



Connected by the Sea

E.L. Todd

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Living in paradise, Sydney loves her job, her friends, and her passion for marine biology. Her best friend, Henry, has an invested interest in her, but Sydney never seems to notice. While Henry is the perfect man, she only dates the wrong guys. Her ex-boyfriend cheated on her, broke her heart, and now she's too shattered to give anyone a chance.

Until Coen...

A sexy bad boy with a tattoo, he elicits dark desires Sydney hasn't felt in so long. His intense eyes, the color of the sea, capture her sight, making it impossible to look away. She tries to avoid him, knowing he's no good for her, but Coen, who always gets what he wants, doesn't take no for an answer.

Will Sydney regret this decision? Or will she find what's been missing her entire life? The family she lost, the loves she misses, and the trust she never thought she could have for someone else?

Connected by the Sea Details

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Author : E.L. Todd

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From Reader Review Connected by the Sea for online ebook

Sara Luck says

I am partial to E.L. Todd books, but that doesn't change my review at all. I have read 478 books this year, so I know a good book when I read it. I really loved this book!

This one is a college romance, but a great love story. One thing I hate about reading books with younger characters is the wishy washy attitude most of them have. This is not the case in CBTs. Sydney has a troubled past but instead of letting that pull her down she escaped from it and went after her dreams. She trains in self defense and martial arts, and although she could beat the crap out of anyone who crossed her, she chooses non violence. She has an incredible heart and has unwavering loyalty to her friends. Coen is everything you want in a book boyfriend. He is strong, totally hot, and hung...lol. He's also, sweet and compassionate but not so over the top that he comes off as a douche.

Sydney is healing over a break up. Her ex wasn't a bad guy...just someone who made the wrong choice. She can forgive him, but she knows she could never forget his betrayal. Coen is also trying to get over a break up...except, he can't stand his ex. She is pretty much bat shit crazy. Syd has noticed Coen from class, but it isn't until she starts to tutor him, that she actually gets to know him. Surprisingly, he isn't the cheating, dumb, man whore she expected him to be. As they get to know each other sparks fly. There are some mountains to climb and obstacles to overcome, but being together makes them both stronger. When Sydney's past arrives at her door step, it may just be too much for their relationship.

This book is sweet and romantic but not so sweet that it causes cavities. Well done!

Donna says

*ARC PROVIDED BY AUTHOR IN EXCHANGE FOR AN HONEST REVIEW *

Sydney is a college girl just trying to get through school and life in spite of her troubled past. She has a wonderful group of friends and fails to see herself the way they do, an amazing young woman. She has been betrayed in love and in life. It is through the handsome Coen that she finds love once more. He will teach her to empower herself and be fearless in the face of danger. Most importantly he will teach her about self forgiveness and that friends are family too.

This story take place in the ever exotic, ever beautiful Hawaii. It starts off innocent enough, then takes a turn for the erotic. A great and refreshing read.

Thank you E.L. Todd!

Carla Krissinger says

I received an ARC of this book in exchange for my honest opinion.

2.5 stars

I did not enjoy this book as I have other EL Todd books. I felt as though parts of this book, big parts that

should have been stressed upon, were rushed and sent to a quick, unrealistic resolve. Now, before I get criticized for my last comment, I am not looking for "real life" situations and I understand that it is just a book. However, there were several serious situations brought out by the author that had a juvenile and quick resolution which made the story a little less believable. The entire story felt as though it was written as a creative project during a junior high writing course. The character dialog was hard to follow at points because the author failed to identify who was talking. I am referring to almost an entire page of dialog that I had to flip back to the previous page to see who started the conversation first. The character development was minimal. We were given a glimpse of some of the characters that probably should have had a little more detail. I love a good mystery when it comes to my novels, but not ones that go unsolved. The mystery of certain characters was never brought to light.

I hope that people understand that I am not the type of person who intentionally hurts another human being, and by writing this review, I could possibly be doing that. But I was asked to provide honesty and that is what this review is, pure honesty.

Ingrid Thomas says

I got this ARC in exchange of an honest review, so here it is:

It's a nice story with some lovable characters, a lot of steamy scenes, but with a little of anticlimactic moments.

The characters are lovable, Coen, is the tough guy is really a sweetheart kind of guy, I really liked him. He has his priorities set straight.

You really like Sydney, because she has made a life out of herself despite her childhood.

But what makes this book a 3.5 is that sometimes they are very mature, on how they handle this and that situation, And then there are other times when you really think that she is a teen, a adolescent.

The thing that bugged me more was her attitude and the decisions she took in regard to her best friend! I just did not like it!

It's pretty predictable, but it has its very good moments!!

ratherread says

Between 4 and 4.5 Stars!!!

ARC kindly provided by author for my honest review.

I really enjoyed this New Adult book. It is erotic, somewhat angst, suspenseful, with great characters and a really good plot. Love Sydney and Cohen's love affair, it is HOT HOT HOT!! I also really enjoyed the setting in warm and beautiful Hawaii.

Sydney is a kind-hearted marine biology student recovering from a cheating boyfriend and an abusive childhood. Her best male friend is in love with her, but she doesn't feel the same. So when she and Cohen start dating, she keeps it a secret to avoid hurt feelings. However, she didn't count on how hurt Cohen was at being a "dirty little secret". As she and Cohen work through this, her past comes back to haunt her. Cohen is the perfect book boyfriend: Lovable, hot, sexy bad-ass who wears beach appropriate clothing. YAY!!!

This is a stand alone book with a great HEA. I recommend it to New Adult erotica readers.

Harriet ~ bookworm says

I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

Sweet, hot romance 3 stars!!

I really enjoyed this book, it was perfect for how I was feeling. After all the dark books I have read lately I really fancied a sweet college romance and that's what this book gave me!

Sydney - She was a really nice heroine, her passion for the aquarium she worked at was so nice to read. She has a lot of trust issues which is very understandable as she hasn't had the best past with her family, they were never supportive in the career path she had chose. Her Step father and step brother was absolutely vile, She also had her heartbroken by her first serious boyfriend Aaron after he cheated on her... She has always had a crush on Coen but never spoke to him until she had to tutor him, it took her a while to trust him as she had heard a lot of rumours and he didn't have the best reputation. At times Sydney really annoyed me I Just wanted to shake her but then I did understand why she was like that after reading about her past!

Coen - I actually really liked Coen, I felt he was vey misunderstood it must of been hard having everyone believe your a pig who has no feelings towards girls when really he was very sweet and caring especially towards Sydney.. He was super hot and ooo I forgot to mention ended up being sydneys trainer in self defence... Phewwww *fans herself*

Henry - Hmm.. He is Sydneys best friend but is also totally head over heels in love with her and yes it was very clear from the beginning and everyone in the story knew accept Sydney. That in storylines has always bugged me because I just find it shows the heroine to be really naïve when really Sydney isn't at all! Once Sydney finds out you do realise that maybe she did know but tried to hide it from herself as she didn't want to ruin their friendship which I can understand. Henry was a really nice friend and actually a sweet character but in parts I found him to be possessive and a bit annoying. He definitely deserves to find his HEA though..

All in all I liked this book a lot, I did find Sydney and Cohen's relationship happened very fast and got a bit to heavy too quickly. I do love a book with sexual tension and angst which this book could of done with a bit more for my liking!

Gotta says

I received this ARC in exchange for an honest review!

The plot is simple: Sydney is a university student at the exotic Hawaii, focusing on her studies after a break-up. She's assigned for tutoring hottie, bad boy type of Coen. Despite all her resolve not to get involved with him, things fast change and all things getting heated-up.

My reading experience can best be described as: continuous debate, as the result of several reasons, see below:

Rhythm of the book (that's my thing, might sound stupid, but that's one of the first things I experience when reading): it started very tentative, like the writing wasn't sure where and how is heading. And then it all speed up and practically rushed through the whole story. On one hand it was somehow good, because it was sort of a page turner, as I was curious where it was all heading. But on the other hand, it caused lacking in story, character development .

Characters : Sydney – nice, girl next door type and totally inconsistent. I didn't get it whether it was because of her character; or simply lacking in character development. All blushing, while acting all sort of nymphomaniac (I really couldn't put my finger on it); Coen – loved the name, original; totally hot guy, perfect body, classic too-good-too-be-true, but nothing more. Supportive characters: Nancy – big mouth, some comments and dialogues here and there, didn't know much about her (thought there was some more prospect in her); Henry – puppy eyes begging type of best friend being in love with Sydney like forever and also good looking (I think he would have been better as some geek sort of guy). Mostly annoyed me, then totally surprised with a twist (just a snap and he does an 180).

Conflicts, drama, emotional factor : there were added, but randomly and like a blast. There were good, at least. But I didn't see them coming as there wasn't any kind of indication either in the characters' behavioral or in the story itself. They simple just came from nowhere. Sydney's emotional turmoil was understandable mostly, but I got annoyed with after a while. At least it wasn't too dragged on, but therefore solution came sort of easy and fast. She pretty much got over her break-up/heartbreak pretty fast with a quick exchange on the beach with his ex.

What disturbed me most that there wasn't any emotional development, bonding time, nothing. Both Sydney and Coen became attracted to each other; mostly sexually, than came the emotional part, but there wasn't anything that suggested that. It was a like a flick of a finger, and suddenly, they have feelings for each other, while having mostly general discussions.

Sex factor: at first I was worried that I got several scenes that gets me all hot and bothered, and nothing happens between Sydney and Coen. This was stroked by heavy petting and original scenes, which also helped a lot with a story.

The strength of the story are : exotic location offered additions (whale swimming scene, Rose); one-on-one scenes (probably these were more easily executed than the overall storytelling); indication of the issues of the past (I always loved characters with screwed-up background/history); sex scenes.

It should be a good beach read for the summer or when you really want to get cozy in the cold with some hotness. But when you're more into the storytelling, character/emotional development, you might get slightly disappointed.

Dali says

ARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

3.5 stars to a sweet, sexy and charming novel set in lovely Oahu, Hawaii.

“You are the smartest dumb person I know.”

Coen shows all the signs of a sexy bad boy with a smart mouth. Sydney is straight laced, smart and strong. With a family life she's trying to put in her past and a recent breakup with a cheating ex-boyfriend her mind is screaming to stay away from everything bad A.K.A. Coen no matter how attractive he is. But life has other plans in mind for her, because now she's not just his tutor she's also his personal defense student.

Forced to be in contact with each other, neither ignore their mutual attraction at the same time learning that what's under the surface is more appealing than their good looks. But even after fate brought them together, life is not that easy. There are external factors threaten their instant bond.

This a very light, easy read. Don't misunderstand, it's a full length novel told from both POVs, but it has a fast pace, an appealing storyline and dialogue that makes the pages fly by almost effortlessly. The descriptions of their beautiful surroundings gave fuel to my imagination while placing the story in the most romantic, fun and exotic places.

The hero and heroine have very likeable personalities. Coen has a tough exterior but is also very sensitive, attentive with a very clear vision of what he wants for himself. He's book boyfriend material all around. Sydney, besides being strong and smart, is selfless and caring, but she takes that a bit to the extreme, which gave the book a high school drama feeling at times. Her reactions were a tad immature, especially when it came to her relationship with best friend Henry.

And although the book has all the ingredients of a great read, I feel like we didn't get enough depth into plot and characters, leaving me with too many unanswered questions. I still enjoyed it very much, and it gave me a great sweet fix and I hope that E.L. continues writing a gives us more of her loving characters (shout out for Henry anyone?)

He wrapped his finger around hers. **“You know seahorses mate for life, right?”**

“They do?”

“Yeah.” His pinky was wrapped around hers. **“Just like humans.”**

She smiled. **“Do you want to be my seahorse?”**

“I assumed that I was already.”

Her eyes watered. **“That’s the sweetest thing I’ve ever heard.”**

✿kawehi.reviews says

Connected by the Sea was a sweet romance that landed in the okay zone for me. I was initially excited with the setting being in my home state of Hawai'i but it didn't really connect with me. I guess, what I'm trying to say here is that I had hoped that there was going to be more of a Hawai'i twist other than the story just claiming to be in Hawai'i and the main character having a thing for Marine biology.

It more so just featured on perfect student Sydney being the object of affection for best friend, Henry, and falling for bad boy, Coen.

Sydney, initially blind to Henry's more than friend want, becomes torn with not wanting to hurt Henry's feelings while knowing that her decision could lose him altogether.

This, as you can see, puts a damper on her growing relationship with Coen as he does not want to be in the shadows like some dirty secret.

How will it all turn out for these lovers?

SO, MY VERDICT?: Over all, a story with potential but I hope for more exposure on Hawai'i entwined with the plot and for the main protagonist, Sydney, to stop being so noble and be more assertive. She kind of drove me nuts while trying to appease others while we all knew she wanted Coen.

That said, can't wait for book two! :)

I was graciously given a copy of this ARC by this author for an honest review. Thank you very much!

Dirty Dayna says

Connected by the Sea

I received an ARC copy of this book for an honest review. Let's enjoy this book ride together!!

I have never read an E.L. Todd book so I feel like I am at a disadvantage
The book starts in an aquarium and all i kept thinking was

Ahh sweet daydreaming. I love a character that is excellent at something but still chooses to chase a dream.
“She would never notice him.”

Can't stop readdinngg

““You like what you see?” he said with a laugh.
She composed herself. “It’s just distracting.”
“Not as distracting as you.”
SWOON!!
“I haven’t done that since high school but I really enjoyed it.”

It’s going to be okay,” she said. “You’re going to find someone that you love way more than you love me.”
“But I only love you.” His voice shook with emotion.
“You love me.”
“I did love you. Not anymore. I’m over you.”

ALL THE EXES wanting the main characters...I love me some love triangles!

Coen bit her lip as he came onto her skin. "Yeah."

When she finished, she pulled her fingers out and rested them on her stomach. "Wow."

"You wished you had learned that sooner, huh?"

"Yeah. But I still like it when you do it better."

"You aren't needy. And even if you are, I love it when you need me. You can ask me to do anything and I will do everything in my power to make it happen. I love it when you lean on me, ask me to hold you, confide in me. I want you to be needy. I know you've never been that way your whole life, choosing to stand on your own two feet and work out your own problems, but everything is different now. We split the load—always."

I LOVE THIS BOOK!

"God, yes. I've wanted you forever. You mean everything to me."

Coen is a secretly amazing bad boy =]---that's what saves this book from Sydney's annoying tendencies...

I love me some more erotic touch but the moments included aided the innocent storyline... great read solid 4 stars!

Dianne says

Click on Banner to ENTER- International

Escaping to a college in Hawaii to get away from the nightmares of her childhood, Sydney is a model student in the marine biology department. She has close friends and a great life, and great grades. When the hottest guy on campus needs her help to pass his classes, she finds that no matter how hard she tries to maintain her distance the man is a virtual magnet for her fantasies. Could it be possible that one of the biggest players on campus could really feel something for her? Can Sydney and Coen find a real relationship with each other? They both have been hurt before, and now Sydney fears hurting her best friend, who she knows is in love with her. Is it fair to ask Coen to keep their relationship a secret? Is it fair that he withholds taking their relationship to the most intimate of levels until she goes public about them? Can their relationship withstand her ugly past when it returns to torment her on her island paradise?

Connected by the Sea by E. L. Todd is a story of reaching out for love, learning to trust another person, and to place the value of true love above all else. E. L. Todd has created a wonderful and very likable cast of supporting characters that give that "true to life, less than perfect" feeling to this roller coaster of a romance. Coen is a warm and caring individual with a depth to his personality that shows great maturity and the ability to be a true friend and lover, who occasionally has relapses into the maturity level of a sixteen year old boy.

Were those times designed to give Sydney a much needed, almost feral show of support? Sydney was much more complex, as her character on one hand was loving, fun-loving and a free spirit in many ways. I do question her maturity level, particularly when she appeared blind to what was really going on around her with her best friend, Henry. Once she knew she had probably led Henry on into thinking they could be more than friends, she went overboard "protecting" his feelings and hiding what Coen meant to her. Was this because she had little in life growing up to show her what healthy relationships were?

With sometimes over-the-top situations and over-the top cameo appearances of the demons from Sydney's past, what saved each scene was the way Coen comported himself under the worst of circumstances. A perfect role model for Sydney to learn from, while she finally came to realize that how Coen acted/reacted in these times was what "mature" and loving people did for others. On the spicy side, these two often acted like sex-starved rabbits, never missing an opportunity for steaming up my Kindle with the intensity of their emotions!

Overall, I really did enjoy this story and the plot, which had some very convoluted twists and turns throughout! I also admit to wondering for a large part of the book what Sydney's reaction to a secret act of kindness from Coen. When that particular gem rose to the top, I was shocked at her reaction, because it would have been mine and I did expect her to go into an angst-filled snit. A quick read with moments of lightness as warm as a tropical breeze, I think many would enjoy this journey to finding love in Hawaii.

I received an ARC edition from the author in exchange for my honest review.

Publication Date: January 4, 2014

Publisher: E. L. Todd

Genre: Contemporary Romance

Tiffany says

I have to be honest...I thought this book was going to totally suck! I don't know - the author started talking about the ocean and creatures and I was like "Oh My what have I gotten myself into." Well good thing I am one of those people that will not put down a book regardless of my initial impression, because I would have missed out on an AWESOME read. Once you get past the first couple of chapters you forget that the connection between the characters is supposedly the sea. Who really gives a crap about the sea when you have HOT, STEAMY, MAKE OUT SESSIONS!

This book had it all - cute friend that is infatuated, Hottie that needs tutoring, jealous ex-girlfriend, and psycho step-dad from hell. Sydney couldn't wait to escape her home - away from her mother, abusive step-father, and crazy step-brother. She is off to college in Hawaii and enjoying her time with her friends and studying what she loves (the sea). Everything is going great..and in walks Coen. Coen is the college hottie that has the love'em and leave'em reputation. Coen makes Sydney feel things she didn't even know lived inside of her. Only her best friend Henry, wished she felt those things for him. Poor Henry.

What I liked about this book...Coen of course! LOL! No seriously I liked how he wanted everyone to know they were together...how he was committed to her even when she was still straddling the fence. But besides Coen, I love the way E.L. Todd wrote the book. It had a lot of dialogue minus all the inner head mumbling. I love the way the dialogue just flowed and it was like you were actually watching it play out on t.v.

My favorite part...Coen was ready for their relationship to go public. So he pretty much gave her a choice...be with him and tell Henry the truth or be without him. So Sydney shows up at the party with Henry and Nancy...well this is what happens...'She felt an arm brush her shoulder and she looked up, seeing Coen's face close to hers. Everyone in the circle stopped talking as they watched Coen leaned toward Sydney. His lips were very close to hers, but he said nothing. He stared into her eyes, waiting for her to make her decision. Sydney knew she had to kiss him in front of Henry if she wanted to keep him, or at least embrace him in some way. Coen kept his eyes glued to hers as he waited for her to make up her mind.'

Ha! You thought I was going to tell what happened next. Really? Really? Sorry you have to read the book to get all the juicy details! We will let you know as soon as this book goes live on Amazon!

SueBee★bring me an alpha!★ says

FREE on Amazon US today (4/5/2015)

BLURB:

Sydney is attending University of Hawaii on Oahu where she's majoring in Marine Biology. She loves her friends, her job, and her school. Since her ex-boyfriend cheated on her six months ago, she hasn't moves onto anybody new yet.

When Coen catches her eye, she's immediately attracted to him in a very carnal way. She refused to let herself feel that way because he's a heartbreaker just like her ex was. But when she's called to her professor's office because she's asked to tutor someone, she doesn't realize it's Coen. Will he convince her that he really is boyfriend material or will he turn out just as she suspects?

<http://www.amazon.com/Connected-Sea-H...>

FREEBIES are often good for MORE than one day, I have gathered all my FREEBIES on a special shelf: **Kindle-freebies** (currently over 400 books)
<https://www.goodreads.com/review/list...>

Anita Powers says

I was given a copy of this book in exchange for a honest review. I liked the storyline and having some of it focus on the ocean, working in aquarium was new for me which was refreshing. I loved Coen, he was the best part of the book for me, misunderstood, polite, strong, caring, protective, and so on. I liked Sydney a lot at first, I liked how she was training, smart, owned her own home, and seemed like a strong woman to me but later in the story she became this hippie, love all, can't hurt a soul, vegetarian, sex fiend. I do not understand why it was necessary to make her act like she needed sex morning, noon, and night, and only intercourse would do, I felt terrible when Coen thought he was not enough for her, that she was never sated, that part was weird to me. I also thought it was terrible how she made Coen hide their relationship because of Henry. He was way too hooked on her, if he loved her that much why not tell her, two years really? Then

when the evil ex kept saying horrible and hurtful things to her, and then having syrup dumped on her, and destroying her property she still didn't want to do anything, and then when she finally got the upper hand she felt bad and decided to talk it out with her, really???? This book did not seem like the characters were in college, more like high school. Sydney's past brought some sadness into the book, I hated what happened to her father and what happened to her when she was growing up in that house, so I could not understand why she allowed them to come to her house and why not kick them out as soon as creep man did what he did, instead let them stay another day, no way. Their relationship was fast, them starting a sexual relationship was fast, and everything about them after that was fast, yes the ending was beautiful, almost ruined by selfless Sydney again though, but it was a nice happily ever after and meeting Coen was worth reading the book.

Tera Chastain (Co-Creator of The Book Bistro) says

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review..I'm gonna try and be as honest as possible..This book was a 2 star for me..at best..the dialog between characters was choppy and clipped..it didn't flow well for me..I didn't feel connected to these characters at all...the sex scenes were too clinical ...some of them were missing emotion/passion....Henry was clingy and pushy..Sydney was a pushover (for Henry), naive, and a bit annoying..I did like that she could stand up for herself and protect herself...Coen seemed a little controlling in the beginning..he did win me over some what..The stuff with his ex was WAY too juvenile for me..this was a case of intsa-relationship..later on they were in "love" and she seemed not to know he was even left handed (after tutoring him and having classes with him?!?)...that bothered me..just shows how little they knew about each other...then the stuff with her family was odd and a bit over the top for them to deal with on their own...and I think at one point her step-dad "Dan"..was refereed to as "Bob".. If I'm being completely honest this book was a struggle to get through..Just didn't work for me..However the book cover is lovely.....and now it appears to have two different covers since my December review..SMH?!?
