Bad Summer People. Why? I think it was a real just coincidence that three women that do have homes on Fire Island, or in Becky's case, I think her in-laws have a house there, all decided to use that as a location at the same, you know, in the same summer. That's crazy. Very odd.

13:46 That's crazy. I was quite surprised. And Bad Summer People came out the same time as mine. I remember. And at the same day, it was funny. It was just shocking. I was definitely a little competitive, but Emma Rosenblum is wonderful. So I shouldn't have been competitive, but I was. But it's hard not to be. I mean, I remember as I was going to pub, I'm like.

14:10 nobody else can have a book like mine. Like I have to be the first one. And if someone comes at the same time and it's the same topic that I'm going to be, so to have something

based on the same island that's so small. That's tough. That that makes sense. Could not be more different. Okay. I didn't read the other one. Yeah, they could not. Oh, I love that. And so the next book is going to be similar.

14:40 The third book in the group, and it's not a series, but the third book is based on, in On Fire Island, Shep, who is one of the main characters, has two daughters, Beatrice and Veronica. And they don't speak because of a fallout from when they were kids, like kids meaning early 20s. So in the first book, Beatrice, the reason they didn't speak was because Beatrice had

15:10 a baby and gave it up for adoption. And Veronica was involved in the breakup of her and the boyfriend and it's just ruined their whole family. The next book starts with the adopted daughter going to find her birth mother. Oh, I just got chills. Yeah. So it's, it's a really great perspective. She's from Ohio. She's never been to Fire Island. Oh, this will be fantastic. Yeah. Each book has

15:39 a lot of resolution from On Fire Island, but again, totally separate if you haven't read them. I think you could read them in any order. Yeah. You know, you could read them and be like, oh, that's the backstory. You could read them and go, oh, you know, there's just so many different ways to go. But yeah. What is it like for you to write? Like how do you, what's your ritual? Because I feel like you'd need to be On Fire Island to write, but obviously you have enough memories that you don't need to be. But what does that look like for you? I write from, I could write.

16:09 anywhere, Michelle. I could write on the subway in my notes on my phone. I could write anywhere. It's like a, I'm very lucky. I don't need to be like sitting in a room and, you know, quiet and all of that. My ritual is basically I get up in the morning and write. It's a full-time job. Times like now, I have to leave time for, a lot of time for marketing. Book came out today. There's so much going on. You know, I have, I was on the Today Show.

16:39 No, I wasn't. So much going on. You are? When are you going to be there? I'll come for that too. I was on Good Day New York this morning at 930. I hope you guys all caught it. I'm having a book release on Thursday. There's just so much going on. I'll be in Connecticut next week. I'll be in the Hamptons on Saturday signing books at Barnes & Noble Bridgehampton. If you want me to come to your town, reach out to my Instagram, Jane L. Rosen. Maybe I'll come do a book talk at your bookstore.

17:09 Or you could look me up on my website, [JaneLRosen.com](http://JaneLRosen.com). And yeah, being an author is quite fun. I love talking about people. I net talking to people. I don't love talking about people. Sometimes talking about people is fun, but I try not to. No, I love talking to people about my books. I love talking about people. So. Yeah.

17:38 I mean, everyone has a little bit of a thrill when you get to talk about people, but it's bad to do. Unless you put them in a book and combine characters and I don't know, maybe that's what I'm working on. No, that's a thing. People have asked me, someone thought that their old

boyfriend, that my old boyfriend, who they're married to, you following this? Was in a book of mine as a character.

18:07 You know, I've just been like, no, of course not. That's all I'll say. There might be characteristics. I'm as I'm writing, my husband's like, oh, you got to change that because I know who that is. And I went, oh, OK, so I'm going to have to take some characteristics of a bunch of people to put them into one. And then they'll really be off the rails. So that was even more fun. People know people now.

18:36 In *Nine Women, One Dress*, there's a chapter about a horrible woman and I didn't give her a name. And I said, you all could just fill in whatever name you want because you all know this woman. And so many people were like, who did you have in mind? And then like one person's like, everybody on the Upper East Side of New York has that same woman in mind that you had in mind, so you don't even have to answer it. And it was so funny because I was like, yes, that's who it is. That's who I had in mind.

19:05 That's hilarious. Did that woman know though? I don't know. I don't speak to that. Oh my God. You're too much fun. You have three girls, right? Yes. What do they think about all of this? I mean, this has to be so much fun for you to be their mom. They love it. Yeah. They love it. For years, I was just, you know, not just, I was the stay at home mom and

19:31 That was fun and great and I was very lucky to be able to do that. I was always writing but it was more like, I would almost say a hobby, but I hate to say it that way. But until you're published or until you sell something, you do feel like, oh, I'm just, you know, this is just a hobby. And I remember that at one point I was like, if I don't sell something soon, I'm giving up this, this hobby and starting to find something new. But.

19:57 bringing them up was really my greatest accomplishment. I mean, three daughters who have now all graduated college. One graduated grad school the other day. One is becoming a canter. So she has another year of canteral school. One wants to be a doctor. My middle one who graduated with an MFA in documentary film. I'm just proud. I'm very proud of these three women that I've created. And I did create them right from my bod. So I can take some credit.

20:27 And they're beautiful inside and out, just like you. Yeah, they're wonderful girls. Women. Women. Yes. They're still in their 20s, right? They're still you just know that there's one in her early 30s. The other two are in there. Well, you don't you're not old enough to have one in her 31. One of them is 31. I know it's kind of hard to believe, but I did have her very young. Yes. I say that like 16. It looks no.

20:56 No, I had her young though, especially in this day and age. Let's say this, my first wedding anniversary was my last Lamaze class.

21:10 I gotcha. So do the any of them have like, obviously not they don't one is becoming a doctor one's doing film. So none of them are like looking to do they all do have it they all want to write to. Well, one of them is a songwriter, the Cantor is a singer songwriter also so she's been

writing forever. They went to you know, the Fame School LaGuardia High School in New York City. It's a you know, like the movie Fame.

21:39 The two of them went there. So they're very creative. The documentary filmmaker is very creative. I mean, she does a lot of writing, you know, in that way. And the one that wants to be a doctor, she's an excellent writer. She was an English major at Barnard and she just pivoted like we talked about before and is back in Columbia taking post-batch to become, to be able to go to med school. So they all have.

22:06 that kind of creative writing gene. They all got it from their mama. Mama, I hope. I love that. But what do they say? So when I told my nine-year-old son, he was on the soccer field and I go, I just got the email that I'm a zippy summer read. He almost burst into tears on the soccer field and he goes, mommy, it's going to be a New York bestseller, mommy. I know. That's so cute. So your girls must feel.

22:35 the same thing even more so because you have so many under your belt. Mine is not going to be a New York bestseller, but it's cute that he thinks that it can be. Yes, it is cute that he thinks that can be and mine will not be either, but they're very proud of me, but it's probably exhausting at this point. I mean, I'm always like, what's that word? Like when in Fire Island, when they walk from the house through the porch and I'm writing on the porch, I like, they come out so quietly because there's just almost never a time when I'm at work and I say,

23:03 Oh, excuse me. What's the hipper way to say this? You know, or what's that word? I'm constantly like, does this sound like I'm 50 or like I'm 20? You know, so I think that sometimes it's annoying, but mostly they love it. I love, okay. I'm glad you shared that little tidbit because there were times I know, and I can't recall which ones, but there were some moments where I was like, Oh, Jane's really cool. Jane knows what's going on.

23:32 And it's something, I mean, I'm in my forties and we have these conversations at Pickup where there was one mom and she goes, yeah, look at their drip. I'm like, their what? What is drip? Apparently it's your clothing. Why did you, do you not remember what made you think I was cool to you? No, there was some, what was it? There was something in there that I'm gonna have to go back and look, but I was like, oh, Jane is cool. There was some, it was a younger reference that I was very impressed.

24:01 That's what I remember. It's so funny because there's a reference in On Fire Island where I say something like about Peter Frampton and they really wanted me to change it to Harry Styles. Like, I, uh, like, I left him Peter Frampton. I love it. Couldn't help myself. No, and you should stay true to you, although we love Harry. I love Harry too, I love Harry too. He did get in my acknowledgement section.

24:30 Really? He did. That's so funny. Yeah, him and Jeremy Renner for their music, because I just listened to it on repeat. Yeah, I mean, I love hairstyles, I'm just saying. I love it. I love Tramp and More. I love you. Oh my goodness. You're just so sweet and a delight, and I just can't get

enough of you. Thank you, Michelle. You are the sweetest. You have the best smile I've ever seen. Oh, make me blush.

24:59 All right, Jane, what's next for you? Where can everybody find you? Although you did share your Instagram and everything else, but where can they find you one more time? Where can you find me? Please follow me on Instagram, JaneLRosen. You could find me on Facebook in the same. You could find me at my website, [janelrosen.com](http://janelrosen.com). And you could find me on Fire Island across from the baseball fields. If you come, bring your book and I'll sign it. And just take the ferry. She'll come with her wagon. And... Ferry.

25:28 bring you to wherever this has happened. These shop in the market, you say, I'm looking for Jane O'Rosen to sign my book. They say, let me give her a call. She'll meet you at the baseball field. And I've done that. Oh, that's awesome. Go for it. Don't tempt me. Cause the kids are like, we want to go to New York. Please take us. And I'm going to say, you know what? Forget Hawaii. We're going to fire Island. Except we're just going to come stay with you. Be like, I have a friend.

25:57 No sleepovers, everybody. I'm just trying to find it. Don't bring your sleeping bag. I think you're throwing it on my living room floor. That's just for me, everybody, not you. Just from the top. Congratulations, Jane, on seven summer weekends. Everybody go out and buy it. And while you're out to get On Fire Island, too, and all of the other books, because they're all so good. You are amazing. I'm so excited that another one's coming out. And I can't wait to see you.

26:25 Thank you. I'll see you in a couple. Oh, I'll see you. Yeah. When this airs, it'll be in a couple of days. Thank you, Michelle. Okay, friends. I'm ready for summer. Are you? I think it's time for a cocktail, pull up your beach chair and grab seven summer weekends. It is such a great read. You will laugh. You will cry. You will simply enjoy it. And I love the characters that Jane brings to life. She has such a

26:55 great way of creating these people that you can really see in your head. I feel like I physically know all of the characters now and I love the way she writes. It is so wonderful. The best escape that you can imagine. So go pick up Seven Summer Weekends now and don't forget to grab on Fire Island while you're at it because you're going to want more and luckily she's giving us more. Thank you to Jane and for all of you, let's go kick off the summer.