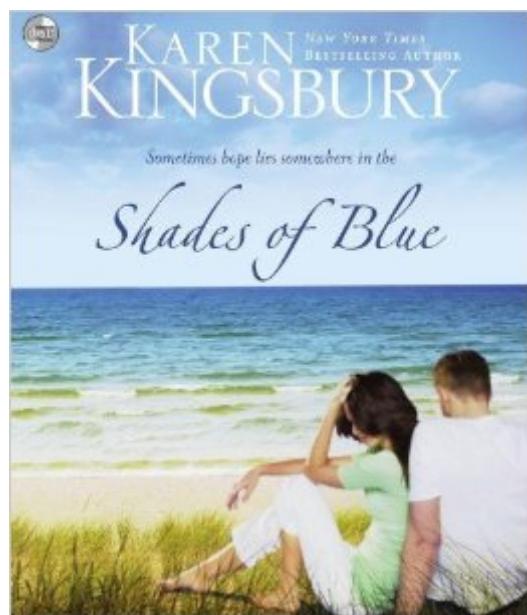


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# Shades Of Blue



## **Synopsis**

In between a checkered past and a fairytale future, a decision awaits. 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 fiancee, 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 go back to the shores of Holden Beach in search of his first love, and a forgiveness neither of them has ever known. Three people must work through the repercussions of a decision made long ago before any of them can look toward a new future.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 4.6 out of 5 starsÂ  [See all reviewsÂ \(284 customer reviews\)](#)

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## **Customer Reviews**

I love to read. I like books of all stripes. There is not one particular genre that I favor. I just love the written word. I love reading Christian fiction and Karen Kingsbury has long been one of my favorite authors. Her stories are real. She is not afraid to deal with difficult issues like depression, drunk driving, cancer and addiction. The characters in her books could be real people. They have real and complex problems. For the most part, Karen refrains from offering pat answers and easy solutions. This novel tells the story of Emma, Brad, and Laura. Brad and Emma were in a relationship 10 years ago, and Laura is Brad's fiancee. Brad comes to realize that he has a lot of unresolved issues with Emma and can't move forward in his life with Laura until they are resolved. The people in this novel suffer deeply and are hurting. They all react differently to the situation. Ultimately, this is a book about forgiveness, redemption, and healing. But those things do

not come easily. All 3 characters are surprised at how the story turns out. Karen Kingsbury's books have a way of grabbing your heart and refuse to let go until the last page is turned. I read this book in one sitting. I just couldn't wait to find out how the story would end. Her stories are well-written with engaging, realistic characters. If I have one complaint about Kingsbury's writing it is this: A lot of the time, I think things end up resolved a little too neatly at the end of her books. This book is no exception. I just don't think it's possible for such profound pain, anger, and shame to be faced and processed in a single weekend. Real life doesn't work that way. Healing and restoration take time. Can God heal completely in a single weekend? Absolutely! He is all powerful and can do anything!

This is my first Karen Kingsbury book, and it might well be my last. I'm usually not a negative person, though you might not know it to read some of my reviews. This book was downright unbelievable in many regards. I am a Christian, and I do believe in the basic premise she was promoting in the book. Several things irked me (spoilers ahead)...1. The characters are flat - Brad is Mr. Wonderful, handsome, charming, successful; Laura is Ms. Reese Witherspoon lookalike, Christian Bible study princess; Emma is Ms. gorgeous, alluring, untouchable, teacher lady; Gavin is low-key Mr. super-Christian who will go out of his way to befriend the lonely teacher lady; Mom and Pop James are rich doting parents who totally support the young princess and spared no expense on her wedding2. The story's not realistic - Brad and Emma grow up together, date in high school, become sexually active soon after he graduates high school, she ends up pregnant; things get weird b/t them; he takes her to an abortion clinic and even pays for the procedure. Her mom dies soon after; he shows up for funeral then leaves her life for 9 years. Why does he return? Because he's about to get married and now he's feeling guilty and needs to apologize in person; Brad returns; Emma who pretty much gave up on God is swept up again by Brad but this time she finds her way back to God and peace. Did I mention, her miraculous heart-healing took place in the space of 3 days? Let me run that by you again - 9 years of running from her pain; 3 days - boom, heart on the way to healing. I'm not saying a miracle couldn't happen, but I highly doubt having the guy who abandoned her so soon after 2 traumatic life experiences would send her sailing down the river of peace. And another thing, Laura's supposed to be Ms.

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