



Bound To Please

Kimberly Gardner

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Jason doesn't do monogamy, and as a much sought-after Dom he doesn't have to. But when he gets the chance to play with Benny, his sweet young assistant who wants only to please him, Jason holds back.

Benny's no sub, but for a chance to be with the sexy Dom he's sure he can change. Except he's only fooling himself, and deep down he knows it.

Enter Rain, a sexy badboy who's got a taste for the lash and pretty young things, like Benny. What's a man to do when the two men he lusts after are determined that even a hook-up is not in the cards? Why, orchestrate one single night of pleasure, of course.

But when the whip comes down, and one night isn't enough, it's love, not leather, that's bound to please.

Bound To Please Details

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Author : Kimberly Gardner

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Genre says

Benny works as a PA to successful BDSM club owner Jason and has lusted after him every since they met. Jason is also attracted to the quiet, shy Benny but knows that he can't allow himself to have a relationship with a man who isn't a sub. As a Dom, Jason knows that he would eventually find that unfulfilling. When ex-porn star, male model and sub, Rain, enters their lives he sees that both Jason and Benny could find love with each other and hatches a plan to get them together, not realising that he, himself could be the one who would make the relationship work.

There was much to like about this BDSM ménage book, especially in the way that it takes the usual D/s theme and changes it slightly to accommodate the ménage. Many D/s books involve a Dom who meets a man who has sub potential and then initiates him into the lifestyle, falling in love with him at the same time. This story takes an initial similar route: that of a Dom who is attracted to a seemingly submissive man, but then turns the tables on the reader when it turns out that, no matter how hard he may wish it, Benny just hasn't got what it takes to be a sub. Yes, he's a shy man who hates confrontation; yes, he likes obeying orders and being directed and dominated in his sexual play, but ultimately other aspects of submission leave him either scared to death or humiliated. It was an interesting idea and one that is played with for most of the book as the reader gets taken with Benny on his journey towards accepting that, no matter how much he may want or fantasise about submission, it will never be something he is comfortable with. I found myself sympathising with Benny, especially when he looks at Rain and sees everything he could never be, all wrapped up in an enticing bundle for Jason.

Another part which I liked a great deal was in the way that the ménage relationship worked. Jason is an older man and an experienced Dom who is looking for a 24/7 sub. This is something which he sees as possible with Rain, yet Benny's sweet nature calls to him at a deeper level than sex. Benny has been in love with Jason for a long time but falls into an easy friends-with-benefits relationship with Rain. When the pair concoct a scheme to get Jason to notice Benny, the three men realise that actually they work better as a three: Jason and Rain get the fulfilling D/s relationship, and all three benefit from the close emotional bond that they share. Of course there are several spanners in the works before they get to this point, but I really felt that by the end of the book this is relationship which is mutually beneficial to all the men and therefore likely to stand the test of time.

One final part which I felt worked well was in the way the book features several characters who are connected with the BDSM lifestyle, both male and female. This gave setting of the book a realistic feel as we see the different types of Doms, Dommes and subs and their interplay. The way that the club is described and the interaction between the members added an extra dimension to the story so it wasn't just about three men, but also about their friendships with the other secondary characters and how that impacts on their own developing relationship. It was all rather cleverly done and meant that even the most minor characters were fleshed out with their own problems interwoven with the story of the three main characters.

The only problem I had with the story stemmed from the fact that we don't get Rain's point of view. Whilst I could see that this was necessary to the secondary drama plot involving Rain and the mysterious Don, it also meant that I didn't really feel that I got to know Rain as well as Jason and Benny. I also felt that the way this drama plot was resolved seemed ridiculously easy and convenient, as though it got swept under the carpet at the end. In which case I had to wonder why it was there at all, as any conflict between the men could have come from Benny and Rain's internal insecurity rather than a slightly forced external conflict.

However, that was only a minor niggle in what was a pretty terrific book with well rounded characters, plotting and setting. If you are a little squeamish about the BDSM elements, then don't be put off as it is very mild in the book. There's plenty to satisfy those who do like BDSM, especially those who want the focus to be on the romance between the men. If you're looking for an excellent example of a m/m/m ménage book and like BDSM, then you can't go wrong with this book. I could barely stand to put it down and thoroughly enjoyed reading it. Highly recommended.

Brandilyn says

4+* I really enjoyed this story. Truly from the first page I did not want to put it down. The only reason it is not a 5* read is that I would have LOVED to have Rain perspective on things here and there, it almost made him feel expendable (almost). I will certainly read more from this author.

Gabriel says

I fought my way through this book. It felt like I had to climb mountains and part oceans to get to the end of it. And what thought was I left with in the end?

NO!

Yeah, just a big fat NO right there, because this book? This book takes everything known about BDSM and shakes it up a little & decides to just say "*Fuck it*". Therefore, what ends up being this so-called BDSM book is actually a poor version of how a non-kinky guy tries to finds his way with a Dom and a full-time pain slut and sub.

Sounds interesting? It truly isn't.

One of the biggest problems I had was that none of the characters truly showed any feelings. Instead of was like I was on the monotone train with no light at the end.

If they did show emotions, I deeply apologize for not picking up on it due to the extremely bad way it was shown from the author's side.

Especially Benny was bad & considering he was one the main characters in the book that is getting off on a bad start. But I never got any change in him. Whether he was in love, mad or happy, the writing didn't change to show these emotions. Instead I was left with reading about a 2D character.

Rain was just plain annoying. Or, I liked him in the beginning, but afterwards? Nah ah.

He is the one who ends up in problems. He is the one with the bad sorta ex-boyfriend. He is the one who is the deeply committed sub and *of course* he is the one who comes with the biggest load of baggage.

Cliché? Oh yes it is.

Jason was just bad as a Dom. If this had been my first book in the world of BDSM, I might actually have thought it was good. But I have read my fair share by now & I can tell that I didn't get one vibe from him through the pages.

Yes, I got the alpha vibe, but never one where I thought "*wau, this is clearly a Dom*". In all honesty, he seemed a tad whiny at times.

Now, the BDSM.

Was that what I was reading? Or was it just a lot of BDSM-y words thrown in where it seemed most appropriate after the author had scanned the Wikipedia page on the subject? It felt more like the latter. The main reason for me not getting the BDSM in this one was because of the whole Jason/Rain/Benny. I had thought, as I read the summary, that Benny was a submissive, but hadn't delved into it yet nor explored it. But no, I am treated to a relationship with a Dom/sub pairing & a person who isn't the slightest bit submissive nor interested in being a dom. Does that sound like something that is going to work out? Because it sure doesn't to me. Quite the opposite; it sounds like something doomed to failure right from the get go. It was absolutely ridiculous to read about & with a summary/cover that pointed towards a BDSM book completely misleading, as well.

I cannot express in words how many times I had to shake my head and felt like banging my head against the wall, while reading - but trust me, it was a lot of times!

So, would I recommend this book? No, never.

I wouldn't even recommend it to people who have decided that wanted to read & learn about BDSM, because this does in no way reflect a healthy Dom/sub relationship.

I definitely won't recommend it to people reading and getting into menages, as the author haven't gotten the slightest grasp on that part at all.

2 stars for the cover. The book itself gets 0.5. Seriously.

I'm just too dumbfounded that this can even be classified as BDSM. I'm not putting it on my shelf, that's for sure. Nor on my menage one.

Felicia (Ferishia) says

I first heard of Kimberly Gardner when I read Phoenix Rising and I loved the characters of Adam and Jimmy. So it was no brainer to read this one. Benny, who appeared occasionally in Phoenix, appears in this one. He is secretly attracted to Jason, the owner of the BDSM club where he works. Jason is also a fetish artist and takes provocative BDSM pictures. He's recent model Rain is also attracted to him. Enter 3some! But where Rain makes the perfect sub/slave, Benny finds he cannot be either and his afraid of losing Jason. Jason is attracted to the angel-faced Benny and knows he doesn't fit into his world of BDSM but that doesn't stop him from wanting him. The relationship is both easy and complicated between them. Benny tries hard to be what he is not, a sub, going as far as approaching Jason's friend for help. I'm not that into BDSM and some of the happenings/descriptions did make me wince, but I still enjoyed the story. Benny is the glue that holds them together but he doesn't know it. Jason knows that all three of them need to be together, but he is hesitant to reveal what he really feels for Benny. Rain is afraid that Jason and Benny do not need him, so he tried to leave them thinking it would be best. I give this a 3.5 stars and will probably re-read it like I did Phoenix because I loved the characters.

Charly says

Sweet story about 3 guys who are all necessary to the relationship

Warning: This review might contain what some people consider SPOILERS.

Rating: 7/10

PROS:

- The 3 main characters complement each other well. This is a threesome relationship in which I really feel that each of the guys is necessary--there aren't two main guys with one who's a third wheel emotionally. Naturally, each of them FEELS at one point or another as though he's a third wheel, but those feelings simply lead to a healthy amount of angst (without going overboard, in my opinion).
- Most of the sex scenes are well done, and some of them are pretty dang hot.
- There's a decent amount of drama in the story--miscommunication, struggles to understand other characters and/or oneself, ugly experiences from the past, etc.--but for whatever reason, I didn't feel while reading the book that there was TOO much drama. I guess it's not terribly realistic, but it didn't strike me as melodramatic, either.
- Gardner has a writing style that flows well and is easy to read quickly. I breezed through this book, not because it's a heart-pounding page-turner all the way through, but because the writing is well-paced and for the most part, clean.

CONS:

- The relationships moved maybe a little bit too fast for me. For example, Rain refers to Jason as "Master" pretty much right from the start, before they've established much of an emotional connection, and it isn't much later before Rain says that he wants to devote himself to Jason as his slave.
- I found the ending just a little disappointing. I liked the way the story ends with the three main guys, but there's no final sex scene once they've reconciled and we see them all happy and living together (there's no sex scene for the last 90 pages of the book, in fact). In addition, several secondary characters' stories are left unresolved. Maybe Gardner's planning on sequels, though.
- This has little to do with the story itself, but it should be said: the blurb on the back cover of the book doesn't capture the true essence of the plot--not to mention the fact that it doesn't even MENTION Rain--and the author's last name is misspelled on the book's spine. As typos go, that one's bad.

Overall comments: In case you're thinking that this book is about a couple after reading the publisher's blurb...it's not. This book is about a threesome. The BDSM element is not as heavy or as pervasive as I thought it would be (not really a complaint; just a fact). Still, I thought it was an enjoyable read, and Gardner has an easy-flowing writing style that's not amazing but is conducive to fast reading.

Breann says

So, we have a Dom & a sub + someone who is neither. Perfect combo, right? Yeah, didn't think so.

Jason has his two boys, Benny & Rain.
But wait! Remember, Benny is not a sub.
Jason gives punishments and rewards to his boys.
Don't forget! Benny is not a sub.
Jason gives both boys something to show his "ownership" of them.
Oh that's right! Benny is not a sub.
But he still wears his and says "Sir" & "Master"

We are constantly reminded of the "unsubiness" (yes, I made that word up) that is Benny. Yet, Jason treats him the *exact same* as Rain, who is a slutty little sub through and through. I just didn't get it. None of the three MC's were particularly likable, they all lied to each other at some point and there wasn't any difference between Rain & Benny, they were the same person. Except... what? Can you guess the main difference that

wasn't really a difference? That's right, Benny is not a sub.

2 stars because I was, at least, able to finish it.

SheReadsALot says

I will most definitely read more from this author. The blurb actually is not as great as it could be. Because hello...hot f-cking plot ahead!

Jason is the owner of BDSM club and also erotic photographer. He's also a Dom with a sweet, sexy young personal assistant named Benny who's crushed on the older man but hasn't the balls to approach him in that way. Enter Rain! My favorite character of the three, he's a blue haired, model/ new stripper/semi-retired gay porn actor who has no qualms with being sexy. Oh he was so necessary for Benny and Jason, their third and submissive to Benny's sweet innocence and Jason's Dom.

Why no 5 stars you wonder?

Rain could only carry this sex show so far. There's some secret activity that Rain participates in that are questionable but I didn't feel they were answered thoroughly enough. And the bad guy? He just disappears.

But...

There's some yummy kink thrown in - corset piercings! A few good *scenes* thrown in. Was it hardcore BDSM action, no. But it was strong enough for me. LOL

Betryal says

Exceptionally written, great plot line. I enjoyed the way this story developed and the final in the end results. For some reason Blue Ruin kept coming to my mind by Katrina Strauss and I'm thinking it's more because I was captivated with the way Blue's hair was just that blue and Rain's hair was also blue. But even though I'm saying this don't get me wrong both stories were in no way similar even though they are both BDSM and both characters have blue hair.

I look forward to reading more by Kimberly. Bravo M'lady!!

Elisa Rolle says

Bound to Please explains perfectly one of the reasons why I understand the existence of a ménages a trois, while I usually am a monogamy supporter.

Benny is in love with his boss Jason, a Dom and the owner of a BDSM private club (he is one of the character in Phoenix Rising, the previous book by Kimberly Gardner set in the same community). With his body and heart Benny is willing to give anything to Jason, but with his mind he is scared by all the different

layers a BDSM relationship can have. Jason knows that, if he pushes the boy, Benny would probably agree to a Master / slave relationship, but deep inside it's not what he wants.

Enter Rain, former porn actor and now fetish model; he is one of the models Jason is using for his exhibition, and he is more than willing to be the guinea pig for the most extreme of Jason's pictorial fantasies. Rain is a happy to go guy, sex is something good and full of joy, and he lives it like that, willing to share his body with a freedom that Benny envies. But Rain is not selfish, obviously, and he finds in both Jason than Benny something he needs: Jason is the authoritative figure he needs to have an appearance of stability in his life, and Benny is the buddy friend he wants to not forget that, indeed, life is a good thing.

There is a complex work of balance in the trio: Jason needs both Rain than Benny, since the two together fulfil all his desires, his sweet and his hard side; Rain needs both Jason than Benny; and Benny needs both Rain than Jason, Rain to help him understand that there is not to be feared in the type of relationship the darker side of Jason needs. No one of them is complete without both of his lovers, missing one of them would be the end of the whole relationship.

I like all the characters, but for sure the boys, Benny and Rain, are the best; Jason is good but he fades on the background when the boys are around, something that is strange considering he is the Dom. Benny and Rain, purple and blue hair, are like boys at play, I have always the feeling to hear someone laughing when they are in a room. Jason is not their puppeteer, he is the one who is fallen in their net; I have this image of Benny and Rain building a net with colourful rope, and Jason totally caught in the middle.

There is a lot of sex, some of it also quite extreme, but above all I have this feeling of esthetical beauty: each scene is like a carefully planned painting, with full and deep colour, it's a very visual feeling. On this matter, at the beginning the cover led me in the wrong direction: it gave me the idea of a futuristic / fantasy romance, and so I didn't realize that indeed, this is a totally contemporary novel, and moreover, the sequel of Phoenix Rising.

<http://www.amazon.com/dp/1608200442/?...>

Ryoma Gartre says

1 star and a half. (because the cover looks sexy.)

Ok, I began reading this because I was really curious how the menage was going to play with a dude who wasn't into Submission.

The beginning was good even though some parts were overdone, like the attraction Benny felt for Mario, then all flows easily until the scene when the first threesome happens, the video was almost overlooked, i would have liked it if it had played more in the scene, but it was ok.

Then we move on and little by little all begins to fall apart, Characters begin to act too dramatically and too many plots are put on game, plots we don't actually see the resolution of, but it was still bearable.

When the story moves just after the the gallery exposition it turns in to a dramafest, everything is drama, drama and more drama, specially from Rain and Benny, Rain, from being the character i liked the most in the beginning turns into the character i hated most in the end, and what's up with the setup? Rain is the Sub

be in all the scenes involving him and Benny, he's always the dominant and the one doing the fucking, the only time when Benny fucks Rain was faded to black, and Dear lord, the scene with Rain's "manager" was wrong, i mean is a private club isn't there security? why the hell didn't they helped Jason and why the hell did they let the bad dude run away?, and the actions of both Rain and Benny are Harlequin worthy, I did skip pages due to all the drama which was over the top.

and What I hated the most is the quantity of unanswered questions/plots left in the air, what happened with Shanon's ex-boyfriend?, What was the true reason behind Mario closing his dungeon/club? Did Adam and his boyfriend resolved their issues regarding the house?

And the thing that drive me to read this book wasn't handled in the way I was expecting, if you ask me hierarchically was Jason/Rain/Benny, I was expecting something different, but the author took the easy way, in the end Benny was treated like a sub, the only difference between him and Rain was that Rain was a "pain-slut" as he and Jason denominate him and Benny wasn't, it wasn't at all what I was expecting.

Tere says

After reading for the second time this book, I'm bound to give it 5 stars, even if before I stated otherwise. This second read gave me a better appreciation of the book and made me overlook its faults, much like in A Thread of Deepest Black, the characters (protagonists and secondary alike -hell, secondary characters are as real and brilliant as our main trio, which I appreciate wholeheartedly)

Merely by mistake I picked up this book, I still haven't read Phoenix Rising but fortunately this didn't diminished my enjoyment at all. This was my first threesome book, one I truly enjoyed and cherished, and it opened this genre to me, one I didn't really care about before.

While I'm biased with society views on monogamy, which I support, I totally support this particular threesome. In this book it's totally plausible and it's for the benefit of all of the boys. They all need it, embrace it and enjoy it, they're better and stronger being together. The author give the three of them the time to find their important role in the relationship, none of them is replaceable. Jason actually describes the situation pretty accurately, even before the threesome is established as an official relationship:

Was that what he really thought? That he was nothing more than a third link in a chain, interchangeable with any one of a dozen other willing and eager pretty boys?

Because that was definitely not the case with these two. In fact, Jason couldn't imagine it, exchanging either of his boys for someone else.

Even though the book is narrated from Benny and Jason's POV, I felt Jason was always least interesting than Benny and Blue, but nonetheless a great character, a lovable lover and Dom. Maybe I feel like that because I sympathised so easily with Benny, I could totally understand his insecurities and worries. I was feeling almost the same for Rain when the scene between Mario and Benny in the dungeon came and I was all over Benny again, feeling for him and wanting him to be happy.

Rain is was the most complex character in the book, a lover, a sub, a slut, a great kid and such a nice guy. He

never meant to hurt anyone despite his past. In fact, Benny and Rain are my favourite pair from the threesome, they're just so cute together. The book is filled with tender moments between the boys -being in pairs or the three of them together-, a decent amount of angst and a beautiful HEA, one I believe will last, unlike other threesomes I get the feeling won't last much longer after the last page.

One of the things I wish had been different is that the author presents us some nice subplots involving the secondary characters, but they're not addressed at the end of the book, so they're left hanging at the end. I wish they'd have their own books eventually (Mario and Shannon definitely deserve one, though I wouldn't mind a second book focused on Benny, Rain and Jason).

Other thing I didn't particularly like was the way Rain's problem was solved. In fact, I didn't understand why was that necessary, since the characters provide enough drama just with their own insecurities without needing to add this twist. The little encounter between Jason and Don was weird and the resolution was pretty rushed. This was my main issue with ranking this book, but really, after the second time, I put that on a balance and the strengths of the book far overshadow the least polished details.

At the end I LOVED the book, specially because I first picked it for its bdsm theme and ended loving the romance it brought. That's my favourite kind of turn these books can give me. There is sex, but really, that's far from what I enjoyed the most about this book.

Lily says

4.5 out of 5 stars

Jason is a Dom in a relationship of sorts with Rain, a blue-haired model, former porn star and wanna be stripper/dancer. Benny is Jason's PA and secretly in lust with his boss. Jason has feelings for Benny but he doesn't do vanilla so leaves Benny alone. Rain and Benny hook up and conspire to show Jason just how good they would be, all together.

I really liked this follow up to *Phoenix Rising*. All three of the protagonists are well drawn and likable men, the storyline is interesting, fast-paced and exciting and the sex scenes are scorching hot. The secondary characters and side plots are seamlessly woven into the men's evolving relationship and I felt the author did a really good job of showing the emotional connection growing between Jason, Benny and Blue.

Keep in mind this is a menage (m/m/m) and while it is BDSM themed it's relatively mild but may not be to everyone's taste. *Bound To Please* is a very well written story and I highly recommend it.

Chris says

Excellent kinky m/m romance about a young man who's secretly in love with his boss, a photographer and dominant who owns a bdsm club. When the dominant starts working with a hot new model and former porn star, everything changes. (Usually I don't read menages, because most authors can't make the emotional/romantic connections between three people convincing. Kimberly Gardner can.)

Magen says

Pretty good MMM BDSM book here. Jason is a Dom and erotic photographer who falls for his assistant Benny and model Rain in unexpected ways. All three men have interesting backgrounds and desires they bring to their new found threesome. The story manages to take a few twists and turns then the usual sex, sex, sex MMM books one reads which made for a fairly good, erotic read.

Vivian ?(????)? says

This book was actually really enjoyable, and I was pleasantly surprised to see that the menage actually felt like it worked for me, and that it seemed stable enough that it could actually hold up beyond the book's Happily Ever After (because we've all thought at one point, that after a book has ended, shit could be going down and we wouldn't even realise. Or maybe I'm the only one delusional enough to think that the world of books actually exists in some alternate universe.)

I think at the beginning I had trouble getting into things because I didn't read the blurb, and I didn't realise there was a menage, so in my mind there were about four prospective lovers and I was confused as hell and very turned off (view spoiler)

But then things cleared up and I was able to enjoy the smooth, easy-to-read writing. Not amazing, but still a pleasure to read.

Overall I enjoyed this book very much, and I certainly wouldn't mind reading other books by this author.
