



Behind Closed Doors: A Novel (Briarstone)

By Elizabeth Haynes

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An old case makes Detective Inspector Louisa Smith some new enemies in this spellbinding second installment of *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Haynes's Briarstone crime series that combines literary suspense and page-turning thrills.

Ten years ago, 15-year-old Scarlett Rainsford vanished while on a family holiday in Greece. Was she abducted, or did she run away from her severely dysfunctional family? Lou Smith worked the case as a police constable, and failing to find Scarlett has been one of the biggest regrets of her career. No one is more shocked than Lou to learn that Scarlett has unexpectedly been found during a Special Branch raid of a brothel in Briarstone.

Lou and her Major Crime team are already stretched working two troubling cases: nineteen-year-old Ian Palmer was found badly beaten; and soon after, bar owner Carl McVey was found half-buried in the woods, his Rolex and money gone. While Lou tries to establish the links between the two cases, DS Sam Hollands works with Special Branch to question Scarlett. What happened to her? Where has she been until now? How did she end up back here? And why is her family—with the exception of her emotionally fragile younger sister, Juliette—less than enthusiastic about her return?

When another brutal assault and homicide are linked to the McVey murder, Lou's cases collide, and the clues all point in one terrifying direction. As the pressure and the danger mount, it becomes clear that the silent, secretive Scarlett holds the key to everything.

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Behind Closed Doors: A Novel (Briarstone) By Elizabeth Haynes Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #230195 in Books
- Published on: 2015-03-31
- Released on: 2015-03-31
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 8.00" h x 1.12" w x 5.31" l, .0 pounds
- Binding: Paperback
- 496 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

When a teenager goes missing on a family vacation, the usual questions are raised about whether her disappearance may be due to arguments within the family (running away) or having met a stranger (abduction). With the family of the missing girl being rather close-mouthed about their lives, and the knowledge that she didn't have opportunities to go and meet anyone, the assumption is that she ran away. So when she reappears 10 years later during a raid on a brothel, why won't she tell the police what happened in the intervening years? An even bigger question might be why aren't the family members reuniting now? These are the questions that Detective Louisa Smith hopes to answer, but without much help from either Scarlett or her family. The chapters take place in the present day and through flashbacks, and Scarlett's story and the investigation unfold in surprising ways. The hold human traffickers have on their victims can sometimes trump familial ties, particularly if those ties are frayed from the start. The secrets that the family chooses to keep will shock teens. **VERDICT** A solid choice for fans of darker mysteries, like those of Carol O'Connell or Gillian Flynn.—Laura Pearle, Miss Porter's School, CT

Review

“Harrowing.... Vivid, unsparing prose.... helps make this a haunting, highly disturbing mystery.”
(*Publishers Weekly*)

“An involving police procedural with a protagonist who agonizes about maintaining both a committed personal relationship and a demanding career.” (*Booklist*)

“Haynes pulls no punches.... the skillful police work and superb ending make the reading truly worthwhile. Mystery readers will want more Haynes!” (*Library Journal*)

From the Back Cover

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Users Review

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Alan Robert:

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