



Magnolia Publishing

"Books for those Southern or Southern at Heart"

“THE SEARCH FOR SHANNON”

Set in southern Mississippi and southeast Georgia, The Search for Shannon is the second novel by author Vicki Allen. It is the story of four women brought together by the birth and subsequent adoption of one child. Andie, the elusive blonde who fled her Texas hometown with a deeply hidden secret only to return twenty years to right the wrongs and reveal the truth. Dana, Andie's daughter, raised by her father but hungers only for her mother's love. Diana, the pampered southern belle who could have anything, except the one thing she longs for most, and Zoe, the golden child, torn between two families and the question of her heritage.

Excerpted from Chapter One

It was happening again: The bright lights, the frantic bustle of activity, the guttural screams of a young girl. Amid the shadowy figures and muffled voices, the girl thrashed and moaned, desperately clutching the cold metal rails on either side of her. She didn't think she could endure much more. She grabbed the hand of a passing figure, her voice hoarse as she shrieked in pain. "Please, please, make it stop! Please." The torture seemed to last forever.

At last, it was over. A baby came into the world, kicking and screaming, her terrified cry like sweet music to the girl's ears. She fell back against the bed, an exhausted smile on her face, accepting the baby with ready arms. "My baby," whispered the girl, gazing down at her with tender eyes.

She was beautiful...a perfectly shaped little face, pink cheeks, rosebud lips. What mother could ask for more? The girl stroked the baby's cheek. She cradled her close and pressed her lips to her soft skin, gently whispering her name. "If only your father could see you," she said.

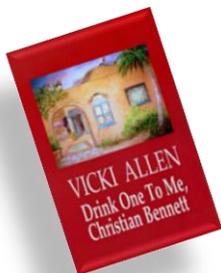
A figure in white appeared next to her, looking down with a frown. "It's time," she said, reaching for the child.

"Please," protested the girl, holding the baby tight. "Just a few more minutes,"

"No. It's time," She ripped the baby from the girl's arms, ignoring her tears, and darted swiftly to the door.

"No!" The girl let out an anguished wail, lunging weakly for the side of the bed, only to be stopped by another set of hands. "No!" she screamed. "Don't take my baby! Shannon!"

The woman awoke with a start, cold beads of perspiration standing on her brow and upper lip.



“Drink One To Me, Christian Bennett,” the fourth novel from author Vicki Allen is now available from Magnolia Publishing.

Trembling, she looked around the room, running a nervous hand through her hair as she tried to figure out what had happened. Then she remembered.

"The dream again," she moaned, pulling her knees protectively into her chest. "Will it ever go away?"

She'd heard that time heals all wounds, but she didn't believe it. Time had not healed her wounds, nor had it taken away her pain. She lay back against her pillows, miserable tears streaming down her face while memories stabbed cruelly at her heart.

She had never recovered, nor would she ever be the same. Years had passed with little reprieve. Her soul still ached as though it had been only yesterday. She would never again be content until she found Shannon.

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About Magnolia Publishing: Founded in 1999 and headquartered in Pineville, La., Magnolia Publishing has emerged to become the largest and oldest independent book publisher in Central Louisiana. Now entering its second decade, Magnolia—a family-owned, specialty publisher—serves up nostalgic literary treats for *Audiences Who Are Southern or Southern At Heart*. This, coupled with author, Vicki Allen—and her ability to articulate southern ideals and sensibilities—has created a loyal following of multi-generational fans. In April 2009, Magnolia released *Drink One To Me, Christian Bennett*, the fourth novel by Allen, whose previous works include *For Molly*, a southern coming-of-age story (1999); *The Search for Shannon*, fiction finalist for the Oklahoma Book Award (2000); and *The Return* (2002). Allen's books are available in select boutiques and specialty gift shops and online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, Booksamillion.com, MagnoliaPublishing.com and others.