



# Gone

*Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson*

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## **Gone** Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson

No more pity love for Connor, from aunts and neighbors, from missing mothers and fathers. From drunks. No, this time the real thing is his. He just has to take it. Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson, known for "riveting" fiction (Kirkus Reviews, starred review of Target), digs deep into the heart of a forbidden relationship. Sometimes, she tells us, loneliness can send a boy down a dangerous path. Sometimes, it can take a while to find the way back.

## **Gone Details**

Date : Published March 6th 2007 by Roaring Brook Press

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Author : Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson

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## From Reader Review Gone for online ebook

### Todd says

Nasty little book that plays on the interest in female teachers having sex with male students. This is a great example of everything that is wrong with the publishing industry, American culture, and the art of writing crap in exchange for money. Sadly, a lot of high school kids will have interest in this one. Let's just say, it isn't censorship when a library decides not to purchase a title because it lacks any kind of literary or cultural value. I'm convinced this one was written in a couple of three-day weekends.

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### Elizabeth says

This book is very naïve. Indeed, the sex scenes are completely laughable. The cover is enticing. The whole "A student. A teacher. Crossing the line." thing. Dramatic but enticing. However, once I started reading, it was obvious that this book was a write-off. It's very poorly written, and the plotline is naught. The characters are gross and annoying. The ending is pathetic. It's all-around just really weak. Try and avoid it if you can.

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### Nicole says

Terrible, as expected. I'm not offended by the subject matter (hell, I read *Teach Me*) but I am offended by the writing. Good thing it was only an ARC and no actual money was exchanged for this experience.

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### Melody says

17-year-old Connor isn't happy with his life (to be exact, he is two weeks away from being 18). He feels unloved and that his life is being brought down by his alcoholic parents; his father is institutionalized in a nursing home after an accident caused by his drinking and though his mother is seeking help to curb her drinking problem, Connor doesn't really trust her as there are times that she gives in to drinking again. With no one to rely on, Connor lives with his aunt and simply waiting for his time so he could live on his own after finding a real job instead of flipping burgers.

It is through an encounter that allows Connor to meet up with his history teacher, Ms. Corinna Timms once again. And it is easy to see why he is attracted to her, after all the 31-year-old Corinna is attractive and she makes Connor feels that she is the only person who takes notice of him. However, she is not perfect as one thinks for she has her dark past too. It doesn't take long for them to begin an affair, but could their relationship last and would it be accepted by the society?

On the cover, *Gone* may give people the impression that it is a story about forbidden love between a teacher and a student. But after reading it, I found that it goes beyond that. Aside from the teacher-student affair premise, it also tells a story about a teenage boy finding himself as well as finding a place to call home. Connor felt his life has been revolving around his alcoholic parents, and deep in his heart he wants to live his own life and not having others to show pity on him. This explains why he is drawn to Corinna, because the latter makes him feel like a real person instead of a charity case.

While Corinna is also attracted to him, however I wasn't sure if her feelings towards Connor is simply based on lust or love. I think Connor is truly in love with her, because his actions towards the end speaks volumes about how he feels for her. But in the end, she was gone, as the title indicates. Did she leave because she thought of her past, or did she leave because she knew there would be no future in regards to her relationship with Connor? These questions were never answered, and it made me feeling disappointed and perplexed. Honestly speaking, I didn't know how I should feel for Connor in the end. Sorry that he was being dumped? Or happy that the ending has somewhat made him realised where his real home is? I think it is up to the readers to decipher and decide.

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### **Kaitlain says**

i honestly thought it was interesting. i mean the ending could've been better. i just wasn't expecting it. i knew it was going to be a student teacher love affair thing but i guess i just wanted the ending to be a little better. maybe i'm the type of person who just likes happy endings but i thought it would've been better if connor's plan with corinna would've worked.

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### **Rory M. says**

In light of all the recent teacher sex scandals in the United States I wanted to read this book to see how a relationship between a female teacher and a former male student would be portrayed for a young adult audience (YA defined as 14+ years old).

The sexual scenes between the main character, Connor, and his former teacher, Ms. Timms, are gratuitous at best. The only positive of this entire novel was Connor's epiphany in the final chapter. He sees a pattern to his behavior in how he was forced to act in relation to his alcoholic parents and in his willingness to take on that parental role again for Ms. Timms, who we learn, in an earlier chapter, is a recovering addict herself. What takes most people a lifetime to discover about themselves, Connor does in a matter of minutes (or 3 pages in Johnson's world). Obviously, this novel is completely unbelievable.

Johnson leaves her readers wondering, "what's the point...what's the big message here?" especially for the young adult audience this novel was marketed to.

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### **Maggi says**

This book was really not that fabulous. The characters were pretty innocent for seniors in high school- I mean come on, I just ended sophomore year, and I'm much more mature than that. I think if the author had made it a bit longer, fleshed out more of a plot and connected us to the characters more, this book would've been better. But it was so short that I found I really didn't care about, nor understand, any of the characters whatsoever. Not recommended.

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### **Emily says**

This book was weeeiiiiirrrdd!!! never ask tessa for wat books to read!

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### **Jennifer says**

Not that I was expecting a book about an almost-18-year-old having an affair with his former teacher to be an amazing story, but I wasn't expecting it to be as bad as it was. The affair part didn't bother me nearly as much as the sloppy writing and poorly developed plotline.

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### **shannon says**

nothing like a quick little YA read about sleeping with your teacher.

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### **Sindi soto says**

First of this book is really cool knowing that its based on a student and a teacher. It all starts when Connor fell in love with ms. Timms. Connor fell in love with ms. Timms but yet he loved her because he thought she was so beutyfull he did not show his fellings for her. Also, ms. Timms did not show hers eather she started to like Connor but did not say eanything. Instead ms. Timms started to invite Connor and zash to go and have something iguess that was her way of getting near and talking to Connor. Finnaly im not really done with the book but for what i have read its getting pretty amazing and hope it keeps geting better than it is now.

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### **Readingee says**

This book was interesting, I liked it! I do believe the story was sort of lousy and weak in a way. I feel like that Connor was too naive to understand the circumstances. In a way, this book sort of reminded me of "Wide Sargasso Sea", how all Connor wanted was sex, their relationship was built on lust and sensuality. Connor didn't seem as distraught as I expected when his father died, it was odd - however it didn't seem that Connor loved his father enough to be capable of that sort of emotion. I did enjoy this book thought, especially the tagline on the front of the book "A teacher, a student, crossing the line"! Hahahaha, that is sort of what compelled me to read the book. I agree with many of you when you say the ending was confusing, I certainly did - it was really weird, and I don't think it should have ended that way. I think the story needed to be slightly longer in order for us readers to understand this story a little more.

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### **Allison says**

WTF

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## Laura says

Meh. I borrowed *Gone* from the library due to its intriguing cover and the fact that a friend had specifically not recommended it to me, saying I'd hate it. I decided to read it anyways, going in with a positive attitude and hoping to prove her wrong. Unfortunately, she knew me too well.

As I've mentioned several times in previous reviews, I love original and refreshing plots and characters. *Gone* lacked both of these. Knowing that the novel was about a student-teacher romance I expected high-stakes and angst but instead it was causal, bland, and boring. I ended up finding Connor's neighbours' and friends' lives more interesting than Connor's. His mother's alcoholism was random and didn't really affect the plot other than to isolate Connor from his family, which I guess may have led Connor to seek companionship in Corinna? One of the most poorly written aspects was the romance between Corinna and Connor. I didn't understand the initial attraction or the sexual tension. I thought it was really juvenile and unrealistic that they'd fall in love with each other in only a week and become so intimate so quickly. This was definitely not an accurate representation of how relationships, let alone student-teacher relationships evolve.

I think Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson tried to tackle too many issues in such a short novel and it ended up as a jumble in the end. Alcoholism, death, teenage romance, sexuality, student-teacher relationships, drug abuse, loneliness, abuse, etc. are all very controversial and tough issues to conquer individually let alone all in the same novel. I wish that Connor's thought process had been more clearly explained, for example if he had compared his relationship to Zach and Risa's and seen the differences for him and Corinna the reader might have understood why he wanted to move with her so badly. In novels like this it's so hard to write an ending that applies to each of these topics so in the end Kathleen focused on isolation (hence the title "*Gone*") which may have worked as a final chapter if there weren't so many other pressing issues and logistics left unfinished.

Despite not liking the overall novel there were a few points I did enjoy. I thought it was very creative to have the student-teacher romance not take place during the school year or on school property but rather in the summer, where the chances of being caught and the repercussions were a bit different. I liked how Corinna was an average formally-troubled woman who happened to fall in love with a student as opposed to a sensual provocative woman luring every male at school. The fact that she was as isolated and naive as Connor made her seem more like a fellow student than someone almost 10 years older than him.

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## Christie says

Connor, the 17-year-old protagonist of Kathleen Jeffrie Johnson's YA novel, *Gone*, is straddling the fence between innocence and experience. He has just graduated from high school, lives with his Aunt Syl, and visits his father in a nursing home where he has been living ever since he crashed his car while driving drunk. His mother is also a recovering alcoholic. He is certainly vulnerable to the advances of Corinna Timms.

Ms. Timms was one of Connor's high school teachers.

*Zach...called Ms. Timms serious babe material – too bad she was their teacher. Connor called her, just to himself, beautiful. Half the time in her class had been spent trying not to stare at her, then failing his resolve, ducking his head when she turned around from the blackboard and caught him.*

*For the nanosecond that their eyes locked – what?*

It's this what that drives the narrative of *Gone*. As Connor moves through his days, avoiding his mother, working at Chow Line, hanging with his friend, Zach – he does his best to avoid thinking about his growing feelings for Ms. Timms. But it is clear to the reader (and Connor's closest friends) that something is happening. And make no mistake – the fuel for Connor's growing obsession is hormones.

Connor's feelings for Ms. Timms are, in part, exacerbated by his parental issues. When his father dies and his mother, newly sober, comes to town, Connor is forced to confront some of his painful family problems. By then, though, things with Ms. Timms have crossed the platonic line and his world spins off its axis.

*Gone* is not a love story. Ms. Timms has her own demons. In the end, she comes across more as predator than genuine friend. And while Connor's world does shift dangerously off track, he is a smart kid and I suspect that he'll be okay in the end.

This book won't be everyone's cup of YA tea. But it's intelligent and well-written, although there is some strong language. Obviously.

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