



Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings

Shewanda Pugh

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An eleven-year-old boy hitchhikes 1500 miles from Bismarck to Miami; a prostitute yearns for escape from a prison of her own making, and the horrible secrets of a long-ago murder are unraveled in the shadows of one woman's dreams. Lizzie Hammond is an ill-fated whore that believes in little, save her own ultimate demise. Kenji Tanaka is a pseudo-architect, content to hide in the shadows of his family's overwhelming success. Neither can stand the other. But the appearance of a boy only rumored to be true helps them discover that two unlikely halves can fit together as the perfect whole. For Lizzie Hammond and Kenji Tanaka, redemption is found in the most unlikely of places: each other, even as the world around them disintegrates.

Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings Details

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From Reader Review Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings for online ebook

Lynda Garcia says

Personal Jesus?

We all have a personal Jesus...Like the song says...."someone who hear a our prayers....someone who cares"...Kenji became Lizzie's personal saviour....her benefactor without wanting sex in return....her grace when she craved her drugs....her hero...when he actually took her on dates....butterfly kisses...romantic gestures...instead of alleyways,gas station bathrooms...back seat of a car...he replaced feelings of worthlessness,failures,degradation with unrelenting love and acceptance...and then there's Tony...the neglected long lost nephew of Deena and Lizzie...once again a Tanaka became a personal Jesus to a Hammond...Tak took Tony under his wings...and showed him what real dads are made of...the difference between a dad by coincidence and a dad by sperm coincidence...

Jackie says

Better than the 1st

I enjoyed getting to know more about Lizzie. Of all of the characters in the first two books she seemed the most real to me. I enjoyed seeing her battle her demons and winning.

Lily says

4

I enjoyed the continuation of this story. This author has a great way to captivate you into the story and that is what made it enjoyable for me. It was only a 4 star for me because I felt like the blurb kind of misguides the reader into believing the story centered on Tony, the 11 year old nephew of Deena and also the love story between Lizzie (Deena's younger sister) and Kenji (Tak's younger brother). They are part of this story but not the main characters. They felt as part of the story but this felt more like a continuation of Denna and Tak. But it was mainly the end that felt pretty rushed. Like it just stated facts in the epilogue and not a story as it had been doing. That was only a small part and why I gave it only four starts but I can't help but love Tony's story. What I loved more is how Tak was with him and how they became like father and son. This story can only be read as series and not a standalone. I do recommend it and it's a reread for me.

Favorite Quotes

"You have a secret?" "I always wanted a son," Tak admitted. "But I didn't think he'd be four feet tall when we met."

"I love you," Tony said. "Is that okay?"

Tak squeezed. "Of course, kiddo. I love you, too."

He looked up, sniffing. "Should I call you 'dad'?" "Only if you want." "And what about Deena?" Tak

shook his head. "No. She wouldn't want to be called that." Tony grinned. "You're ridiculous."

"One mountain a day," he promised and kissed her forehead. "One mountain a day."

He had a smile like a hug, a kiss like a blush, and a touch like a blessing.

John Angelos says

When I started reading this sequel, I expected a continuation of events in the lives of Tak and Deena. As with Ms. Pugh's first novel, she again starts her story with an original storyline that you were not expecting. With this book, Shewanda delves into and develops the story to be more about Tak's brother Kenji and Deena's sister Lizzie. Shewanda weaves a tale of wrecked and/or unfulfilled lives and redemption. For Deena it was coming to terms with the fact, that no matter how far or how many barriers, she erected to insulate herself from her past, she would have to face her past and accept that it was instrumental in getting her to her present life. For Kenji, it was about making up for his shortcomings as an architect in his father's firm, by aiding Lizzie to break free of her past life of drugs, alcohol and prostitution. For Lizzie it was about accepting that she was a real person who just wanted to be loved and to be free of Snow once and for all. And for Tony, it was that although he was Anthony's son, he was not his father and he had to learn that the love and acceptance of his new family was given without condition. I was a bit disappointed in the outcome of Keisha, a very minor character whom Lizzie was involved with toward the end of the story. I enjoyed the book because Shewanda gives a lot of background about her characters in this book. More so than in the first one. Please buy this book only if you have read the first one. You will have a very enjoyable read.

Romance Novels in Color says

Crimson Footprints II continues the story of Dee and Tak, while treating us to stories involving secondary characters. It takes place years after Dee and Tak's marriage and the arrival of their daughter. Ms. Pugh opens the door to their marriage, the good and the bad. Similar to Crimson Footprints, this book explores dealing with the past, family, forgiveness, and learning to love one's self while giving me a healthy dose of drama, suspense, and a side of redemption, which is a good thing. I liked how Ms. Pugh's characters seem to come to life on page, while she paints a vivid picture of how certain circumstances have lasting effects.

The book opens with the journey of a young boy, Tony, as he hitchhikes from North Dakota to Miami. Tony's story is riveting and I couldn't help but root for him.

I also enjoyed the focus on Lizzie and Kenji. Kenji is Tak's brother, while Lizzie is Deena's sister. Lizzie has a troubled past of drugs, prostitution, and Snow. Kenji is an architect who has trouble living up to his father's expectations. I love getting to know them better, while following the evolution of Dee and Tak's relationship.

In addition, I got to learn more about Dee's parents, which adds an element of drama that I wasn't expecting.

Ms. Pugh has a knack for creating root-worthy, believable, and well-developed characters. She takes us on a journey, full of twists and turns. I can't help but want to know more about their lives. I enjoyed the attention to detail and the opportunity to know more about the characters and their families.

This book is well-written, a page-turner from beginning to end. I enjoyed it as much, if not even more, than

the first book.

Great read!

-Reviewed by Leslie

Brandon says

Ok so.... I gave this book a 3 star rating for the way the ending salvaged it. I still took issue with the way the book read in terms of formatting but it was much more cohesive this time around. That being said... can ANYONE tell me when Deena turned into such a megabitch? I almost stopped reading this book halfway through because she went from being the shy, quiet, well behaved and emotionally abused Deena to your typical, mad at the world angry black woman. It was a complete 360 and not in a good way. Her family seemed like something she wanted to stay away from (Honestly... she has ZERO chemistry till 67% in to the book) and her success at her job clearly went to her head when she thinks she can tell her boss/ mentor/ father in law what she will and wont do in the tone that she did. Thank GOD the book gets better about 70% in! I liked her way more after that.

So... Lizzie and Kenji huh? I didnt think that I would buy it in the begging, but the author did an excellent job of pairing them together the way she did. Kenji was brutally honest with Lizzie in a way that Deena and Tak had failed to be, and helped her further along than anyone ever had. I actually found it easier to beleive in their love than I did Tak and Deena, who read like acquaintences that happened to live together instead of a married and loving couple.

I was going to give this book a one star (Honestly... I almost gave up on finishing it) but im glad I stuck it out. The latter half of the book totally salvaged it even though it felt a bit rushed. I found my heart racing back at the apartment as Lizzie plotted her escape for the last time... and was releived when things played out the way they did. All in all a better read towards the end.

Nicole says

Good Read

I didn't enjoy this book like the first book, however, this is a good read!
I still love Tak, so much! He is a strong man having to endure Deena's family. And it was nice that Lizzie got clean! It was also good to hear from crazy Gramma Emma. Lol!

Elise Marion says

Just as with book 1, Shewanda Pugh delivers with riveting storytelling and gripping writing. There is no shortage of drama when it comes to the Hammonds and the Tanakas and it was great getting to know secondary characters from the first story while catching up with Dee, Tak and their blossoming little family.

In my review of book 1, I wondered at the point the author was trying to make with the short snippets about

Lizzie, Dee's promiscuous little sister. So, I was glad when this book was released and I saw that it was to be about Lizzie and the slippery slope she found herself on after experiencing sexual abuse and getting wrapped up in drugs. While a lot of reviews I read scorned the promiscuous girl, after reading about her past and things that lead to a life of prostitution and desolation, I felt empathy for this girl. I rooted for her, I wanted her to succeed. Pugh's portrayal of the life of a drug-addicted prostitute is provocative as it is horrifying. It's hard to read, but also hard to look away from. I loved Lizzie's slowly blossoming romance with Tak's brother, Kenji. Beginning as a friendship that becomes something more over time, it had everything I wanted to see in their relationship. Kenji has a big heart and more compassion for Lizzie than anyone else has had in a long time, and he is not giving up on her. I love how he loves her, no matter what anyone says or thinks of her past. His trust in her goes so deep, that you can't help but admire him, while at the same time cursing him for a fool. My only complaint on that front is that I felt their story kind of took a backseat to the continuing story of Tak and Dee. While I loved the couple from book one, I went into this story thinking it would be predominately about Lizzie, but about halfway through the book, her story kind of diminishes until the end when it re-surges to a raging climax.

Not that Dee and Tak's story left me bored. Far from it. It was nice to see their evolution, years after their marriage and birth of their daughter. I **ADORED** the thread involving Dee's nephew, who is a hurting, angry little boy in need of a family. I loved seeing Tak as a father; if anything it made him sexier than he was in book 1 and I enjoyed watching his relationship with Deena's nephew flourish into one straight out of a sappy movie. I have to say that at times Dee's characters grated on my nerves in this one, especially when it came to her treatment of Tak and the others around her. As much as I liked her in the first book, I found that the years had caused her to become a bit stuck up, which is something her family often accused her of. She is going through a lot in this story, dealing with the truth about her father's death and realizing that her judgment of her mother may have been a bit harsh and unfounded considering she didn't know all the circumstances. Yet, it was hard for me to connect with her and feel empathy due to her callous treatment of the people around her since she was hurting. She lashed out and it made her seem bratty and immature. After awhile things got better and I was able to like Deena again. I will say that I enjoyed Daichi's involvement in Dee's story. Seeing their relationship blossom to one of a father and daughter was heartwarming.

If I have any other complaint about this book, it is the same complaint I had about book 1, and that is the portrayal of the black members of the Hammond family. At one point in the book, Dee and Tak joke with their nephew that not all people are like the Hammonds and even goes so far as to call them stereotypical caricatures. Yet the author does not seem to make any effort to portray the black characters in these stories as being any different. It is as if the author acknowledges this, yet does nothing to try to portray blacks in any different light. As I said in my first review, it may just be this author's experience with the people in her life, but none of the people in my family fit these stereotypes. I just can't identify. I know they exist, but I also know of whole, complete black families filled with strong fathers and women who are not promiscuous, loud, or full of ghetto attitude. It seemed that the author worked hard to ensure that the Tanaka brothers were not some gross stereotype of the typical, Asian male, yet neglected to find that variety and balance within her black characters.

Despite that disappointment, my rating is still 5 stars. This author has tremendous skill and her storytelling kept me glued to my Kindle until the very last page. It left me wanting more, especially when it comes to Kenji and Lizzie and while there was no hint of a *Crimson Footprints III*, a girl can always hope. That said, I think that anything Ms. Pugh writes will be a success, if for no other reason than her ability to tug on the heartstrings, write a beautiful story and, from time to time, make a reader raise her eyebrows and say 'Oh no they didn't!'

T. Beasley says

A young boy searches for his place in the world while a woman struggles to change her life in *Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings* by Shewanda Pugh. Tony is a young boy growing up in an orphanage. Tony decides to runaway to look for his father's family. After hitchhiking 1500 miles Tony finally finds the house he has been looking for but what will happen once he knocks on the door. Deena Tanaka is overwhelmed after seeing the young boy that is a reflection of her late brother. Deena immediately wants to make Tony a permanent resident in the Tanaka home. Tony's arrival will soon change the Tanaka family forever.

Lizzie Hammond is still a prostitute on a path of destruction. Lizzie has given up until she finds comfort and safety in an unlikely candidate. Kenji Tanaka can't help wanting to save Lizzie. As he gives her a shoulder to cry on their bond begins to grow and for once Kenji does not back down for what he wants.

What I Didn't Like: The interior layout of the book made it difficult to read in some areas. The print was very small.

What I Did Like: This sequel proved to be better than the first. I was happy the author focused more on Lizzie's character, which helped me to better understand her. This book had more drama, suspense and was very entertaining from start to finish. The characters were well-developed and the author gives readers a more in depth look into the Hammond and Tanaka families. I cannot wait to read the finale in this series. I recommend this book to others.

This book was provided by the author for review purposes.

Teresa Beasley
A&RBC Reviews
4 Stars=Great Page Turner

OOSA says

The Gift

Deena and Tak Tanaka are happily married and experiencing the ups and downs of married life. Deena encounters an unexpected situation and Tak discovers that Deena's life is more complex than anticipated. Lizzie and Kenjie develop a strong bond that not only grows their relationship but others as well. Daichi Tanaka remains unchanged but provides fatherly recommendations to help Deena and Tak during rough times.

"*Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings*" is guaranteed to keep the reader flabbergasted! Shewanda Pugh has written another phenomenal story. I like the excellent quality provided by the author, which demonstrates a strong commitment to satisfy all readers. It's difficult to read a good book and have that followed up with a good sequel. Job well done!

Reviewed by: Tekisha

Annalise Grey says

Ooohhh when's this coming out???

Sistar Tea says

Still Going Strong

In the follow up we continue to dwell in the life of Dee and Tak. They have been married a few years and are now parents and still very much in love. Life continues to be good for them. We catch up with the family and its members. The family makes for some great subplots and good reading. I am truly enjoying this series. This author is talented and still intriguing me with the Interracial relationship and seeing them seemly not working hard at it is inspiring in true love.

We are introduced to a new character that stole the story, at least for me. Tony is a twelve year old orphan with spunk and quick wit. We follow as he hitchhikes to meet his dad's family in search of a permanent home. I fell in love with this little boy; I wanted to take him home.

Lizzy also comes to the forefront and we learn her story and get a better understanding of her and her demons. We learn what makes her tick and we see the good in her and learn that you can never completely count anyone down and out.

Ms Pugh is a great storyteller and I like this installment better than the first. She does an excellent job with the secondary characters and the behind the scenes action. I can't wait to see what she has up her sleeves next. I need to continue this series and see where the tide and her imagination takes us next.

SiStar Tea
ARC Book Club Inc
4.75 rating
Jan 2015

Shonell Bacon says

4.5 - Pugh Brings Another Great Story

You never know what to expect in life... and in books it appears. In *Crimson Footprints II: New Beginnings*, author Shewanda Pugh illustrates this very well. Many of the themes in this novel echo what I found in the first book: overcoming the past, dealing with family drama, building love in the family, developing self-worth. We get to see the further development and growth of characters we learned to love in book one, and we get to see this current story unfold on a character that probably left many readers cold in the first book: Lizzie. I have to admit, she was not my favorite character in the first book, and wasn't in this book either, but Pugh's ability to construct a character's identity so that we see a living, breathing person full of flaws and dreams and desires makes you want to see a change come for that character. I had that for Lizzie... and for Kenji, another major player in the story. This is a strong story, a great follow-up to Part 1. I still favor Part 1; that first paragraph hooked me so in that book! Having finished Part 2, I'm left wondering what treats Pugh

will bring to readers in her next work.

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Erin Black says

I generously received this book for an honest review from the Author through the group Shut up and Read, Read it and Reap.

I read the first book to the Crimson Footprints Series a while ago and I didn't really like it. At the time I didn't have any intentions on reading the sequel, but I certainly am glad that I did.

This book was written so much better than the first one. I found the first book dragged on, and on.....and on. To be honest it was boring. This is NOT the case with Crimson Footprint #2! The storyline is interesting from beginning to end. It grabbed me from the very first page!

The characters were developed a lot more and I actually found myself falling in love with some of them as I got to know them. I absolutely love Tony! The troubled teen really drew on my heart strings. What surprised me the most was how much I liked Lizzie in this book. She was sort of forgotten about in the first book, but her character came alive during this book and I really liked her!!

Definitely a book that you should give a chance! Even if you didn't read the first one you could get into this without skipping a beat!

Home Is Where the Wine Is Book Blog says

Was graciously given this ARC from the author for a fair and honest review.

4 awesome fantastic stars

I will admit when I read the book description I was a little skeptical. Yes I felt sorry for Lizzie in book one but I didn't know if I would be able to connect with her.....well I was wrong.

First it starts off with Tony. He is a eleven year old runaway that Deena soon discovers is her brother Anthony's forgotten child. Tak and Deena adopt him but they struggle to all fit into the roll of "happy family".

"Well, he's your son now. For better or worse. And as I've found, we often must get through the worst with ours sons to enjoy the best."

Meet Lizzie Hammond. She is beautiful, she is moody, she is a prostitute and a drug addict. She is also

Deena sister and Tak and Kenji's sister in law

Now we know Kenji Tanaka from book one but he was just a kid. He is still struggling to fit into the architectural world. When Lizzie walks in his office one afternoon he decides to ask her to the movies and had no idea he would be a addict too. Addicted to her.

After Lizzie gets out of rehab Kenji insists that she move in with him. Their romance blossoms BUT yep you guessed it...the family hates it! You will love reading how these two work it out.

You get plenty of past characters in this book as well as feel Deena's struggles of dealing with her past demons.

Love the character development in this one. Will look forward to future reads from Shewanda.
