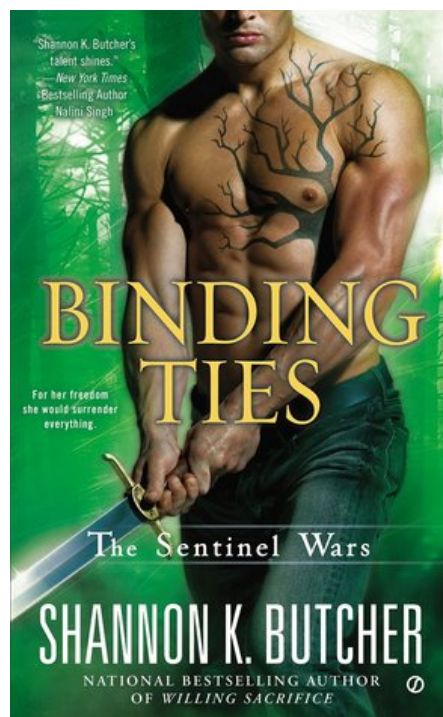




Binding Ties

Shannon K. Butcher

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They are the Sentinels. Three races descended from ancient guardians of mankind, each possessing unique abilities in their battle to protect humanity against their eternal foes: the Synestryn. Now a warrior must protect his onetime enemy—without succumbing to his darkest desires.

Lyka Phelan is a Slayer, sent to live among her enemy to guarantee lasting peace with the Theronai. Yet she has a secret—and it could make her a slave to their power. But when a pack of Synestryn destroys her home and captures her packmates, Lyka realizes her freedom is a small price to pay for the safety of her people. So she strikes a bargain with the leader of the Theronai—one that reveals her true identity and binds her to him forever.

Joseph thought he knew better than to tangle with the beautiful, hot-blooded Lyka. One misstep could send their races straight back to war. But now he has no choice other than to help her. Forced to protect her with his life, Joseph finds himself increasingly drawn to Lyka. As they risk everything in their fight against the demons, he realizes he must convince her to surrender to him completely—otherwise she will never truly be his.

Binding Ties Details

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María says

Esta historia me gustó mucho. Y eso que está llena de los mismos clichés que las otras. Pero funciona: heroína reticente y macho posesivo tienen una misión de rescate.

En este caso, la reticencia de Lyka tenía que ver con ser mestiza y no conocer su lugar. Es interesante cómo la autora se da maña para contarnos la misma historia una y otra vez, pero de diferentes maneras.

¿Qué pasará con el bebé de Eric y la reina demonio?

Lisa - (Aussie Girl) says

A fairly solid instalment of this long running series. The actual bonding between the featured pair is getting a tad monotonous it is the ongoing story within the worldbuilding that keeps it interesting.

★★★? (3.5 stars)

Nareh says

[However, not only does Lyka do everything to ostracize herself from the Theronai while

Shauni says

Originally Reviewed For: Tea and Book

Sometimes when you are very lucky you find a sleeper series. You know one that is a slow starter, good enough to get your attention but not reaching its potential with the first book. Nope, each book builds on the other and slowly, ever so slowly it becomes a pounding, pulsating, passionate series. That my friends is what Shannon K. Butcher has done with her fabulous Sentinel Wars Series. Binding Ties is book nine in the series and a true delight.

They are the Sentinels. Three races descended from ancient guardians of mankind, each possessing unique abilities in their battle to protect humanity against their eternal foes: the Synestryn.

Only now races that have been if not eternal enemies at least cautious foes, have joined sides. The enemy of my enemy and all that. The Slayers were sent to monitor the Theroni and if a warrior succumbed to the misery of his lost leaves from the tree of life, then the Slayers were the ones who would take them out. But now, the Slayers have realized that the fighting between the races has given the true enemy, The Synestryn, an advantage.

Lyka Phelan is a Slayer, pure and simple. Not only is she a Slayer but she is the sister of the Slayer Leader, a princess if you will. But her brother has decided that she will be the "hostage" for peace. She will remain with the Theroni as the Slayer representative ensuring peace.. Yep, hostage. Lyka has done her best to be an asset but she has a rather devastating secret which forces her to remain aloof.

Joseph has been the leader of the Theroni for several years and has several more before he will be released from his own personal hell. Yep, he honestly feels sitting behind a desk and listening to the complaints and struggles of many who live in his compound is a form of hell. Worse, if he can't get out his chance of finding a mate is nil. Add to that.. the ever so sexy Lyka is his own personal fantasy girl and as leader of the Theroni, he more than anyone knows she is off limits.. That is until she shares her deepest secret, then all bets are off!!

The last book in this series, Willing Sacrifice had this dark, needy aspect to it. But Binding Ties brings us back into the light. Yes, the Synestryn are not just getting bolder, they are also getting smarter, more powerful and because of selective breeding more humanish. And yes, the Slayers are struggling in the darkness and under attack but there is a lightness of spirit in this book. A hope and that makes it one of the best in the series yet.

Lyka and Joseph have a connection it's primitive and erotic. It's sensual and elegant. It's acceptance and denial. It's what couple dreams of being. It's what dreams are made of and Ms. Butcher gives us magic when with these two.

This is one of those books that shouldn't be missed. A sensual tale of love and survival..

Shauni

Lulu says

This is the 9th full length book in Shannon Butcher's generally excellent Sentinel Wars series. If you haven't read any of the earlier books, you would not want to start with this one as the series has a complicated story arc with a large cast of characters with each book usually featuring multiple secondary storylines and POV's.

Binding Ties is the story of Joseph, the leader of the Theronai, and Lyka Phelan, the sister of the leader of the Slayers. In an earlier book, Lyka was brought to the Theronai compound, Dabyr, to serve as a sort of hostage for peace between the two races and Joseph's ward, Carmen, was shipped off to the Slayers to serve a similar purpose. When the Slayer settlement is attacked and destroyed by the Synestryn and her brother Eric kidnapped with a number of Slayer children, she runs to the rescue with Joseph going along.

It was fun to be back in Dabyr as last year's "Willing Sacrifice" took us (view spoiler) and there was virtually no interaction with our usual cast of Theronai, Slayers and Sanguinar. Joseph is a great hero. Smart, loyal, gorgeous and so very, very lonely. He has been massively attracted to Lyka since she arrived at Dabyr and is amazed and thankful for the opportunity to make her his. The Synestryn are up to their usual evil ways and Ms. Butcher ups the "ick" factor yet again in the treatment of poor, abducted Eric. So, there is lots of action and plenty of mortal peril as Joseph and Lyka race to save Eric and the children and explore all that smoldering attraction they feel towards one another. We also get updates on the Sanguinar (Logan, Hope, and Tynan make appearances) as well as on Ronan who is searching for Justice, the woman he is obsessed with finding and who saved his life earlier in the series.

So, what's the problem? Why only 3 stars? Lyka. I really couldn't stand her. I liked her even less than previous heroines Lexie and Jackie which is saying something. Lyka is difficult, angry, and obnoxious, with more than one TSTL moment. She only slightly redeems herself at the very end and there wasn't enough of an epilogue and interaction between her and Joseph to soften my opinion. Overall, she pretty much ruined the book and I actually felt sorry that wonderful Joseph is now stuck with her. So, while I'll keep reading the

Sentinel Wars, this was definitely not a favorite and not one that will ever make it to the top of the re-read pile. It seems like Ronan and Justice could be in line for the next full length book. I only hope that Justice is not anything like Lyka.

Eva Millien says

Slayer Lyka Phelan has a secret one that could make her a slave to the Theronai but when her home is attacked and her packmates are captured, she makes a bargain with the Theronai leader Joseph – one that binds her to him forever in this mesmerizing paranormal romance. This fascinating world only gets better as the war rages on and the author introduces more intriguing elements and interesting characters. I was completely enthralled in this book from the very beginning and couldn't put it down until I had read every last word and I can't wait to find out what happens next.

4 ½ STARS

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Secretly Reading says

In a Nutshell: Why have the heroines in this series gotten so mean? Lyka is the worst yet!

Why I Read This Book: Once I start a series I have a difficult time stopping it so I just keep reading.

What I Liked: I love Joseph. Series readers will know him as the long-suffering and patient leader of the Theronai community. He's loyal and kind, even when he's under great stress both as a leader, and as a Theroni because he has no woman to channel the power he houses. When Lyka was originally introduced into the series a few books back, I liked the way she awakened Joseph and that continued here. It was awesome to see Joseph in action, fighting, since in previous books he always had to stay in the Theronai city to protect and lead. This book shows a darker side of Joseph that I really liked.

What I Also Liked: I love the community of Theronai and them battling the evil Synestryn. Beloved characters and couples return here, especially the leader of the Vampires who are begrudging allies of the Theroni. Sure, the actual fight scenes are a little tedious but they serve a good purpose of progressing both the book's plot (saving Lyka's brother) and the series' plot (battling the Synestryn).

What I Didn't Like: Geesh! Lyka was a BEEP! She was so consumed by her need to be a warrior that she was willing to hurt Joseph over and over and over again. She'd been living with the Theroni for months and seen firsthand how kindly Joseph treated humans, Theroni, children and others so why she would constantly assume the very worst about him, I didn't get. Again and again Joseph put Lyka's needs and desires above his own and she was willing to kill him to get her freedom until the novel's end. I couldn't stand Lyka and wished poor Joseph got someone kinder to him. Even Lyka's great epiphany at novel's end wasn't enough to redeem her in my eyes.

IMO: Series readers like me will have to read this novel but others should skip this because Lyka is a wench.

Keri says

I had a hard time liking Lika and wanted to bash her over the head more than once for her stupidity with Joseph. Even there at the end I struggled with their romance. I like the series, but feel like the story ARC is losing steam.

Olivia ? says

Kudos to Shannon K. Butcher for penning the least likeable female character that I've read in a while. I was excited to read Joseph's story. He has been the ruthless but fair and compassionate Theronai leader that has kept his people safe. Throughout the stories we've gotten glimpses into his life, hopes and how much we sacrifices each day.

So... instead of rewarding him with an equally tough but kind mate, we got Lyka. We had gotten a glimpse of Lyka and I knew it wouldn't be flowers and chocolates. She is a warrior and she was traded and left by her brother. I knew it would be tough for her to be a prisoner so I expected her to be rough around the edges. What we got instead was a selfish bitch that just went out of way to make every situation that much worse for Joseph and everyone else around her. She had way too many TSTL moments and I kept wanting for her to be eaten but one of the demons. I begged.

The redeeming qualities and the reason this is not 1 star book is a mixture of Joseph himself and Eric's story. Poor Eric went through some very icky hellish moments with the Synnestrin and that aspect of the story made me yuck out loud.

In the end Lyka had a chapter or 2 of redeeming scenes but not nearly enough for the disappointment that was the rest of the story. Joseph got the short end of the Theronai mate pool in this one and I didn't feel the love. I thought this was supposed to be a romance?

Way to turn off a fan from your series Butcher!

Maida»-(^v^)-» says

RATING: Between 3.5 - 4 HEARTS!!

This was a solid read. Didn't blow me away, but kept me more than satisfied with its execution, characters, plot and romance. Joesph and Lyka are definitely a favourite couple from this series! Really enjoyed it. The only downside...that blasted ending. It was okay...more abrupt than the smooth flow the story was accustomed with.

Melindeeloo says

Review to come, but... I've loved Joeseeph all along and I had high hopes for an enemies to lovers romance. This wasn't really a very romancey romance though -and Ronan had to pull some mind mojo to get Lyka to give Joeseeph a chance- and the battle for her affection really was always a battle and sort of exhausting to read. Add to that true yuckiness in the thread with the demonic Synestran adding onscreen rape of one of Lyka's brothers and this was not my favorite book. There is some more of the set up for Ronan, but it looks like his pursuit of a mate is going to be a battle too, but I am still hoping that eventually we get a book where the conflict between leads involved less hostility for a change. Some one else said it in a review, and I agree - the male leads are pretty great with a few exceptions, but only a few of the leading ladies have been all that likable.

Picky Virgo says

Besides even less of the stale, same-old-same-old storyline, Ms. Butcher now seems to be channeling Laurell K. Hamilton. Lyka can't think of anything but Joseph's cock, while Joseph's fantasies star his cock with Lyka's body and some rope as a supporting cast. No more Sentinels for me. I returned it.

Vashti says

I have not read the past couple of books in this series and quite frankly, I felt a bit lost. I did enjoy the story and I may go back and read the books that I missed.

Darcy says

Lyka is an unusual person. I wasn't sure that I liked her at first, really started to dislike her when we found out that while she was teaching the kids to fight they were getting hurt, however when she explained why she taught like she did. I liked that she protected the kids in the only way she knew how.

I thought it was funny how Joseph had a crush on Lyka, but had to keep his feelings hidden. I loved how Lyka manipulated Joseph into giving her what she wanted. I didn't know why he couldn't see that coming, when it was so obvious. I hated how Lyka treated Joseph once she made her choice, couldn't understand why she thought it would be so easy to have her cake and eat it too. By the end I was glad that Lyka could make the choice in a way that let Joseph know she wanted him.

The side story with Ronan had me laughing, Justice will be a force for him. Eric's story mad me sad, I really hate what was taken from him without his knowledge, that can't end well at all.

Paranormal Romance says

The heroine is given against her will to the enemy as a peace treaty is signed between her people and the hero's. In place, the hero's adoptive daughter is sent over to the other camp. The hero, as leader of his people, is slowly running out of time, as most of his warriors are. The power inside of him is slowly eating away at him and without his bonded female, he will die a slow death but not before going insane. He's been attracted to the sexy but hot headed enemy in his camp since day one but she makes it abundantly clear she doesn't feel the same. Though he's been nothing but kind and patient to her, the heroine comes across as nothing but a spoiled selfish brat, not the warrior she's depicted to be. She proclaims that she want' nothing more than the safety of her people yet given the chance to mend the fence between the hero's kind and hers, she spits in the face of his hospitality. She whines constantly about her loss of freedom and her imprisonment but once in the outside world, she fumbles and almost gets the hero killed when trying to save her. In a bargain with him to give her a chance to hunt down the demons responsible and find the missing children, she offers herself up to be his mate but only for the power she'll receive from it. That's fine, that's honest. But even when she knows the hero's feelings and thoughts and driven desire to protect her, she uses every opportunity to lash out at him and make his already stressful life, even more chaotic. She was beyond frustrating. And the hero wasn't much better. I can't stand it when the hero is so blinded by the females beauty to see what a vain pointless creature she really is. Maybe I'm just jealous that a man would risk everything for his woman yet receive nothing back. I don't think it's fair. This world they live in is chalked full of dangers and the only way they stand a chance is to fight together so why the hell does the heroine not see that? I also didn't think there was much of a plot. It felt like the author was just writing for the sake of writing and not really caring to make the story truly mean anything.
