



Bonds of Hope

Lynda Aicher

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Book four of Wicked Play

Quinn Andrews has a lot to learn about the world of BDSM. Once America's sweetheart, she has an opportunity to revive her career by playing a sexual submissive in a highly anticipated new series. Quinn is ready to throw herself into the role, and her hometown's premier sex club, The Den, is the ideal place for a crash course.

At first Marcus Reese is reluctant to take on Quinn's erotic education, despite his intense attraction to the stunning starlet. While she fulfills his every command perfectly, she's also a consummate actress--and Marcus is determined to uncover the real woman hidden behind the mask.

Quinn's been taking direction all her life, so submitting to a Dom comes easily. But it's not just the most amazing sex she's ever had--Marcus challenges her to define her own needs and make her own decisions. And when her training is over, Quinn will have to choose between continuing to play a part in her own life, or living by her own rules.

New to The Den? Go back to the beginning with Bonds of Trust, available now!

88,000 words

Bonds of Hope Details

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Author : Lynda Aicher

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From Reader Review Bonds of Hope for online ebook

Jennifer says

Great continuation of the Den characters. Loved Marcus and Quinn. I really liked seeing all the previous H/h and now can't wait for the next three books.

? BookAddict ✍️ La Crimson Femme says

Marcus in this BDSM den of iniquity is now tangling with a celebrity, Quinn Andrews. In this four book in the Wicked Play Series, Ms. Aicher's writing style as well as her ability to portrayal BDSM is much improved.

Quinn is a child star whose good girl image needs a bit maturing. Her latest role will feature her as a sexual submissive in a TV series. Somehow, this leads her to Marcus who will train her as a submissive. This entire set up spells Charlie-Foxtrot to me. I read on with dread in the pit of my stomach. This is because from a BDSM lifestyler point of view, it's best to fly under the radar. Allowing a celebrity into a society which needs to stay discreet is anathema.

The world building is richer in this story as is the character development. While I can't understand or relate to Quinn's world, it is clear on the downsides. The reader can connect with Quinn more. She's a bit of a lost little rich girl. While she possesses money, it is sad to see she doesn't control her own life. The glimpses Ms. Aicher shows of how Quinn needs to live makes Quinn more human. I feel sympathy for how she has to be so careful. It's difficult and frustrating. The way she's used as a commodity by her mother and agent are even more horrifying. Quinn is very much a product of her environment.

Marcus is a great guy. He isn't perfect yet he knows his limitations and accepts it. This is good to find in a dominant. His dominating style is so very good. Ms. Aicher does an excellent job of capturing BDSM scenes in this story. She still doesn't have the D/s part down, but the BDSM technique of it is good. I'm aroused by the scenes. This story is less about the BDSM and really more about the romance between two people from different worlds. The story is well written that with or without the BDSM part, it would still be an enjoyable read. The BDSM just gives it a spicy taste. This erotic novel is recommended as a BDSM gateway book.

**provided by NetGalley*

Joanne Carr says

Quinn is an actress and researching a role as of submissive. Marcus was the Dom assigned. Quinn and Marcus entered into a contract so they could scene together. Quinn was very scared at first since she thought BDSM was just beating the submissive. Marcus takes Quinn to the dungeon where she could watch scenes being played out.

Quinn was so used to be barked at Marcus knew that he would be a little gentler until she could take more. Quinn and Marcus get together and he shows her how it could be between them.

Becci Cantrell says

Wicked Play series is great

As I continue through the Wicked Play series the characters lives continue to intertwine and grow in depth. Bonds of Hope is a great story of the unlikely coupling of a Hollywood starlet and a midwestern Dom. Their whirlwind romance had me cheering them on. I cried. I laughed. And I couldn't put it down!

Michelle says

ARC received on behalf of Carina Press from NetGalley.

Quinn needs to research the BDSM lifestyle for a role. But internet searches won't be able to teach her to portray a convincing submission. There is really only one way to learn, to be taught, at the hands of a master.

Marcus's life has gone a long time without much not going his way. Beyond a college injury that changed the direction of his youthful life, he doesn't have much to complain about. He's been at The Den for six years, he's an employed club Dom and now he is one of the owners. His submissives have always been contracted clients, never one that he had a desire to claim or collar.

When Quinn is placed into the skillful hands of Marcus for her week long training, there is something that sparks within both of them. For her it is a desire to submit to him and to please, and for him it's the craving to stake his claim and to take her as his own. As Marcus teaches her the basics of the lifestyle both by allowing her to watch it unfold in the public rooms and in private, by allowing her to finally free herself from the stress of a Hollywood lifestyle.

The act of submitting comes naturally to Quinn. She's done enough research to know what she should do and how she should behave, but Marcus doesn't want the actress in her performing, kneeling at his feet. He wants the woman that has been buried inside to willingly give herself over to him.

As they spend the week together, both gaining each other's trust and exploring the ins and outs of the lifestyle, something breaks loose inside both of them. This was all supposed to make her more prepared for her new role, a role that would change her image from the child star to the woman she wants to be... But that changes when emotions come into play. With her time at the club coming to an end and having to return to California, both these two have to figure out what means more to them... their careers or what they can have together.

There was something that was very vulnerable feeling with Marcus's character. He wasn't a broken mess of

a man that needed saving, in all he was pretty well adjusted and put together. Yet there was something that made my insides soften at his tender moments and when he had to finally face the fact that her time at the club was coming to an end. Usually I need a severely broken man to get me in the feels, but somehow his normalness just worked perfectly for this story.

Quinn was not overly Hollywood and I loved that the drama aspect of a diva really didn't into play with her. I enjoyed that she did not fight her feelings too much or not give in to the experience that she was undertaking. There was something a little more erotic feeling about her journey of discovery. It was a new world for her and that allowed you to take in her experience as you read along.

There wasn't too much time to touch on the other characters from the prior books, but you get a bit of each of them in their own way. You are also introduced with a little more depth the newer characters that are slated to get their very own story. Each one is intriguing in their own way.

Lynda Aicher has done a wonderful job being able to give us so many stories within this series without repeating anything. Each character is satisfying their own need in their own way throughout these series and so far they have all been so varied that you get a completely new experience with each installment.

Another great story in this series and I am looking forward to Rock's story next. He's been the strong and silent type throughout most of this series and I am guessing he's going to have one helluva back-story to showcase.

Pheonix Fanfiction says

My thoughts and feelings while reading:

8.0% **the Dom looked up, his gaze landing on Quinn. The flame within her became an inferno and the small gasp was out before she could suck it back. Something flashed in his eyes, a slight darkening and lowering of his lids that was sultry and shadowy** Hmm.. Intrigued by this story and by Marcus!

10.0% **He was dancing with fire. Whatever this was—and it was something—had the potential to be disastrous. She was a fucking actress who was only there for a week. Most importantly, she wasn't there to be a real submissive. But she was perfect.** Okay, this sounds like it's going to be good! :D

14.0% **It might be temporary and a means to prove a point, but she was the first submissive he'd ever collared and he couldn't—wouldn't—take it lightly. She would be completely his if she agreed to wear it. The thought was heady and frightening, and somehow blindly right. She needed him. She might not know that now, but he'd make damn sure she did before she left.** Starting to love Marcus already :)

17.0% **He paused to talk to others along the way, but she never looked up to see who they were. Instead of curiosity like she'd had the first night with Vanessa, there was nothing in her but the desire to please her Dom.** I'm starting to agree with Marcus - Quinn seems a natural submissive :)

22.0% **He was too invested to stop and quickly becoming too attached for his own damn good.** Really loving these two atm!

24.0% **But she liked this other side of him. The man behind the Dom. Marcus might be commanding, arrogant and shockingly direct, but he was real.** I agree Quinn - I'm loving Marcus!! <3

38.0% **She'd had him cold the first time he'd found her kneeling in wait for him. He wasn't afraid to admit that he wanted Quinn. Now he had to figure out how to keep her. The contract wasn't nearly long enough. He already knew that as a fact.** Totally love Marcus!!! <3 <3

48.0% **Quinn.” His voice was soft and he pushed back a lock of her hair before he framed her face with his big hands. “You already own me. I’m yours.”** I don't think Marcus could get better!! <3

49.0% **Fiery one second, submissive the next. She was the whole package he'd been searching for.** <3 <3

55.0% **He was that close to losing control. “Christ.” A drop of sweat slid down his brow and a stream of curses sat on the tip of his tongue. “Get that condom. Now.”** I was wrong, I love him more! Marcus and Quinn are just amazing together! <3

64.0% **She was more than his submissive, and he was more than her Dom. They'd exceeded those boundaries days ago, but there was no denying it now. And she had no desire to do so** Really loving these two, hope there's not too much angst/drama to come!

71.0% **Could she do that? It was safer to run right now. Easier too.** No! please don't run Quinn!!

74.0% **He leaned back and peered into her with eyes that were as dark and full of emotion as she'd ever seen them. “I love you, Quinn,” he almost whispered, the throaty gravel edge of his voice keeping his words audible. “You have to know that by now.”** Oh Marcus <3

76.0% **His chest constricted until the air refused to move, frozen in disbelief. He stumbled back a step and his knee chose that moment to balk and buckle. He caught himself on the wall and straightened, the understanding slowly turning him numb** No! Marcus, Quinn you're breaking my heart

87.0% **She was in his arms. That was all that mattered. He had her back and this time he was keeping her.** <3

96.0% **She amazed him with her words and understanding. He'd make it right. They'd make it work. He was confident in that.** Yes you will!!! These two are just so mature and perfect together! <3 <3

100.0% Loved it! They're amazing together, so glad they worked things out - the epilogue was amazing!! <3

Nyssy says

I liked the way the story unfolded but seemed unnecessary to bring in the other lady characters from books 1-3. Everyone seem to be into the Marcus and Quinn's business and called it caring when I think it was them that caused the problems. But overall something to read on a lazy afternoon while popping sunflower ? seeds.

Laura Greenwood says

Review forthcoming on <http://a-reader-lives-a-thousand-live...>

I received a copy of Bonds of Hope from Negalley in exchange for my review.

Quinn Andrews is an actress wanting to shed her innocent child actress image through taking on the role of a submissive in an upcoming film. But as she knows nothing of the BDSM world, she enlists the help of the Den, a club specialising in it. Under the tutelage of Marcus, one of the owners and a Dom, Quinn starts to learn more for her role, and more about herself. But with that comes the realisation that she is more comfortable submitting to Marcus and being herself around him than anyone else, and they have to work past the fact that their jobs both involve being intimate with other people if they want it to work.

[Link to Goodreads](#)

[Link to amazon](#)

Bonds of Hope is not suitable for younger readers, as it involves many scenes of a sexual nature, including those of a BDSM nature, involving bondage, gags and toys.

But! Don't let that put you off! I'll admit that the reason that I wanted to read this book was because of the cover, I liked the mask, it intrigued me slightly, superficial I know but sometimes you just have to judge a book by its cover! Because of that, I wasn't expecting the love story to draw me in as much as it did, or really for it to have as big a part in the book as it did, at many points I thought that it played a bigger role than that of Quinn's sexual education.

The two main characters, Quinn and the very sexy Marcus (all you have to do is read his description! He sounds very sexy! And I probably just revealed more about myself and what I look for in a man than I intended there!) have a chemistry that almost jumps off the page, and I can safely say that I was rooting for them all along. What I particularly liked about their relationship was that it wasn't perfect, they had their issues and they had to compromise with each other.

Quinn as a main character was an example of what I like in books, she was sexy, confident and she grew, you could really read how her experiences were changing her into a stronger character. I thought that it was good how, despite her being a submissive, she was still feisty, in fact I thought that Aicher managed to balance it well in regards to people being about more than just their sexual preferences.

Oh and have I mentioned the ending yet? Perfect! Left you on a high with a sense of completion!

Aerin says

This is one of my least favourite books in this series. The writing is still good, I just don't empathize with the couple as much. And that's fine really, 'cause different strokes for different folks and all that right? It's still set in and around The Den, the supporting characters are familiar and the writing style and quality is the same, so if you've enjoyed the rest of the series, this is still a solid book; it just doesn't have that extra attraction that leads me to give it a higher rating.

Lara says

What made this book exceptional for me was the fact that, although the other Doms seems to have stopped conducting scenes with others, Marcus doesn't. I get that not all relationships are the same, but to have this idea that each Dom is just looking for that one Sub who will make him change his ways is pure fantasy.

I didn't like how the story line with Quinn's brother and father sort of fell to the wayside. It was such a momentous occasion for her, reconnecting with her older brother, and then nothing. Once they reconnected wouldn't he have reached out upon hearing about (view spoiler)? A lot of the family stuff (his parents, her mother) got swept aside at the end, and I wish it had been addressed.

Still a very enjoyable read and I look forward to the next in the series.

Heidi Gonzalez says

Quinn is an actress who comes to The Den to learn about BDSM for her new role. Marcus takes Quinn on to teach her about his world, what he didn't realize when he agreed is that getting Quinn to submit and find herself would be so disarming. Quinn had no idea that in bdsm she would find an escape, the only way for her to find herself not the person her mother and everyone else wanted her to be. Beautiful and innocent this was another sexy yet romantic story.

Tanya says

My favorite of the series so far, with a couple that dealt with real problems and came to find a compromise.

Marleen says

I received my copy from Carina Press through NetGalley.

Over the past three books, "Bonds of Trust", "Bonds of Need", and "Bonds of Desire" I have come to love the world and characters Lynda Aicher has created. And "Bonds of Hope" is a very welcome addition to a wonderful series.

In this book we meet Quinn - or as her fans know her, Missy - who has been in the lime-light since she was eight years old. Hoping to get away from her image as the cute girl she has accepted the role of a submissive in a new television series and, determined to get it right, she has come to The Den for a week of training with one of their Doms. Quinn is not trying to decide whether or not she actually is a submissive at heart, all she wants is to portray one believably. And if that means playing a part while in The Den, that is fine with her. She's done all the research she could do online and is well prepared to be the perfect sub for her temporary Master.

"It was time to become Q - the obedient submissive to a strict, controlling Dom."

Enter Marcus. One of the new joint owners of The Den he loves his job. Giving his clients the submission they crave fulfills a need deep inside him. When he comes face to face with Quinn though he has his doubts. His instincts tell him there is a true submissive hiding underneath the façade presented by the actress. What he doesn't know is if he will be able to get her to recognize that over only one week of training, or if one week will be enough to deal with all the issues she's clearly carrying around.

"But was one week really enough time to take away any of that hurt? He wasn't certain, but he was sure as hell going to try."

This week was only supposed to be about training Quinn so that she could play her new role convincingly, but it isn't long after they have started their sessions that both Marcus and Quinn start experiencing feelings they weren't expecting and aren't ready for.

Quinn has little to no control over her own life. Everything she does is determined by her mother, her agent and her publicist. Giving up her control once again is both something she does almost automatically and something she is very reluctant to do. It will take time before she realizes that, in submitting, she isn't giving away her power:

"Another lesson for you. The sub always has the power. The Dom in the facilitator. The submissive controls the Scene."

When the week of training is over and the real world intrudes on what has been seven days of pure bliss, Quinn travels back to Hollywood, leaving Marcus behind both heartbroken and bewildered. It will take a near disaster and a miracle to get Quinn to realize what she has given up and that it is time to take control of her own life. And it seems that control over her own life comes with submitting to the Dom she has grown to love.

"How did you get so smart, Kitten?"

"I learned from someone who was patient enough to teach me."

I have to admit that this was the first book by Aicher in which it took me a very long time to get to like the main female character. I couldn't get a feel for her at all for a very long time and for a while there was a risk that this might actually make me like the book less than I had the previous ones. It was only near the end of the story that I understood that this was probably how I was supposed to feel about Quinn. The real Quinn had been hidden for so long that even the girl herself wasn't quite sure anymore who that might be. It took her time with and separation from Marcus to give her the insight and the courage to take control of her own life. And once she does, boy does she make up for all the pages on which she appeared to be barely there. Quinn's growth in this story is so subtle that it doesn't become clear to her or the reader how far she has come until it is almost too late to benefit from it.

Marcus, on the other hand, I adored from the moment he was introduced. He is the sort of man all of us would love to have in our lives, full of understanding, patience and love. And I loved that by the end of the story the roles are slightly reversed; trust the submissive to tell the Dom how their relationship is going to work.

This was another wonderful erotic romance by Lynda Aicher set in a world of Doms and submissives where friendship and loyalty take priority over everything else. These are very erotic feel-good reads and a wonderful way to spend a quiet Sunday.

Like I said before, I have fallen in love with these books and I'm delighted that there are more titles to come in this series. The book I'm holding out for though, the book I really want to read – although I've no way of knowing if that particular one is even in the planning – is Rock's story. I really hope that this man, normally in the background keeping everybody safe, will be given his own Happily Ever After.

Elisa Vangelisti says

l'estratto non mi dice abbastanza. non è strepitoso, ma interessante. anche se Lei mi è antipatica e Lui non è originale. ma siccome la serie mi piace parecchio, può essere che si riveli una splendida lettura.

Aisha Oaktree says

Originally Reviewed on The Bewitching Bibliophile

This series just keeps getting better and better. This time we meet one of the new shareholders in the business and it's Master Marcus. Master Marcus is given the job of helping a child actress embrace a new role in a upcoming BDSM movie (anyone else hearing the The Secretary theme here??) Quinn is a good girl who can't shake the image she has and is looking for a way to do that with this new role, she's willing to get down and dirty to shake the image even though she's not really comfortable with it, as well she doesn't know much about it.

Quinn's role is that of the submissive and she needs to learn all that a properly trained submissive would know. Can I just say until this book I never thought about how actors and actresses prepped for these roles?? I loved Maggie Gyllenhaal in her role in the Secretary but I never stopped before to wonder who the heck taught her or even who is teaching the couple in the new 50SOG movie coming out in the spring..oh gawd I hope it's someone in the lifestyle and they can save this movie from being a joke.

I enjoyed the unfolding of the story of Quinn finding herself as a woman again. She's played so many roles in her life and been recognized only as her character for so long she had begun to fade away because she didn't know who she was anymore. Even her mother had a hard time seeing her daughter as a woman and not just the actress. This new role will help her get away from being Missy the character everyone knows and loves and will also help her let go of the past finally.

As Quinn learns the mechanics of being a submissive for her role, she learns more about herself, as she grows more confident in her role it also becomes more clear who Quinn IS. This of course doesn't come easily, because it's a new situation and both participants have their own preconceived notions of the other's motivations and it takes a bit before the trust is earned and given.

Master Marcus is ecstatic about being offered the new position, this is where he belongs and he's happy to have his life going in a great direction; he's however not too happy to be offered the assignment of being a tutor to a celebrity who might screw up his new flow. But when given the chance to really teach her Marcus takes on the mission. Once Marcus starts and realizes there is more to Quinn than others have had a chance to see, he's more willing to reach the depths she's hiding from. As the story progresses Marcus learns more about what kind of Dom he is, what kind of man he wants to be. Quinn makes him think about his life plan

and what he once believed love to be and what he really needs to complete himself and to truly have it all.

I loved that this book discussed the issues with blending two very different lives and expectations of their lives to make their relationship work. The two characters had a lot of reasons for reservations but they worked to figure them out. It was amazing to read. So were the fireworks when the two personalities clashed (which led to some amazingly written sexy times).

Holy cow can this woman write a scene that makes you feel like you're right there getting into it with them. I loved the pacing, the growth of the characters, the way they fought, came together, fought, and eventually learnt how to work together. I was completely engrossed in the story and wanted to get to the end quickly so I could find out everything that happened and how it was going to end. I must say I started to panic a little when we were getting close to the end but the story hadn't been resolved yet, I was like nooo... I want my ending. And boy did Ms Aicher deliver. I'm very happy!!

I have loved this series since the beginning and I can't wait to read the rest. Go read it people, it's so worth it!! I like the newer covers as the more conservative reader can take it out without fear of censure however I'm in love with the original cover.

★★★★★

Happy Reading my loves and i can't wait to read the next book in the series.
