



# The Rainbow Serpent

*Lyra Shanti*

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## **The Rainbow Serpent** Lyra Shanti

In the time before humanity as we know it, there was a garden, a tree of knowledge, and a serpent who sought the truth. A re-imagining of the "fall" from the snake's point of view, this unique novella is a spiritual fairy tale by Lyra Shanti, author of The Shiva XIV Series, and features the stunning cover art of Jennifer Juniper Varon.

## **The Rainbow Serpent Details**

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Author : Lyra Shanti

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## From Reader Review The Rainbow Serpent for online ebook

### Jane Jago says

The Garden of Eden from the point of view of the serpent. How can you not fall in love?

This is a very beautifully told tale of love and loss and longing.

It will melt even the hardest of hearts.

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### Sam (Rescue Dog Mom, Writer, Hugger) says

I found this story to be both spiritual and very personal. At first, I took it as an adult fairy tale. It's very well-written and imaginative. The snake is likable and not at all sinister. He's genuinely kind and caring. I was touched at how he brought water to the pregnant woman and sang to her to calm her fears.

As I continued reading, I began seeing how this tale compares to real life. Sometimes we wish we could be different when, though we are not perfect, we are truly better off the way we are. We all make mistakes, sometimes life-changing mistakes. We struggle against all odds to achieve a goal with the best of intentions to help ourselves or someone else, only to discover we should have left well enough alone. I got more from reading this story, but it's personal.

I enjoyed reading this book. The cover is beautiful. I like the colors.

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### G.G. says

An interesting re-telling of Adam and Eve's story.

In fact, I like this one much better as no one was really 'bad'. The serpent, by far my favorite character, is a very likeable in both forms, serpent and human. I also loved the way the world was described.

Retellings do not usually appeal to me but after reading a few pages, I was drawn to it and I needed to learn how it would unfold.

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### Eva Pasco says

Divine!

Categorized by the author, this novella is a spiritual fairytale re-imagining the "fall" from grace as told by the serpent. The reader does not need to be well-versed in the Bible to appreciate a story of biblical magnitude whose divine messages are imparted by the author who narrates with all the wisdom and clarity of an elder shaman.

One of the most profound and powerful divine messages revealed by the snake is his astute interpretation of

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the rainbow—“The sky had always known, and had always told him. The colors were always there, but he had to be willing to see them. They were not just on his skin, but inside him, and inside everyone - connected together in a great circle of diversity and love.”

While forbidden love plants the seeds of offspring and perpetuates sacrifice, jealousy, rage, death, and anguish—the reader is left to ponder the extent of predestination vs. free will to execute one’s choices along the spectrum of morality since Creation.

Flawless in composition, the story is plainly, yet eloquently written with beautiful imagery that reflects the universal truths of life, transparent as the colors of a rainbow.

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### **Jana Rieger says**

That was the most loveable Serpent I've ever read about!

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### **J.B. Richards says**

A Touching and Imaginative Retelling of the Story of Eve and the Serpent ... Truly Exceptional! One would think that the numerous and myriad tales already generated by the Bible’s Genesis story have been completely played out—exhausted. Yet, Lyra Shanti’s touching and imaginative retelling of the tale of Eve and the Serpent is truly an exception. Sometimes winsome, sometimes serious, and sometimes truly heart-breaking—this enchanting fable of unattainable love and the search for one’s true identity among God’s creatures—great and small—is surprisingly unique!

“The Rainbow Serpent” is a light read, but in less than 100 pages, Shanti presents an effective allegory of humankind’s endless search for our place in the Cosmos, while begging the question of whether or not we are a product of our own free will or that of a Divine Creator. Her portrayal of the relationship between her characters—Adam, Eden (aka Eve), Alon the Snake, Cain, and Abel—stirs deep emotions and thought-provoking questions relative to free will, true love, forced partnership, loyalty to one’s family, destiny and fate, and belief in the Divine. Through the trials and tribulations of “The Rainbow Serpent”, Shanti connects with the hearts and minds of her readers and opens their eyes to a whole new world of endless choices and possibilities. I would highly recommend this novel to anyone who is searching for the same—as well as those of us who simply love and cherish a really great read!

JB Richards

Author of “Miriamne the Magdala – The First Chapter in the Yeshua and Miri Novel Series”

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### **James Hartley says**

This is not the sort of book I would usually read but I enjoyed it. It’s well written, not pretentious, interesting, mystical yet human. My guess is that readers with a soft spot for myth and spirituality would love it.

The book tells the story of Adam and Eve and the garden of Eden from the point of view of the snake, although the author takes great liberties in the retelling. The dreamy, languid atmosphere makes her reimaginings work. Adam is there, so is Eve and Eden and Cain and Abel, and the snake of course, but none of them quite as we've known them before.

The book has its own logic which works in the world the author creates.

It washed over me like the memory of a pleasant, if weird, dream.

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### **P.S. Winn says**

This is a quite different take on the age old story of Adam and Eve and the snake. In this story Eves' name is Eden and the snake is Alon, Adam is still Adam, but most of the rest of the story is much different than you may have read in the bible. I was a bit torn on this story. Maybe I was thinking it would be closer to the story I know, but the author is a great story teller and readers are gong to find the story and the authors' take on the biblical story compelling. I would say to someone who is a devout bible reader this may not be a story for them, but for those who like a bit of fantasy and a different take on things, you will love it.

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### **Ana says**

This was an odd but interesting story. I'm glad I haven't read the blurb before start reading it, being a gift, I just start reading without knowing what it was about. Otherwise I guess I wouldn't choose it and have missed this strange re-tale of the Garden of Eden.

I liked it. I wasn't too invest in the story at the start but then it came a moment when I just couldn't stop reading. It was easy to read. The snake was an unusual character, as it was his love story that I was glad to get to know. The tasks he wanted to approach and his thoughts were also so nice to read. It was, overall, an interesting book.

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### **Joanne says**

This beautiful, magical tale is very loosely based on the characters and events of the ancient Hebrew stories of the Biblical Garden of Eden, but is both original and dynamic enough to neither require nor call for comparisons. It would be a great disservice to the author to expect this story to mirror or mimic the other.

'The Rainbow Serpent' is a mystical story in which Shanti has woven an intricate tale of love in many forms, and of the complications that arise when loyalties and commitments are divided. Shanti has sculpted realistic characters with whom the reader can empathise. I was drawn, at different times, into the depth of motherly love, the joy of celebration, the sadness of longing despite separation, and the despair of one who has reached the point of no return.

While this book explores quite serious themes, Shanti's writing is quite lyrical and soothing. The story itself

reminded me of Kipling's tales, in that the skilful narration carries the reader through joy, fear, anguish and loss to a point of reflection in which they understand both the story and its lessons for humanity. Thus, the story also serves as something of a modern fable - when one acts on feelings alone, untempered by reason or contemplation, the consequences can be devastating.

Lyra Shanti is a writer well worth reading, whether she turns her hands to fable or fantasy. I thoroughly enjoyed the journey this story took me on, and I will definitely read more of Shanti's works.

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### **Laura Berlin says**

Lyra Shanti has spun a delightful gem in her retelling of the "Fall". Highly recommend. Told from the snakes point of view Shanti's tale is touching, spiritual and much more.

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### **E.J. Bennett says**

A remarkable story of Adam and Eve. This was a great imaginative read that I throughly enjoyed.

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### **R.M. Gauthier says**

What an interesting tale of Cain and Abel. A refreshing take on an old story.

Shanti's imagery of the tree of knowledge, life mixed with love and courage was a nice touch keeping me turning the pages. All elements of the original story are there but twisted and altered, in such a way I almost forgot there was an original story.

There was enough description to allow the reader to visually picture the story, but was in no way boring to the reader. Nice work, Mrs. Shanti.

This short is well written with much thought to how the story unfolds, and how it would end. Great job, Lyra Shanti.

I highly recommend this book and give this book 5 of 5.

Well done!

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### **Cindy Smith says**

This is an interesting spin on the whole Genesis story. Back in the day the animals and man could understand each other. Eve was having a baby and was sent into the woods to do so, alone. During the birth, she and the snake become friends as he helps keep her calm. A bit of magical change, infidelity, unrequited love, murder and mayhem. Maybe Cain was not as guilty as everyone believes. Well written.

## Loa Shelley says

The Rainbow Serpent is a timeless and wise re-telling of the creation myth of The Garden of Eden, dodging all dogmatic blame, highlighting instead the consequence of human jealousy and the connectivity we have with the natural world. In the eyes of Alon, we see the promise of hope in the world, despite the darkened shade of humanity's painful existence.

Although it is quite a short book, it is powerfully poetic in its narrative. It reads like a parable or faerie tale of Western tradition, yet it mindfully grasps the depth of an Upanishad of Hindi writing, the result being a beautiful revelation of the joys and sorrows of life itself.

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