

Romance, Humor and Family Drama  
With a Touch of Buddhism

somewhere  
between  
black  
♥  
white

SHELLY HICKMAN

## Somewhere Between Black and White

*Shelly Hickman*

Download now

Read Online 

# **Somewhere Between Black and White**

*Shelly Hickman*

## **Somewhere Between Black and White** Shelly Hickman

*This is an alternate cover edition for ASINB00ATL0I8O.*

When approaching life's problems, Sophie sees in black and white. That is, when they're someone else's problems. So when it comes to her sister, Sophie is sure she has all the answers, and offers them without hesitation. If only her sister would listen.

Then, through a series of chance encounters, she meets Sam, who is witty, kind, and downright unflappable. Sophie has the overwhelming sense that she's known him before, and as a relationship builds between them, odd visions invade her mind. Though she tries to dismiss them, their persistence will not allow it.

As someone who is quick to judge others, she is intrigued by Sam's ability to accept people as they are. She begins to see him as a role model, but try as she may, his accepting nature is difficult to emulate.

Will Sophie ever be able to put her hasty judgments aside and realize not every problem has a simple solution?

## **Somewhere Between Black and White Details**

Date : Published June 2017 (first published December 9th 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Shelly Hickman

Format : Kindle Edition 185 pages

Genre : Romance, Contemporary, Contemporary Romance, Fiction

 [Download Somewhere Between Black and White ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Somewhere Between Black and White ...pdf](#)

**Download and Read Free Online Somewhere Between Black and White Shelly Hickman**

---

## From Reader Review Somewhere Between Black and White for online ebook

### Corie says

Shelly Hickman is so much more than a “chick lit” writer. Although her main characters would feel comfortable in that genre, Ms. Hickman stretches the definition with a depth not often found among works of “romantic” fiction. As she does in her first novel, “Believe”, Shelley tackles some of the stickier relational issues in Somewhere Between Black and White, and this willingness to write beyond the goal of pure lascivious entertainment is what sets her apart from other, so called “chick lit”.

Likewise, this author is not afraid to reveal her characters with a few flaws and from what I’ve read of “women’s romantic fiction” so far, (admittedly not extraordinarily deeply), it is a rare occurrence in chick lit to encounter anyone with any serious debilitating illness or even a truly checkered past. For the most part Hickman does so with grace and wit and while she does argue a serious point in this book, (as she did in Believe), she does it without a hint of the kind of polemics that tarnish some books that attempt the same thing. And this is VERY hard to pull off. Some serious kudos for that!

With nary a typo in the ebook version, and only minuscule formatting glitches (far fewer than in the last “Big Six” book I read). (I’m no stickler, and these days even the “best” writers get caught out with a few boo-boos in a released manuscript, but this one was notably well produced. She gets a full five stars for a quality production.)

I wondered though if the story didn’t suffer from too much editing. I was left several times feeling as if great chunks of the story had been removed in the service of some kind of brevity. The subplots were either over-edited or undeveloped. (I suspect the former.) A few of the transitions felt awkward and truncated. Is there a rule about how long a chick lit novel can be? If someone (even if the author herself) shortened this book to comply with such a rule they did a great disservice to the story. If Shelly Hickman got macro notes about the characters and the subplots and her “reader” advised her to shorten and edit, in my opinion she got bad advice. I hate to do it but I have to go with only four stars on this review, but only because I kept feeling that something had been cut out and I wanted to read that something.

Shelly Hickman is a talented enough writer to double the length of this book (easily) and only make it better. Next time out I hope she realizes that.

---

### Krystal Milton says

This book was simplistically great. One of the things I loved about it was how it flowed. There were funny moments, sweet moments and gracious moments which allowed me as the reader to feel connected with the storyline and characters the entire book.

Shelly as an author, I believe, has a skill that allows the reader to constantly connect and stay connected as she paints a vivid picture.

My favorite character was Christian, Evie’s husband and friend. His inner conflict is what drew me to him

and kept my rapt attention, although Sophie hated his guts and had no kind words for him throughout the story.

What I love is that we see so many different personalities and beliefs mixed throughout the story and its never changing. Everyone stayed true to their place, their beliefs and their core personality, although we saw major change in Sophie as she found love within another and allowed herself to really feel loved. We watched as she finally accepted one can have flaws without judging them, but accepting them.

This was a great read.

---

### **Kathleen says**

Somewhere Between Black and White is an enjoyable story that delves into the dynamics of family, romantic relationships and life in general. Written in the third person narrative and set in Las Vegas, author Shelly Hickman weaves a fun tale that follows computer teacher Sophie Cook as she learns that life isn't always black and white, that it also has a softer shade of gray.

Sophie is very opinionated and quick to judge people and situations, she views life as either black or white. At first glance she comes off very strong, abrupt and abrasive when dealing with her older sister Evelyn and brother-in-law Christian. Evelyn has lupus, and Sophie is very concerned for her sister because Christian has a mood disorder that makes him disconnected from everyone and everything in life, rendering him unable to help take care of Evelyn, which makes Sophie totally nuts. But Sophie's in for a lesson in life when she meets fellow teacher Sam Collins. As Sophie and Sam's romantic relationship develops, this strong and steady man teaches Sophie that life isn't always black and white, that sometimes life and its situations fall within a gray area.

I really enjoyed reading this story, it provides a healthy dose of reality when the story delves into matters involving the dynamics of family and romantic relationships and life situations, but it also has a humorous side like when Sophie is dealing with her troublesome students in the classroom, and it also has a sweet romantic love story between Sophie and Sam.

I have to admit that at first I was not a fan of Sophie. I didn't like her strong and overbearing personality, especially in her dealings with Evelyn and Christian. But when Sophie meets Sam and their relationship develops, I like the change in Sophie, she becomes a more softer and accepting person. I love Sam, he's a gentle, kind and accepting man that simply melted my heart. I also admired Evelyn and Christian's marriage, they both have their struggles in life, but the love and dedication that they have for each other keeps them strong and holding on. The only thing that I did not enjoy was the flashbacks that were interwoven throughout the story, they just didn't make sense and were an unnecessary distraction. But overall, if you are looking for a heartwarming and entertaining story that has a sweet romance and thoughtful life message included, then Somewhere Between Black and White would be a perfect light summer beach read.

Disclaimer: I received a copy of the book from the author in exchange for my honest review and participation in a virtual book tour event hosted by Chick Lit Plus Blog Tours.

<http://jerseygirlbookreviews.blogspot...>

---

## **Sandy Neal says**

### **Surprise Reaction**

When a story makes me cry and laugh out loud both, it's a good book! I look forward to reading more by this author.

---

## **Wendy Janes says**

When Sophie first notices Sam she immediately feels a special connection with him. After a few further chance encounters they tentatively begin a beautiful relationship. Quick to judge others, Sophie sees life's problems in terms of black and white, while Sam is much calmer, more accepting of people. Will Sophie learn from Sam and will she be able to work out what her mysterious fleeting visions mean?

Sophie is a good person, and a dedicated teacher. I enjoyed getting to know her and also seeing her character develop. At the start of the story she is so protective of her sister, Evelyn, that too often she comes over as being overbearing, and critical of Evelyn and her husband, Christian. Sam gently helps Sophie realise there are other ways she can support her sister. It's easy to see why Sophie falls for Sam. He's kind, loving, and has a facility with words that would melt even the hardest heart. As much as I love Sophie and Sam's romantic story, Evelyn and Christian's complex relationship is equally compelling.

The visions that Sophie has are intriguing and lift the book beyond being a straightforward love story. These visions link various strands together in a wonderfully imaginative way.

There are playful touches of humour in this story. My favourite funny scene occurs at the laughter yoga class (delighted to find out that these classes exist for real). This hilarious scene is followed by a really sad one, and the author's ability to take me smoothly from one mood to another is exactly what I look for in a book. While the writing is good, I was a little surprised by the slightly abrupt use of different points of view in some of the later chapters, but the feeling was only momentary because it was really fascinating to hear things from other characters' points of view, especially Christian's in Chapter 24.

This is such a warm story, with a lovely message. I felt so comfortable spending time with the characters, and was sorry to say goodbye to them when the story ended.

I'd like to thank the author for sending me a review copy of this book.

---

## **Rhonda says**

The characters were very likable and I could relate to Sophie and her judgemental and opinionated thoughts. I know several "Sophies". I really liked Sam and the quiet calm he seemed to always maintain. The flashbacks seemed a little confusing at times but they added intrigue to the story. Some parts were very

funny. I nearly cracked up when reading the dinner scene. I was literally laughing out loud. This was a nice romance with subtle suggestions on attaining peace in life.

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

---

### **Carolyn Ridder Aspenson says**

Let me first say that this story is about a couple, Sam and Sophie, but while I enjoyed that couple, for me, the couple that really made the book was Evelyn and Christian.

There are several components that factor into this story and while I don't want to give the big spoiler away (I'm not sure it's mentioned on the book description and honestly didn't check before writing the review so I won't mention it), what spoke to me is the differences between the couples and the individual characters themselves.

Sam sees the gray area in situations, while Sophie sees things in black and white. She's pretty opinionated and is hard on people but Sam is a lot more easy going and certainly not judgmental. For me, that kind of couple is good for each other and these two seem to do well together, but I suspect a lot of that is based on that spoiler I'm not going to mention.

Evelyn and Christian on the other hand have struggled and are strong. That relationship is a joy to read.

There were some good, laugh out loud moments in the book and the flow of the story was great. The book is well written and has a great message and while there were a few parts that might be a little confusing (a chapter about a boy), over all, the story is excellent and well worth the few hours it will take to read it. I'd love to see a story about Evelyn and Christian come from this book! Hint!

---

### **Erin says**

Wow did I relate to this book. Watching Sophie's evolution as she began to understand how much her attitude toward others was hurting her own relationships. As she learns more about accepting people as they are and offering no judgement, I could totally relate from my own personal experiences. Not that I've been able to come that far with all my relationships, it reminded me how much I still need to work on for myself. I enjoyed reading through the progression of Sam and Sophie's relationship. The hilarity of Aunt Doris at the Christmas dinner was one of my favorite parts!

---

### **Patricia Mann says**

This book far exceeded all my expectations! I thought it would be a sweet romance and I knew it would be very well written and enjoyable since I was already a fan of the author. But having finished it recently, I'm blown away by the depth of the book and the way Hickman so beautifully weaves such important messages into the story. The budding romance between Sam and Sophie was captivating and sensual and very satisfying. The relationship between Sophie and her sister Evie was so real and allowed me to feel what it

must be like to have a sister since I don't have one. I loved the way they were so devoted to each other, yet knew exactly how to push each other's buttons. Very realistic family drama! And the changes in Sophie's feelings about her brother-in-law, Christian, as she was forced to challenge her own judgments and see that sometimes people do what they do for complicated reasons and compassion and forgiveness are always possible, sent a clear and profound message. The scenes at school were also incredibly touching, as Sophie and Sam connected through the joys and challenges of being teachers. The incident that happened at school was very much like stories we hear in the news and reminded me that everyone involved in bullying is a victim, all the way around, and we need to work to understand all aspects of this phenomenon to be able to prevent it. I don't want to give anything away but what happens toward the end with Sophie and Sam brought tears to my eyes and put a smile on my face for an entire day, as it circled around in my mind over and over! So many wonderfully spiritual moments to reflect on and so many opportunities to use the underlying messages that come through in this book as an opportunity for self-reflection and personal growth. Thank you for this wonderful book, Shelly Hickman. I hope that many, many more people read it and reap its benefits!

---

### **Kayci Morgan says**

It's an easy, fun read. Very romantic, with likable, realistic characters. And so sweet it made my teeth hurt at times. If you're into feel good romance, this is definitely worth picking up.

---

### **Ank says**

I generally don't read contemporary romance, but I loved the title so I figured this was a great opportunity to give her a try.

This is a good story. The characters are emotionally engaging and easy to relate to, the plot has some nice little twists, and the story has been written with finesse and edited well.

I recommend you give this book a try if you're the least bit interested by the summary. Everyone will connect with different aspects of the story and even if you don't love everything, the portions that do resonate make it worth the read.

The book was written beautifully. The language was poetic, not too descriptive, but almost hypnotic. I was lulled into the story, there was no point where I felt rushed, and even though there were moments it dragged for me a little bit, I liked the pace.

---

### **Samantha Bailey says**

4.5 stars! "Somewhere Between Black and White" is a wonderful read. The magic, depth and beautiful messages woven throughout the story make it such a feel-good novel. I loved Sophie, the main character, and how she dealt with her struggles and triumphs and her relationships with Sam and her sister, Evie. The relationships between the characters are well-developed, compelling and complex, and I will think about the many important issues raised in this book for a long time. I'm excited to read Hickman's other novels, and she definitely has a fan in me.

---

### **Anita says**

I suppose the alternative title could be called 'Shades of Grey'. No, there's nothing of an explicit nature here. Instead it is the story of a young woman who only judges things in absolutes, as polar opposites, with no concession as to what might fall between the spectrum -- and all by the yardstick of her own morals and scruples. She meets a fella who is completely opposite, and yet complements her. He sees (or tries to) the heart of things, and understands and accepts their varied kaleidoscopic outcomes. A light and fun read.

---

### **Isabella says**

I was excited to start "Somewhere Between Black and White" because I wanted to read Sophie and Sam's story. Quickly, I began to really enjoy this book and like the characters, especially the relationship Sophie has with her sister, Evie. When Evie's situation seems black and white to Sophie, it's not for her and wishes her sister would see that things aren't always that way...

And then Sophie meets and gets to know Sam, someone she's convinced that she's known from a previous life.

I found Sam's charm in this book to be adorable. As a teacher coworker of Sophie's, he has a way of expressing things, not only to his students, but to her as well. Through intellectual conversations and passionate kisses, Sam opens her world, showing her that things don't always have to be black and white, there can be a shade of grey, too.

I seemed confused by the flashbacks. I didn't think they were understandable enough for the reader. But, I did like how Evie's husband's picture was what Sophie saw, as I think it brought them closer after what happened, (sorry, NO SPOILERS). Also, while I loved the sweet ending, I think it came too fast. I wanted to see them struggle more as a couple, and I want to know they can get through anything and stay together.

If you're looking for a cute, fun, and fast read, I highly recommend "Somewhere Between Black and White!"

I give this book 4 stars!

---

### **Thom Swennes says**

When teachers have to resort to pictograms (instead of written instructions) to get their class to cooperate and participate, you know our educational system is on its last legs. The only conceivable advantage to this mode of information distribution is that you don't have to repeat the instructions in various languages. This book aptly describes the vision of didactic Hell and illustrates the reason I never chose teaching as a career choice. This story poses an interesting and fundamental question: who has changed the children or their parents. It is often observed and stated that children are less controlled and respectful than those of previous generations. Where lays the fault? I suspect that it isn't a single reason but a combination of circumstances. This story is intense and heartfelt bringing the reader face to face with life's cruel realities. Life consists of many shades

of grey and not just black and white. This theme weaves its way through the story and leaves the reader with a very important lesson making it more than just a romance or novel. If I would voice one criticism it would be that repeating poor grammar doesn't make it right. I sometimes feel that authors employ poor grammar to make a character more realistic (how sad is that?). Readers get much more out of a book than fleeting pleasure. Every page read brings the reader more information about something. The information I have been receiving over the last few years is that writers now tend to pander to John Q. Public and trade poor grammar to attain popularity; both parties lose.

---