



Gone

Rebecca Muddiman

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Emma Thorley is gone...but not forgotten. GONE is a twisty story of murder, guilt and unintended consequences from an exciting new crime novelist.

250,000 people go missing in the UK every year.

91% of those reported to police are found within 48 hours.

99% of cases are solved within a year.

And 1% stay gone.

Eleven years ago, troubled teenager Emma Thorley went missing. The police assumed she was a runaway. But now a body has been found in woods near Blyth.

DI Michael Gardner knows he didn't take Emma's disappearance seriously enough back then, and is determined to make up for it now. But when he and DS Nicola Freeman start to reinvestigate, they discover that nothing is as simple as it seems.

As news of the discovery travels, the past will come back to haunt all those involved. Because there are consequences when good people do bad things, and some secrets cannot stay buried for ever...

Gone Details

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Author : Rebecca Muddiman

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From Reader Review Gone for online ebook

Samantha Kilford says

For this review and more bookish posts visit my blog [here](#)

Thank you to Mulholland Books for sending me a copy of Gone in exchange for an honest review.

A gripping and well written British crime story, Gone was just absolutely phenomenal.

I haven't read anything from Rebecca Muddiman before, but after devouring this over the space of three days I might have to pick up her other book Stolen which is part of the same series as Gone. Muddiman's writing is just compelling and I can assure you that if you haven't read Stolen it will not be a problem when it comes to enjoying Gone. I have had a quick look at the summary myself and the basic outline of what happens in Stolen is recapped briefly in this second novel. Although, if Gone is anything to go by then I will definitely be giving Stolen a read.

Dropping the reader right into the action, I was instantly fixated with this story line. You'll know by now that I adore crime thrillers due to the immense amount of fun it is to follow the detectives on their case. As I've said before, I would not make a very good detective but not even the cops in Gone had this one sussed. There are just so many twists!

What I also liked was how an equal amount of focus is given to both the suspects and the officers investigating the Emma Thorley case which I find to be quiet rare in a lot of crime novels. As a reader there's nothing more enjoyable than seeing characters develop over the course of the book and it was nice to see how each of their stories played out. From Freeman and Gardner to Emma and those who knew her, these characters were distinct and felt very real.

Speaking of characters feeling very real, I must applaud Muddiman on that feat! The character of Lucas Yates completely made my skin crawl. I don't think I've ever been so unsettled by a fictional character. He was arrogant, vicious and misogynistic. I couldn't hate a character anymore than I hate Lucas. I know you're probably wondering why I'm dedicating an entire paragraph to a character I absolutely despised? Well, the reason is that it proves what a terrific author Rebecca Muddiman is. The way in which Lucas and a lot of characters are written provoke a vast array of emotions whether it be hatred or sympathy. No character in this novel is without flaws and that's something I greatly admire about Gone.

If you're looking for heroes and happiness, this isn't the book for you. Gone is very refreshing in the fact that it's realistic. None of the characters have a perfect life behind closed doors which yes, is tragic, but it's not too far off how real life can be in that aspect.

Gone is everything I want out of a crime thriller. It's gritty, dramatic and will have you on your toes.

Bookread2day says

Review by ireadnovels.wordpress.com

A staggering 250,000 people go missing in the UK every year. 91% of those reported to the police are found within 48 hours. 99% of cases are solved within a year. And 1% stay gone.

I loved reading *Gone* by Rebecca Muddiman she certainly weaves some clever twist that no one would see coming.

Eleven years ago when Emma Thorley went missing DI Michael Gardner didn't take her disappearance seriously, but he is determined to make up for it now. As a body has been found in the woods near Blyth with Emma's ID on it, DI Freemans starts a new investigation.

Emma was a drug user who visits Ben Swale at a clinic to help her come off drugs. Ben becomes one suspect that he murdered Emma as Ben left working for the clinic eleven years ago at the same time Emma disappeared.

Emma's ex-boyfriend Lucas Yates becomes another suspect that he murdered Emma.

Crime fans you cant miss *Gone* by Rebecca Muddiman.

It is time now for me to go and put the kettle on, but I will back soon with another crime book review.

Thebooktrail says

Following on from her success with *Stolen* - the winner of the 2010 Northern Crime Writers competition in 2012 has done it again and places the North East on the North East Noir map.

Read the review with map here - [Gone in the North East](#)

The book opens in Middlesbrough and Blyth as we meet a series of characters who have just heard the news -

“The body was found in woods near Blyth earlier today”

Their reactions to it could not be more different and the trail of suspicion starts to weave and coil its way around each and every one of them throughout the novel. The missing girl is thought to be Emma who disappeared 11 years ago but it is DI Michael Gardner, based in Middlesbrough who reacts with regret that he failed the girl. Meanwhile, Louise also in Middlesbrough fears that the discovery will mean that 'they will find out what she's done'. Then we are in Blyth - the scene of the crime and we meet Lucas - a vile and sexist individual who ‘ has history’ with the dead girl.

The investigation into the woods and into those who knew Emma takes the police deep into the heart of Northumberland - Morpeth is a place of interest for someone linked to her past. Alnwick police station - the office of DS Janet Williams - becomes a place of investigation too since someone the police become interested in and so before long the trail from her disappearance to her discovery becomes a veritable trail across Northumberland and beyond.

Still it is the woods near Blyth which provide the dark and chilling point of interest. Added to that, the looming presence of Lucas and the dark criminal clouds start to gather in earnest.

Review

A snappy, well structured and well written tale of a chilling and very real to life case. Maybe it was the

statistics in the blurb which did it, but this felt like a real case and for that reason the undesirables you meet in and around Blyth are particularly nasty. very real and believable - just down right nasty.

Told in dual time line - 1999 and 2010 (present day) , this was an effective mix of the confusion and regret of the present day investigation coupled with the dangerous unravelling of the past. very effective two paced thriller which made me want to read just one more chapter in order to fill in another missing piece of the puzzle.

The mix of characters was particularly interesting as the two police officers joined up to solve the crime. The regret and sheer frustration of the investigation past and present rang true and when you add those people Emma knew well - and their past actions - the puzzle grew in complexity and took on a life of its own.

A missing persons case is perhaps the greatest puzzle of all as everyone seems to have a theory or an explanation of what happened. But peel back appearances and there is a lot more 'behind the scenes'. You the reader feel very much a part of the investigation and the breadcrumb trail Rebecca leaves you is not as easy to follow as you think. I was left wondering what on earth I would find out at the end of it. And I was not disappointed. Gritty, real and a North East Noir pin on the booktrail map.

Tracy Shephard says

Emma disappeared eleven years ago. A body has been found and people are desperately worried that something else might be....their secrets.

DI Michael Gardner and DS Nicola Freeman are having problems of their own and the case to find out who the body is and what happened is taking its toll.

GONE is one of those novels that gives the reader sweaty palms and a beating heart. It is gripping, exciting and the descriptions of 1990 North East England and the people who live there are dank, cold and fearful. The 'scene' and the characters are very well captured.

Lucas is a mean and brutal person, who doesn't care about anything or anyone except himself.

Reading and getting involved with all of the characters left me with mixed emotions. One minute I hated them and the next I had some sort of empathy. Pity, sadness and sometimes just glad for their misery also went through my mind.

There is a 'WHATTTT' moment and I had to re-read a page because I thought I had missed something. It is an amazing twist and one that I didn't see coming.

GONE is just WOW.

Rebecca's book is thrilling, frantic and completely sensational. It will leave you dazed and disturbed, but it simply is one to have on your bookshelf.

Lynda Kelly says

Another cracking book by this author although I preferred *Stolen* so couldn't give this the 5* as well. I've just downloaded book 3 in the series, too.

There are a lot of little twists in this and almost everybody is a suspect or is up to something they shouldn't be which keeps your interest superbly. I was a little annoyed at Gardner, actually, as he did a rubbish job on investigating Emma's disappearance eleven years before. My favourite character was Ben....a nice guy who inadvertently got himself caught up in allsorts while trying to help people out. Adam was another nice chap. There were some funny little bits. Loved the mention of the red wine stain from Gardner though I wondered at his relationship with his wife as he seemed upset they split but right before this happened it seemed he despised her !!

I laughed aloud at the mention of "misery memoirs" !! What an ace description. I'm always saying on Twitter that it's like a contest these days with authors or celebrities to see who had the worst childhood, was the most abused, etc...so I'm sure I'll steal that definition at some point !

I'm sure donkey's years should be donkeys' years but could be wrong. Left town too needed a comma as well but that was all I saw I'd have corrected so well done indeed.

At the end there were two parts that made me snivel, especially RIGHT at the end. Even going back over my notes to compose this review it set me off again....You'll know when you read it and I recommend you do.

Jo Barton says

When the remains of a young woman are unearthed , the police investigation leads the assumption that they are those of Emma Thorley , a teenager who went missing more than eleven years ago. However, as the police investigation gets underway, both DS Nicola Freeman and DI Michael Gardner find that there are more questions than answers , and most of the questions, at the heart of the mystery, seem to revolve around Emma's violent past.

What then follows is a dual time detective story, which reveals Emma's story in flashback whilst at the same time, keeping the momentum of the current investigation. There's an awful lot going on in the novel, with a realistic portrayal of life at the dull end of the social spectrum. It's a sad place where drug dealing, prostitution and violence are commonplace and where young lives are seen as nothing more than a commodity to be bought and sold. The police investigative team feels frighteningly realistic, filled with the petty squabbles and hidden nuances of a gritty crime office. The police procedural part of the story is well handled and the officers involved are presented with flaws and foibles of their own, which gives the story an interesting personal edge.

I can well imagine *Gone* as a gritty TV drama as there are more than enough red herrings in the plot to keep you guessing and the sinister aspect of the story is tight and well controlled. This is now the second book in the DI Michael Gardner series, the first of which *Stolen* (2013), was this author's talented debut.

I am sure that this exciting series will continue to go from strength to strength and Rebecca Muddiman is certainly a crime novelist to watch....

Megan Readinginthesunshine says

I am new to Rebecca Muddiman and her novels, and the description of *Gone* particularity had me intrigued to the point where I couldn't wait to open the book and start reading!

11 years ago, troubled teenager Emma Thorley went missing. The police assumed she was a runaway. But now a body has been found in woods near Blyth. DI Michael Gardner knows he didn't take Emma's disappearance seriously enough back then, and is determined to make up for it now. But when he and DS Nicola Freeman start to reinvestigate, they discover that nothing is as simple as it seems.

I cannot tell you how much I loved this book! I started it without knowing anything about Rebecca's writing and not having read any previous novels, and I was HOOKED from the very first page. Rebecca very quickly draws you in straight away and holds you there with a mixture of involving writing, suspense, characters you can't tear yourself away from and a gripping plotline.

One of the things I loved most about Gone is that I genuinely had no idea which way the story would turn next, I had no idea or guesses of what would happen and so I became very immersed in the story. The characters are each fascinating in their own way – they don't have to be likeable to be fascinating, and Rebecca does a brilliant job of creating complex characters that make you want to see exactly what happens to them and find out their part in the novel. It was particularly interesting to see how each character reacted so differently to the discovery of a body, and I always wanted to read on to see what further involvement they would have.

Gone is a book that really makes you feel involved, lost in and part of everything that is happening. This story is full of twists, turns and is a compelling mystery that deserves to be read and enjoyed by many.

Sarah says

I actually won a copy of this book in a Goodreads giveaway, so thank you to Goodreads and the publisher.

This is the first book I have actually read by this author. Even though it is the second in a series it easily reads as a stand alone.

The book is made up of pretty short chapters, I think the longest being three or four pages, this made it feel like quite a fast paced read as I flew through the book. Obviously it helps that it was a gripping read also.

I really enjoyed the story line of a missing person. Emma was very much a troubled teen, a former drug addict, the fact that she went missing before, obviously had the police at the time not taking her disappearance seriously. There's only ever been her dad who believed in her and knew she wouldn't just take off like that without letting him know.

Gardner and Freeman I liked instantly. The working relationship between the two I really enjoyed.

Lucas, Emma's former boyfriend is very much a nasty piece of work and I really didn't like him at all. He ends up giving the police a run for their money in trying to uncover the truth before them and Gardner and Freeman really have their work cut out in staying ahead.

With the short chapters and a gripping story line, this really is a good and solid crime thriller. The author

kept me guessing through out and loved that there was a few surprises in store. Will certainly be reading more.

Victoria Goldman says

Gone is a real page-turner and kept me intrigued all the way through.

The narrative switches between 11 years ago, when teenager Emma disappeared without a trace, and the present day, now that a body has been found. The book is realistic, gritty and tightly-plotted, with plenty of twists and turns and well-developed characters.

The book is packed full of social issues, such as prostitution, drugs, violence and teenage angst. It develops into a race between Lucas (a local drug dealer) and the police to put the jigsaw pieces together, to find out what happened to Emma all those years ago. But who is going to solve the puzzle first? This turned into an exciting cat and mouse game that I found difficult to put down.

I received an Advance Reader Copy from the publisher through Bookbridgr in exchange for an honest review.

Book Addict Shaun says

Wow. That's the only word I can think of to start this review, and to say that I wish I was better at writing them as this one will be short! I'm writing this review a few days before the end of 2014, and already I feel that I've read some of 2015's best books, one of which will surely be Gone. Rebecca has written a brilliant story here, one that definitely kept me on my toes throughout. It's a story that had me thinking one thing when I should have been thinking something totally different. I also feel I should have paid more attention, as I might not have been caught so off guard when certain things were revealed. It's such a complex tale, written in such a clever way.

The book opens with the discovery of a body, believed to be that of Emma Thorley who went missing eleven years ago when she was a teenager. We meet three very different people, who have differing reactions to the news. DI Michael Gardner feels that if he had done more at the time of the investigation, Emma might still be alive. Louise, looking forward to Christmas is caught off guard with images of home, and the discovery of Emma as it means that 'they will find out what she's done'. Meanwhile there's a particularly sexist and vile individual reacting to the news, Lucas Yates. Lucas hated Emma, thinking back to the last time he saw her, when he was filled with rage, he believes that it won't be long before the police come knocking. After all, he and Emma have history...

I started this book late at night, planning to read a couple of chapters before bed. I never learn from my mistakes... Fast forward a couple of hours and I was still wide awake totally consumed by this book, with one eye on the clock as I should have been asleep. Sometimes though a book is just too good for sleep and Gone is one of those books. Rebecca writes with such skill, it comes across as effortless, making the book so eminently readable and seriously enjoyable. It's very much a mystery story, featuring a lot of unsavoury characters, all of whom I was afraid to trust. I honestly didn't know what was around the corner, and couldn't turn the pages quick enough. It's twists and turns galore all the way through and I loved it. I could easily see this book being made into a TV drama, and think it would be brilliant if it was. As I started to reach the conclusion I found myself wishing more pages would miraculously appear as I didn't want the book to end as

the action is cranked up to the max. I highly recommend Gone to those that like an addictive mystery, which is exactly what this book is.

Liz Barnsley says

An extremely clever and addictive mystery story to be found here, another great crime novel and it kept me on my toes throughout. I have been lucky lately to find a lot of new crime novels, one of my favourite genres - this is a top notch addition to my must read authors list.

Some brilliantly drawn characters lead us along - the most fascinating of which is one Lucas Yates, someone who has a past with missing teen Emma Thorley - now presumed dead - and who was not that fond of her. Then we have DI Michael Gardner, a man haunted by his past when it comes to his present colleague relationships, with the sense that he did not do the search for Emma justice at the time of her disappearance. These two very different but equally compelling characters made this book for me - I was eager to find out the outcome for both.

The mystery element is beautifully imagined and very well constructed - as the story ebbs and flows there are some great twists and turns and Rebecca Muddiman has a great turn of phrase and descriptive prose that keeps you deep into the story throughout.

Overall then highly recommended for Crime Fiction fans, an excellent addition to my list of author favourites.

Happy Reading Folks!

Colette Lamberth says

I really enjoyed Stolen and always planned to read the follow up and can't believe it's been nearly 2 years. To be honest I have read so much in the intervening period that this was like starting over and the author gives you enough of the characters' back story to make that possible. I have a bit of a soft spot for DI Gardner and I definitely warmed to DS Freeman as the book went on. This all felt like it could really happen, particularly the way the police officers acted with one another. It felt like it moved up a gear towards the end and I was page clicking like crazy to finish it. I'm going straight on to book 3 as I'm keen to see what Gardner and Freeman do next.

Christine says

Thanks to Mulholland Books and Bookbridgr for my lovely copy of 'Gone'.

There is something rather fascinating about a missing person case. It is the element of mystery and speculation. And Rebecca Muddiman brings this to life in her new novel.

Rebecca Muddiman explores a missing person investigation, in two time frames. Emma Thorley was a teenager, who disappeared eleven years ago. Emma's disappearance was not taken that seriously. She was a troubled young teenager and had gone off the rails, after the death of her mother. A body is found and it is

assumed that it is Emma. The story alternates between 1999, when we see Emma with her contemporaries and get an insight into what her life was like. In particular, we see the thuggish Lucas, an ex-boyfriend of Emma's and her drug's worker Ben. We also have the 2010 present day police investigation run by DS Nicola Freeman, with assistance from DI Michael Gardner. Gradually the pieces of the mystery of what happened to Emma come together.

This is a clever mystery; with some rather interesting and well drawn characters and a strong sense of realism. The characterisation made it work for me and Rebecca Muddiman's style of writing just draws you into this world of teenage nightmares. I loved the detectives and the 1999 account of Emma's life and her struggles to get her life back on track. Both Freeman and Gardner, with their own personal stuff going on, were the right balance of quirky and down to earth. I particularly was fond of Nicola Freeman and her dogged determination to find out what has happened to Emma.

And it was lovely to read a crime story set in the North East.

Anyone who can write a good mystery gets the thumbs up from me! I will look out for Rebecca Muddiman again.

Storm says

This one gets straight in there with the discovery of a young girl's body, believed to be that of Emma Thorley, a local girl who disappeared 11 years ago aged 16.

Initially, police suspect she was murdered by her violent thug of an ex-boyfriend, Lucas, the local drug dealer and generally all round nasty piece of work. However, more suspects do start to work their way out of the woodwork; such as Ben, a local drug therapist who was straddling the line of appropriate behaviour whilst working with Emma to get her clean; and Jenny, the local drug-addled bike who had a thing for Lucas as well as really disliking Emma.

Coincidentally, both Ben and Jenny left town about 11 years ago. Ben left to look after his sick mother, but when questioned 11 years on he denies ever knowing Emma – even though he was questioned and happy to help the police 11 years ago. And Jenny has not only left town, but taken on a whole new identity. So what are they hiding? And why is Lucas now so desperate to find these two before the police do?

This one was a great read that got straight into it without any faffing about. It switches between the present day investigation and flashbacks of when Emma first went missing. You are only drip-fed the flashbacks though, in order to keep you guessing.

An equal amount of focus is given to the investigating officers, Freeman and Gardner's side of things – including substantial character development – as is given to Emma and all those that knew her.

Throughout you feel like there is much more to all of this than is being alluded to, and you will feel as frustrated as DS Freeman when you feel like things just don't quite add up. But then... BAM!! I was treated to the first twist that has full on slapped me in the face in a very long time! This was one that I did not see coming one little bit! Usually, with even the best of twists, I will probably suss it at the latest by a few paragraphs before the actual reveal. But this one had a one-word reveal, and I genuinely had no clue until I read that one word!

What also made a refreshing change was the male and female officers on the case not ending up in bed together – I find this often cheapens a story, so I was pleased that they remained professional, though not cold.

Speaking of cold, the reader is often reminded of the cold – specifically regarding the weather but also reflecting some of the characters and the bleakness of their stories. Set in the more deprived areas of North-East England, it was also a gritty and stark reminder of how rough life can be.

Essentially I really enjoyed this one. It seemed that I had finished it extremely quickly, but it wasn't lacking, so I must have just been completely enthralled. And my God that twist!

My thanks to the publisher for providing this book for review.

Pat says

I really enjoyed this, its what I would call a 'quiet' thriller. It got quite suspenseful towards the end but the entire story was infused with enough drama to keep you turning the pages.

The body of a teenage girl is found in a shallow grave. There is not much of it left but police believe it to be Emma Thorley who had disappeared 11 years ago. DS Niccola Freeman is on the case and tries to contact everyone who knew Emma to see if anyone can remember anything relevant. This brings her to Lucas Yates who had been Emma's boyfriend for a while, although they had broken up by the time she disappeared. She also contacts Ben Swale who was a counsellor at a drug clinic that Emma had attended. Then there's DI Michael Gardner who was the investigating officer for the original disappearance.

As these two police officers team up and dig deeper, initially just to be able to confirm the identity of the body, they start to wonder what really happened and question everything they thought they knew. This was a well written mystery with an excellent twist that kept me turning the pages rapidly until the very end.
