

If You Only Knew by Cynthia Clark

5 stars

Are some secrets worth keeping secret even if doing so tears you apart each day?

Elizabeth Perkins is a barrister and is drawn to pro-bono cases where the accused has a tough story. But Elizabeth carries a secret that not even her husband knows about and she loathes the colour red, loathes it so much she goes through extremes to try to avoid seeing it. When she takes on the case of Chloe, a fifteen-year-old girl who is being charged with attempted murder after running over a guy and then fleeing the scene, her secret is threatened and she fears for the life that she has. Will her marriage and family survive the truth? And secrets have a way of repressing your being, making you feel stifled, as if you are not yourself any more. The longer you keep a secret, the more it crushes your soul. It's the desperation of being alone, of knowing that nobody else can be told, that you cannot allow anyone to help you carry the burden.

This was one of those books that you are unable to put down, wanting to know what happens, sympathising with the character of Elizabeth while at the same time wanting to yell at her and tell her that she is being ridiculous. But we should never judge how people react in certain situations because we don't know how we would react in the same situation. It is very different reading about something and thinking that you would react in a certain way and actually being in the situation in real life. Most times we don't react the way we thought we would. Self-preservation is one of the most basic human instincts and everyone instinctively reacts differently.

Saphira

Breakaway Reviewers received a copy of the book to review.