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Shades Of The Heart (Encounters Of The Heart Book 1)



Synopsis

WHEN PAST AND PRESENT SECRETS ARE REVEALED, ONE THING IS SURE - THINGS WILL NEVER BE THE SAME. All was well in Blake Montgomery's magnificent world. He was actively involved in ministry at church, employed by a great company, and to top it all off, he was happily married to Gabrielle, and awaiting the new addition to his family. Gabrielle found the love of her life. From the moment they met, their chemistry was undeniable. But, Blake had to work tirelessly to tear down the wall she had built up against ever loving again, and she was glad he did. They shared a love they attributed only to the grace of God on their lives—a love so rare. When a dramatic turn of events disclosed shocking secrets, everything changed. As their marriage explodes and their lives shift in unexpected directions, both must learn to relinquish control and trust God in order to embrace the future. Life-altering struggles can be the pathway to new beginnings. Will they find the courage to forgive and create a love for all times?

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Customer Reviews

Shades of the Heart is my first read from this author and it was a good one. Blake and Gabrielle have a solid marriage until a huge mistake throws their world into disarray. They are a Christian

couple, which I thought would make the resolution of their problems easier, but not so. Unforgiveness is a major hurdle that Blake can't seem to cross. The story is realistic in that it points out our human failings and how in a moment we fall victim to weaknesses and make bad choices. No matter that we are serving God and try to live by His commandments, we find it hard to forgive others when we've been wronged and this is the case with Blake. I got very impatient with him, because it was clear how much their relationship meant to Gabrielle and how much she loved him. Although she suffered through much, Gabrielle held on to her God, learned what motivated her actions and was sensible enough to work at forgiving herself. Still, the path of true love never did run smooth. Get a copy of *Shades of the Heart* and read it because relationships are tested, weaknesses come to light, secrets are revealed and the reader learns that with understanding and love for one's partner, relationships survive the worst trials.

I loved this fabulously written Christian romance novel centered on a married couple dealing with infidelity by the wife. Although it contained prayers, Scriptures, and a few short sermons, it wasn't preachy but right on time for me. I loved reading about the trials and tribulations of Christian marriages and this one covered all of the emotional basis to draw me in and keep me turning the pages. I couldn't wait to read the beautiful ending. Just a fabulous story that pulled on all the heartstrings! Barbara Joe Williams, author of *Love Never Felt So Good!*

I truly, truly enjoyed this book so much. I was going to wait and put up my review but something won't let me do that. I have NEVER read a book that I have connected with on so many levels. To me, this is a raw and emotional tale about pain, suffering, hurt, loss and love. The turmoil and guilt that Gabrielle goes through is something that I have experienced myself, along with the devastation and hurt from Blake. Ms. Bryan does an amazing job of conveying all of the emotions that these two individuals go through, without placing all of the blame at one's feet. I honestly couldn't make it through the book without shedding several tears. To steal a line from Helen Baylor, this book is "Highly Recommended."

Captivating - comes to mind after reading this book! I was hooked from the first chapter. Blake - a handsome, proud, and successful man who simply adores his wife Gabby. Gabby, who is poised, gorgeous and also successful, makes a dreadful error because of her secrets. I hated Blake for being stubborn - Gabby for being too weak; then loved them, then prayed that they would weather the tornadoes that threatened to shred them and everything they believed in. Hats off to the author

who expertly keeps you spellbound. I look forward to the next in the series.

I really enjoyed this book, in no small part because of the excellent narration. It flows splendidly, mixing current events with flashbacks in a way that is neither jarring nor irritating (two traits that always seem to plague flashbacks). As far as the love story, I kind of had a love/hate relationship with it, in a good way. At first I wanted Gabrielle and Blake to just get over each other, but as Gabrielle's secrets and background got revealed that really changed. I loved how human both main characters seemed, even in light of all the drama going on between them. I would recommend this to anyone (with the warning that there is a minor rape component, although the related scenes aren't too graphic).

I was very disappointed as I started reading this novel. I am afraid I only read the prologue and most of chapter one. The writing is way too sensual for me. It wasn't explicit sex scenes but very sensual. It started with the admission of the wife in committing adultery (in the prologue-not a spoiler), then continues with the wife remembering her sex life with her husband. Yes, there was the occasional, God forgive me, but it wasn't real. I understand that this is a topic that many deal with but it is not something I want to read about. I imagine the book has a story in it somewhere but I read to relax and enjoy the characters I am reading about and that is not what this book was about. With all the five star reviews I guess I am alone in my thoughts. But they are my thoughts. Not what I expect from something labeled as Christian fiction.

Wow! I'm impressed. Most Christian novels don't want to deal with the subject of infidelity and the ones that do mostly show the couple ending the marriage in divorce. But, *Shades of the Heart* shows the real struggles of a couple who have been devastated by the bomb of infidelity, but are willing to seek God about how to proceed forth in their marriage. It shows that it is not an easy journey to restoration and healing, but it is a worth while journey. There is a great blessing on the other side of pain if couples are willing to allow God to reconcile and restore. Gabby and Blake were so transparent that it was almost painful to read at times. They fought hard through those emotions that were trying to suck them into despair. And it was a blessing that they had people around them who were willing to minister to them or just listen to them vent, but still direct them back to God. *Shades of the Heart* is a spot on portrayal of the struggles, pain, sorrow, hurt, healing, reconciliation, forgiveness and restoration that couples go through. This would be a great book to use in any marriage ministry and if you know of any couples dealing with infidelity give them a copy

of this book.

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