



Shades of Gray, An Autumn Rain Novel

Rachel Ann Nunes

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Why would a contented family man who has it all suddenly vanish without a trace?

Autumn Rain believes someone from Dennis Brigg's past has played into his sudden disappearance. She involves Detective Shannon Martin in the investigation, hoping that together they can find Dennis before the past catches up to him.

Meanwhile, Autumn has troubles of her own. Her boyfriend, Jake, has been a great support since her father's death, but now his old girlfriend, Kolonda, needs his help. Unfortunately, Jake's help doesn't seem to be all Kolonda wants. Autumn is equally confused about her own changing feelings for Jake...

Both investigations take a dangerous turn, with millions of dollars and many lives at stake – including that of a young innocent boy. Only by reading imprints – emotions left on certain objects – and putting herself at risk can Autumn unravel the mystery and save her friends.

The third book in a series of stand-alone novels featuring Autumn Rain, *Shades of Gray* is a fast-paced, romantic suspense novel with a paranormal twist that you will not want to miss!

Shades of Gray, An Autumn Rain Novel Details

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Author : Rachel Ann Nunes

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Charity says

I enjoyed this book. It is a third in the series. Unfortunately, it is not the last. I was really hoping the author would close out some loose ends with the main character and I would be able to shelve it in my head, but apparently I will have to wait for another book...again. I usually wait until a series is done before starting them, so I can just read right through and not have to wait in between. So that is why this gets four stars. Because I'm impatient....but I'm impatient because it is a good series...so it's a mixed bag.

The book itself was well written; the plot and characters engaging and believable. I like the idea of reading imprints from objects and paronoramly solving crime. The heroine is hopeful for a better world and truly wants to make a difference. I also enjoy that although she has some issues, she isn't wallowing in angst from her past but is working to make the world she lives in better, even if it means being different and contributing in a way that may not be mainstream.

And, of course, there are some strong male leads as well. My main beef with this series is that I want the heroine to be happy. In other words, who is she going to marry? Yes, I am a female after all. :) If you enjoy crime suspense novels that are clean, this is a good series for that....but maybe you should wait until the fourth book comes out before starting it.

01andrezzah says

Shades of Gray is the sequel to the book, Imprints. In this book Jake and Autumn are boyfriend and girlfriend, but Jakes ex-girlfriend from highschool shows up with a problem. At this same time Autumn is put on another police case, but this time its for someone who she knows well. Her sisters neighbor has gone missing. Leaving his wife and two children. From and imprint on his wife's bracelet, Autmn learns that he left willingly in order to keep his family safe. Safe from what? Nobody is really sure.

As Autumn is working on this case Jake, who is working on some construction problems that his ex-girlfriends apartments are having, goes missing. Autmn automatically goes to the scene and they find Jake's phone. Autumn reads the imprint and realizes that she recognizes one of the men in the imprint. Earlier, Autumn and the police found out that Saito, their main suspect, is working with a lawyer. This lawyers men have kidnapped Jake and Autumn is set on finding him.

Before she finds him though, Swayer the son of the kidnapped man goes missing as well. Now there are three missing people. On the bright side they found out where Saito has been hiding. He's been in an old warehouse, and Autumn and the police go and check it out. They find Dennis, the man who first went missing, in the warehouse. He is injured badly and is taken back to the hospital were his is reunited with his wife and baby girl.

Autumn and Tracy, one of the cops she is working with, end up going to the lawyers house to talk to him some more and see if Autumn can read any more imprints. While they are there, Autumn finds a toy soldier that she gave to swayer a few weeks earlier. There is strong imprint on the toy and autumn finds out that he is with this lawyers house cleaner. As they got to the house to pick swayer up from the house cleaner, they learned that the lawyer was putting the boy up for adoption in order to get rid of him.

The reason that everyone is after Dennis and his family is because, Dennis ran away from a dangerous family and its business. As it turns out his family runs an illegal business that he wanted no part in.

After finding Jake and swayer, Dennis and his family start a new life and Autumn and Jake realize how much they actually do love each other and that nothing is ever going to get between them.

I thought this was a really good book. It kept me hooked the whole time and it had a cute underlying love story. I would suggest this book to anybody who wants suspense but still has a soft place for a love story.

Kathryn says

I really liked the continuation of the "imprints" novel by nunes. Autumn and her sister's ability to infer and draw things that have happened are such a unique twist of a gift that helps in solving mysteries.

Autumn rain continues to use her gift of getting imprints or past emotions left behind by people who last came into contact with that object. this time she has her sister to help her too. Her sister, Tauwni, is close to delivering her first baby, but wants Autumn's help in finding out where her friend and neighbors husband, Dennis has gone. When she first imprints, she sees Dennis leaving of his own accord, but when Tauwni shows the picture that she drew that shows Dennis in a perilous situation, Autumn reluctantly goes to Detective Shannon to ask for his help. Shannon and Autumn have a history from the last case Autumn was involved in that almost cost her her life...the cult. Shannon sees the need to intervene in the case.

What they find is Dennis' past has caught up to him, his real name isn't Dennis, but he is the only heir to a major eastern business and his cousin has come looking for him to bring him back. A lawyer at a firm, Ian involves himself as a middle man. He tries to get money from Russo, Dennis' cousin, for giving him Dennis, and also Sioto, the rival business of Dennis' family for revenge against Dennis' involvement in Sioto's son's death and disappearance. The use of apartment buildings and the new building development causes, Kolanda, Jake's old girl friend to come to him for help. This puts Autumn in the jealousy mode and makes her start to doubt her place with Jake.

Autumn rescues Dennis, helps Shannon and his partner escape from Sioto. Jake is taken and held and then Sawyer, Dennis' young son is taken too. Can she find everyone safe before it is too late?

Emilou says

I liked it because the storyline was interesting, and I love the characters and their interaction with each other. I felt that the author had a solid grasp on who her characters were and keeping the storyline going in a very fluid way.

I felt that sometimes the priorities of the characters weren't natural. When the child went missing, sometimes the characters would talk about other things and didn't react the way normal people would in that type of situation.

Also, I felt as if the author didn't do any research into police policy and behavior. The officers and detectives in the story made bad decisions, allowed a citizen to go into dangerous situations and be involved in an investigation. I felt the author stretched police rules to allow her character to be involved in the mystery, but it was unrealistic. I also felt as if the author made the police useless in the story by having her character save them multiple times and solve all the mysteries. I felt the police were downplayed in the story, and made them seem to be useless in general.

This is a nice, clean mystery series that I would suggest to anyone who isn't a cop.

R. says

I've always enjoyed Nune's books. Autumn makes a rather interesting heroine with her hippie tenancies (no shoes, organic eating and loose clothing) combined with her twin connection and psychometric abilities. Wasn't too sure how things would work out with Jake and Shannon towards the end there. Suppose there's still a chance things may change in the next few books, which is a little bittersweet as Jake is such a good match for her and they're already so close. Her abilities and determined personality to see things through on her own keeps pushing her towards Shannon however, who definitely seems to be warming up to Autumn the more that they work together. Tracy does provide a nice fun buffer on occasion. Interesting how Tawnia's drawing ability has been growing this time around as well. Took me awhile to get back into this series, but once I was really involved, it was a very quick read. I'd forgotten how much I enjoy these books. Guess that happens when you're focused on a toddler instead of reading.

Jane says

Exciting and well-paced. I like where the characters are headed. Her relationships with Jake and Shannon are explored and get more complex, and some of the growing ramifications of her 'powers' become increasingly problematic. I didn't really like *Imprints* enough to pick this one up on my own, but my co-worker said it was a lot better so I gave it a shot. I'm glad I did. The things that bugged me in *Imprints* were lessened: in *Imprints*, it seemed like Autumn thought every guy wanted her and wouldn't shut up about her food/lifestyle preferences, and the plot took a long time to get going. *Shades of Gray* was just a great read.

Emily says

Overall Review: Autumn Rain never wears shoes, owns an Antiques store, only eats organic food and was raised by hippies. She can also sense deep feelings and situations from the memories that are imprinted on inanimate objects. She is most definitely one of the most unique heroines I've read in a long while! It's a shame that this is my first 'Autumn Rain' novel. This book being the third of a series, there were many allusions to other adventures and happenings. It still did quite well as a stand-alone book; I never felt confused at the plot or storyline, and I felt that there were enough descriptions of the characters that I 'knew' them. I did feel left out sometimes, but it wasn't terribly disturbing.

The characters were engaging. Autumn was constantly at odds with Detective Martin, but I really liked him! I think he was my favorite character. He cared without being cheesy or obsessive about it. Autumn's boyfriend, Jake, was not a prominent character in this installment. I'm guessing he was probably a key character in the first two, but in this one, he made some appearances, but was mostly in the sidelines. Perhaps that's why I felt much more of an attachment to Shannon Martin. The love triangle made the whole story that much more intriguing.

Shades of Gray is quite fast-paced and easy to read! It's light, fun and full of action and drama. This is a perfect book for those long winter evenings, curled up by the fire with a hot cup of cocoa! Overall rating is 4 out of 5 Stars!

Content Review:

PROFANITY: None

VIOLENCE: Mild to Moderate throughout

SEXUAL CONTENT: A few very mild instances

MATURE THEMES: Mild

RECOMMENDED AGE GROUP: 16+

There is absolutely no profanity whatsoever.

This is a murder mystery/thriller genre, so there is quite a bit of violence, but it is very muted. There are a number of fights—most of them include a main character doing some roundhouse kicks and boxing stances and meditating on their next move. A character is attacked by a man with a knife (but she roundhouse-kicks him a few times and it's ok). There are a few shoot outs—some between the bad guys and the police, some between the bad guys and other random citizens. The bad guys dress up a cadaver to make it look like they murdered a little boy. There are many kidnappings (a little boy is taking right out of his backyard, and his mother is hit as she tries to take him back; a man is taken into a van and beaten; a man is taken and tortured for information, etc.). A character has imprints of people's memories, and she sees murders, fear, and abuse. There is all of this, but it is necessary to the plot and lacks the shock value and gore.

Some characters kiss a few times. There is a love triangle that involves a lot of confused feelings.

The mature themes are mostly mild and center around lying, deceit, murder, and organized crime.

Shades of Gray is recommended as a Clean Read for ages 16+!

This review was written by Emily

A Squeaky Clean Reads Book Reviewer

This book was sent to Squeaky Clean Reads by Shadow Mountain for a review

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Cindi says

I liked the first book in the series more than this second installment. In this book Autumn is asked to look into a disappearance of a young father and husband. Turns out the husband ran away from his family years ago...a family with mafia like problems...then there is a woman that has returned to her boyfriend Jake's life. She wants him back of course, but her attempt is pretty pathetic. She has apartments that she owns and a contractor came and messed up the roof instead of fixing it. Jake was a contractor and when he looks into it, he gets kidnapped. And of course all of these things are connected... It was a little silly. Not my favorite but I'm still looking forward to the last book in the trilogy. Ages 13+

Sherilynn Green says

Second in series. The Autumn Rain series books are awesome, If you like adventurous crime solving mystery sleuthing sprinkled with romance you'll love this series. Rachel Ann Nunes is an author whose books you can truly get lost in. Her characters come alive and you feel like you know them intimately. I highly recommend her books.

Fourth book in the Autumn Rain Series line of fire is another hit. I love this series and recommend it to all who love mystery sleuthing. The fifth book in the series is expected to be released sometime in August of 2013, it's entitled Blinded and I can't wait. It's so fun to find good authors and Rachel Ann Nunes has definitely been added to my most favorite author list. Can't wait until August. :)

Janell says

This 3rd book in this series definitely had a smoother storyline than its two predecessors. Plus, the story was intriguing and fairly intense with several good twists. *However*, if I had a \$100 for every time Autumn referred to her bare feet, I could take a cruise. (sigh) As personality traits go, this quirk is definitely unique but was well established in the two previous books. A few references would have been enough rather than mentioning her feet every other page or so. Definitely got old.

Holly says

I love Rachel's writing and her stories. I've read every one of her books. I love the premise of the Autumn Rain novels, and have high hopes for this series.

That said, although this one is better than Imprints, it's not one of my favorites. I like Autumn, love her abilities and the trial & error she is going through to learn how to use them. Truthfully, though, I think I like her sister, Tawnia, better (sorry, Rachel!).

Still, this book is worth reading and I recommend it. I'm off to start the next one!

Katie W says

I think my favorite thing about this series is how original it is. Autumn Rain and her twin sister, Tawnia, were separated and adopted by different families at birth. Autumn was raised by hippie parents and is definitely her own person--very organic, non-shoe wearing person.

What is so unique about these characters is that Autumn is able to read "imprints" that people leave on objects--if any emotion is placed on an object, she can "see" the scene and feel the feelings behind it. This gift helps her solve crimes and mysteries. Tawnia is an artist, who doesn't really accept her gift...yet. She sometimes randomly draws out a scene that is also handy in solving things.

Shades of Gray is about a good friend of Tawnia's who's husband goes missing. Tawnia asks Autumn to help solve the case. Lots of twists and turns; lots of action; lots of suspense; crazy romantic tensions. I hope there

will be another book. :)

Amy Keeley says

This is okay reading. It's not as good as *Imprints*, the book before it. In fact, if I could give this half stars, it would be two and a half. To be brief:

Good

- * Quick read.
- * Mostly feel-good ending.
- * Ace. I have to admit I have a weak spot for bad boys and he totally gives off that vibe. I hope to see more of him in the future.
- * Some nice twists.
- * Dennis and his family. And Sawyer. He was cute.
- * The back and forth regarding the name for Tawnia's baby was adorable.
- * New Jersey mafia actually sound like people, not rejects from a *Godfather* movie.

Bad

- * Rules regarding imprints flip-flopped. One moment she can read them only once, but this seems to only apply to negative imprints. I think. Positive ones she can re-live over and over? Makes no sense except for warm fuzzies. Maybe this was in the first book but I was too involved in the story to care.
- * The romance with Jake. Though I liked the way she handled someone from his past, I thought the ending was almost a plot device meant to (view spoiler)
- * If you're looking for a gritty suspense (paranormal) novel, this isn't it. Though there's violence and Autumn does adapt in her outlook on life as a result, Nunes plots things in such a way that nothing truly bad ever really happens. There's always a way out.

However, if all you want is a superficial bit of suspense, a light read with a hint of tension and a fair amount of fun, this might be a good choice. I wasn't looking for anything heavy when I read this, so this aspect didn't turn me off at all.

- * Finally, Autumn. Her constant mention of organic food is becoming annoying. Also, in this novel she seems to have lost some of her intelligence: she can't seem to keep her mouth shut and, sadly, most of the time she doesn't get hurt because of it. I do admit I liked the one exception. And yes, I felt bad for thinking that way because she's not an evil character. She's just annoying.

* Oh, one more thing: the romance is okay in this. It's not as strong as it was in the first one (due to various questions that pop up), which is a shame because her greatest strength, from what I've seen so far, is in building a beautiful, sweet romance.

I'll read the next one, but I may not review it. Unless it has Ace. I really liked him and look forward to finding out more about him.

Julie says

Shades of Gray is another Autumn Rain novel. I read Imprints and loved it because the premise is so original. Autumn Rain is a very unique woman who gets “imprints” from different objects that she touches--feelings and impressions that people who have touched those objects give off. In Imprints she is asked to help find a missing young woman. In Shades of Gray she is asked to figure out why a husband has left his young wife and their two children.

I love the characters in this series. Autumn is so sure of herself in almost every area except when it comes to the men in her life who care about her. She is anxious to help others, and wanting to cling to her twin sister that she's barely reconnected with. She's such a well-rounded character I could easily identify with her and like her.

Shannon, the police detective who is wary of Autumn's abilities and yet is also attracted to her is by far my favorite character after Autumn. He's so real and mysterious, I hope that Rachel does a book about him, or at least has a ton more of him in her next book.

Jake, Autumn's boyfriend is also a fun character, and Tawnia, Autumn's sister is captivating in her own right. It's just a really tight cast and totally makes the book worth reading. My only disappointment, and it was purely personal, is that I was hoping a few things relationship-wise would be wrapped up in this book, but they weren't. I guess I have to wait for the next one. Can I just say I hope the next one comes out soon?

Anyway, I highly recommend the series, and I know there was an introductory one called Eyes of a Stranger, that I need to get because it introduces Autumn through her sister's story and I want to know all the background.

If you haven't started this series, you need to! It's a definite must-read.

Kami says

Love this series! She has a tendency to get herself into all kinds of trouble trying to solve mysteries.
