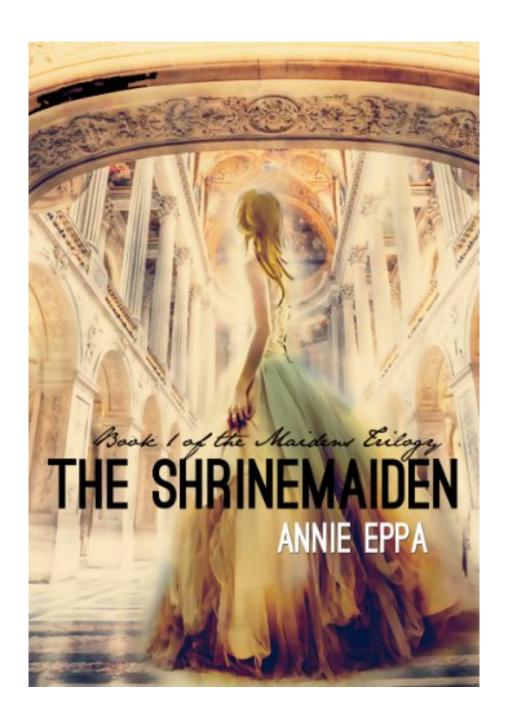


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Adelai has known only one home - that of the Temple of Inne-Anneah, Goddess of Lust and Love. As a shrinemaiden, she was raised to be a graceful, high-society courtesan catering only to the rich and powerful, for a price.

On the eve of her auction, however, Adelai discovers treachery at play between two of the most powerful kingdoms in the land, and that she had become a pawn in a political game where the stakes are high, and one wrong move will mean war. The choices Adelai will make shall take her from gilded manors and fancy balls to a cruel king's royal court, where secrets lurk and loyalty is an illusion. In the end, Adelai must use all the skills she's learned both inside the bedroom and out of it to triumph against the men who want her, the men who would seek to possess her - and to win the man who loves her, against all odds.

The first book in a new erotic fantasy trilogy!

Warning: This is an erotic fantasy novel, and contains explicit scenes, strong language, and disturbing situations. Suitable for 18 years old and above.

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Most helpful customer reviews

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Book Review for The Shrinemaiden by Annie Eppa By Ella

What drew me in to this book was how unique the storyline was. I have never read anything like it, where young girls are trained in the art of sex. When I was contacted by Annie herself to review this book, after reading the synopsis, I knew I just had to say yes because anything with smut in it, I am a sucker for, as well as romance. Romance and smut go together! One of the top things I loved about this book was the relationship between Adelai and Thornton. In the beginning, I personally considered it to be a little bit of a

student-teacher relationship, just because Thornton was teaching her a few things in the garden. Throughout the book, they do spend some time away from each and I always look forward to the scenes when they are reunited again, and as they say, absence makes the heart grow fonder. I really love how Annie wrote their relationship and how whenever they are reunited again, both characters make the most of it and plus, I got feels for these two. I don't get feels for just any couple! My absolutely favorite scene, without giving too much away, is when Adelai has to get trained before she is sent off to her client and she gets a very special surprise on who her trainer is and since training is for a month or so, it was definitely a very enjoyable scene! What I also really enjoyed about this book was all of the backstabbing and going undercover, when you think this character is on one side, you see that they're really on the other side, it's best if you read the book to see what I'm talking about. But it definitely kept me under suspense because it's hard to pinpoint who the bad guys really are and who you can trust in the book. There were also some secrets that get revealed in this book that made me gasp, so keep a look out for those! The ending..I thought it was beautifully written and it ended really well. And all I will say is that it was definitely a very happily ever after, my favorite type of HEA in fact! I can't wait for book 2 to come out! The second book is going to be about different characters that you meet in this book, a little sad about that because I really enjoyed Adelai and Thornton's story, but it was definitely a great book and had a beautiful ending to it. Who knows, maybe we will see Thornton and Adelai in book 2 for a cameo maybe?

#### THE CHARACTERS:

Adelai: First off, I really really really adore Adelai's name, it's so unique and it's a very beautiful name. Adelai is a very brave girl because in the beginning she is asked to go undercover to take down the current king, I won't go too much into detail about that, but it does get dangerous as the book goes on.

Thornton: There's so much I can say about this amazing man! I absolutely adore the love he has for Adelai and I also love how when it's time to work, he will put on his work face and get to work, but when it comes down to Adelai, you see him soften up and he will do anything to protect her. I also loved how he wants what is best for her, there is a moment in the book where he feels himself unworthy of her and it creates some drama between them. But it all works out in the end! Thornton is just a great guy in general, and speaking of general, he is actually a general in the book if I remember correctly, who doesn't love a man in uniform?

You also meet the person in charge of the Temple, she is definitely a motherly figure to Adelai and you could tell she favors her more than some of the other girls because she has been raising Adelai ever since she (Adelai) was a little girl. There are also some significant characters in the book that you meet and some not so significant.

Overall: I give this book 5 stars! I just adored the relationship between Adelai and Thornton and the fact that this book had a little BDSM in it was a nice touch to it as well! The storyline was so unique and definitely the first of its kind that I came across! I also thoroughly enjoyed the undercover aspect of it and the backstabbing and etc. I highly recommend you read this book, you won't be disappointed and I can't wait for book 2!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

A captivating fantasy!

By TeriLyn

The Shrinemaiden was my first ever erotic fantasy and I was not disappointed. Hesitant at first because I'm so used to contemporary books my hesitance was quickly eased by Annie Eppa's amazing story telling. The Shrinemaiden is the provocative journey of Adalei, a young shrinemaiden who's future is mapped out for her after years of training to be a courtesan. Adalei is to be auctioned off to the highest bidder, the outcome of

her first auction will forever shape the rest of her life. This book reminded me of the Hunger Games in some ways. Just as the tributes in the Hunger Games are treated with opulence and manipulated by the power-hungry capital; the shrinemaidens are treated with opulence and manipulated by kings and noblemen except the shrinemaidens are trained and used for sexual prowess. The life of a shrinemaiden is an escape for woman with lavender eyes and offers a much less bleak existence than life without it. During her training, Adalei becomes taken with a guard named Thornton. Their love story begins from there. It has a Romeo and Juliet flair to it in that the two are ill-fated to be together. Through a masterful and conniving plot, their love flourishes and strengthens. However, Adalei endures many obstacles to reach her ultimate goal. There are darker erotic moments in the story as Adalei goes through her duties as a courtesan. But she always remains a quick, smart, strong heroine. Viewing this fantasy world through her eyes is just as gripping as it is engrossing. Twists, secrets, betrayals, and manipulations drive the plot. There were a few instances where I had to re-read certain parts to fully understand what was going on because, like I said, there were twists it was difficult to know what was happening. However, now that I'm finished with the book I think that confusion adds to the mystery. I'm grateful that I was asked to read and review The Shrinemaiden. The interesting, captivating plot is a refreshing change of pace.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful.

Sex...sex...and more sex!

By Cameogirl

What a wild ride! I'm exhausted having just read this entire book! In a nutshell, Shrinemaiden = high priced prostitute similar to the geishas/courtesans trained from the get-go to please their men. Adelai's lot in life is to be educated and trained to please the men who will pay big bucks for her service. But during her early stage, she falls for the mysterious Captain of the Guard, Thornton Altfyre and even though the High Priestess of the temple is a taskmaster, she encourages the meetings between the Captain and Adelai. The attraction is mutual and even though Adelai knows she cannot have him, she still pines for him. When Adelai is ready for her sexual training, lo and behold, the High Priestess arranges for the Captain to be Adelai's trainer for a whole month. What ensues is copious amount of sex....which gets wilder and wilder as the Captain must train Adelai in all aspects of sex. It is extremely hot and steamy. Ok..this story could have gone downhill with all this mindless sex but this book does have a story to it - full of intrigue, plotting, betrayal, villains, bravery, twists and turns, love and lust. I was amazed that with all the sex she had, she does not get pregnant or contract some sexual disease since all sex was done unprotected.

This is an extremely hard story to read because Adelai is routinely humiliated sexually and the villains have her way with her even when her love (Thornton) is in the room with her at times. It's amazing how much sex she has to endure but her prior sexual training has made her ready for all the kinds of debasement heaped on her. At times I was cringing at how she was sexually taken and it was heartbreaking to see that Thornton would allow this to happen to her. But that said, what Adelai did was for the greater good for the kingdoms in jeopardy. And what I took from this is how strong and resilient Adelai was even after all the abuse she took and she never gave up on her love for Thornton. I really loved that Thornton was Adelai's love, but at times I would be so pissed at him for not coming to her rescue. I know everything done was for a reason but sometimes it was really hard to take. There is a big secret that is revealed at the end. I'm happy to say that the H & h have a HEA but they will have to endure much to get to that place. Can't wait for the next story which I'm thinking is about Wolf and his red headed slave! Warning: there is a lot of hot sex in so many ways...from basic to some BDSM and bit of deviancy...and it happens a lot. So if you can't stomach this, don't read it. But if you love an erotic story with a deep storyline then definitely check it out and get ready for the wild ride!

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