THE SPITFIRE GRILL  (USA, 1996)
(Other titles: Care of the Spitfire Grill)

Credits: director/writer, Lee David Zlotoff.
Cast: Ellen Burstyn, Marcia Gay Harden, Alison Elliott, Will Patton, John M. Jackson.

Summary: Melodrama set in contemporary Maine. An abused young woman (Elliott) is released from prison after serving five years for manslaughter. She killed her abuser after one of his beatings caused her to miscarry. She takes a job in the only restaurant in a small Maine town and works to gain the trust of the suspicious townspeople. The older woman who owns the grill has been trying to sell it since her husband died ten years earlier. Her son, a Vietnam vet, has been living in the woods as a disturbed recluse since his return.

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Britton, Bonnie. “‘Spitfire Grill’ serves up large portion of humanity” Indianapolis star (Sep 6, 1996), p. D1.
Brown, Jamie. “‘Spitfire’ draws some tears not quite as many cheers” Telegraph herald [Dubuque, IA] (Sep 13, 1996), p. ?
Clark, Mike. “‘Spitfire lacks sizzle...” USA today (Aug 23, 1996), p. 8D.


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Denerstein, Robert. “‘Spitfire Grill’ dishes out the obvious” Denver Rocky Mountain news (Aug 23, 1996), p. 10D.


Dudek, Duane. “‘Grill’ has right ingredients, but artificial aftertaste” Milwaukee journal sentinel (Sep 6, 1996), p. 7.


Elliott, David. “‘Grill’ main dish falls apart in the serving: Gooey desert may leave you with a bad taste in your mouth” San Diego union-tribune (Aug 22, 1996), Night & day, p. 7.

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Evansen, Russ. “‘Spitfire’ sputters but Elliott shines” Wisconsin state journal (Sep 14, 1996), p. 7C.


Gabrenya, Frank. “Delivery from sin: ‘Grill’ fails to catch fire with stereotypes of redemption” Columbus dispatch (Sep 6, 1996), p. 10D.


James, Caryn. “Film financed by a religious group” New York times (Feb 3, 1996), sec. 1, p. 15.


Janusonis, Michael. “‘Spitfire Grill’ is contrived and calculated” Providence journal-bulletin (Sep 6, 1996), p. 4E.


Keith, Steven J. “Movie cooks up a tale that touches the heart” Charleston daily mail (Sep 7, 1996), p. 5C.


Kiss, Tony. “‘The Spitfire Grill’ satisfies appetite for well-done movie” Asheville citizen-times [NC] (Sep 6, 1996), p. ?


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McCarthy, Jack. “‘Spitfire Grill’ builds on superb characters” Charleston gazette (Sep 5, 1996), p. 3D.


Meyer, George. “‘Spitfire Grill’ sizzles, but too eagerly” Sarasota herald-tribune (Sep 6, 1996), Ticket, p. 13T.

Millar, Jeff. “‘Grill’ women win us over” Houston chronicle (Sep 6, 1996), Weekend preview, p. 1.


Munro, Donald. “Nobility not enough to help cloying tear-jerker” Fresno bee (Sep 6, 1996), p. F8.

Murray, Bill. “Spitfire Grill” Register 72 (Sep 22, 1996), p. 1+


Niebuhr, Gustav. “Spiritual values are in, but, please, no sermonizing” New York times (Sep 1, 1996), sec. 2, p. 7.


Peterson, Deborah. “Women bond, men get their just deserts” St. Louis post-dispatch (Sep 11, 1996), p. 3E.


Rea, Steven. “Stranger in Maine seeks second chance” Philadelphia inquirer (Sep 6, 1996), Weekend, p. 3.
Reed, Katherine. “The Spitfire Grill’ has one too many cliches” Roanoke times & world news (Sep 7, 1996), p. 10.
Ross, Bob. “Grill’ cooks sentimental stew: This thoughtful intimate film touches on important issues without making them sound like a sermon” Tampa tribune (Sep 6, 1996), p. 16.
Steelman, Ben. “‘Spitfire Grill’ is catering to gentler tastes” Morning star [Wilmington, NC] (Sep 6, 1996), p. 1D.
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Wyatt, Gene. “‘Spitfire Grill’ cooks up first-rate fare” Tennessean (Sep 6, 1996), p. 4D.


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