



Storm Season

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The great outdoors isn't so great for Sydney It-Girl Lien Hong. It's too dark, too quiet, and there are spiders in the toilet of the cabin she is sharing with friends on the way to a New South Wales music festival. To make matters worse, she's been separated from her companions and taken a bad fall. With a storm approaching, her rescue comes in the form of a striking wilderness ranger named Claudia Sokolov, whose isolated cabin, soulful voice and collection of guitars bely a complicated history. While they wait out the weather, the women find an undeniable connection—one that puts them both on new trajectories that last long after the storm has cleared.

Storm Season Details

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Author : Pene Henson

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From Reader Review Storm Season for online ebook

Joc says

Trapped-in-a-cabin stories really appeal to me because the characters are forced to get to know one another without any outside interference for a limited period. Usually there's lots of dialogue too, although there could have been more in *Storm Season*. This isn't like most books with this theme though.

Set in Australia, Lien and three of her friends are off to a music festival where they will be camping while they attend. Lien has coordinated all of her outfits and accessories - which include a one-piece retro safari suit and pith helmet. She's a music and fashion writer with her finger on the pulse of social media marketing. A massive thunder storm and her being in the wrong place at the wrong time causes her to be rescued by reclusive Ranger Claudie. They manage to get to the safety of Claudie's cabin but they're not going anywhere soon.

Being trapped in a cabin is really only a small part of the story which was quite refreshing. There are great characters and an interesting story line. Good read.

Linus says

Okay, Wow. I didn't PLAN to like this book that much. I picked it up because of the wilderness setting and the promise of some hurt/comfort, and expected to feel meh about it, give it 3 stars maybe, because romance isn't a genre that works for me, usually, even if I try very hard.

So, I am quite shocked to inform you that I actually REALLY enjoyed this book. Even though there was very little hurt/comfort compared to all the other themes of the book, and even though not all of it is set in some cabin. I really liked the characters and felt things for them and genuinely wanted them to be happy! I didn't get bored at all, instead it was hard to put this book down! Even though music is like THE most important thing in this story, and incidentally also a thing that I don't really understand or care about. It was still just *so good*. Bonus for every single character being queer. Yeah this is just really nice. It almost made me cry a lot of times but feels good and happy still.

emma says

CUTE F/F ROMANCE SET IN THE AUSTRALIAN BUSH AND SYDNEY? WHAT'S NOT TO LOVE

PROPER RTC

Luce says

Lovely written book. I agree with previous reviewers who used words like - lush, gorgeous and atmospheric. The author has a talent of describing the locales - whether it be the Australian bush during torrential rains

and later the beauty when the weather clears and Claudine's modest cabin to the streets of Sydney and the excitement of the small clubs and the music scene. I also liked that the characters are a mix of ethnicities, it is brought up but not a big deal (Lien and her friend Annie is of Chinese descent) and her roommate and bestie, Beau is a trans guy. Beau being trans is mentioned only a couple of times and from then on he's just Beau who wants to date Annie.

I'm looking forward to reading her next book.

Netty says

This has just taken the biggest nosedive ever for me, I mean WHAT? A boring romance turning into a fucking fisting fest, no way can I carry on reading something that's making me want to say ouch and not to mention the hairy woman doing it lol, fucking yuk yuk and yuk, I expect she'll be squirting in the following pages....

So if you enjoy reading about hairy women with armpit hair sticking out of their shirt and a good fisting then this is deffo the book for you:/

Michelle Osgood says

Storm Season is as gorgeous, lush, and steamy as the cover promises. It's easy to fall for the young and charming Lien, whose vivaciousness leaps out at you from the first page. Claudia is her perfect foil - the strong and silent park ranger with hidden depths and a rock star past. Though both women have a love of music in common, their lives are so dramatically different that there seems to be no hope for the future. Like Lien, I was loathe to leave the bubble of the isolated cabin.

Luckily, the return to Sydney does not mean the end of Lien and Claudia's story. I had been sure that the four days the women spent stormed in would be the peak of the novel, but as Claudia begins to rebuild her life, and Lien to refocus her goals, the scenes in the city became some of my favourite.

As with her first book, Into the Blue, Henson's strength lies in being able to craft the perfect turn of phrase to capture an exact mood or feeling. These gems are scattered throughout, and shine in the book's small moments of intimacy. Claudia's transition from lone ranger back to rock star could have been clumsy, but instead she glides near effortlessly between both worlds, a testament to Henson's ability to create multi-dimensional characters who feel achingly real.

Though undeniably a romance (and a blisteringly hot one at that) Storm Season is a story about self-reflection and discovery, and the courage it takes to reshape your life. I devoured it in one sitting, and am already anticipating a re-read. All emotion and heart and nerve, Storm Season was the perfect book to begin 2017 with.

shana naomi says

Like Pene Henson's gorgeous Into the Blue, Storm Season is both a sweet, swoon-worthy romance and

fundamentally about the families we make and the people we find who keep us honest and whole -- or try, anyway -- no matter what life throws our way. I loved the diversity of this entire cast and the earnest if at times misguided thoughtfulness of its ambitious main character, Lien, as she tries to figure out what to do with all these FEELINGS. Also this made me desperately want to visit NSW and Sydney and lurk my way through both the vast wilderness and what sounds like a tremendously fun city.

Jude Sierra says

5 Stars

I have been so eagerly waiting for this novel for months. Henson's previous novel, *Into the Blue* is a deep favorite of mine – both because she made me fall for the characters so easily, but because I am absolutely in love with her craft.

Storm Season is a gorgeous work of art. Here we have a plot that could easily devolve into a series of cliché tropes. Rather, Henson takes these themes and tropes: women who seem to be opposites at first glance; stranded in a cabin during a storm; the transformative power of particular human interactions, and makes them unique and believable and fresh.

Henson's writing style is deceptively simple. She often employs short sentences, descriptions in what could easily be staccato or disjointed moment. Rather, she uses this skillfully to draw the reader in. It has the effect of stripping a layer of separation between the story and the reader. We are drawn into an intimacy with the story, whether it's a description of the Australian bush or of two women falling for each other.

When we meet them, Claudie and Lien appear to be complete opposites. Henson takes us through discovering them, and them discovering themselves and each other, skillfully enough that we slide into the realization that these women are similar in so many ways, that perhaps circumstance foiled them in particular ways when we met them, but at their hearts, they are beautifully compatible.

I don't want to spoil the turn the story takes in it's second half, but know that it is executed perfectly. By this point in the story, Henson has taken us beyond simply longing for Claudie and Lien to be together. We're rooting for them as individuals who are growing just as much.

As with Henson's previous novel, this book has a lovely diverse cast that is obviously thoughtfully included for the sake of story. These clearly would be Lien and Claudie's people. This is a representation of a slice of life, and it easily, without fanfare, reflects diversity in life. Love it.

Also, someone please donate money to my "I must go to Australia right now", fund. Because a lifelong wish because an intense, burning need while reading this book. I fell in love with the landscape and people in this book. One day, hopefully, I'll get to do it in real life. For now, I'll revisit this book over and over, savoring every word.

Rachel Leigh says

Very happy review to come. :)

Suzey Ingold says

I absolutely loved Henson's first novel, *Into the Blue*, and had been eagerly anticipating her next release... It did not disappoint. From the get-go, I was quickly sucked into a dynamic world, instantly falling in love with Lien and her friends, particularly Beau. I adored the contrast of the quiet, romantic tone between Lien and Claudie in the cabin, with the fast bustle and harder realism of her time in the city. Altogether, a stunning read from start to finish.

Tara says

The writing in this book is gorgeous and atmospheric, and the third person present tense had me gripped all the way through. The pacing is careful, yet not slow, deftly guiding us through Lien and Claudie's growth. *Storm Season* is a character driven story, and a satisfying one at that, because I never found myself longing for more to the plot.

Full review: <http://www.thelesbianreview.com/storm...>

Les Joseph says

Storm Season by Pene Henson is just as stunning on the inside as the cover is on the outside. Coming from Interlude Press, I wouldn't really expect anything less. IP books have always had the most gorgeous covers, and from the number of books I've read from this publisher, the words inside more than do them justice! A lush setting, gorgeous imagery, and well-developed, multi-faceted characters made reading *Storm Season* quite an enjoyable experience.

Lien Hong is a city girl through and through. She's all about fashion and music and food and hanging out with her friends. She's also utterly endearing if not a bit flighty and self-centered, but as a young woman in her mid-twenties, not really unexpected. What she is NOT is an outdoor kind of girl, and is definitely not looking forward to the camping trip her friends are dragging her to. I found myself smiling, and perhaps rolling my eyes a bit, while she packed, making sure she had her fashionable boots and her pith helmet, not to mention her lemon yellow cardigan because goodness knows, you can't ever look too good in the middle of the rain forest, right? What happens once Lien and her friends make it to their campsite might be predictable seeing as how Lien winds up lost in the middle of a rainstorm only to be rescued by the sexy and beautiful park ranger, Claudia. However, what happens once the two are secluded in Claudie's--as she's known--cabin to wait out the storm is anything but cliché'.

I loved both of these characters. Lien is irreverent and sweet; Claudie is a bit more pragmatic but no less likable. The push and pull of these two opposite people was quite the treat to watch play out for sure. Once the two make it back to civilization, their differences become readily apparent, but Lien's attraction to Claudie won't let her move on. Claudie's back story tugged at my heartstrings, and the more we got to really know her, the more I loved her. Much less quiet than the quirky and effervescent Lien, these two really are the perfect complement to one another. The romance is beautifully written, nothing overly done or in your face, just easy and sweet. Henson's writing is effortless, it flows like a meandering, bubbling stream, gently

rolling its way down a slope. There is no over the top dramatics in Storm Season, which I SO much appreciated, but there is a realness to all the characters in the book. And let's not fail to mention the utter smorgasbord of secondary characters. A broad range of ethnicities and sexualities but none felt trite or cliché'd.

This is a gorgeous book that I'm so glad I read. Pene Henson's writing style is evocative and gripping and I found myself completely engrossed from the first page until the end. I loved the music and the fashion and the whole sense of Sydney and Lien's neighborhood. Storm Season is a delight for all your senses and I highly recommend you pick this one up immediately and immerse yourself in the lushness of Henson's words.

this review will also be posted on www.diversereader.blogspot.com

Cheyenne Blue says

Pene Henson's "Storm Season" is a gorgeous and lush romance set in Australia with a thoroughly likeable and diverse cast of characters.

Lien is a city girl. She lives in inner Sydney, blogs about fashion and bands, and is a social media queen. Claudie was a city girl, the lead in the latest hot band, Grand Echo. But that's now behind her and she lives a hermit's life in a cabin in the woods in one of the National Parks in northern New South Wales.

Lien's housemate, Beau, drags her out for a couple of weeks of camping on their way to a music festival. On the first night, Lien wanders off, gets hurt and is rescued by Claudie. As is the way with storms in that part of the world, the rain comes down, the creeks come up, and everyone's trapped, including Lien who is now stuck with Claudie.

Superficially, this is an opposites attract type of story. The city girl decrying the ruination of her vintage safari suit and lack of access to Instagram; the country girl going out to fix the leaking roof and the generator and longing for solitude. But during their enforced stay the two women establish not just a common ground, but a common landscape between them. Sure, Lien is hopeless and helpless in the bush, but she taps into the solitude and makes it a part of her. Sure, Claudie left the city, but she was raised there and it's still there, just pushed to one side.

The romance is slow burn and gentle, in contrast to the ferocity of the outside weather. I liked that it wasn't smooth sailing, the little irritations of two such different personalities are aired, at least on the pages.

Of course, the creeks eventually subside, Lien packs up her safari suit and unsuitable white tennis shoes and trots off to the music festival. But the echo of her presence is there in Claudie's subsequent decisions. The book took a turn I wasn't expecting when (view spoiler)

The story is written in third person present tense, often with very short sentences that far from being choppy, add layers to atmosphere. The Australian bush is described with love, and as a rural living Aussie, I particularly appreciated this. I love it when a background is a part of the story.

The pacing mirrored the setting: soft and slow when the women are trapped in the cabin, but faster and more frenetic when they rejoin the rest of the world.

I also appreciated that the writer stayed away from the clichés and stereotypes of city vs rural. There was no fun poked at Lien in unsuitable clothes and discomfort in her surroundings, except from Lien herself.

Supporting characters were wonderful and ranged through the spectrum of race and gender. Beau is trans, Claudie's parents are Polish (I think), Lien is from Hong Kong, Ranger Shelley is Bundjalung. There's gay and lesbian couples. This is a good reflection of the makeup of Australia's population, and is portrayed without it being an issue for anyone. That is particularly welcome in the current political climate.

I very much enjoyed housemate Beau and Lien's best friend Annie. I read that the author is considering a short story about those two and I would very much like to read it.

I have nothing critical to say about this book. I thoroughly enjoyed my time with Lien and Claudie and I look forward to more from this writer.

I received an ARC in return for an honest review.

Pixie says

in my opinion, what makes a romance good is a) the people involved are also friends and b) you're shown /why/ they like each other and fit together. this novel does these things beautifully. it's also a good romance because the character development for the characters isn't only about their relationship, but the relationship is part of a cohesive whole. also, there's fisting, which i was not prepared to encounter in a published and printed book lmao. i was on a tram at the time... i highly recommend storm season to anyone looking for a happy f/f romance, but maybe read it in private unless you have a carefully cultivated "reading smut in public" poker face.

Rach (Les Rêveur) says

If the cover doesn't pull you in (because I freaking love this cover) then I hope my review does because it needs to be put at the top of your must-read list...

This book completely took me by surprise. It was recommended by a fellow friend and bibliophile with a 'must read asap' tag and I'm immensely glad I listened.

Lien is Sydney's newest fashion and music blogger. She's everywhere and people are listening. Destined for the big time and always attached to her social media platform, which means she isn't enamoured about her upcoming camping trip with her best friends.

After a hop, skip and rather large stumble during a heavy storm while camping, Lien is rescued by Park Ranger, Claudia. At the peak of the storm, Claudia and Lien are trapped in Claudia's Cabin in the woods until they can get through the storm damage.

Claudia is a 'lone' ranger excuse the pun. She enjoys her solitude but after a little digging Lien realises all isn't what it's seems and they have a lot more in common than you are led to first believe.

I thoroughly enjoyed this novel and can't rave about it enough. Firstly the romance between Claudia and Lien is exciting but simple at the same time. You know they have this romantic spark and sexual chemistry but they also just fit. Once you unravel the mystery that's Claudia, you realise she's actually perfect for Lien and her true soul mate. Even the detailed and high quality sex scenes were still sensual and loving even when they dance on the line of kinky.

I also love Beau, Lien's best friend and confidante. He's struggling with his own romance as he's trying to woo, Annie (also a friend of Lien) while treading new waters as a trans man. I actually would love to read his story because I feel like there is something special there and Beau's connection with Annie gave me butterflies a few times.

Lastly I loved when Henson described the mundane in the book and made it sensual or exciting, it gave the reader the feeling of being there with the protagonists and experiencing the atmosphere and the journey. For example this is one of her simpler quotes but you'll get my drift...

"The current pop tune is sweet and catchy with a mournful undertone."

All in all a fantastic novel that will jump straight onto my favourite shelf and will be rereading it again soon.

5 stars
