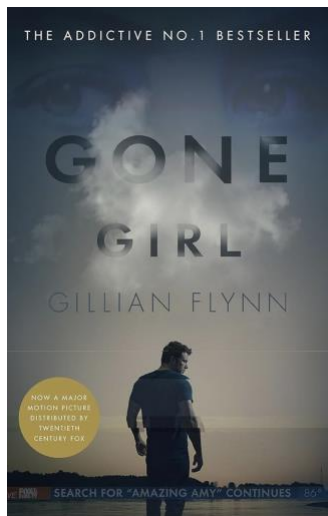


## June 2026 - Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn



This story is about Amy and Nick – two people who meet and fall in love making the “perfect couple” or so it seems until they both lose their jobs. The relationship begins to deteriorate. Amy goes missing on their 5<sup>th</sup> Wedding anniversary and there is a trail of clues which seem to indicate she has been kidnapped or murdered - with Nick becoming the main suspect.

The author cleverly provides a dual perspective with differing dates which are at first confusing and require some perseverance to keep track of each person’s narrative. The suspense in *Gone Girl* revolves around the disappearance of Amy Dunne and the accusations against her husband. The suspense is well written and keeps the reader engaged although there was some criticism and disappointment about the ending.

Some comments from our members:

“I was pleased to have the chance to re-read a book, along with a film I had really enjoyed 12 years back and I have not been disappointed. It’s a clever psychological thriller with lots of twists and turns of a couple’s very complex relationship involving deceit, betrayals and much more besides, with one’s sympathies constantly changing from one person to the other. We are given a fascinating view on nowadays relationships and big city living versus small provincial town life. This is a prequel scenario leading up to Trump’s America. A background of a failing economic system, redundancies, falling house prices, increasing unemployment, loss of established wealth, but the heart of the book is the way couples can deceive each other that they are having a good time or not, and sharing expectations or otherwise. The American author has a great way with her descriptive prose and keeps one constantly excited by the change of tone and events. Yes, a good read!”

“No doubt this is a well written book, but I found it extremely boring for the first half of the book. I admit the plot is cleverly set out with an unusual ending for a “who done it” novel. The final chapter was amusing, but quite unbelievable to me.”

"I started taking an interest as we were led down various garden paths. I enjoy murder mysteries, but there was too much psychoanalysis for me in this book. The story is less of a murder mystery and more about the revealing of the heroine's true character. We start by sympathising with Amy and end with our sympathies firmly laid on Nick."

"When we were given this book, I thought it sounded familiar and as soon as I started reading it, I remembered that I hated it! The two main characters were both selfish and self-centred and stupid. There was nothing about them I liked and this was after the first three chapters! I read the ending to check whether or not he killed but as it was a Book Group book, I had to read more...! She is in 2005, he is in the present day, then she is in 2008..... and so it goes on. This woman is so sick in the head and trying to justify it. Does the writer really believe that this is what a relationship is – a battlefield? I found the language offensive and felt the author has so much filth and angst in her head and I skipped through some chapters."

"Overall, I enjoyed the book. I saw the film a few years ago which I enjoyed but couldn't remember all the twists and turns so I was still surprised by some of the aspects of the plot."

"The narrative alternates between their two stories – Amy's mostly through her diary entries which incriminate Nick who is the prime suspect due to his dodgy alibi and Amy's clever insinuations in her diary. It is a dark and twisted plot, a "Whodunnit" and learn that Amy has faked her disappearance and possible murder in order to make Nick look guilty. It seems Amy may have a personality disorder and Nick is the victim. The story grabbed me at the beginning but I did then skip through pages because I had seen the film and knew the ending. The novel did though offer a more immersive look into the dark, twisted minds of its main characters."

"I could not put the book down and was impressed by the detail but was disappointed by what was a lame ending and pyrrhic victory for Amy."

Christine Wright