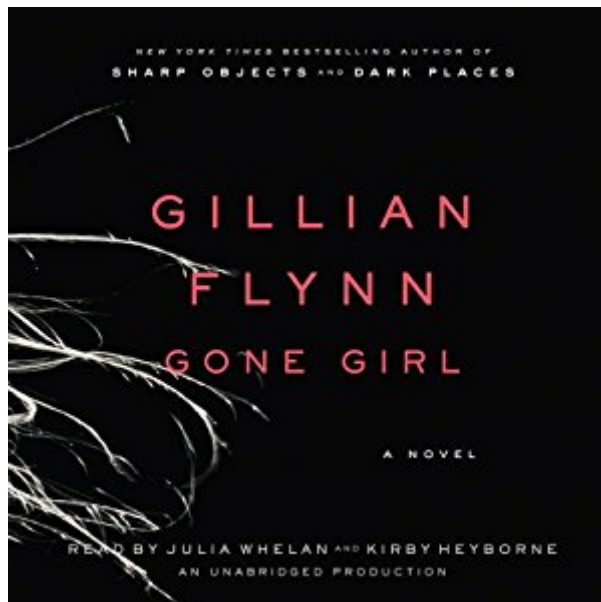


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Gone Girl: A Novel



Synopsis

Marriage can be a real killer. One of the most critically acclaimed suspense writers of our time, New York Times best seller Gillian Flynn, takes that statement to its darkest place in this unpausable masterpiece about a marriage gone terribly, terribly wrong. The Chicago Tribune proclaimed that her work "draws you in and keeps you reading with the force of a pure but nasty addiction." *Gone Girl*'s toxic mix of sharp-edged wit and deliciously chilling prose creates a nerve-fraying thriller that confounds you at every turn. On a warm summer morning in North Carthage, Missouri, it is Nick and Amy Dunne's fifth wedding anniversary. Presents are being wrapped and reservations are being made when Nick's clever and beautiful wife disappears from their rented McMansion on the Mississippi River. Husband-of-the-Year Nick isn't doing himself any favors with cringe-worthy daydreams about the slope and shape of his wife's head, but passages from Amy's diary reveal the alpha-girl perfectionist could have put anyone dangerously on edge. Under mounting pressure from the police and the media - as well as Amy's fiercely doting parents - the town golden boy parades an endless series of lies, deceits, and inappropriate behavior. Nick is oddly evasive, and he's definitely bitter - but is he really a killer? As the cops close in, every couple in town is soon wondering how well they know the one that they love. With his twin sister, Margo, at his side, Nick stands by his innocence. Trouble is, if Nick didn't do it, where is that beautiful wife? And what was in that silvery gift box hidden in the back of her bedroom closet? With her razor-sharp writing and trademark psychological insight, Gillian Flynn delivers a fast-paced, devilishly dark, and ingeniously plotted thriller that confirms her status as one of the hottest writers around.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The marriage of Nick and Amy starts out as a match made in heaven. However, after they lose their jobs in New York, they move back to Nick's hometown in Missouri as Nick's mom has cancer. They spend the last of Amy's trust fund from her parents' sales of the books "Amazing Amy" to open a bar. Amy is unemployed, frustrated and unhappy. Nick is a part-time professor and engages in an affair with a student. Amy discovers the affair and decides to kill herself, setting Nick up as the prime suspect for the murder. On the day of their fifth wedding anniversary, Amy goes missing. At first Nick is worried, then becomes alarmed, as does the rest of the town. Told from alternating points of view, Nick and Amy tell their stories through conversation (Nick) and a diary (Amy). However, their stories do not match. Amy is hiding out and uses her fake diary to lead police to believe Nick is her killer. Amy leads Nick on a treasure hunt for their anniversary, that only points to his guilt. Amy changes her mind and decides to go on the run, rather than commit suicide. She is hiding out in a motel but loses her money when she is robbed by fellow guests. Desperate, she seeks help from her first boyfriend, Desi. He agrees to hide her, but she is just setting him up as well. She claims Desi kidnapped and raped her. Nick wants to divorce Amy after all she has done to him. But she blackmails him into staying with a pregnancy. Although they haven't had sex, Nick is the father! Overall it is a very interesting story. The fake-diary really makes you hate Amy as you learn what a total sociopath she is. Amy is CRAZY!

The stories of Amy and Nick are told in alternate chapters. The marriage of Nick and Amy turns toxic when they lose their jobs in New York and move back to their hometown in Missouri. Amy is unhappy, disappears and is presumed dead, with Nick the prime suspect. **SPOILER ALERT** for description that follows. On the day of their fifth wedding anniversary, Amy goes missing. At first Nick is worried, then becomes alarmed, as does the rest of the town. Told from alternating points of view, Nick and Amy tell their stories through conversation (Nick) and a diary (Amy). However, their stories do not match. Amy is hiding out and uses her fake diary to lead police to believe Nick is her killer since she has "disappeared." Amy is running low on money when she is robbed by fellow guests of a motel. Desperate, she seeks help from her first boyfriend, Desi. He agrees to hide her but keeps her almost a prisoner. Amy disappears under very disturbing circumstances. Nick and Amy Dunne were the golden couple when they first began their courtship. Soul mates. They could complete each other's sentences, guess each other's reactions. They could push each other's

buttons. They are smart, charming, gorgeous, and also narcissistic, selfish, and cruel. The book ends with Amy writing that she is about to give birth to her son, and that she has written a memoir about her abduction by Desi. Nick had begun writing his own memoir exposing Amy's murderous, manipulative tendencies, but he deleted it when Amy (who knew he had wanted a child for years), revealed her pregnancy. The ending shows Nick and Amy back together, with Nick being kind and gentle, loving the thought of becoming a father. He decides that if he can return to being the man Amy fell in love with, he could be happy and make himself happy. Things I liked are: Fresh language, humor, irony. Also the anniversary stories Amy conjures up to amuse Nick

I've heard so much about this book and have wanted to read it for a while now; but I was soooo nervous it'd be overhyped so let me preface this review by saying it was well worth its hype! That being said, I'm really frustrated with its ending. I wanted the story to be wrapped with a nice, pretty, happy ending, and it WASN'T. But I loved the writing style. I was hooked early and it continued to maintain its good pacing. Each character felt three-dimensional because they had their own dialect, personalities, and clear motivations. I started off liking Nick and as we learned more about him, I liked him less and even hated him for a bit; until we met Amy in "part 2". From part 2 onward, I HATED AMY. Did mention how much I grew to HATE Amy? I've never hated a character as much as I grew to hate Amy, then I began to feel sorry for Nick and everyone who Amy has interacted with. This was quite the page-turner. I got nervous, sad, angry, confused, anxious, scared, and lots of other emotions. This is one of my top reads for the year. I fully intend to give Gillian's other books a try after reading this. P.S.: Just one olive though.

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