

About *SHANTALLOW*

Tanvi isn't the girl of Misha's dreams; she's the girl from his nightmares. She has appeared in his chilling dreams before he even meets her; when he does meet her, he falls for her.

Their relationship turns stormy, bordering on abusive, and takes a dramatic turn when they are held captive by a group hoping to extract money from Tanvi's wealthy family.

But there is something more sinister at work, and the kidnappers and their victims find themselves struggling for survival as a supernatural force from Misha's nightmares makes itself known in the real world.

About CARA MARTIN

Cara Martin is the author of several acclaimed novels for young people published under the name C. K. Kelly Martin. Her most recent novel, *Stricken*, was released in 2017. A graduate of the Film Studies program at York University, Martin has lived in the Greater Toronto Area and Dublin, Ireland. Within the space of 3500 miles she's worked a collection of quirky jobs at multiple pubs and video stores, an electricity company, a division of the Irish post office, a London toy-shop, and an advertising analytics company. She's also been an image editor for a dot-com startup that didn't survive the 90s, and a credit note clerk for Canada's largest national distributor of General Merchandise. Cara currently resides in Ottawa, Ontario with her husband and is still afraid of the Child Catcher from the film adaptation of *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang*.

Curriculum

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 English (Reading and Literature Studies)

Grade 9, 10, 11, 12 Health and Physical Education (Healthy Living — Understanding Health Concepts, Making Healthy Choices, Making Connections for Healthy Living)

Student Objectives

After reading Shantallow, students should be able to:

Grades 9-10:

- Demonstrate the ability to make connections about how their choices and behaviours affect both themselves and others.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the benefits and risks of using electronic communication technologies and describe strategies that they can apply to safely use them.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the skills and strategies needed to build healthy social relationships and intimate relationships; explain how being in an exclusive relationship with another person affects them and their relations with others.
- Describe skills and strategies that can be used to prevent or respond to situations of verbal, physical, and social bullying and sexual harassment.
- Demonstrate the ability to analyse situations involving conflict with others and apply appropriate conflict resolution strategies.

Grades 11-12:

- Describe how to use personal and interpersonal skills to deal with personally stressful situations or to help others deal with stressful situations.
- Demonstrate an understanding of how relationships develop through various stages, and describe the skills and strategies needed to maintain a satisfactory relationship.
- how their communication, coping, and conflict resolution skills and their knowledge of different sources of support can be used to reduce their vulnerability to harassment, violence, or abuse.
- Describe how coping and interpersonal skills and their knowledge of personal protective and risk factors can be used to develop resilience and enhance their ability to make healthy choices.

Getting Started

- Discuss hostage-taking and ideal behaviours and skills to maintain one's personal safety during one. Discuss practices and behaviours that can be promoted to minimize the exposure of themselves and others to this and similar risks.
- Discuss revenge porn and its legal implications.

Discussion Questions

1. Compare Mischa's actions with Tanvi to his father's actions towards his family. How are they similar or different?
2. Where do you think Tealing is and why? Why is the town's setting not defined for the reader?
3. Why do you think Mischa only dreamt of Tanvi, and not the others trapped in Shantallow?
4. Who is Braden? What is his relation to Lauren?
5. What are ways to protect yourself and others from revenge porn, and to stop people from using social media to bully or intimidate you?
6. Why were Mischa and Tanvi being visited by his father and her aunt respectively?
7. Why do you think Lauren is the one possessed?
8. Discuss animals and the presence of zoomorphism in the novel.
9. Where is the phrase "Fearfully and wonderfully made" from, and why would Tanvi try use it to drive Josephine out of Lauren?
10. What is the significance of the name Shantallow?
11. What effect do the pictures add to the narrative?
12. Josephine uses religion to justify her evil. What are some real-life examples of this in the past and in the present day?
13. Discuss the theme of idolatry in the novel. In what ways are Mischa's worship of Tanvi and Josephine's worship of God different or the same?

Discussion Questions Cont'd

14. The fight-or-flight instinct often takes center stage in the horror genre. How do Mischa and the other characters react when confronted with the book's monsters, both ordinary and paranormal?
15. In what ways does history come to bear on characters in the novel?