



Gone In Seconds

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When the skeleton of a young woman is found near a West Midlands motorway, evidence suggests that it is that of teenager Molly James, who went missing five years ago. Forensic psychologist Dr Kate Hanson and the Unsolved Crime Unit are called in to re-investigate Molly's case, but the deeper they dig the dirtier the clues get!

Gone In Seconds Details

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From Reader Review Gone In Seconds for online ebook

Garry Stevens says

One of the least engaging crime novels I have ever read. I really had to push myself to move on to each new chapter. Each chapter read like the one before, with little movement in plot or character, With the exception of the protagonist, all the characters are blandly the same, despite the author's indifferent attempts to differentiate them. Her prose is beige and plotting half-hearted.

One minor, but very niggling, irritation I had was that the author has her British child characters refer to their mothers as "mom", not "Mum". Yes, I know, it's a tiny irritation, but it did nothing to endear me to the author.

I got the feeling that the author just wasn't that interested in writing this novel, and would have preferred to be somewhere else.

The only time the author really perks up is when she describes her protagonist's clothing and name-drops her accessories, which she does every few pages. Some may find that riveting. I just found it annoyingly sexist.

Saji Connor says

Devo confessare che questa volta mi è stato difficile capire quanto questo libro mi sia piaciuto. Il perché ve lo spiego ora.

Della trama non devo aggiungere nulla a quello che è stato già descritto in quella ufficiale che ho riportato qui sopra, se non che nel libro si parla molto di più della vita privata della protagonista, la psicologa forense Kate Hanson. Si racconta del suo rapporto con la figlia teenager Masie e del suo debole per il collega Joe Corrigan proveniente dagli Stati Uniti e del rapporto logoro con il suo ex-marito.

Uno stuolo di personaggi abbastanza ampio dei quali nessuno riesce a spiccare per caratteristiche particolari; sono tutti piazzati nella storia per ricoprire un ruolo ed un compito ben preciso e rimangono lì al solo servizio della scrittrice. Nessuna empatia con nessuno di loro e nessuna simpatia o antipatia particolare.

Questa situazione mi ha un po' confusa perché di solito se non trovo alcun personaggio con cui "legare" in modo positivo o negativo che sia, la lettura mi scivola addosso indifferente, invece in questo caso ho trovato avvincente tutta la storia, dalla prima all'ultima pagina.

Quindi la domanda mi sorge spontanea: il libro mi è piaciuto? La storia sì e non mi sono annoiata neanche per una delle oltre 540 pagine, ma i personaggi erano tutti troppo anonimi, anche il gatto della protagonista era banale. Non un capolavoro, ma di certo una storia intrigante e non scontata. Sicuramente mi leggerò anche i libri successivi della serie, primo perché la storia e gli intrecci mi sono piaciuti, secondo perché ho fiducia che la costruzione dei personaggi possa migliorare.

Joyce says

In het boek *In het niets verdwenen* is de hoofdrol voor forensisch psycholoog Kate Hanson. Zij is verbonden aan de Universiteit van Birmingham en ook het cold case team van de politie in Birmingham bij in hun zoektocht naar de waarheid. De politie wordt geconfronteerd met de vondst van het lichaam van Molly. Zij is

jaren geleden in het niets verdwenen in een winkelcentrum, zonder enig spoor. Bij het lichaam worden vele sporen gevonden en het team probeert nu eindelijk de waarheid boven water te krijgen.

Op de cover een quote "als je van Criminal Minds, Bones en Rizzoli & Isles houdt". Dit is een marketing lokkertje, welke niet geheel klopt met de inhoud van het boek. Tijdens het lezen van het boek, is deze associatie nooit bij me opgenomen en ik ben een fan van deze series. Dit wil echter niet zeggen dat het geen goed boek is. Het is gelijk duidelijk dat A.J. Cross uit de eigen ervaring als forensisch psycholoog schrijft. Veel kennis van zaken en in het begin ook een soort van de verdediging tegen "CSI land". Tot eenderde van het boek waren het veel lange verhandelingen van gesprekken en gedachten, daarna kwam er meer actie en vaart in het boek en de gebeurtenissen in het verhaal.

Echter de spanning heb ik een beetje gemist in het boek, het is interessant om te lezen hoe Kate in de hoofden van de misdadigers kruipt en ze probeert te lezen en ontmaskeren. Tijdens dit proces wordt ze tegengewerkt door de "ouderwetse" rechercheurs, die dit maar raar vinden. Dit geeft wel wat actie aan het boek.

Ik geef het boek 3 sterren.

Kevin Parker says

Not very good

Melinda Elizabeth says

The first in a series about forensic psychologist Kate Hanson, *Gone in Seconds* is an introductory novel to the main character and her quirks.

Kate is working at a University and moonlighting at police headquarters helping with unsolved crimes. They are called in to help when old bodies of young women start turning up and appear to be connected. As they fish through the old information stored at the office, Kate begins to think that maybe it's an inside job and they are closer than they ever thought they could be to the culprit.

Kate's a bit of a frustrating character in regards to her development, there's a lot of cyclical thinking and musing that just prolongs the inevitable. There's a few character relationships that are leaning heavily on an assumption that the reader will just go with the flow, but it feels like I've picked up a book that's 2-3 books in rather than being the first in the series.

It's a bit slow going, but the end is good and there's enough to go on to be interested in other books in the series.

AmbWitch says

This was the worst book that I read in 2015 (yep, my review is late). It was incredibly boring, and there were

so many times that I became frustrated with Kate Hanson, the main character. My brother's girlfriend lent it to me but didn't tell me that she had only got a couple of chapters in before giving up on it until after I had ploughed through it. I did have to tell her that it did get a little more interesting later on, but not enough for me to rate it higher than 2 stars.

Kate Hanson is a forensic psychologist (as is the author) who is called in to help in the investigation of a murdered teenager who went missing years prior. She works alongside a small police task force and does an awful lot of policing herself. Though of course, if she only had the input into the case that forensic psychologists do in the real world, then there would not have been as much of a story, so I will let that slide. There were many twists in the book and only right near the end did we find out who the killer was. One of the book's only redeeming qualities was that I didn't figure out who the murderer was until just before it was revealed (I think everyone would have figured it out at that point).

The plot of the book was interesting but unfortunately the writing was not and I found it quite a dull book. I've seen a lot of mixed reviews of this book in regards to how gripping it was so I guess *Cross's* writing only worked for some. I unfortunately was not one of them. None of the characters really stood out to me and I didn't feel any connection to any of them, not really caring what their fates were. For me, connecting to a character is very important and here, it just did not happen.

Now for the things that made me want to throw the book at the wall. Right near the beginning Kate is teaching a class and puts up photos of 'victims' and photos of 'predators.' All the victims were female and all the predators were male. Yes, in the particular sort of crime she was looking at, the majority of the time it was males that were the predators and females were the victims but not 100% of the time and this was what it seemed to be suggesting to me. I don't know whether it was intended to come across that way but it did rather annoy me. There was not one point throughout the book that it suggested that it was ever the other way around.

What irked me even more was the main character. She was supposed to be a forensic psychologist who had a lot of experience with violent crime, yet she would miss things that were blatantly obvious and when things started happening around her own house she never questioned them. It came across to me that she didn't have the experience she was supposed to have.

So yeh, I was not all that impressed with this book. I don't intend to read the others in the series and do not recommend it to anyone. I think that the only reason I hung on until the end was due to the plot which was not bad, it was just let down by the writing and the characters.

Sarah says

When the skeleton of a young woman is found near a West Midlands motorway, evidence suggests that it is that of teenager Molly James, who went missing five years ago. Forensic psychologist Dr Kate Hanson and the Unsolved Crime Unit are called in to re-investigate Molly's case. The deeper they dig the dirtier the clues get, and when a second set of remains is unearthed Kate suspects they're looking for a Repeater: a killer who will adapt, grow and not stop until they are caught. Will Dr Hanson manage to unravel the tangle of clues

that the killer has left behind before he has a chance to take another innocent victim?

I didn't find this engaging ... I kept drifting off and really had to concentrate to trawl through this, which isn't what I look for in a thriller. Disappointed as the plot was excellent, just poorly presented in my opinion.

CuteBadger says

In a novel written by a forensic psychologist, Dr Kate Hanson (a forensic psychologist) is working with a police Unsolved Crime Unit in Birmingham (UK) on the disappearance of a teenage girl some years before. More than one body is found, and when new crimes follow the old, the perpetrator must be found quickly.

I read a lot of crime fiction and really wanted to like this more than I did. I'm all for female protagonists in any novels, and particularly in crime novels, but I have to say that I found this book tired and formulaic. It almost felt like it had been written to a checklist - female professional not respected by her police bosses, dysfunctional love life, family problems, potential love affair in the offing, local colour etc. It reminded me more than a little of Kathy Reichs' novels with the substitution of forensic psychology for forensic pathology. One character reminded me of someone in the Patricia Cornwell Scarpetta books and there are several nods in the direction of Val McDermid's Tony Hill novels.

It isn't a bad novel, I just found it quite average and not very original. None of the characters particularly jumped out at me and I didn't feel anything much for Kate Hanson. I wouldn't make a point of seeking out any further novels in the series.

All this may just be the result of the large number of crime novels I read. Those who only read the occasional one might have a better time with *Gone in Seconds*.

All in all worth a go if you're in the mood, but probably not a must read for crime aficionados.

Mieke Schepens says

Terwijl je leest lijkt het alsof je naar een film kijkt. Een heel spannende film!

De keuze voor de titel wordt tijdens het lezen als snel duidelijk.

Het verhaal is heel onderhoudend en de manier van denken van Kate is goed te volgen omdat het goed gefundamenteerde meningen zijn. Tijdens het lezen leer je meer over deze forensisch psycholoog Kate, haar gezin en haar werkomgeving.

Het is een boek van formaat, 432 pagina's, maar onderverdeeld in prettige hoofdstukken, niet te lang en daardoor goed te lezen.

Het beroep van de auteur, een forensisch psycholoog is een waarmerk voor geloofwaardigheid.

Daardoor leest het verhaal ook zo fijn vermoed ik. De manier van denken van de hoofdpersoon wordt als vanzelfsprekend neergezet. Het voelt daarom heel natuurlijk, niet gekunsteld.

Wat ik jammer vond is dat er hier en daar wel heel lang en uitgebreid ingegaan werd op bepaalde beschrijvingen van personen en de manier van werken waardoor het wat minder spannend werd op die passages.

Een pluspunt is dat er niet veel vragen zijn die niet beantwoord worden, dat vind ikzelf altijd prettig. Ik wil wel graag meer over haar verleden weten en over wat er precies met haar gebeurd is.

En dan is er nóg een ding waar ik wat meer over wil weten. Dat is: wat gebeurt er verder tussen Joe en Kate? Wordt dat nog iets tussen die twee of 'we zijn gewoon vrienden'?
Ontzettend knap, zo'n debuut!
Ik hoop op een vervolg van de belevenissen van Dr. Kate Hanson.

Anna Hepworth says

Hated the characters, hated the writing, hated the multiple layers of unpleasantness in the private lives of the characters. Actual villain was a surprise, but there were good clues leading up to it. Apart from anything else, I got frustrated by the rather random attacks of loving detail, such as the main character's clothing and breakfast.

Caroline Ingvaldsen says

First in a forensic psychology series set in Birmingham: featuring a strong female lead supported by an engaging support team and grounded in domestic detail and burgeoning romance.

Jenni says

I thought this was a decent enough read plot and pacing wise, but I couldn't really warm to any of the characters, and I couldn't really get sucked into reading it properly. Also there were a few moments where I felt I was being patronised by the author which meant despite how much I wanted to like the book, and in fact it should be right up my alley, I certainly won't be rereading or reading the inevitable next in the series.

Jay Phillips says

Ok, I'd had enough of the psychotherapist bull by the 100th page. I'm not really one for crime novels but it was nice to have the regional setting.

Love to read book club, book of choice, April to May 2013

GiuliaS says

La trama è davvero interessante, ma purtroppo non sviluppata bene come speravo. Gli omicidi non sono esaminati in modo preciso, tanto che non sono riuscita a visualizzare mentalmente le vittime, un vero peccato visto l'importanza che l'assassino dà alla 'performance'.

I personaggi vengono presentati a caso e male, tanto che il colpevole sembra sbucare fuori dal nulla...

Speravo in un finale migliore (un assassino con un problema psicologico così particolare aveva un potenziale fantastico)

Interessanti le nozioni di criminologia sparse per il libro, anche se non sono spiegate particolarmente bene per mia fortuna, studiando criminologia, sapevo di cosa parlavano.

Come lettura è stata buona, per nulla pesante e in certe parti intesessante. Consigliato a persone interessate a psicopatici serial killer, ma che sono facilmente impressionabili: nonostante le premesse, non ci sono scene particolarmente esplicite.

Francesca Morelli says

Ho cominciato a leggere questo thriller dopo che avevo letto la trama e le recensioni sparse nel web. Devo ammettere che alcune erano azzeccate e non me ne vogliate se quasi ripeto le stesse cose.

L'ho trovato troppo lungo per la storia che raccontava, le indagini erano un pò dispersive.

Troppe riunioni solo per ripetere sempre le stesse cose. Quando c'erano dei colpi di scena arrivavano in sordina e scemavano allo stesso modo.

Solo alla fine si è cominciato a sentire il ritmo serrato della caccia al killer, ma doveva catturare una ragazza vicina alla dottoressa Hanson per poter finalmente percepire ritmo, suspense, colpi di scena ... posso aggiungere che alla fine mentre il sospettato sembrava uno si è scoperto che l'assassino era un altro, ma siccome l'ho letto molto lentamente, avendo delle pause, non sono neanche riuscita a ricostruire chi fosse il colpevole.

Era comparso nei capitoli precedenti ma è stato così effimera la sua presenza che non sapevo chi fosse o in quale parte l'avesse introdotto nella storia.

Ma tornare a leggere daccapo il punto dove l'aveva introdotto non se ne parla nemmeno quindi sono rimasta lì un pò spiazzata.

Diciamo che non sono rimasta così contenta da poter desiderare di comprare un altro libro della stessa autrice.
