



## **Rend**

*Roan Parrish*

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**After a whirlwind romance, a man with a painful past learns to trust the musician who makes him believe in happy endings.**

Matt Argento knows what it feels like to be alone. After a childhood of abandonment, he never imagined someone might love him—much less someone like Rhys Nyland, who has the voice of an angel, the looks of a god, and the worship of his fans.

Matt and Rhys come from different worlds, but when they meet, their chemistry is incendiary. Their romance is unexpected, intense, and forever—at least, that's what their vows promise. Suddenly, Matt finds himself living a life he never thought possible: safe and secure in the arms of a man who feels like home. But when Rhys leaves to go on tour for his new album, Matt finds himself haunted by the ghosts of his past.

When Rhys returns, he finds Matt twisted by doubt. But Rhys loves Matt fiercely, and he'll go to hell and back to triumph over Matt's fears. After secrets are revealed and desires are confessed, Rhys and Matt must learn to trust each other if they're going to make it. That means they have to fall in love all over again—and this time, it really will be forever.

**Roan Parrish's pitch-perfect Riven novels can be read together or separately:**

**RIVEN | REND**

## Rend Details

Date : Published November 27th 2018 by Loveswept

ISBN :

Author : Roan Parrish

Format : Kindle Edition 259 pages

Genre : Romance, M M Romance, Contemporary, Lgbt

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## From Reader Review Rend for online ebook

### Wendy says

I really enjoyed reading "Riven" and so when I saw this one go up...I, of course, had to read it too... But...let me start off by saying that these books are nothing alike. This one was actually much **darker/emotional** than I expected.

This book is about an already established couple Rhys and Matt. I've got to be honest here and say that I don't remember much about these two from the first book, just that Rhys is Caleb's ex. That said...I read a lot of books, so it's hard to remember every single detail. Plus I'm getting older

This book is told from Matt's pov and let me tell you...it wasn't always the easiest to read. Matt is dealing with some very **heavy issues** and when Rhys goes on tour with his band...those issues become ever larger...

This book definitely brought on the **waterworks** for me !!!

These two **don't give up** though. They keep fighting, especially Rhys...he won't give up on Matt and I really loved him for that.

This book was a very **sweet, lovable, sexy and hot emotional rollercoaster ride**... I can't wait to see what the author has in store for us next !!

*My reviews are posted on*

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**Astrid - The Bookish Sweet Tooth says**

READ MY REVIEW ON THE BLOG

We met Matty and Rhys in RIVEN. Since they were married then already I didn't expect that we'd get a story about them. Little did I know how hurt and desperate the quiet Matty was. His childhood trauma made it impossible for him to believe that somebody could love him unconditionally, and that's what Rhys did.

They married after a few months of dating, and while the love between them was undoubtedly there, they didn't know each other enough, that they could settle into their life together and not have let it be affected by their respective pasts. Storm clouds start to appear, when Rhys, a musician whose star is rising, leaves to go on a two months tour and Matty stays behind. All of a sudden the shy, introverted beautiful young man has to deal with his demons and doubts about pretty much everything except their love for one another.

**I wandered through the empty house as if I might find Rhys in a cupboard or under a chair like a misplaced book.**

Rhys is a fixer, his sunny disposition finds something good in everything and everyone. His frustration and fear are overwhelming when he realizes that he can't help or fix Matt.

There were some incredibly angsty and emotional parts in REND, some made me hurt for Matty so much that I got choked up. He was so hungry for Rhys's love, but his abandonment issues made it impossible for him to enjoy what he had at first. Rhys did everything he could, this big, sweet, patient guy who loved his husband with his whole being.

**“Am I your real life person?”** I blurted, leaning my head back against the couch.  
**“You’re my everything person.”**

There was a lot of sex in this book and while I'm usually all for some dirty, hot boy-on-boy lovin' I found myself skimming those parts at some point. There was also an exorbitant amount of "I love yous" which I only realized later, that they had a purpose. Rhys just really needed to hammer it into Matt's head by repeating it over and over again.

Healing went both ways - Rhys always wanted a relationship like his parents had, but until Matt none of his previous relationships wanted to be serious. Matt was made for Rhys - finally he could shower his love on someone who soaked it up like a sponge and returned his feelings.

**"...it was like I had to break apart the universe and remake it as one where I could love you more."**

When you grow up in a steady home you can forget that some people aren't that lucky. It's definitely good that you can and nobody should feel guilty about it. But at the same time a reminder that other people may need help because of their childhood will put the things, we whine about, into perspective. I didn't mean to get all philosophical on you but REND definitely resonated with me, because it showcases the damage a child with a negligent and unloving parent can sustain. Matt is that child and he was lucky to find somebody with an endless capacity to love and the patience of a saint.

I loved how Theo and Matt's friendship grew and turned into something special. And Caleb proved to be an

amazing friend to Rhys, somebody who provided the insight his friend couldn't see because he was too close to the issue.

**"I'm saying Matt has had a rough go of things and never dealt with them. And then you came along. Big old beast of sunshine and plans and charisma and a steady damn hand. And he fell in love with you. And suddenly Matt— with all that shit in his past— was hanging out with you all the time. Where do you think that shit went? It didn't disappear. It didn't transform from pain to joy like water to fucking wine, Nyland."**

Roan Parrish's writing is really special and beautiful. It was something I loved in the previous installment and my admiration for her art has only been cemented in this one. Personally I loved RIVEN a little bit more story-wise, however, Rhys and Matt were wonderful characters and I am definitely looking forward to reading RAZE. I wonder who that will be about?

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## **Diana says**

Full review now posted, November 27

I have to admit, I was a little disappointed that Rend was not about Theo and Caleb, the couple from Riven, but it is about Caleb's oldest friend, Rhys. We already know Rhys is married to Matt, and Rend is their story.

The first half of the book is, well, rather boring. It tells of Matt's day to day life, and I just felt like it was almost void of any emotion from Matt. Rhys is full of life and is madly in love with Matt, but Matt is struggling. The second half of the book, you learn more about Matt's heartbreaking past, and it had me wondering if the author made the first half emotionally boring to make the reader feel so much in the second half, because the emotions hit you hard. Matt, started questioning if he was good enough for Rhys, even feeling unworthy of being loved. His childhood is full of heartache and hurt, and you begin to understand why Matt is so afraid, but Rhys will fight for him.

Yes, Theo and Caleb are in this book, quite a lot, actually. I enjoyed catching up with them and seeing such a strong bond between Caleb and Rhys.

Once again, the author's writing will hit you with all the feels, and I have a feeling, this story will be with me for a long time.

*I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, in exchange for an honest review.*

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## **BWT (Belen) says**

I'm not going to lie to you...I wasn't really prepared for the emotional roller-coaster that was *Rend*. I immediately requested an arc after reading Riven based solely on the love I'd had for *Riven* (one of my few 5-stars-for-real reads this year), and I didn't even read the blurb for *Rend*, I just thought, "It must be mine!"

Luckily it all worked out in the end.

We first met Rhys in *Riven* as an already married man, and Caleb's ex, who's still his best friend. *Rend* is told entirely from Rhys's husband, Matt's, point of view and begins with the night Matt meets Rhys, a larger-than-life gorgeous Viking of a man who's incredibly, and mind-boggingly, *into* Matt. But Matt grew up in the system and his past is what shapes him and the relationship he has with Rhys.

*This was a love letter. A fucking love letter from a man I'd only met five times. A love letter saying things I'd never imagined anyone would say, seeing me in a way I'd never seen myself. As I read it again a room opened inside me, turning emptiness to possibility, solitude to potential. A room opened inside me, and I wanted to fill it with Rhys. I wanted to choose. I wanted, for the first time in my grungy fucking life, to choose someone and make them mine. And it terrified me. "Oh fuck," I said to no one. "Oh fuck, fuck, fuck me."*

We're all works in progress, some more than others. Matt and Rhys love each other madly, and would do anything for the other. Which leads to a minor relationship miscommunication that happens so often: One partner assuring the other that *it's fine, I'm fine* so they don't impede the other's dream - even to their own detriment.

*"...it was like I had to break apart the universe and remake it as one where I could love you more...I know I did a lot of damage. When I was breaking it apart. I know I hurt you. I was clumsy with it. But I wouldn't ever want to go back there. To that other world where I didn't know how to love you. I wouldn't want to live there.*

**While it was gut-wrenching at times, what Matt and Rhys go through together to make sure their happily ever after continues is heartbreaking and heartwarming and has made me all gooey love eyes at this. I LOVE LOVE LOVE RHYS...and Matt's wonderful too.**

The only thing that would have made this better, for me, would have been having Rhys's POV. This *needed* Rhys's POV, IMO. Regardless, **I absolutely loved reading this and would heartily recommend.** Best if read after *Riven*, because even though it could probably stand alone, it's better for having read Caleb and Theo's story.

**Established relationship romance with a single first-person POV, medium angst, vigorous and super hot sex scenes, dirty talk, emotional growth, an enduring love that just needed a little work, and a very, very happy ending.**

4.75 stars

*Advanced Review Galley copy of Rend provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange of an honest review.*

*This review has been cross-posted at Gay Book Reviews.*

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**\*J\* Too Many Books Too Little Time says**

## 4.5 Stars!

Sheesh. Talk about hitting you where it hurts.

This one was hard to read. Most of the book in fact. It was very melancholic. Even with Rhys' sunny disposition.

My hurt broke time after time for Matt.

I really feel like I should remember Matt from Riven. After all, Matt and Rhys were married before Theo and Caleb even met. But I don't.

Much like Riven, the writing is flawless. It's captivating. It's full of so much emotion.

Great addition to the series. I think Noe needs a book. Or Huey. Oh....maybe Noe and Huey! :)

*ARC kindly provided by NetGalley in exchange for an honest review*

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## .Lili. says

**Disclaimer:** I'm not sure how to write a coherent review for this book. I was twisted up in feelings from beginning to end.

I went into **Rend by Roan Parrish** expecting a similar book to Riven, but the fact is they're entirely different. I think I had a lump in my throat through most of the book. It's told through Rhy's POV, and due to his childhood, he's afraid of being too happy because he's always in fear of the rug being swept from under him. Matt was solid throughout and was ever so patient with Rhys' feeling- he's a caretaker.

Rend had me from their first meeting to the very end. Roan Parrish can fucken write.

If you're in the mood for a story that is:

- Full of feels
- Melancholic
- Excellent character development
- Outstanding relationship growth
- Flawless writing
- Hot and emotionally charged sex scenes
- And everlasting love

Then, read this book. I highlighted the hell out of this book. My favorite passage:

*This was a love letter. A fucking love letter from a man I'd only met five times. A love letter saying things I'd never imagined anyone would say, seeing me in a way I'd never seen myself. As I read it again a room opened inside me, turning emptiness to possibility, solitude to potential. A room opened inside me, and I*

*wanted to fill it with Rhys. I wanted to choose. I wanted, for the first time in my grungy fucking life, to choose someone and make them mine. And it terrified me. "Oh fuck," I said to no one. "Oh fuck, fuck, fuck me."*

HIGHLY RECOMMEND IT.

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**???** **Michaelle** **???** says

I don't even know what it's about, but after reading Riven I am TOTALLY all in.

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**Jassy** says

**\*\*\* 3.75 stars**

*Rend* was an emotional rollercoaster for me. First of all, it's not about two people getting together and everything stops with their Happy Ever After. It's about what happens afterwards and about how to fight for your relationship if problems are arising.

The main focus of this book was definitely the relationship between the two MCs and their character development was very well written.

We have **Rhys**, a sunny musician from a happy home, leaving his husband to go on a tour. And then there is said husband, **Matt** (our first person narrator), who has some serious abandonment issues amongst other things and who basically falls apart when Rhys leaves. Like really falls apart with nightmares and scary little imaginative friends like that dude here:

Matt sure does have his reasons to be the way he is but there were some things that bugged me about him:

- He had... zero self esteem at all and he was depressed (my medical opinion at least).
- He was so very much dependent on Rhys that at times I found their relationship unhealthy. I mean, I get it... it's also somehow romantic to need your partner so much and it works since Rhys is a possessive guy, but... When Rhys needed someone, he had to turn to Caleb (yeah, we get Caleb and Theo from book 1 :P) and that right there is why both partners should be strong alone.

Being in Matt's head was on the one side interesting because the dark thought spirals were very realistic but on the other side it was also very much exhausting. Thank goodness, he takes the right steps at some point.

All in all, it is an emotional, angsty read in the hurt/comfort-genre which thankfully gets lighter during the second half of the book. I would recommend it to those who are fed up with fluffy and want a lot of twisted feelings and an emotional read. Pure Roan Parrish style actually, so if you loved her books, you will probably love that one, too.

**\*\*ARC kindly provided by the publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\***



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## Moony Eliver says

Review to come, maybe? We'll see. I'm a little overwhelmed about what to write, because this one hit me on a cellular level. Oh fuck it, I'll try. Here goes nothing...

This book isn't for all capital-R-Romance readers. First off, it's about an established couple, which isn't everyone's bucket of fun. Secondly, it's not all hearteyes and pixie dust. The angst is *real*, it doesn't feel contrived for plot's sake, and it's not easily resolved.

This story IS for... Readers who sometimes feel like the Romance genre is a pigeonhole. Who crave reading *past* the HEA, deeper, for better or worse. Who might even want to glean a few hundred bucks' worth of therapy from a \$5 book.

I adore Riven. I've read it twice in the last six months. This book is different from Riven, but there's a consistent thing between them that has made Roan Parrish an autobuy for me from now on: her willingness and ability to navigate psychological waters. Not only does she clearly know of what she writes, but her skill in doing so is *on point*.

So if you're looking for some light fluff (and no judgement, that's exactly what we all need sometimes), leave this one on the shelf for now. But if you are down for going on a cathartic journey where the characters have to really work for it... **REND**.

P.S. I **hardcore loved** Theo's and Caleb's appearances here as my favorite secondary characters ever. If you couldn't get enough of them in Riven (ahem-buddy read partner-ahem), you'll love that too. More than just a cameo!

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## Elsa Bravante says

Me ha parecido... maravilloso. Roan Parrish siempre sabe conectar conmigo como lectora, crea personajes que me hacen sufrir profundamente por lo reales que me parecen. Esta vez lo ha vuelto a conseguir, me gustó muchísimo Riven, pero quizás este me ha gustado incluso más.

El libro parte de un punto difícil para mí, la pareja ya está formada, es un matrimonio y una de las cosas con las que yo más disfruto es ser testigo de cómo se conocen los protagonistas y se van enamorando. Aquí ese proceso ya está superado, ellos están ya profundamente enamorados, pero son dos personas muy distintas, en el exterior y fundamentalmente en el interior debido a sus experiencias vitales. Matt ama a Rhys y Rhys ama a Matt, pero Matt arrastra demasiado equipaje debido a su difícil infancia, juventud, abandonos, y a pesar de haber encontrado a Rhys y tener todo para ser feliz, no encuentra la forma. Por su parte, Rhys ama a Matt, pero no sabe cómo ayudarlo... Realmente en el libro ocurre poco, está exclusivamente enfocado en el desarrollo de su relación, en altos y bajos y la búsqueda de la felicidad mutua. Es muy muy romántico, mucho, con escenas de sexo maravillosas, escenas de peleas maravillosas y declaraciones de amor maravillosas. Yo no soy psicóloga, quizás su relación es demasiado codependiente, quizás no es la más sana de las relaciones, pero como dice Theo en algún momento (protagonista de Riven) es su relación, lo que funciona para ellos y lo que les hace felices.

Y todo esto acompañados de secundarios, conocidos (Theo y Caleb) y nuevos (Noé y Grin), que lo único que

hacen es mejorar la historia.

Muy recomendable, lo más destacable es que es un libro de sentimientos escrito para hacer sentir al espectador un abanico enorme de emociones.

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### **Judith says**

No rating.DNF@ around 40%.

I tried,I really did but after two weeks I'm throwing in the towel here.

I'm not in the least bit bothered about these characters.I found what I read so depressing and boring.Apparently it gets better in the second half...I honestly wasn't interested to find out.

Just about everyone loved this so probably best to move along and check out other reviews.

*Review copy provided by NetGalley*

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### **Sanaa ? Sanaa's Book Blog ? says**

**4.25 stars.**

*Rend* was super an enjoyable read! The characters were really well developed and I loved their story. No matter how heartbreaking and a hard read it was at times.

If I'm being honest, I did enjoy book 1 a tad bit more. And if I haven't already said this, I'm now a huge fan of Roan Parrish and I need more.

I can't wait for everyone to read this one.

*An arc was provided in exchange for an honest review.*

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### **~Kristin~ says**

**5 Stars**

I loved Riven, it was my first book by this author, I knew immediately I wanted to continue this series. I will be honest, I usually avoid highly emotional books. I am such a tender hearted, sappy, softie that they really affect me and truth here, I'm a complete and total ugly crier. So when I read a friend's review, I took a pause because she started off with how broken hearted she was for Matty. And she was right on it, this story had me so twisted up inside, the unfairness life can put people through. The guilt that I can't take in every forgotten child and give them the love I douse my own children with. So to say I was affected by this story, well that would be an understatement, not only did I have my husband checking in On me, but also my 16

year old who just wanted to make sure Mom was alright.

With the crying aside, I'm so very glad I read this story. Matty and Rhys were a story of opposite forces coming together to form a wholeness and there is no light without darkness.

I highlighted nearly each passage of Matt's inner thoughts, they really made me take a pause and think about how words have the power affect a person so deeply. Matt struggled using his words but I think he ultimately found his own strength when he could finally express his thoughts into words.

I'm babbling, I know, but I really found this story to be such a wonderful journey. The writing was captivating and really just drew me into Rhys and Matt's world. I loved it, plain and simple. I'm really hoping there is another addition to this series.

***\*\*ARC kindly provided by publisher via NetGalley in exchange for an honest review\*\****

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**David Alexander says**

**~4 Stars**

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**Renée says**

Holy hell, get the tissues ready, folks!

This one put me through the emotional ringer. Matt is our exclusive narrator here, and he is a sad dude. A product of the foster system, he learned never to want anything.

And even though Chapter 1 begins 18 months into his marriage to Rhys, and he's so in love, he doesn't trust that happiness will last for him.

The first half of this book was gut-wrenching. It is a black cloud over your head and you just want to curl up in a fetal position to make the pain go away. How can someone be so broken? How can someone literally not **want anything** because he's never even thought to ask for it?

But.....

I couldn't put it down. Every painful word resonated into some of the best character development. I read this in one sitting.

And the second half happened. What a refreshing way to show resolution of marital problems. The black clouds parted, the sun rays descended, and the angels were singing. I loved, loved, loved the second half.

If you're going into this one expecting it to be anything like Riven, you will be in for a surprise. It's like comparing Books 1 and 2 of the Middle of Somewhere series.

I will settle on 4 stars because I liked the story overall, even with the pain of the first half. Parrish is very

talented in her writing skills.

Best quote of the book:

*I loved his transition from fuckbeast to cuddlemonster.*

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