



Stain of Guilt

Brandilyn Collins

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As I drew, the house felt eerie in its silence. . . . A strange sense stole over me, as though Bland and I were two actors on stage, our movements spotlighted, black emptiness between us. But that darkness grew smaller as the space between us shrank. I did not know if this sense was due to my immersion in Bland's face and mind and world, or to my fear of his threatening presence. Or both . . . The nerves between my shoulder blades began to tingle.

Help me, God. Please.

For twenty years, a killer has eluded capture for a brutal double murder. Now, forensic artist Annie Kingston has agreed to draw the updated face of Bill Bland for the popular television show American Fugitive. To do so, Annie must immerse herself in Bland's traits and personality. A single habitual expression could alter the way his face has aged.

But as she descends into his criminal mind and world, someone is determined to stop her. At any cost.

Annie's one hope is to complete the drawing and pray it leads authorities to Bland---before Bland can get to her.

Stain of Guilt is book #2 in Brandilyn Collins' Hidden Faces Series. Other books in the series are Brink of Death (book 1), Dead of Night (book 3), and Web of Lies (book 4).

Stain of Guilt Details

Date : Published May 26th 2009 by Zondervan (first published September 14th 2004)

ISBN :

Author : Brandilyn Collins

Format : Kindle Edition 369 pages

Genre : Christian Fiction, Mystery, Fiction, Suspense, Christian

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From Reader Review Stain of Guilt for online ebook

Susan says

Superb reading. I was once again drawn in from the very beginning. Annie, now a forensic artist, is drawn into the mind of a killer. Or is she? Suspenseful, gripping and turns you won't see coming until the very end.

Agnieszka says

This book is a real example of a great suspense novel. Every time you think you know what to expect and in the last few chapters think you finally got it all together and really and for sure know how the book will end and here comes another surprise. Within this book you cannot be really sure your assumptions are really correct and that really great.

As always the characters are great, the story gripping and full of unexpected twists and turns.

I just struggled with the feeling I cannot relate to the entire story line and wished few times it would be slightly shorter but it's just my personal view.

Lisa Johnson says

Title: Stain of Guilt (Hidden Faces #2)

Author: Brandilyn Collins

Pages: 353

Year: 2004

Publisher: Zondervan

After reading the first book in this series and finding it just so-so, I was hesitant to continue reading the series, but I'm so glad I did. This second book takes place soon after book one, Brink of Death. Annie has continued with her training to be a forensic artist by taking classes.

Annie Kingston is hired to draw a sketch of an alleged murder, who has been on the run for 20 years. Her drawing will appear on a famous television show that hunts down wanted criminals. In order to draw an accurate, age-accelerated image, Annie interviews people who worked the crime scene of the murders as well as family members of the victims and criminal. While "getting inside the head" of this evil man in preparation for drawing him, Annie is also dealing with a delinquent teenage son. Her son is involved with drugs and hanging out with the wrong crowd. Annie also is dodging making a commitment to the Lord. In the last book, she promised she would seek Him. She has started going to church, taking her children, but won't make the move to make Him Lord of her life. She doesn't want to give up control.

As Annie begins her interviews, she receives an anonymous threat. She quickly involves Detective Chetterling, who was also the acting detective in the last book. She refuses to bow to the threat and continues her interviews. Then, she begins her drawing. She is almost finished when she is kidnapped and held as a hostage. She manages to escape and pledges to make God the Lord of her life. New evidence is discovered for this 20-year-old case. Annie realizes the truth about who is guilty of murder. Will she be able to use this to prevent more violence? Will she follow through on her promise to God?

This book seems to have lots more tension that builds up to a great climactic scene at the end of the story, which I thought made for a great story! Annie is depicted as a single mother with real problems that anyone can relate to, which made her easy to identify with and care about. Her journey to a saving faith also rang with truth. The struggle to maintain control when at the end of your rope, wondering why you still want control of such a messy life was so real! I'm looking forward to reading book three!!

My rating is 5 stars.

Note: The opinions shared in this review are solely my responsibility. Other reviews can be read at <http://seekingwithallyurheart.blogspot...> Also follow me on Twitter @lcjohnson1988, FaceBook at <https://www.facebook.com/lisa.johnson...>

Marissa says

Another crime mystery. I'm really starting to enjoy Brandilyn Collins. The action in this one didn't start off right away, but once it hit, you knew it. I was on the edge of my seat through the majority of the book. When the unexpected twist came about, I couldn't believe it! Not what I expected. Annie seems to get herself into a lot of trouble in these books. Collins appears to have a fantastic grasp on the working of law enforcement and the likes. Very believable & thorough. The only down side to this one, for me, was there seemed to be a lot more religious talk. Not my thing, but I still enjoyed the book!

Louise E. says

Good story.

Lisa says

What a great book. I thoroughly enjoyed the second book in this series! A must read!

Bekah Kirkland says

Maybe I read too many mystery & suspense novels. ??? I guessed the killer as I was reading the prologue. Still, I wasn't sure about a few minor aspects of the storyline. It also had a certain entrainment value. The details about forensic drawing were interesting.

Jenna says

As usual, this story was riveting and genuine. I continue to find myself gravitating toward Annie Kingston and all of the hysteria she has to deal with. Her conversion scene with Dave touched me and made me remember my own.

Dotty Strickland says

Good suspense novel

Storyline kept my interest and had some twists and turns as well as personal struggles to keep this Christian suspense moving.

Valerie says

Took me some time to get through this second book. Not sure if because I had figured out the killer by the third chapter or if I've just read too many heavy mysteries and need to take a break and read something light and airy such as a cozy. Writing good and the author writes well.

Paulette Rose says

WOWWWWWWWWWWW!!!!!!!!!!

Brandilyn Collins keeps out doing herself....this second book in the Hidden Faces Series is beyond amazing!!!! This story continues to follow the spine-chilling experiences in the life of forensic artist, Annie Kingston, as her life once again becomes entangled with another murderer as she tries to help bring justice to the murder of two people with her forensic art training.

I was absolutely CERTAIN I knew the way the story would end....all the evidence was in place like pieces to a puzzle....but then, WHAM! she pulls the rug out from under my feet and turns everything upside down in the last few chapters! How she does that, I have no idea, but she is a MASTER story teller, with a great creative mind that weaves astonishing stories that will blow your mind! After every one of her novels I keep saying the book that I just read is her best, but then I read another one and they just KEEP GETTING BETTER! What an extraordinary author she is! She has Agatha Christie taking a back seat to her...and best of all she brings Christ into the story in a very beautiful honoring way without being "preachy"

In my opinion she is the queen of Christian mystery/suspense novels (and I have read many other novels in this genre over the years)...no one does it like Brandilyn Collins.

— now on to the third book in the series which I can't wait to see how she will astound me once again :)

Danielle says

Stain of guilt was a pretty solid book. I really enjoy Brandilyn Collins' writing so I'm not sure why I am only giving it four stars. I guess it just didn't rock my world because some of the parts at the beginning were slow and Annie's troubles with Steven were depressing to read about(not really something wrong with the book, it just put a damper on the mood even when things were going well). It frustrated me a little at the end how long it took them to figure it out.

On a positive note the action scenes were exiting and suspenseful and I love how strong yet self depreciating Annie is. Also I'm liking where the story is going with Dave and Chetterling.

C.J. Darlington says

Six months after the events of BRINK OF DEATH, protagonist Annie Kingston returns in Book #2 of the

Hidden Faces series. In the throes of her sixteen-year-old son's rebellion, Annie agrees to draw her most ambitious composite sketch yet - a fugitive update. Requiring every ounce of her skill, can she complete the drawing for the television show American Fugitive before the killer can get to her?

I picked up STAIN OF GUILT unsure if Brandilyn could keep from re-hashing the plot of Book #1. I wasn't disappointed. Although starting a bit slower than BRINK OF DEATH, after a few chapters I was immersed in Annie Kingston's world. Spiritually, Brandilyn once again gently leads readers toward God (without preachiness) as we follow Annie's believable spiritual journey.

The Hidden Faces series is a wonderful addition to Christian suspense fiction. With it's first person narration and thrilling storyline it has the feel of many secular crime novels, but without the swearing, excessive gore, and sex. I've already recommended it to a Sue Grafton fan.

Wade says

I didn't care too much for the first book in this series as I found the main character a little too woe-is-me and whiny. But I thought there was promise so read the second book. I have found that most of the Brandilyn Collins' novels are pretty predictable and this one was the same. I guessed the ending within the first 50 pages and it seemed pretty obvious when the "twist" came about. However, I am still giving it 3-stars because I thought the pacing was really good in this one and the characters are becoming more than one-dimensional. Still can't stand the teenage son, haha. Like most of the Brandilyn Collins' novels I have read, she does a great job with the Christian references without it taking away from the story. Wasn't a fan of the whole pray Jesus into your heart without baptism but I guess that goes along with what Brandilyn Collins believes unfortunately.

Vicki says

Another great book by Brandilyn Collins. Enjoyed the story line & the twists, as well as her ability to make you feel like you are there...in the story.
