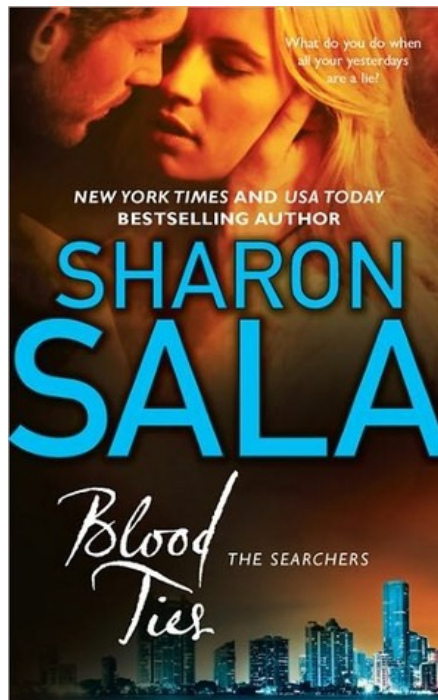




Blood Ties

Sharon Sala

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Blood Ties Sharon Sala

The truth will set you free if it doesn't get you killed

Savannah Slade is not the person she thought she was. The reading of her "father's" will has led her to a world-shattering revelation: her sisters are not her blood kin—and she may be the heiress to a massive fortune. Her not-quite-fiancé Judd doesn't care where she came from—he only wants her by his side. But the primal need to uncover her past wins out, and Savannah trades the Montana ranges for Miami's moneyed oceanside enclaves.

The wealthy and powerful Stoss family is less than overjoyed to find that Gerald Stoss's daughter has emerged from the past. But theirs is a clan seldom troubled by...inconveniences. They've always had the means to eradicate any blemish on their perfect lives. One more won't make a difference.

Blood Ties Details

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Author : Sharon Sala

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From Reader Review Blood Ties for online ebook

Judy & Marianne from Long and Short Reviews says

Savannah Slade's life is a lie. Grieving her father's death, she is devastated at the reading of his will. Andrew Slade was not her real father, neither are her two sisters her real sisters.

Sharon Sala's Searchers series continues with youngest sister Savannah Slade. Andrew, a wealthy Missoula cattle rancher, provided journals to each of his daughters at his death, explaining the circumstances of their birth. In twenty-two-year-old Savannah's case, her birth mother Chloe was dying of cancer and entrusted her tiny daughter to then evangelist Andrew, to keep her safe. Savannah's real father Gerald, heir to the Stoss family fortune, was prepared to acknowledge her as his daughter and heir; however, greedy family members had him killed and then threatened Chloe, should she try to install her daughter as heiress.

Savannah sets out for Miami, FL on a mission to discover what happened to Chloe and to show evidence that Gerald Stoss may have been murdered, a plan that draws resistance from boyfriend and fellow rancher Judd Holyfield. Shortly after her arrival, she contacts the Miami police homicide unit and things immediately begin to go awry. The detective suspects her story is part of a scam and alerts the Stoss family, inadvertently putting Savannah in grave danger.

Savannah needs an attorney to pursue her claim of legitimacy as heiress (part two of her plan), and to do this she is directed to formidable, and highly successful attorney, Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson, recognizing the veracity of Savannah's claim, but knowing the Stoss family from previous encounters, suspects she will need protection once the claim is filed, but even he is slow to grasp the heinous nature of Gerald's twin brother Joseph Stoss and the speed at which plots against Savannah's life are enacted.

Author Sala pens a tightly woven plot with great action and suspense. Her characters are likable and readers will empathize with Savannah, whose main interest in pursuing her claim is to right a wrong — the murder of her father. I found myself on a roller coaster ride of suspense and intrigue, and even though I knew the villain's identity, I was continually surprised at the range of events. Blood Ties is suspense at its finest, an un-put-downable read from an author who's at the top of her game.

originally posted at <http://longandshortreviews.blogspot.c...>

Amybeth says

This review is for The Searchers: Blood Ties by Sharon Sala. This is book two in The Searchers series. This is the first and only one I have read so far.

I am going to start by saying that I really enjoyed this book and I would definitely recommend it to anyone. The spine of the book calls it a romance suspense but to me it was a suspense with a little romance thrown in. I will not be giving a summary but I may give away some details.

Although I enjoyed it, it was not without some obvious flaws.

First, the cover was misleading. I thought this would be a paranormal romance. And after realizing that it wasn't, I thought that it would be more romantic than it was. Judd and Savannah's relationship was a great addition to Savannah's story, but I don't really view it as a main part of the story that Sharon Sala is telling

with this book. However, I was not disappointed with this story at all. This proves that you shouldn't judge a book by its cover.

Second, the author's use of the word "proverbial" before every commonly used phrase bugged the shit out of me. You don't need to say something along the lines of "before the proverbial shit hits the fan" for the reader to understand what you mean. It would have been fine if she had only used it once or twice.

Third, the author repeatedly use the sentence structure of "not until..., did he/she begin to relax/calm/whatever." Again, she should have only used it once or twice.

Forth, the happy ending for me was ruined when Savannah introduced herself as Savannah Stoss-Holyfield. Why the fuck would you take that retched family's name instead of keeping the name of the man that raised you? That is so disrespectful!

Overall, I loved the book. Don't let my nitpicking keep you from reading this wonderful book. I hope to one day be able to read the rest of The Searchers books and to read more of Sharon Sala's works.

Jill says

Not a mystery because we know the killer from the start. Not quite a romance, because they are already in love and about to commit. But lots of suspense, fabulous characters in Thomas Jefferson and Whitehead, and interesting family dynamics with the Stoss family. A great re-read.

Vivian says

I know I'm repeating myself but I enjoy reading a book that provides suspense, some romance and just a bit of humor and **Blood Ties** by Sharon Sala provides all three. I'm not talking laugh out loud funny but there are moments that brought a smile to my face as I read about Savannah Slade's attempts to find out about her birth parents and deal with a motley crew of police officers, attorneys and ex-CIA agents.

Blood Ties is book two in "The Searchers" series by Ms. Sala and the action is concurrent with that of **Blood Stains**, book one in this series. The premise is that three sisters find out that they are not in fact blood-related upon their father's death. All three were informally adopted as toddlers when their birth mothers were in dire straits. Savannah's mother was dying of cancer and her birth father had just died in a car accident when she was taken in by her adoptive father. Now she is searching out the truth of her birth and her birth father's family is none too pleased with the prospect of sharing their wealth.

Mischief, attempted murder and mayhem ensue. Throughout it all Savannah proves that she is a force to be reckoned with, to the dismay of her birth father's family. Some of the action may be predictable but this made for a pleasurable read while waiting in doctors' offices throughout the day (a plus to escorting my elderly parents to physicians' appointments is I get to catch up on a lot of reading). If you haven't read **Blood Stains**, then I suggest you read that before reading **Blood Ties** just to keep the action in order. I hope that you'll find them both as enjoyable as I have.

Debbie says

Blood Ties is the second in the Searchers Trilogy

It's bad enough to lose your father, but when he dies and you find you lost your whole family and your whole life is suddenly a lie, that's a lot to take, but that's exactly what happens to the Slade Sisters when they attend the reading of the man they thought was their father's will. Years ago while he was still a traveling Evangelist minister Andrew Slade took in three helpless little girls all from mothers who were in deep trouble.

Savannah Slade is devastated by the news that Andrew isn't her father, but more than that she finds out in a journal that Andrew left that while her birth mother was dying of cancer her life was threatened by the family of her father, the same family that had her father killed. Savannah decides they've gotten away with murder long enough so to avenge the death of her father and the threatening of her mother she decides to take on one of the most influential and wealthiest family in Southern Florida. She leaves behind her almost fiancé Judd, but when the chips are down she'll find out who her friends are, who are her foes and who is real family regardless of Blood Ties.

Sharon Sala brings us this second in her trilogy with a bigger than life story line and larger than life characters, but she does it with amazing believability by making the characters very three dimensional, very likeable and hate-able in equal degrees. Her dialogue is easy to read, and very descriptive and as she takes us from the wilds of Montana to the bustle of Miami the narrative has fluent movement and her audience will find it hard not to finish this in one sitting especially when from the middle on the action takes it up to the highest level. Her characters are all indispensable, unforgettable and immensely important to the tale from the one liners all the way to our stars. Her heroine Savannah is tough and yet fragile and Ms. Sala portrays her to a tee. Her hero Judd is a perfect match for Savannah and plays his part perfectly too. The romance is sweet, but it's the love scenes that burn up the pages so expect to turn down the air conditioning, sit under the fan and put plenty of ice in that Southern Sweat Tea.

I love trilogies and if you do too this should definitely go on your to buy list, you get the stand alone quality novel with the added benefit of knowing that you can re-visit these characters through all three. If you like the rock-em sock-em romantic suspense believe me when I say this one will raise your heart rate and your pulse, keep you on the edge of your seat and scared to death. It's a must buy for a great summer read.

Nath says

Let's dive in directly, shall we? I'll start with the complaints I have about this book first, then will get to what I enjoyed :)

Basically, I had two issues with Blood Ties. The first is the sense of déjà-vu. Not only does Blood Ties take place in parallel to Blood Stains, but it also has a similar storyline: heroine posing a threat and people wanting to get rid of her. If you've been a long-time fan of Ms Sala, you'll realize that it's a trope that she uses often (Out of the Dark, When You Call My Name). I usually don't mind authors using such writing strategies, especially when they're good at it... and Ms Sala is good with this trope - Out of the Dark is one of the most poignant book I've read. Unfortunately, I don't think it was a good idea to use the same story trope in two books in a row, especially as they are part of the same series ^_^; Worst, I have a feeling Blood Trails will also follow the same pattern ^_^; I think I know what Ms Sala is trying to accomplish - trying to add some suspense to these books, but I think there is a different way than hired thugs.

My other issue with Blood Ties is that some of the elements/events of the book definitively felt over-the-top ^_^; I know this is fiction and some things should be taken lightly, but I couldn't help but going "Huh? Really?" and I think that's never good.

Putting aside those two issues, Blood Ties was quite an enjoyable read. Savannah was a good heroine - nice, realistic and smart - and you couldn't help but root for her. I like that she already had her hero and they were already involved; it made for a different romance. I thought Judd was the perfect match for Savannah and it was cute to see him worry. His worries all made sense and showed that he cared about Savannah. All in all, I thought Savannah and Judd made a sweet couple and while the romance wasn't the focus, I was okay with it :)

Other good elements of the book were the secondary characters, especially Savannah's lawyer. I liked his personality and how he looked out for Savannah :) The story was pretty interesting as well. There were some twists to the storyline I didn't see coming, one that was really sad :(Also, I liked that Ms Sala tried to throw the readers off LOL. Finally, the constant: Ms Sala's writing :) Still enjoying it :)

Out of the three sisters, it was Savannah's storyline I was looking forward to the most because it involved her family. I guess I was expecting a typical story where they'd welcome her ungraciously, try to win her and plot against her in her back. What Ms Sala offers us is definitively different which would have been a good thing if not for Blood Ties echoing her previous books.

All in all, I liked Blood Ties :)

Marjorie says

At first I had a hard time reading this book because I kept thinking why would I put myself in danger when I know my dead father was killed by his brother. However I soon fell under the spell of Sharon Sala's writing and couldn't put the book down.

Savannah Slade finds out after her father died that she wasn't really his daughter but her mother had given her to him to care for. She reads the information he has left for her and decides to find out what really happened with her real parents. Lots of stuff happens! In the end, she has a huge corporation to run and is married to her true love.

Becky says

This is the second book in the Searcher's trilogy, but the first one I read. You can never go wrong with Sharon Sala; romantic suspense at it's best!

Ron Collins says

For such a smart lawyer Jefferson sure had some serious oversights. A car with a stuck accelerator might easily dealt with by slipping it into neutral or turning off the ignition. Except for a few glaring such missteps a fairly enjoyable read. Not dissimilar to Blood Stains.

Nicole says

Review originally posted here: <http://thebookpushers.com/2011/06/03/...>

Publisher: MIRA

Publish Date: Out Now!

How I got this book: NetGalley

I've never read anything by Sala before, and I have to say I really enjoyed her writing. I was a little worried going in, because I saw a review that said the person didn't feel this book should have been categorized as a romance novel. I'm not a huge fan of mystery style books without a bit of romance in them, so I was leery. But ultimately very happy.

Savannah's father has just died and dropped a bomb on her and her sisters: they are all not his biological children, and were taken under his wing when their mothers claimed their lives were in danger. Savannah found out that her father was from a wealthy family, and after being murdered by his own twin, Savannah's mother gave her up, trying to keep her out of danger.

Savannah heads out to Miami to try and get some justice for her father. Along the way she finds herself involved in a murder, finds relatives she never expected to find, and ends up being hunted. She worries that she won't be able to see justice in time, but with the help of her attorney, an ex-CIA agent, and her cowboy boyfriend, she just might be able to stay alive long enough.

This story was different from other romantic suspense books that I've read lately in that we know who the big bad is from the beginning on the story. Savannah KNOWS her father's twin killed him, so most of the book isn't focused much on the mystery of whodunit, but more so on the uncovering the entire truth, while working to avoid the threats against her life.

I really liked Savannah's character. She was a strong willed, determined and fierce woman wrapped up in a tiny package. I admired her tenacity in everything she did, and although I thought she was wrong to try and do EVERYTHING on her own, I was happy with the way she asked for help when she got to a place she knew she couldn't navigate on her own. That to me made her a flawed but lovable character.

The cast of supporting characters, namely her boyfriend Judd, her attorney Thomas Jefferson and the ex-CIA agent Whiteside were so fun as well. I loved that they were all alpha badasses in their own separate ways. Jefferson was so intelligent and manipulative in handling her case in the best way possible. Whiteside, although an older guy, was still in his prime, kicking ass and taking names when it mattered most. And Judd... sigh... He was strong enough to let Savannah go and take care of her own business, but protective and loving enough to stand behind and in front of her when she needed him most.

Although the romance is not as prevalent in this book as other suspense books, mainly because through the first third or so Judd is back in Montana while Savannah tries to go at it alone in Miami, you can still feel the love between them. I enjoyed their nightly phone calls to say "I love you and goodnight." It felt real and I think that is what I related to most.

The way the whole overall story was resolved was great. Sala threw some twists and turns into it, but overall I really liked the way everything played out and justice was served in the end. I think I'm definitely going to have to check out the other books in this series.

All in all, I give Blood Ties a B

Jacqueline says

I know that Borders, where I work, will put this in the romance section with the rest of Sharon Sala's books. This was a good book but it wasn't a romance. I might have scored it higher than 3 stars if I hadn't been expecting a romance. Like Ms. Sala's last series, it's the second in a trilogy where all the books run concurrently. Savannah has come to Miami to claim her inheritance and bring her birth father's murderer to justice. You know from the beginning who the murderer is and the story follows Savannah as she attempts to bring him/them to justice.

The plot is fairly tight and the writing is fast paced and exciting as far as the suspense goes. The romance element might as well not be there. She has an almost fiance when the books starts and they totally love each other and that doesn't change throughout the story. Savannah is well developed as a character. The hero, if you can call Judd that, because really he's just a supporting character and they spend very little time together, is not at all well developed. In fact, near the end of the book we find out his age and I thought really? I totally had no clue and it was something that made you wonder how their relationship came about in the first place. You don't know how they met, how they got together, what they had in common, etc.

So, not a romance.

The secondary characters are well drawn. Even the villains are multi dimensional, not just over the top caricatures. That was particularly enjoyable for me. I enjoyed it as suspense, but would have been disappointed had I picked this up in the romance section of the bookstore looking for a love story. I will however, definitely read the next one in the series as I always enjoy Ms. Sala's writing style.

This book was provided for me free from netGalley and the publisher (Harlequin) for review.

April says

Check out my other listens at Eargasms Audiobook Reviews

This is the second book in the Searchers trilogy and it delivers even better than the first! I have to say one of my favorite things about Ms Sala's story telling is the way she interlocks the books in a trilogy. Each is it's own story but matches up perfectly with the greater tale. Brava! It is really interesting revisiting moments from another character's perspective.

Savannah is a really spunky gal and I loved her sass. She was a touch uptight about receiving help but she learned from that so it wasn't a major sticking point for me personality wise. Her commitment issues were a touch annoying but understandable, I guess.

Judd was the typical doting boyfriend who wants his girl safe and happy. I really wanted him to push more to be included earlier. Most of the book they were separated so it wasn't much of a romance.

This book had so much more story and intrigue! Loads of action and it was beautifully paced. Never a dull moment here. A bit more collateral damage than I generally like. And I did not think all of it was necessary.

The steam factor kicked in when Savannah and Judd were together. They were apart most of the time but when they did meet up they burned up the sheets!! Still more mainstream than erotic.

I listened to the audio book and my ears loved Allison Johnson!! She brings the characters to life in a big way and really delivers emotions! Kudos! I also like that each book has a different narrator. It adds to the impression of each sister telling her own story in her own way!

Can't wait to see what happens next with Holly and Bud!!

Kara Lindsay says

Another slower paced read. Very good story. but it was as if Ms. Sala Copied-and-Pasted the story from the first book to the second one and just changed names and locations. Still very good though! I love the sound of sweet, sweet revenge!

Darlene Wilson says

Savannah Slade is not the person she thought she was. The reading of her "father's" will has led her to a world-shattering revelation: her sisters are not her blood kin—and she may be the heiress to a massive fortune. Her not-quite-fiancé Judd doesn't care where she came from—he only wants her by his side. But the primal need to uncover her past wins out, and Savannah trades the Montana ranges for Miami's moneyed oceanside enclaves.

Merle says

Second of the Searchers "sisters" series. Savannah has been told that she was born to a mother dying of cancer and that her father was a multimillionaire who had died suddenly at the time her mother was dying. She decides to go to Miami to find out more about her "family" and steps into a snakepit.

Beginning with the detective who brushes her off as a con artist and alerts the family that she is there, to the flowers on her mother's grave, to the "accidents" that keep happening, she is living in fear.

Enter Thomas Jefferson, lawyer extraordinaire, who has actually beat the wealthy Stoss family in court. Lots of tragedy and danger later, the smoke clears and Savannah becomes who she should have been all along, Judd's wife.
