



Finding Eden

Kele Moon

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Re-Released prequel to Kele Moon's darkly erotic novel Beyond Eden

Handsome, angry and spoiled, Danny Carlow struggles to find his place in the world when his hatred for authority makes survival difficult. The only thing that keeps him from completely giving up and turning to a life of crime is his friendship with clean-cut Paul Mattling. More than his conscience and his best friend, Paul's also the one Danny secretly pines for with every ounce of his being.

Paul is a natural over-achiever with a football scholarship and straight A's to boast about. Yet Paul is haunted by an abusive childhood that's left him more scarred than anyone realizes. Looking for an escape from his demons, Paul has his own deviant secrets, ones he doesn't want anyone, especially Danny, to know about.

When dark desires are accidentally revealed Danny and Paul end up coming together in a clash of wild passion more tumultuous than either of them could have anticipated. Tasting the forbidden is sweet, but it turns the tables on their relationship, putting everything, even their lifelong friendship, in jeopardy.

Reader Advisory: This story visits the dark side of BDSM, where the only thing more intense than the scenes the characters participate in, is the love they have for one another. Please note there is a very brief F/F encounter.

Finding Eden Details

Date : Published November 9th 2015 (first published August 19th 2011)

ISBN :

Author : Kele Moon

Format : 200 pages

Genre : Erotica, Bdsm, Romance, M M Romance, Adult Fiction, Menage

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From Reader Review Finding Eden for online ebook

Kerry says

3.5 stars

I couldn't decide which to read first...this book, which is chronologically first, or Beyond Eden which was written first. I decided to read this book, but I don't know yet if that was the right decision. Will ETA after finishing Beyond Eden.

*ETA: I made the right decision. I am very glad that I read this book first--it set up Beyond Eden and allowed me to understand Paul and Danny's relationship better. Now I *really* want to read Claiming Eden which is set in between this book and Beyond Eden.*

For the first half of this book I did not like Paul or Danny. Both of them had fucked-up lives and families and I just didn't feel any connection between the two. Then, in the last half of the book, events happened which forced them together and I began to understand what they were feeling and where they were coming from.

IMO, this is not a stand-alone read. The ending is not a HEA, or even a HFN. The reader is definitely left wondering what will happen next.

The BDSM in this book is hardcore and not for the squeamish. I have read many, many BDSM themed books and Paul is one of the most masochistic characters that I have encountered. I am very eager to read Beyond Eden and to see how this relationship progresses.

Td says

Close childhood friends in Danny and Paul with outside issues and secrets all over the place + straight(?) masochist with zero limits (Paul) + bi asshole afraid of not only giving up control but taking control as well (Danny), totally clueless with how to deal with Paul = Inevitable Train Wreck.

There was another character, Jason, who turned out to be my favorite and the desperately needed voice of reason. Jason had some very accurate lines that summed things up nicely:

"There is a medical journal waiting to be written about you two."

Jason arched an eyebrow at Danny. "You two are a funeral waiting to happen. Really, you cannot allow Paul to be your guide to BDSM. He has no boundaries, and you're too bold for your own good. You'll find yourself in very big trouble with him, I promise." (Yep.)

This is a prequel to Beyond Eden so the end is left very open, their story continues there. I'm not willing to read an m/m/f now to see how things turn out. I was happy enough with this one and wish them the best.

Emma Sea says

Brilliant, fabulous, fantastic. Like watching two cars slam head-on into each other, in slow motion.

Paul and Danny have been best friends for ever. Paul gets off on being hurt. Danny gets off on controlling others. Neither has *any* ability whatsoever to stop themselves where the other is concerned.

There were two scenes of strong hurt-comfort, so be warned. I thought the first was bad, but the second I actually wanted to vomit for a second. Very vivid descriptions. Great secondary characters. The MCs are so well-fleshed out, they seem real and their actions are completely believeable.

I didn't read the first book, and probably won't, but there should be a third, and I'm definitely in line for that one.

A??ela W. says

Spoiler Ahead Read at Your Own Risk

I re read this whole series and thought that it was time to redo this review. Danny Carlow has been friends with Paul Mattling since they were in Kindergarten along with Eve Everton who was Paul's girlfriend who Danny is also in love with along with Paul. Danny struggles to find his place in the world when his hatred for authority makes survival difficult. The only thing that keeps him from completely giving up and turning to a life of crime is his friendship with clean-cut Paul who is a natural over-achiever with a football scholarship and straight A's to boast about. Yet Paul is haunted by an abusive childhood that's left him more scarred than anyone realizes. Looking for an escape from his demons. I hated Paul's family his father who abused him his whole life and got Paul's older brothers to abuse him and his mother who never stood up for him. Danny has his own problems with his father although wasn't physically abused like Paul. Danny's family is rich and his father is an alcoholic. Danny is over protective of his friends so when one of his hook-ups tells him he saw Paul at a fetish party he doesn't believe him. Danny goes to a party where Paul is begging a Domme to beat him more. Danny is willing to do anything for Paul and he use's Paul pain fetish to be with him. I hated that Danny felt that he had to break Paul's heart because he was afraid of Paul's fetish even though he has been in love with him for a long time. With the help of Jason a sub who is also a doctor who they met that the party he nurse's Paul back to health. The sex scenes were hot although Paul has never been with another man he is a submissive and Danny makes him is slave Paul will do anything for Danny, but he is in over his head. Danny is a natural Dom and although he doesn't want to face it he gets off on hurting Paul.. This was a really good book and this is my favorite series. This book was well written with no errors in spelling or grammar. If you like reading M/M with BDSM pain slut than I recommend that you read this book. The book is written out of order it goes 2,3,1

Danny

Chris says

3.5 stars. Good kinky m/m romance that left me feeling conflicted. I really liked the evolution of Paul and Danny's friendship as it developed into something infinitely darker and more complex. However, I was

frustrated by the story seeming to end in midstream. I see that Beyond Eden takes place a number of years later, and perhaps it addresses what happens after this story ends... but I don't want to read an mmf story. I want Paul and Danny to sort things out themselves!

Sophia Triad says

Perfect! The beginning of the amazing heartbreaking love story between Danny and Paul. Although it is a prequel to Beyond Eden, I suggest you read Beyond before Finding in order to understand the characters better.

Danny will discover that the love of his life Paul is a masochist. After he saves him from a cruel Domme, he will grab the opportunity to make Paul his. And then he will discover his dom and sadistic tendencies.

They have a long way to go before they experience their sexual preferences with Eve in Beyond Eden and find happiness. This book is just the start.

I cannot say I completely understand the level of masochism that Paul is craving, but I completely understand the sacrifices Danny will make to make his best friend and lover happy.

I highly recommend the book to readers who love MM stories with BDSM elements, readers who love dark romance and readers who simply loved Beyond Eden and want to know how the story started.

Optimist ?King's Wench? & MANTIES Champion says

Re-read 12/3/15

When I originally read this prequel I remember being very uncomfortable with how dangerous Danny and Paul's relationship was. It stuck with me and it wasn't until I re-read this revised version that the light bulb went on.

Danny and Paul remind me of Kingsley and Søren (from the Original Sinners)! Only Danny developed his sadism **for** Paul rather Kingsley realizing his masochism due to Søren. But what spoke to me was the fact that Danny swallowed his pride and asked for help so he wouldn't cause harm to Paul whereas Søren just walked away.

Danny gets points for that as does this book in the form of another star.

Aside from the epiphany I didn't notice much significant difference between the original and this one other than expanding Jason's role which was nice and all but not all that relevant to the big picture.

Original review. 5/2013

This is the prequel to *Beyond Eden* which picks up shortly after Evie leaves for NYC. Paul, whose past we were given glimpses of in the first book, enough to give a tangible quality to much of his tendencies and personality, we're given much more insight into in this book. It's heartbreaking but then again without that he wouldn't have become the amazing person that he is. I wish we would've gotten to know how he entered "the game". We do get quite a bit of his competitive side in this one. I didn't think he had a mean bone in his body

but I was mistaken, as Jason can attest.

Danny's past, unfortunately, isn't all that much better than Paul's which is probably part of what brought them together to begin with. Danny is a natural dom who Paul instinctually responds to, but untrained he's just flat out dangerous, especially given Paul's pain threshold. There were a couple times towards the end that I wanted to smack or shake him.

I feel like it ended abruptly and I'm left wanting to know what the other 8 or so yrs before Evie comes back were like. Maybe with the next book?

Leah says

I don't know if I can write a review that does this book justice except to say it's flipping BRILLIANT! Thinking about the Carlow ranch house as a metaphor for Paul and Danny's burgeoning D/s relationship; the fifth, decay, desperate need of renovation and maintenance yet the simultaneous comfort and familiarity both provide.....I'm fangirling all over the place. FE is just so good, so raw and honest. I fucking love that Kele recognized that Paul and Danny's relationship couldn't be told in one or two books. I'm already for more. Evie who? That chick can die...and I loved the first book, until I read this one.

Ms. Moon if you write it woman I will buy it! You're golden. Besides Anah Croh's Uneven I've encountered few books that give submissive men and masochists the reverence their trust deserves. PLEASE tell me you're considering writing Jason's story as well. I really can't be any more sycophantic; everything is so intricately crafted and seemingly well thought out...*SIGH* MUST read for dark BDSM lovers.

Amy says

Originally posted at <http://www.fictionvixen.com/2011/08/r...>

Paul, Danny and Eve have been best friends and inseparable since grade school. When high school arrived, both men had fallen in love with Eve, but Danny stepped back in order for Paul to date Eve. Paul and Eve became exclusive high school sweethearts, until Eve left for college to pursue her art career in New York City. Paul was devastated by losing his first love, but remained in their hometown to attend college on a football scholarship.

Paul has been programmed all his life to be obedient by his physically abusive father. As a coping mechanism he turned that abuse into a game of tolerance. Considered the "golden boy," he has never been rebellious and now as an adult, his greatest concealed desire is to be a slave/professional submissive. Further, as a result of his childhood abuse, Paul now has a disturbingly strong fetish for hard core pain. This extreme fetish, while teetering on the verge of deadly, is what pushes Paul to the highest state of sexual arousal and euphoria.

Danny has had his share of abuse as well. His escape from reality and a drunken father was reading books. A rebel against rules and school, he still had a passion for literature and a hidden desire for unconditional love.

Beneath his abrasive demeanor and outward cockiness, Danny holds a secret. He has loved Paul for years. His love is why he gave up pursuing Eve and why he has never said no to Paul or to anything Paul wants – until now. Once Danny discovers Paul's fetish, he is shocked to his core. And when he finds that Paul is attracted to him, his guard comes down and desire takes over for them both.

As this new dynamic in their relationship unfolds, we see Danny's unwavering control and raw emotion highlight his natural Dominant side which Paul immediately recognizes and desires. He begs Danny to provide the sensory stimulation and sexual release he gets from being physically and emotionally controlled. What is gut-wrenching is when Paul admits that he gets off on the humiliation of being with Danny, due to Danny being male and the stereotype of that being wrong. And because Danny is in love with Paul, this revelation causes Danny's greatest agony which breeds feelings of anger and resentment and ultimately results in him pushing Paul away.

"He could be the man Paul wanted, could hurt him and probably get off on it and that was what he was hiding from. He didn't want to be this person. He certainly didn't want to turn into one willing to damage something so ethereally gorgeous just to hold Paul close."

Their damaged relationship leads Paul to seek solace in his fetish. The session goes terribly wrong and results in a brutal and almost fatal cane beating. Danny is called to the scene and is mortified at what has happened to Paul. His instant reaction is to try to save Paul's life, but he is quickly confronted with feelings of guilt, pain, and remorse for pushing Paul away. Danny reluctantly faces the harsh truth that Paul's desires are as natural to him as breathing. And unless Danny wants to continue to rescue Paul from untrustworthy Doms, he must become the Master/Dom Paul needs.

First off let me say that this series can very well test a person's comfort zone. It's dark, graphic and could be disturbing to readers that are not comfortable with hardcore BDSM. In Finding Eden, we begin to see how the highly dysfunctional childhood of both Paul and Danny played a part in them being darkly emotional and painfully intense men. I feel like the best way to describe the story is a beautifully tragic train wreck. I enjoy stories like Finding Eden that push the boundaries and take me out of my comfort zone to the point of wanting to understand the mindset of these characters and how they are driven to these unorthodox and extreme sexual practices. The raw desire and desperation Kele Moon pours into her characters is mind blowing and as the reader I am obsessed with discovering what makes them tick. At times you feel like they both are teetering on the edge of insanity. You witness two men, totally mindfucked by their childhood, who are obsessing over vices they feel will only quell the damage that was done to their souls. And then you start to question your own sanity because, like a voyeur, you are witnessing a raw, dark, compulsive ecstasy with your breath held, eyes bugging out, and wanting more. Finally, your heart is aching for both characters to just be able to love in a semi-normal fashion. As crazy as it seems, Ms. Moon has a gift for creating one of the darkest erotic stories with extremely flawed characters whose love and dedication for each other will resonate with you long after you have finished their story.

Favorite Quote:

"Danny pressed against him, careless of Paul's back and injured ass, just enjoying being close to his best friend. This pushed Danny more than the high, the discovery that pain killed the demons of Paul's past long enough for Danny to be able to really love him."

Geri Reads says

4.5 stars!

The story of Danny boy and Paul was just heartbreakingly sad. I want more.

?? Nikki. ✨ says

I actually enjoyed this book more than book one. It's set before book one, and the main focus was on Paul and Danny, I really enjoyed this book. Now onto book three! :)

Kele Moon says

ON SALE FOR 99 CENTS!

I'm keeping both Eden books discounted for short time so fans of the series can get the new versions and enjoy the sneak peak of Claiming Eden at the end of Finding Eden which is coming out Jan 26th, 2016! Also available on Kindle Unlimited!

Beyond Eden

<http://amzn.to/20LdUFD>

Finding Eden

<http://amzn.to/1HGqKJD>

Claiming Eden

<http://amzn.to/1MmWEwF>

? BookAddict ✨ La Crimson Femme says

Pauvre Paul! Danny est tres desole! This story is FABULOUS! I felt so badly for Paul. Learning the back story about Paul's terrible childhood causes me to be furious. I want to pistol whip his father and kick both his older brothers' ass. ARGH I'm so angry. Those mo-fo should be shot, in the ass. Paul is such a sweet sweet boy.

Danny ~ what is up with his father? Why are there terrible fathers in this story? Does Ms. Moon have issues with fathers? I want to beat the crap out of these guys. To treat children in this way is totally unacceptable!

Danny and Paul's relationship is so unhealthy. I'm with Jason. Danny needs training. Paul ~ good lord I had no idea he was such a pain slut. It's like watching a train wreck. I cried for him. Danny becoming a Dom is so hot for me. He's what I would consider a natural Dom too. The ending of this book would have killed me had I not known there is a second part to this one. I'm eagerly awaiting the second part for resolution.

The sex scenes ~ wow, I really enjoyed Danny and Paul together. Since I enjoy reading about whippings, floggings, those were hot for me too. I liked the introduction of the two women. I wished there was a bit more of their sex since I like f/f too.

This book is one I'd read over and over again. The reason is because of Danny and his reluctant Dom situation. I find this to be a realistic portrayal. Based on some of my female friends, it appears that many of their DH are reluctant Doms. I know my DH is a reluctant Dom.

I recommend this story to people who want their heart torn out. This is a story filled with misery and forbidden love. I loved it.

Chase says

I missed having Eve involved and the pain stuff is still a bit much, but it's well done and those two boys are hot together.

Leontine says

Finding Eden is the prequel to Beyond Eden and I'm in awe where Kele Moon has taken both Paul and Danny. The journey is tumultuous at best but at some points it was soul baring raw. Via a fluent and alluring writing style there were no barriers between me and the story. Kele Moon poured this incredibly moving story of two flawed characters to paper that echoed long after I finished it.

I already knew Paul and Danny from Beyond Eden, so I was aware of certain character traits. Like Paul being too giving and has no boundaries in his sexual preferences. Or that Danny has utter foot-in-mouth moments making him a jerk on occasion. I knew who Paul and Danny were yet in Finding Eden they still managed to affect me in new ways. It is mainly because more attention is given to their home situation and it was gritty. It speaks of alcohol and physical abuse which both leave a profound mark on these two young men. Paul is this double-edged persona of light and darkness. He is an all-American golden boy. He is a straight A student, a star football player, does charity work and is charming. Even while the charming, giving personality traits are an essential part of Paul it is countered with a hunger for pain, for being dominated. Paul needs this to function, and in this his struggles are intimately portrayed by the author. Kele Moon gave me the innermost self of Paul and allowed me to understand who he was, where his needs stemmed from and why he was the man he was. Paul struck a chord with me in his vulnerability, in his needs, and in doing so he completely won me over!

Danny had the same effect on me just in a whole other way. Danny is the bad boy, the one who gets all the chicks between the sheets with a devil-may-care attitude. He needs no one but behind that exterior attitude I found a man who was capable of loving so deeply, it just blew me away. Danny might not befriend easily or fall in love easily but when he does...oh my, he makes my romantic heart go into overdrive. Danny loves in his own unique way, it may not be full of roses and daisies but a powerful love that will go the distance and beyond! I relished in how Kele Moon laid him bare for me in his struggles. Paul needs something from Danny which he is not easily giving in to. Namely satiating Paul's need for pain and being dominated. Danny makes mistakes but, like with Paul, I was inside his psyche where I got to understand and feel where it all

came from.

I went through each struggle, each painful or joyful moment and I watched a friendship alter in a fiercely dark erotic romance. To say the dynamics between Paul and Danny was completely grabbing me would be an understatement. They created a synergy of emotional and sexual hunger which only they together could satisfy. I inhaled it! Due to Paul's pain fetish and the raw moments it provides a darker side to the eroticism. Yet the eroticism is also titillating, naughty, provoking and seductively sexy! It's a one of a kind blend where Kele Moon takes the sexy and roots it in profound emotions between characters who have an intense connection that deepens with each moment shared. The dialogues are brimming with male banter, quick wit and the characters personality. The verbal clash of these two personalities created quite the firework and my eyes devoured it.

There is also a minimum secondary cast whom support the journey of Paul and Danny but never detracted the attention from them. Secrets gradually get revealed and sets up the main conflict. This is whether Danny can provide what Paul needs and it is masterfully elaborated and unfolds a situation where emotions and darkness peaks. There is nothing I want more than an author letting me into the world of the characters and allow me to get to know them in a very intimate way. Kele Moon gives me that and so much more. There is no way to describe how Paul and Danny got under my skin and let me feel a range of emotions. They come alive for me as I read Finding Eden. The whirlwind of feelings with the characters raged inside me as well. Like I mentioned earlier; there is no filter between the story and me. I absorbed the intricate storylines and characterization with no regard for my surrounding. I just was that captivated by the powerful voice of these characters. It turned me in to a ravenous reader and even though the happy for now ending worked like a charm for me, I wanted more. It felt like Finding Eden was just the beginning, that the story of the D/s relationship expanding was yet to come. As I found out, this will happen in Claiming Eden.

I crave 'outside the box' romance with extraordinary and flawed characters. I revel in a complex situation meshed with mind-blowing ecstasy. Have it all amplified by an imaginative writing style and I have readers bliss written all over my face. Kele Moon hits the bull's with all of the above! Finding Eden is gritty, it will take you through the dark recesses of the characters soul before a HFN will have you close the book. It will put you through the emotional wringer but delivers a story where you're accepted and loved exactly for who you are. This is what romance is all about!

4.5 stars

He didn't want to be that person. He certainly didn't want to turn into one willing to damage something so ethereally gorgeous just to hold Paul close. Danny had wanted him for as long as he could remember, had watched from a distance and hoped and prayed for a chance at tasting the divine. Now here Paul was, naked and sated in Danny's bed, and the only thought he had about it was that God had to be a twisted bastard.

Wearing only a pair of jeans, Danny sat by the front door straightening a beer bottle. He turned the label outward on touch alone as he stared ahead unseeing. This was what he was destined to be, a heartbroken shell of a man living in a hollowed-out home, lining up bottles.

"Your ass belongs to me. I've suffered for it. I've loved you forever. I deserve it," Danny went on, his voice a low mixture of anger and desire. "I don't ever want you getting from another man what you can get from me. You hear me, Paul Guy, it's mine."

“Yeah,” Paul choked, shifting beneath Danny, aching for him. “I hear you.”

Paul forgot what he had been trying to get from Danny to begin with. His back was burning and his cock was hard. Danny felt amazing over him, all muscle, raw strength and untamable fury. He wanted to cling to him, to hold Danny closer. More so, he wanted to reach down and push off the boxer shorts he wore, craving the feeling of being bare and vulnerable.
