



Shades of Blue

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Brad Cutler, twenty-eight, is a rising star at his New York ad agency, about to marry the girl of his dreams. Anyone would agree he has it all - a great career, a beautiful and loving fiancée, and a fairy tale life ahead of him when memories of a high school girlfriend begin to torment him. Lost innocence and one very difficult choice flood his conscience, and he is no longer sure what the future will bring except for this: He must find his old love and make amends. Haunted by the past and confused about the future, he turns to God seeking forgiveness and redemption.

Shades of Blue Details

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From Reader Review Shades of Blue for online ebook

Anna says

What a sad and difficult story to read. A reminder that with God we can find forgiveness, redemption, and grace. A reminder that life is hard and we need a good and powerful God.

Keiki Hendrix says

“Simply a must read for fiction lovers who would dare engage into the Truth about the Sanctity of Life, the consequences of bad choices, and God’s power to heal and reconcile us after the most atrocious of sins.”

Those who are pro-choice (better named parent’s choice as the child has no choice at all) would most likely not read this novel.

Planned Parenthood supporters would ridicule it (the last act of vestige of someone without a defensible position.)

And, those who have so lost their way that they herald abortion as a ‘woman’s reproductive right’, would simply dismiss it claiming it is for the unintelligent.

I am none of the above. I am a Christian and though the subject matter of this book, abortion, is quite hard to read sometimes, the focus is not about abortion debate. It is about the infinite power of a loving God to heal, reconcile, and forgive.

A young love that falls prey to a weak moment results in a decade of guilt, misery, sorrow and pain. The story of Emma Landon and Brad Cutler is one of a lives changed by an irrevocable decision.

Can Jesus, a loving God, bring healing after an abortion? Can we fall so deeply into sin that Jesus cannot reach us to forgive and heal? If we cannot bear to remember our pain, face it and confess it, can we live our lives as if it did not happen?

Many other reviews are posted with the storyline of this novel so I won’t include it in this review. It is better that I should discuss the importance of this novel for how it provides a true picture of how lives are changed.

Abortion is not something discussed at family gatherings or other ‘friendly’ conversation and oftentimes men and women live with the hurt, the pain, the shame, and the guilt without an outlet to release them, even to God. But, God is ever present waiting, watching, and wanting to forgive if we only read II Chronicles 7:14.

This story tells of the ‘mental conversations’, the ‘walking shame’, and the ‘lifetime of self-judgment’ that those who have shut down the life of their child at the altar of their own plans for the future truly feel. I have no doubt that even those who support abortion have these feelings but deny them. Perhaps, it is these feelings that drive their anger.

This is a book whose time has come. Few authors approach this topic. Reading of the author thoughts, I find that she might not have written it had God not prompted her, which is a miracle of God’s providence alone.

I recommend this book to men and women who would care to know the Truth about the inevitable

consequences of abortion and those who have had an abortion as well because it give voice to their own thoughts and allows them to identify with the characters and prompts them to seek healing and forgiveness from the living, loving most high God.

Candace says

This book blew me away. With the last novel I read of Karen's, *Between Sundays*, she won me over totally. With this book, I am an official fan. This story is something that is so hard to talk about and with the honesty and realness she wrote with, I felt like almost like I was intruding in their business. The way the plot developed was awesome. The emotions and reactions of everyone were completely true to life and the subject matter wasn't something that was glossed over or made into a pat little sermon. The relationship between Brad and Emma over the course of the weekend was so bittersweet and I teared up more than once. I'm really glad it ended the way it did, however, because anything else would have felt like they were living in the past. I really really liked Laura's character and the journey she went on. Her emotions about the situation were completely normal and she had every right to feel that way. But Karen really flipped the situation around and showed her feelings from a biblical light that isn't shown very often. It helped me personally to read Laura's struggle. The scene between her and Brad when he comes was amazing and I couldn't believe she did what she did but I thought it was an amazing gesture toward him that showed her change of heart. I HIGHLY recommend this book

Patricia Solla says

I found it very interesting the story and characters are compelling. This book is "Christian" lit and although I like the story there was too much reference to Good and the scriptures for my taste.

Kristy Trauzzi says

This is not my type of book. At all. It was religious. It made no false pretense of what the book was about. But I still had to read it.

And it wasn't as bad as I thought considering it was religious. I just skipped the bible verses (thank you new paragraph) and continued on.

As I am pregnant now, reading about the abortion was so weird to me. I am against abortions for myself, but believe women should be able to choose. However, I remember how excited I was at 3 months and how much my baby had grown, and I felt sad about the abortion, and that much happier about my baby.

This was a great book.

Alex says

4 out of 5 stars.

This book pulled at my heart strings in so many ways. Yes, constantly hearing Emma grieve over her life was kind of bothering me - until I found out why.

Karen's book has touch me on such a deep and spiritual level that I can promise you I will be re-reading it and recommending to anyone that is willing to sit down and enjoy it. No matter what your views on abortion are - this book will make you think.

Everyone has a past.

On top of that, this is the perfect book when it comes to closure. Not just closure on past decisions, but relationships and heartache. Everyone at some point in their life will come across that man or woman who just leaves their heart shattered across the floor.

This book will help you find peace with it.

"He angled his head, searching her eyes, almost as if he were memorizing her. 'Shades of blue. That's where we'll always be.' He looked out at the ocean again. 'Here in the shades of blue.'"

Emily says

What an honest, real, open book about abortion, and the aftermath that nobody talks about. Brad is getting ready to marry the woman he loves, but he realizes that, before he gives his life to her, he has to close the chapter of his past. That past involves a childhood love, a choice they made, and dealing with the abortion of their child due to an unplanned pregnancy. It shows how, one decision can not only affect the life of a child taken away, but can affect a woman, a man, and those that come into their lives in the future. Brad had to apologize to Emma for his role in aborting their child. Emma had to forgive herself and Brad for their choice. Brad's fiance then had to forgive them for keeping the secret. Wow, what a mess!! In no way was this novel condemning abortion, it was just showing all the aspects that may not be thought about and spoken about, and all the emotions and guilt that MAY arise from one "procedure". Thank you Karen Kingsbury for being so honest about your choices in the end as well!!

Melanie says

Didn't finish - cheesy and preachy

Laura says

Brad Cutler is a handsome, successful ad executive who is on the brink of marrying the perfect woman, Laura James. He finds himself suddenly at a loss to promote his latest campaign, Kotton Kids, and instead finds himself thinking of his high school girlfriend Emma Landon.

Emma and Brad grew up together on the North Carolina coast. They were friends since childhood and became a couple in high school. Their relationship had a complicated and heart breaking ending, and both Brad and Emma find themselves unable to move on without closure and forgiveness for the past.

I thought Shades of Blue gave a mostly well rounded view of a very touchy subject. I did feel at times that the book did get a little too preachy and a few times almost sounded like propaganda. Luckily those moments didn't last and it was able to get on track to the story.

I think the heart of the book were very complicated and well rounded characters. Instead of being perfect Christian people, Brad and Emma had pasts where different actions were not actions they were proud of. I did think that Laura James at times was too good to be true, but she also had a few moments of inner conflict and doubt.

I did not like the ending of the story. I think Emma's story line was tied up a bit too neatly.

Overall, Shades of Blue was a good book, although it did get a bit too preachy at times.

Rebecca says

Squeaky Clean? - Yes.

Ian Mcnamara says

Another great book by great writer. Karen Kingsbury is one of my favourite authors and This book did not disappoint.

Randy Tramp says

Brad Cutler, 28, is preparing to get married. Yet, memories of his high school girlfriend surface and torment him. Brad must confront his past by visiting her before he can go onto the next chapter in his life.

What a powerful story that had to be told. Thank you, Karen, for telling it. As said in the book, "Everyone has something in their past."

Following God isn't always easy. Going back to fix a wrong is the right thing to do. Brad finds doing that may cost him everything. Isn't that the Christian message? Risk everything for the cross?

This book touched areas in my life. Without giving anything away, I identified with Brad. I had to go back to those earlier years and straighten out a wrong I created. The fruit of doing what's right paid off.

Megan says

Very preachy -- over the top preachy and usually I don't mind Christian fiction.

Laura says

Ik vond het heel interessant op welke manier dit boek het thema abortus aanpakt. De personages in het boek hebben een gelovige achtergrond, en bekijken abortus dus ook vanuit die overtuiging. Zeer interessant om te zien hoe mensen dit beleven en over een beslissing als deze nadenken. Daarnaast is het ook een boek over liefde; de liefde voor je verloofde en de liefde voor iemand uit je verleden.

Ik vond het mooi hoe dit boek veel gevoelens beschrijft en deze kan overbrengen. Ondanks dat het niet spannend is (zoals een thriller) is het toch een boek wat ik wilde blijven doorlezen.

Krystal says

I'd give it a 3.5. I liked the book and it dealt with a tough topic (abortion), but I didn't care too much for one of the main characters. Spoiled rich girl, still living on Daddy's money, not holding down a job (but kept extremely busy 3 days a week doing charity work). I just couldn't relate!!

Heather says

I received this book free from the author. It wasn't a promotional thing, rather I won it via a Twitter contest. I recently discovered Karen Kingsbury, and wasn't sure what to expect. I enjoyed her 9/11 series, and figured I'd enjoy this one, too. I had little idea what was coming when I began. But, pretty early on I was kinda able to guess what was coming. And, oh, the pain. Karen Kingsbury handles a very difficult subject very well. I am impressed. This is a heart-wrenching story - in a MUCH different way than her 9/11 series stories. Where that's about a horrible tragedy no one brought on themselves, this is about the repercussions to the choices we make. I am sorry to leave this so vague, but I don't wanna spoil this for anyone. I couldn't put this book down - couldn't wait to see how everything played out. My heart breaks thinking that there are people out there who struggle with this very thing, and I can only imagine how those without Christ can make it through.

Jeanie says

Abortion is probably the most divisive social law that we have and will continue to have. The fictional story is about the 3 that abortion affects. The mother, the father and the baby. I liked the Kingsbury gave this baby a name. Just like the holocaust, it was a mass of people without names and abortion in our society has become that. However, there are names, with likes and dislikes, with gifts, and worth. The story is not about judgement, but about forgiveness and healing. The healing comes when dealing with the act of abortion and that was what this story was about.

Lorrie says

For some, this book might not be that exciting or inspiring; for me it was deep and thought provoking, because it was personal. I don't think I have ever cried so much while reading a book, as I did reading this

one. I don't mean a tear or two, I mean tears streaming crying. Unfortunately, I could relate all too well with the young female character in this book, with the pain, the shame, the self-condemnation; I could also relate to the healing, the cleansing and the forgiveness that only God can give.

Meredith says

This book was not interesting enough for me finish it. I didn't have a connection to the characters and really didn't care what happened to them in the end. Kingsbury takes great pains to inflict her extreme Christian views on her readers when she should spend more time developing her characters.

Linda says

The only reason I gave this book 4 stars is that I am tired of reading books by Christian authors who glamorize the characters - "she" is always young and extremely beautiful and "he" is always young and terribly handsome. Not everyone who falls in love in the real world are beautiful and handsome nor young. I expect this from secular authors but don't understand why it has to be prevalent in Christian books.

Otherwise, I liked this book very much. The subject of the story was quite different than what authors usually write about. There are some parts that are tear jerkers. I was also touched by the author's words at the end of the book about the subject matter.
