

# Shadowlands

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by  
Kate Brian

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By

**Kate Brian**



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## SHADOWLANDS BY KATE BRIAN PDF

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From School Library Journal

Gr 8 Up-Rory Miller has just barely survived an attempt on her life. Her attacker, serial killer Steven Nell, is on the loose, so Rory, her father, and her sister must enter a witness-protection program. As the family begins a new life in the vacation town of Jupiter Landing, it appears as if this place could provide the fresh start they all need. Rory and Darcy have been at odds for years. They meet a group of popular teens and party on the beach, hike, and surf. Just as the Millers start to feel at home in their new town, one of their friends goes missing. Rory wonders if this is just a coincidence or if it has something to do with Steven Nell, and she notices that things are amiss in Jupiter Landing. One of the local guys lurks around where ever she goes. Then other people start disappearing, but Rory is the only person who notices. In an interesting ending, Shadowlands leaves readers surprised and eager for the next installment in the trilogy. Teens who like chick lit and bit of a mystery will enjoy this one.-Shannon Seglin, formerly at Patrick Henry Library, Vienna, VA (c) Copyright 2011. Library Journals LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Media Source, Inc. No redistribution permitted.

From Booklist

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About the Author

Kieran Scott writes under the pseudonym Kate Brian. She is the author of over two dozen teen novels, including the bestselling Private and Privilege series and The Princess and the Pauper, which was an ALA Quick Pick. Kieran has also written numerous books under her own name, including the He's So/She's So and I Was a Non-Blonde Cheerleader trilogies, the first novel of which was nominated as a YALSA Teens Top Ten. Kieran lives in New Jersey with her husband and two young sons.

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Rory Miller had one chance to fight back and she took it. Rory survived ... and the serial killer who attacked her escaped. Now she must enter the witness protection program. At first it seems like her family's new home may be just the fresh start they need. But just as they're starting to feel safe again, one of Rory's new friends goes missing. Is it a coincidence? Or is the nightmare beginning all over again? New York Times best-selling author Kate Brian is back with a haunting new YA series packed with dark twists and turns.

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Most helpful customer reviews

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful.

Completely unexpected ending!!!

By Nancy

I read some great reviews of Shadowlands before I decided to go ahead and read it. I mean, I was unconvinced that it would be as good as some people were saying it was. Nevertheless, I had already gotten the book, so I figured I might as well read it. I'm still trying to decide whether I loved it or not. I guess I did, but the ending kind of killed that love.

I'm begin with what I liked and/or loved about Shadowlands. Pretty much everything. I loved the characters, the setting, the plot, it was all great. I'll elaborate. Shadowlands grabbed my attention right from the start. It dived right into the action and I loved that. Kate Brian did a great job with the pacing of the story and with character development, which I thought was pretty good.

I liked just about all the characters. However, my favorite had to be Steven Nell, the serial killer. He was a fantastic character. I think he was so well written that I felt like he could actually be a real life serial killer and I found myself connecting with him much more than I did with Rory. I wanted to know more about him and know more about his side of the story, so I wish there was more on that.

As I previously said, Shadowlands moved at a great pace and I loved everything that was going on. It was definitely suspenseful and while there wasn't a ton of action, it kept me on my toes. I was pretty much terrified. I loved this book so, so much... right up until the ending. What a disappointment. I just didn't see that coming and that's what upset me. Some reviewers said that they expected it, I just didn't see any of the clues that led up to it and I felt like it just ended on a huge cliffhanger. I'm actually really eager to read the sequel in this series, because I just want to know what's going on and how I just didn't see that coming!

Overall, Shadowlands was a great book with a great plot and amazing characters. Even though I loved just about everything, the ending left me feeling disheartened with the book. I'm hoping the next book in the series will fix that!

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful.

Thoroughly bone-chilling!

By Evie Seo

Shadowlands is like a jigsaw puzzle - even though you try very hard to figure it out, you don't get to see the whole picture until the very end. And the pieces of this particular puzzle snap together even more tightly when you read the book the second time. Reading it is a phenomenal - I'd even go as far as to say diabolical - experience. It grips you from the opening lines and the ever-increasing tension never lets up. In the end, you're left completely breathless, confused as hell and eager to start from the beginning to try and figure out what in the world have you just read.

The story centres around Rory Miller, a teenage girl who somehow miraculously survived an attack from a serial killer. The killer - who also happens to be her teacher - have been watching her for months, obsessing over everything she did and said. And now he's determined to finish what he started.

After her brush with death, Rory and her family are sent away to a Juniper Landing (a small vacation town on a remote island) as part of a witness protection program. But what was supposed to be a fresh start

quickly turns into yet another nightmare. The town is creepy. Weird and unexplainable things are happening, people act very suspiciously and it all adds up to a very disturbing and deeply bone-chilling picture. Things get even more intense when a local girl disappears without a trace and Rory catches glimpses of someone following her, someone who looks exactly like her former teacher.

Kate Brian evokes Rory's paralysing fear, pain and disorientation quite brilliantly. I couldn't help but to feel thoroughly creeped out - I swear I had goosebumps on my arms half of the time (must be some sort of a record!). The first person narrative only enhances the dream-like, foggy quality of this book, as the heroine herself doesn't have a clue what is happening, what's real and what's just her imagination playing tricks on her, causing her to see the person who almost ended her life around every corner. Is she losing her mind? Is she growing more and more paranoid? Is it shock? Fear? Or is something really happening? Is she in real danger here? Well, you can wreck your brain as much as you want, you'll never actually be able to guess what the big twist is! I was completely blown away reading the final pages of this novel. Not only did I not see it coming, I felt like someone just dropped a bucket of ice-cold water on my head. Multiple times.

I really connected with Rory, though I can't say that about any other characters in this book. I simply did not care for anyone else except the lead heroine. She stole the spotlight, her feelings and thoughts were completely absorbing. One thing for sure, I strongly disliked Rory's sister, Darcy. I couldn't stomach her whiny, annoying character. I hated how she always wanted to be the centre of attention, how she made everything about her, as if she was the only one affected by the situation. She was difficult, self-absorbed and downright unlikeable. As the story progresses, we learn more about her and some of the reasons behind her behaviour and attitude, but for me that just wasn't enough to redeem her in my eyes. One thing I really loved, though? The occasional glimpses into the twisted mind of the serial killer. They were incredibly well-written, thoroughly blood-chilling and shocking.

Overall this story is a total winner. Kate Brian's prose is nothing short of amazing - everything she describes feels too real, too convincing not to be totally freaked out. The author literally takes your hand and leads you straight into darkness, into world that is both intriguing and terrifying. Shadowlands is filled with sadness that wraps itself around you like a blanket and eventually breaks your heart into pieces. This mind-bender of a book is absolutely not to be missed.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful.

Mindblowing!

By Jon (Scott Reads It!)

I have avoided writing this review for a couple of days and I am finally going to review it. For me the most difficult reviews to write are for 5 Star books. I tremendously enjoyed Shadowlands and I doubt any review could do this book justice. There are no spoilers for Shadowlands.

From the first chapter of Shadowlands I was immediately hooked into this intriguing mystery. Kate Brian starts off Shadowlands with a bang. Our protagonist Rory is being attacked by serial killer Steven Nell but she manages to escape his clutches. Rory's family moves to a vacation town called Juniper Landing. Juniper Landing seems like such a wonderful and relaxing place until one of Rory's new friends goes missing. Could Steve Nell be the cause of this disappearance?

This is my first time reading a book by Kate Brian and this definitely won't be the last time I read a book of hers. Shadowlands was extremely addicting to read and I couldn't bear to stop reading even for short periods of time. One of my favorite components of Shadowlands are the short chapters from Nell's point of view. It was seriously chilling to read about an attempted murder from a serial killer's point view. Juniper Landing was a terrific setting and Brian did a wonderful job with making a vacation town seem so strange and dark.

Who ever thought a vacation place could be so grim and ghastly?

So many reviewers have stated that they found Shadowlands very predictable but I completely disagree. From the start of Shadowlands I had a bunch of predictions but they all turned out to be wrong. Just when I thought the book was going in a certain direction, Kate Brian threw in a gut wrenching plot twist. The ending of Shadowlands was just mindblowing and I honestly never saw it coming.

Once or twice I felt like some of the characters lacked a bit of common sense. It's kind of common sense to me that if a serial killer is looking for you, you shouldn't walk around alone. I understand that Darcy doesn't want Steven Nell to ruin her social life but what's more important your social life or avoiding a serial killer? I am not sure if the characters were acting a bit ridiculous or if I was just over thinking everything like I always do.

Shadowlands is more than just your average thriller. Kate Brian daftly created a mind blowing tale that exceeded all of my expectations. Shadowlands ended on such an interesting note and I'm really curious to see how Brian follows up with the sequel.

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