



Rain on Me (Shelter From the Storm, #1)

Eden Connor

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If every heart's a package someone else has tied in knots, how did bondage unravel mine?

I'd sleep with the devil to nail the source of illegal poker machines pouring into my district. It's personal between me and those one-armed bandits, but when my captain asked me to go undercover as a sexual submissive to catch our suspect, my gut said "Hell, no, even I can't tell a lie that big."

Enter Ray Casey, shibari master, who spent two weeks showing me the world of erotic bondage. I fell hard for Ray, but the outcome of our affair was preordained; duty above all.

When the unthinkable happened, where could I turn when I couldn't trust my brothers in blue? My instincts led me back to Ray, but he wants me to submit to something harder than a little BDSM....

~Zinnia J. Jackson, Det. 1st Grade, South Carolina Law Enforcement Division

Rain on Me (Shelter From the Storm, #1) Details

Date : Published by Bad Apple Books (first published February 19th 2014)

ISBN :

Author : Eden Connor

Format : 276 pages

Genre : Erotica, BdsM, Adult Fiction, Romance, Contemporary Romance, Contemporary

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From Reader Review Rain on Me (Shelter From the Storm, #1) for online ebook

Kathy Heare Watts says

RAIN ON ME (Shelter From the Storm) Book 1, by Eden Connor

I received an ARC copy of this book for an honest review

I have no problems saying how much I enjoyed the story and the writing style of Ms. Connor. I really like how a brief insight to the removal of video poker machines came about. This story is so much more than a love story, it's a relationship of fellow cops, the trust and commitment of the Dom/sub lifestyle, and it's a mystery trying to be solved. I loved the way throughout the story, which flows beautifully, that we have Zin's POV and Ray's POV. Wow, it worked!. Both Ray and Zin have painful past that together they help each other heal those deep wounds. As Ray is helping Zin with the painful memories of her father and childhood, he is learning to let go of the painful and senseless death of his wife.

Before I read the story, I Googled Shibari and actually found a video to watch. In Japanese, "Shibari" simply means "to tie". The contemporary meaning of Shibari describes an ancient Japanese artistic form of rope bondage. There is a collaboration between the Shibari artist (the rigger/Top) in this story, Ray Casey, and the Shibari canvas (the model/bottom), Zin Jackson, to create a combination of effects including visual beauty, power exchange, helplessness, relaxation, and sub space and top space physiological experiences.

I feel that Ms. Connors did an excellent job of describing this in the story as it happened. I have read many BDSM books and feel that Rain On Me was very well written. I truly am looking forward to Book 2.

Joyce says

This was my first time reading Eden Connor. I loved this unique relationship between the main characters, and the supporting characters and plot were just as important to the development and execution of the story. Very well written. Shibari was tied into the story beautifully (pun totally intended). I could feel the emotions in this well orchestrated untangling in my heart. A very light 5 star read for me.

Monica **can't read fast enough says**

I recieved a copy of this book from the author, but with no expectations of a review. However, it was so enthralling that I could not in good conscience not write a review!

When I saw the offer from this author for a free copy of her latest book I admittedly didn't really expect very much; after all it is a freebie and I had never read anything by Eden Connor before. After reading Rain on Me, I will be correcting that oversight in the near future! Before I begin singing the praises of the book I will issue a warning. This book is FIRMLY in the erotica genre with all that that implies. This is my first true bondage book and I can't think of a better way to have been introduced to this subgenre of erotica than

having this as my first read. Others now have a high bar to hurdle. Okay, I said that I wouldn't start gushing yet, but I just can't seem to help myself. This book is written with highly descriptive sex scenes that in my opinion does not in any way take away from the overall story Connor weaves. Now, let the gushing begin!

Ray, the main character, is a dominant with a difference. He is a Shibari master and he takes his passion for the art of bondage seriously. Zin, is a toughened cop who considers herself a master of lies and has mastered the art of transforming herself into whatever character her job or situation calls for. Whether it be an innocent faced young woman, a tough cop ready to take down a meth addict, or the doe eyed new submissive looking for the right Dom to take care of her. Zin hates gambling with a passion and after her SLED unit busts a huge load of illegal slot machines she is determined to track down the source of this illegal gambling operation and do her part in stopping the ability of everyday people to destroy their lives with the pull of a handle. As you can guess, Zin has a very personal reason for hating these machines that at first seems almost irrational, but as Connor leads the reader through the story all becomes clear.

Yes, there is a lot of sex in this book and some may find it too much, but this book is so much more than just mommy porn disguised as a love story. This is a book about hard choices. Ray's choice to trust in his ability to love and care for a submissive without the fear of failure. Zin's choice to face a fear so many women have about their health. Zin's ability to choose between being strong enough to release control of things and people that are truly beyond her ability to control. Zin has, without a doubt, had it tough. As a child she had to make a choice that no parent should have asked a child to make, but as an adult she has to make a choice to either let things that have happened in the past go so that she can move on in her life in order to become and have what she so desires; or she can choose to hold on to fear, disappointment, and anger that just may not have been appropriately placed. Zin had to figure out that self pity and selfishness on her part may have played a small part in her estrangement from her family. What was done to her was unfair and wrong, but if you don't have all the facts sometimes things get judged wrong.

This is the first book that is categorized as erotica that has made me cry. I don't consider myself a sappy weepy person, but there is a part of this book that took my breath away and it brought forth such a strong reaction from me that I laughed after I had the cry. All I could think was that this sex book just made me cry! Again, this genre may not be for everyone and there was a surprise with a touch of breath play in one scene, but it definitely fit the goal in that section of the book. I can not over emphasize how surprised and blown away I am by the depth of the characters and the breadth of a story that I thought would just be a quick sexy read. Even if this story is a fluke and I do not enjoy any more of Connor's stories she will stay on my favorites list because Zinnia Jackson and Ray Casey will be on my mind for days to come.

I have to share a few of my favorite parts:

When Ray says: "I wanted Zin the way I wanted my next breath and I wanted to taste the rain on her skin..."

Zinnia's sister's description of dying: "It's a little like being a raindrop. You wanna cling to the glass, but the ground's calling your name..."

And finally, why I love Ray Casey! He says to Zinnia: "I want to be your thunderstorm, woman. I want to be the reason the hair on your arms stand up, even when I'm not with you. I want to be the white-hot lightning sizzling through your veins, drawing your back off the mattress. I want to be the soft patter inside your head, telling you how much you're loved. I want to quench every thirst you'll ever have."

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Jeannie Zelos says

Rain on Me. Shelter From the Storm ~ An Erotic Bondage Romance Series, Book 1. Eden Connor
Review from Jeannie Zelos Book reviews.

I've enjoyed some of Eden's romances before, and love well written, erotic romance. I've seen reviews which mention the interracial aspect of this (and other) books, but to be honest except when it was specifically mentioned I didn't notice colour. I think of characters as people, not in terms of race, religion or disability etc...though I can see that the Shibari connection with slavery and ropes could be off putting. I think that's doing people's intellect a disservice though, and stretching connections too far. Maybe I'm just an optimist :) Anyway the book....Zinnia, she's a cop, clearly still escaping from a troubled childhood, and intent on bringing down the machines that caused her father to gamble their money away. The police want her to go undercover to flush out a local bigwig they suspect is behind a massive operation involving gambling. It's become a personal crusade for Zin, and though she's never done anything like this before she agrees. She doesn't plan for her attraction to Ray, the Shibari master who'll be training her though. Luckily he's just as attracted to her, and there's some hot and sensual sex scenes that fit perfectly within the story. Ray, there's demons in his past too, and he sees through Zin's bravado into what she's running from. He uses the ropes to help her. I know little about Shibari, but the explanations of pressure points, and the way they release endorphins and have a physical effect was interesting, plus of course the whole psychology of trust and letting go. I love the artistry too – it's not just tying someone up to dominate them, but creating an art form. Ray talks about the beauty of it, and the patterns left in the skin fleetingly after the ropes come off. That reminded me of artist Andy Goldsworthy – I love his work, and its mostly photographs of sculptures he creates using natural materials on site. So ice melts, leaves and seeds blow away, sand disintegrates and all that's left is the photo. It's the transient nature that makes these works so special, and the skin marks just remind me so much of that. OK that's my art ramblings done :)

Back to the book. I've said what I loved, the personalities of Ray and Zin, the sensuality and eroticisms of the sex scenes, the artistry, the way their backgrounds shape what they both are now, and how they act. What about what didn't work so well? Sadly I felt after all that build up the Hammond connection fell flat, there was little real interaction with him. The whole sting op seemed to just fizzle out, and though Zin took steps to help it survive we don't know what happened next. Then there's the question of Hammond's second wife's death. There were suggestions that it may not have been suicide, and yet we never got further than speculation...I like completion in a story and felt this just seemed incomplete, especially as I struggled often with who was connected to who and why, and who was to be trusted. I got to the end but felt as if I'd missed something essential along the way somehow. It's priced at £2.76 for 316 pages so a very reasonable price. Stars: well, that's difficult to judge, the erotic sensual sex and the artistry of the Shibari was a real five but the story itself...maybe pushing a three – I just felt I'd didn't quite “get it” that I'd missed something. So I guess it's a four overall.

ARC supplied by Netgalley

Donna Jones says

I started this after reading one of my favorite books so I wasn't really ready to read another book to be fair

you could say I had a serious book hangover. After reading the first chapter I wanted to give up I just couldn't find my mojo but io continued and I must admit the first couple chapters I didn't really get into the book and no matter how many times I read Zin was black I still pictured her as a red head (think Julia Roberts in pretty woman but much curvier) and I pictured Ray as black (think postman from eastenders)

By the 3rd / 4th chapter I was hooked and wanted to send Hammond down almost as much as Zin. To be honest I would have liked more as I feel it was incomplete but obviously that's to pave the way for another book.

This book was a lovely read I couldn't put it down once I got past the beginning I really believed in Ray as a character and I wanted to shake Zin for her self doubt but all in all it was a good story And no spelling mistakes which is a big issue for me, and very well written.

Di Covey says

4.5 Stars!

This was a kinky mystery with meaning. Light BDSM with panty eating scenes. I felt like I was watching a movie, but better because I got the good stuff they don't put in the films.

Every time I open an Eden Conner book, it's learning something new, she's like my favorite teacher, I soak up her words and devour her meaning. She delves into topics I have no clue about and sheds light. You can definitely see her experience and super power for bringing knowledge to the people. I honestly didn't think video gaming/gambling would be something I would want to read, it took me a minute to realize this story was more than meets the eye. Eden Connor does her homework, that's for sure. With every thing going on in this book, I felt like she captured every emotion, feeling, and made it realistic. I had goosebumps and watery eyes.

Zin must go undercover to take down an illegal gambling ring. Taking a risk as "submissive" to catch the bad guy. She soon learns what the real meaning to the lifestyle is, she struggles to accept it and learn, while trying to keep her cover. She's got a vendetta against the machines that suck people dry, leaving familes in shambles. This is a slow release of information, you won't get the bigger picture right from the start. Just hang on for the ride. Will Zin find peace within herself, catch the bad guys, and remain unscathed?

Amber J. says

I loved this story about an independent and tough female cop working in a "man's world" and trying to fit in by being one of guys. She needs to go undercover with the kindhearted and sexy mailman, as his submissive. As Zinnia learns the role of a submissive through Rays love of Shibari, she struggles with trusting a man and the pleasure she receives while submitting. Through the art if being tied in the elaborate knots of Shibari and Ray's domination, she confronts her demons and rediscovers the woman she was always meant to be.

This was my first time reading Eden Connor and I truly loved her writing!!! It was a wonderful journey learning more about the art and passion in Shibari...how being tied and suspend in ropes can truly free one's heart and soul!

Tanya says

Rating: 4.5 stars

Wow, not what I expected from this at first, but really really pleased I got a chance to read this. Zin is an undercover cop, and is tagged to go undercover to a BDSM collaring ceremony/wedding as the date of a shibari expert, and part of his demonstration. That expert is our hero, Ray, a widower, who lost not only his wife but his submissive and has some serious issues unresolved from that. The target of the investigation into illegal gaming is high ranking and part of the BDSM scene. Ray is assisting the investigation, agreeing to help Zin do what she needs in order to fit into the scene, thus she becomes his assistant for the shibari demonstration, and they begin a relationship. Zin is brand new to shibari, and Ray is definitely not looking for a new sub at the start of this book.

This book has so many threads running through it. It is not a fluffy romance at all, and the topics addressed are quite serious and could be depressing, but are not handled that way. Zin has family issues with cancer and is possibly facing some of her own health issues. Both Zin and Ray have unresolved past traumas/issues from family and romantic relationships gone bad. The investigation itself is complex with many players and mysteries among the police force and Ray's friends and acquaintances. One character dies tragically during the book.

Others have mentioned as well that Zin and Ray are a biracial couple as well, though it is not a big deal at all in the book, which is pleasant. They are simply two people attracted to each other. Refreshing to see that.

I also find refreshing that our submissive (Zin) is a cop while our dominant, Ray, is a mailman and security guard. No billionaires here among the main couple, though some of the people and acquaintances are much wealthier. Ray at one point talks about choosing his profession because it didn't suck his very soul from him because he had already given his soul to his submissive, his wife at the time. What an incredibly unique point of view, and far from the only spot in this novel where the psychological and emotional aspects of BDSM and shibari are discussed eloquently.

I haven't read such a memorable book in quite a while and loved this one. There is a preview of the second novel in this series at the end, and it looks like it will carry on the mystery of this one regarding the illegal gaming perhaps, or other issues brought up in this book. While our hero and heroine find a happily ever after, there are many many pieces of the plot left hanging and open for the next in the series. It is clear from this first book that they will be tied together in this series. I will definitely look for that when it comes out.

I received a free copy of this book from the publisher via Netgalley for an honest review.

Patricia says

3.5

Tamekia says

I don't know where to begin....this book was like a intricate puzzle that begged to be put together! I was enamored with the complexity of Zin and at the simplicity of Ray - but it didn't weaken their combustible attraction. They were hot- their differences made them so alike. I also felt the secondary characters were key to this story - the Ennis/Deion relationship I wasn't expecting but caught a vibe just before that was revealed. This story reminded me how so many things in life are related-and how so many pieces & parts come full circle. Looking forward to the next book in the series Eden:)

Fiza says

The poker machines case was a personal one for Zin. Her reasonings and the real reason why it was personal was explained through out the book. This in the form of little bits here and there, with every bit it got clearer and was I one step closer to discover the true character behind Zin.

As Zin was a master at lying, detecting and acting the part, was Ray a master in Shibari. I had expected him to be this arrogant, cocky man. But the man was quite sweet, even cute. He also sounded and ,especially in the first chapters of the book, acted much younger than his 40 years.

What I liked best about this book, were the parts between Zin and Ray. They were very descriptive and touching. Ray had to delve into her psyche to reach her inner demons. And with help of his Shibari skills he made her talk about those demons.

I would have liked to see more confrontations though. Her main suspect in the case was a person named Hammond, he was the reason Zin went undercover in the first place but we only saw him every now and again. Which was a shame, for the rest this book had a compelling story line with deep character. I'm glad I had the opportunity to read it.

Karinosa says

Not at all what I expected!! The first couple of chapters were hard to get into, but once I did it was so worth it!! I have never heard of this author and saw all the good reviews. I decided to take a chance. This was a good read and at parts of this read I was in tears. I did enjoy the author's writing style. It kept you guessing and I did not know who was involved. The fact that everyone has baggage is of course reality. Zin and Ray's relationship was crazy hot!! I mean I was thinking "WOW" at some of these scenes! Wicked hot!! I want a man to love on me like that!! So this is a series I will be reading. Crazy the things that happens and Zin is on a mission...I do hope she gets her man in the end!!! I have no complaints about this read and enjoyed the beginning of the next book!

I received this ARC from the author via Net Galley for my honest review. Thanks Net Galley!

Robin says

This has been on my list for awhile good thing someone found it. Great story characters were portrayed so vividly. I love books where the characters jump off the page. I loved the suspense and mystery tied up with the the rest of the the storylines. One of those complicated entanglements

Gayle Pace says

REVIEW

When Ms. Connor asked if I would do a review on her new book, I said I would because I've read her books before. This isn't the normal genre that I read but I went ahead and read it. This book is DEFINITELY in the erotica genre. This book is the first book I have read on bondage

The author wrote with some very descriptive scenes. The main character, Ray is a Shibari master and doesn't take it likely. He wants Zin to think of his love for her every minute of every day.He wants her in every way. Zin thinks of herself as a master of lies. She can be whatever is called for. Zin is a hard cop who goes about her job whole hearted. She has an aversion to gambling and her main objective is to bring down the people who are bent on pulling the handle on illegal slots.This book isn't for everyone.

Zin has a lot of fears. She has had it hard. She is used to control of situations and people and she finds herself in the place where she has to take that step to let go . She has the choice of letting the past go or hanging on to all the fears and the anger and remain in the past, never moving beyond that. She has a lot to decide on. She was unfairly treated. Zin has to realize that sometimes if you don't get all the facts about the situations, you can make a bad choice.

Ms. Connor wrote a book that will bring out some emotions that don't normally come out with a book about bondage. This is a book where choices have to be made, where your heart will feel for some of the characters. This book is not your normal bondage book.

The quote from Ray to Zin is such a beautiful thing to say. I don't think you could say anything else that would describe the ultimate love Ray felt for Zin. Totally amazing.The author, Ms. Connor wrote beauty and love into the art of Shibari (a form of bondage).I found I actually enjoyed the book, although when I started reading I just knew this book wasn't for me. Ms. Eden Connor changed that with her wonderful talent of writing.

I would give this book 4 RAINDROPS.

I was given a complimentary copy of RAIN ON ME from the author, Eden Connor for my honest opinion. No other compensation took place.

Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews says

Slick's review posted on Guilty Pleasures Book Reviews

Review copy provided for an honest review

4.5 STARS

Sometimes you read a book and it just takes you by complete surprise. I expected some romantic suspense with this book, but it turned out to be so much more. Eden Connor's *Rain On Me* is one woman's journey of self discovery; learning to make peace with her past, understanding her needs, and embracing a future she never expected with a man who plans to test her every limit. I flat out loved their journey and while this book left me with many unanswered questions in regards to the criminal case she was investigating, the love story was beautifully told and incredibly moving.

Zinnia Jackson is a detective with the South Carolina Law Enforcement Agency. She's climbed the ranks under the guidance of her mentor and father figure Sergeant Ennis Moorehouse. She's had to do some not so favorable things as an undercover officer but she's proud of the work she'd done. However she's being asked to train with a Shibari master, a Dom, to go undercover to catch an influential man suspected of being tied to a large illegal video gaming bust. She believes she doesn't have a submissive bone in her body but she has a personal reason for wanting to break this case and she's willing to do whatever it takes to break it. What she doesn't count on is falling in love.

Ray Casey is a goner from the first moment he meets Zinnia and as much as he hopes to bed her, he won't take on another submissive. As he works and trains with Zin he finds himself becoming more enthralled with her. As he binds her, he begins to unravel the pain of her past and starts to understand the woman she's become. While he never had any intentions of falling in love again, he finds himself willing to do anything to protect and keep her safe.

Both Zinnia and Ray have some demons in their past that keep them from admitting the need they have for one another. While they have no problem engaging in a sexual affair, neither one will allow it to progress from there. However, as the case heats up and circumstances change they simply can't deny their emotional connection. Watching Zin come to terms with the want to submit and watching Ray begin to realize that he was willing to risk his heart again was absolutely beautiful.

This is one of those books that will haunt me because it made me feel so much. The writing was strong; I could feel the connection between the characters, their situation while unique only made them closer, and the bond they formed was strong and unbreakable. *Rain On Me* may not be a typical story of BDSM however, it is one that drew me in, made me think, and has me wondering what will happen next.

SPOILER Reviewers note: This book deals with a relationship between an undercover cop and a Shibari master who must prepare her for a case. The relationship ends with what we can assume will be a HEA but the suspense/crime part of the story is not wrapped up and will be continued in the next book.
