



Blood Ties

Samantha Hayes

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January 1992. A baby girl is left alone for a moment. Long enough for a mother to dash into a shop. Long enough for a child to be taken.

Thirteen years later, solicitor Robert Knight's stepdaughter wins a place at a prestigious London school for the gifted. The only puzzle is his wife Erin's reaction. Why is she so reluctant to let Ruby go? Doesn't she want what's best for her? As Erin grows more evasive, Robert can't help but feel she has something to hide, and when he stumbles on mysterious letters, he discovers she has been lying to him. Somewhere in his wife's past lies a secret; a shocking secret that threatens to destroy everything...

Blood Ties Details

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Author : Samantha Hayes

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Kierra says

Thirteen years ago a baby girl was kidnapped.

Thirteen years later the thirteen-year-old Ruby has no birth certificate. She doesn't look like her mother Erin and her step dad uncovers the hidden truths about Erin's past. Will he find the proof that Ruby is not Erin's daughter? Will he return Ruby to her biological mother? Will a woman, who had lost her baby girl, ever recover from her loss?

The beginning was awesome. The story took place at a parking lot with no signs of a poor baby girl. I could feel everything Cheryl went through and I felt so sorry for her. Another great thing that I got from the very beginning - different POVs from different timelines. **The lives of a poor mom Cheryl, a young abandoned Erin and Ruby's pragmatic step dad Robert get so broken at some point, that you don't know who to feel sorry for.**

The author's language is great.

The plot had its bad moments. At some point I didn't believe in Louisa's character. She was not a detective, she was an amateur with personal issues. I mean, what kind of a private detective is that:

Robert: So, detective, what are we gonna do now? Should we go in?

Louisa: How would I know?

OR

Robert: I think my wife is hiding something from me.

Louisa: Oh, come on, you're being paranoid.

BUT the author's language was still very good, and kept reading story after story trying to get the pieces of one huge puzzle together.

Now let me say, I hated the ending. I liked the way things worked out, I liked **the ending of Cheryl's story**. But I hated the **ending of Erin's**. I just didn't like her from her first appearance, and I continued disliking her when she first met that Freda woman (~~oh, come on, are you THAT stupid???~~) Her every action, her runaways, her lying nature, her relationships... I just didn't feel it. So the way things ended... Well, it is probably the best way, but I couldn't help myself.

5 for the intrigue;

5 for the style of writing;

2 for the characters such as Louisa;

5 for not predictable ending to the kidnapping story;

3 for that last chapter ending;

Final rating: 4

Katya says

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Kirsty says

This book was given to me by a friend who thought that I would like it. It's not a genre that I usually go for.

I like books written from different point of views as this one is although the changing time frame can be slightly confusing at times.

It is a good story despite being very unbelievable in parts.

Gail Burns says

This was an excellent book - with the usual twist from how you think it will end. Couldn't put it down.

Julie says

Easy to read with lots of twists and turns that keep you guessing. Enjoyed this

Margi says

This book had me captured from the start. It had many twists and turns throughout based on 3 main female characters. However, I did find some of the situations they got themselves into a bit unbelievable. It did jump from character to character quite unexpectedly, so keeps you on your toes. It was a real page turner.

Eva says

Blood Ties by Sam Hayes was one of the most suprising and even shocking books. It follows three on the first look completely different narratives. Cheryl, whose baby daughter, Natasha, dissapeared from the back seat of the car, while the mother was shopping. Ruth, a fifteen-year-old girl, who gave birth to her daughter, runs away from her parents. Erin, whose life on one hand is nearly perfect with loving husband, Robert, and

daughter Ruby. However it seems that the secret of her past is about to explode. These three people start off as separate narratives but end as one story.

My favorite part was the story of Ruth, young and pregnant teenager, who runs away in order to keep her baby. Her movements may seem amateur and stupid but her love for her daughter and desire to protect her was real. The character herself was real.

I did not like the book at first. It seemed too confusing. But as I read on and became more and more involved in the characters' life, I appreciated Blood Ties and Sam Hayes more and more. This book is a wonderful piece of literature that makes people live and laugh with characters.

Kate Sergejeva says

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Corinna says

Absolutely loved this book, and it was even better the second time! Hayes' first book was an absolute credit to her. The final twists at the end were not what was expected

Tracy Fenton says

I love Samantha Hayes books. You are always guaranteed a tense and gripping story which twists and turns. This book has been sitting neglected on my kindle for years and I can't believe that I hadn't read it sooner. If you're after a book that you can't put down this is highly recommended by me. A solid 4 stars

Carla says

Laborious, exhausting & depressing

The book was confusing from page 1. The book was so choppy that I barely finished it. It took so much energy to follow the story on many levels. Not only did the chapters alternate between past & present, they also alternated between character viewpoints shifting from 3rd person to 1st person at random. There were so many characters, each w/their own hellish & depressing stories that not only was this overwhelming, but depressing as well

The main character - known as Erin(one of many aliases) basically tortured & abused as a child, is now a total mystery to her husband. She hides her shameful past from him supposedly out of fear. However, she knows this is part of her allure and a way to control him. She lies about everything, one minute cold as ice, the next loving & playful. I found her highly unlikable -selfish, self centered and controlling. The author's goes into great detail

when describing her horrific childhood obviously w/intention of evoking sympathy from the reader. So,

armed w/her litany of abuses, Erin justifies all that she does throughout entire book. Seems incapable of empathy or consideration of how her actions affect others. Ironically, she does it all in the name of love, such is her twisted nature.

The characters lives intertwine into an unbelievably tangled, chaotic mess.

It took all my concentration to keep them straight along w/their backstories and connections to each other.

This was such a hard book to get through- too many words, too many babies, too many tangled emotions, timeframe & characters kept skipping around w/no warning. Overall I ended up hating this book- it was neither pleasurable nor entertaining nor easy to read but rather depressing & confusing. A headache in the making.

Strongly do not recommend!

Kelly says

I find it incredibly hard to believe this is a debut novel, the writing is just so fantastic! Hayes knows exactly how to lead your thoughts in a certain direction, so you assume that you know how it's going to end, but then shocks you by giving you a completely different ending. The story is gripping right from the very start, and the various secrets that are revealed will stay with you long after you've finished it. I thoroughly enjoyed this book and will definitely be looking out for her new book, Unspoken.

Nina says

Gripping psychological drama. The chapters told from the female characters perspective are excellent. It's the very one dimensional male character that let the book down a little, it was hard to really believe in him. However the author uses some really unique similes and metaphors which I did savour.

Irene Georgilis says

Blood Ties was a book that grasped by attention and although at some points especially towards the beginning it was somewhat confusing. It was very well written and I liked that it was told from three women. The topic of losing your baby was heartbreaking and I was especially touched by the fifteen year old who despite being at such a young age was so determined to protect her child at all costs. The ending left with unanswered questions about Cheryl and her baby Natasha, I got the impression that she had something to do with her baby's disappearance.

All in all I would recommend it as a book to be read. An emotional rollercoaster.

Sandra says

Something about this book was just a little bit off. It started out great and I was really enjoying it. Then came Robert, who was paranoid and jumped to conclusions just a little too quickly. I really wanted to find out what happened to Cheryl's baby and kept reading just to find out. The poor girl who gave birth all alone, locked in her room broke my heart and I had to find out what happened to her and her baby. The author weaves a good story, but somewhere along the way, the story gets gobbled. Maybe it was just me. I did read to the end

though and I must say, it was a bit unexpected. Some things I had guessed but others not. Hard to write a review without spoilers, but if you are looking for a quick, sort of suspenseful read then this is the book to pick up.
