



BLUE DELTA BOOKS

FAMILY TIES

SHANNA SILVA

CHAPTER 1

DETENTION

Mia King watched the clock. There wasn't much else to do in detention.

Bored students filled the classroom. A teacher scrolled through his phone. He barely looked up.

The boy next to Mia stuck gum under his desk.

“Gross,” Mia mumbled.

He chuckled. “Sorry. Hey, I haven't seen you here before. What did you do?”

She looked down. “I cut PE. What about you?”

“I got in a fight. Why did you cut?”

The teacher glanced up. “No talking!”

Mia was relieved. She didn’t want to explain. It was embarrassing. Sports were hard for her. No one ever wanted her on their team. When a ball came her way, she ducked.

Today, her PE class had played dodgeball. Rather than suffer, Mia had gone to the library. That was her happy place. It was where she found her only link to the outside world.

Mia’s homelife was boring. Her parents were loving, but her house felt like a jail. She had no phone. Social media was off-limits. Their family didn’t have internet. Guests weren’t permitted. Mia wasn’t even allowed to drive.

It didn’t make sense. She was responsible. Her grades were good. Other than this one

detention, Mia never got into trouble. Why were her parents so strict?

Mia was an only child. She was lonely. There was no extended family. All the rules made life even worse. Plus, her small Idaho town was so dull. It actually had a potato museum.

She dreamed of leaving. A whole world was waiting for Mia. It was hers to explore. College was only two years away. Then she would have freedom.

Finally, the bell rang. Students filed out of the classroom.

Mia zipped up her jacket. She began the walk home. Few people were on the streets. The sleepy town was closing up for the day. She took a shortcut through a parking lot.

An eerie feeling came over her. Was someone watching her? Mia just knew she was being followed. She rushed to the corner and dodged

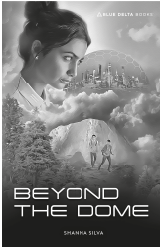
behind a bush. That was when she saw a man. He was dressed in black. A cap and sunglasses hid his face.

The man passed her on the other side of the street. Mia's heart raced. She was tempted to return to school. But that would take her farther from home.

Mia counted to 20. Then she peeked out. The street was clear. She raced to the next block.

The last thing she remembered was being grabbed. Then there was a sharp poke in her neck. It felt like the stab of a needle. Everything went black.

FICTION



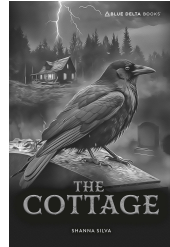
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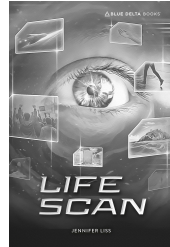
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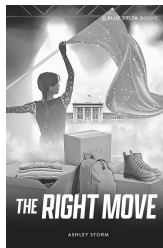
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THRILLER

FAMILY TIES

Stuck in a boring little town, Mia wants something exciting to happen. But getting kidnapped on the way home from school is not what she had in mind. Now Mia is trapped in a world she knows nothing about, and her time may be running out.



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