

RAIN NO EVIL
By Michele Zirkle Marcum

SYNOPSIS

ALEX TEMPLETON is rural Ridgeland's very own walking-tall version of justice who's swung his hickory stick so often that he's callused not only the hand that once slid a ring on SAVANNAH'S hand—he's callused his heart. Savannah wants her police officer hubby to respect her, but he continues to spray vile words her way. Savannah, angry that God is ignoring her prayers to mend her marriage, dares God to prove He is real. For the next few weeks, water drenches the inside of the house while the Templeton's search for the evasive source of the leak, not realizing that God is responding to Savannah's dare in an unusual way.

With her marriage at its breaking point and Savannah on the brink of suicide, she takes solace in the arms of another man. But when a dirtball Alex previously arrested threatens to harm the family, Savannah is determined to reconcile her relationship with Alex, who sends their sons Ben and Isaac to a safe house. Alex catches the criminal, but can't find the leak that continues to inexplicably spray the inside of their house. He directs his frustration toward Savannah, who once again turns to another man for the tenderness she craves.

A demon appears in Savannah's mirror and begins tormenting her, lurking at every turn on her adulterous trail. She wonders if she is possessed, or simply going insane, and begins chronicling the strange events in her journal.

Savannah knows Alex has screwed around on her and reasons that she is justified in getting her own slice of action, but after numerous seductions, Savannah feels guiltier than ever and grapples with the reality that leaving Alex, the only true love she's known, may be the only way she can respect herself.

As Alex searches for a murderer who may be a student in Savannah's English class, Ben and Isaac witness floating eyeballs, a mermaid and other apparitions in the house. With increasing paranormal activities and Savannah's discovery that Alex is having an affair with a not-so-dear friend, Savannah wants a one-way road trip out of Ridgeland and away from her husband. Instead, she pleads to God one more time for help. This time, she's given a revelation—a demon is responsible for the virtual rainforest in her home.

The evil in her house supersedes Alex's affinity for a bent-over brunette with handcuffs, so Savannah holds off confronting her husband about the affair, choosing instead to tell him about the demon. Alex calls her a loon, leaving Savannah to figure out how to remove the evil creature. After considering a sage-wielding exterminator, Savannah calls the local priest who exorcises the house, restoring Savannah's faith in the Almighty. Savannah severs her extramarital ties and persuades Alex to sign a contract agreeing to respect her. When Alex

curbs his verbal temper, Savannah feels marital bliss is near, but unfortunately, she continues to feel as if someone—or something—is stalking her.

In an effort to determine if she is paranoid or if something evil is actually following her, Savannah consults with a spiritual healer and, during a seizure, is liberated from a dark entity. The experience dramatically shifts her perception, and she realizes her own choices are causing her unhappiness.

Alex solves the murder after a tip from Savannah, and he's in the news for arresting a student's step-dad, but the limelight on Savannah's family expands beyond police-work when rumors of a ghost in the Templeton house circulate. Savannah negates the stories with the truth, and Alex forbids her from discussing the supernatural events, claiming the residents of Ridgeland will deem the family crazy. Savannah tells anyone who will listen about her renewed faith in a divine presence, which demonstrated its power through exorcism, and with passion she's never known, delves into writing about her brush with evil.

Alex overhears Savannah telling her spiritual healer about an affair she had with a preacher that was as easy to talk to as he was easy on the eyes, Alex confronts her, telling Savannah he is not going to change to make her happy. Savannah feels Alex will never trust her and never stop the verbal abuse, but just as she is about to tell him she wants a divorce, he announces he is taking her to Hawaii to rekindle their romance.

Savannah knows changing geography won't change the fundamental problems between them, and that even if she never loves again, she can't continue living with her husband whom she loves—even if it means never finding true love again.

After sloshing through evil to liberate both the structure that houses her family and the body that contains her soul, Savannah finds the courage to leave Alex and speak her truth by sharing her family's paranormal experience in the memoir she believes she was destined to write. In doing so, Savannah discovers the kind unwavering love she's needed all along—love for herself.