



2008

Gone

Larysa Bordner

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Grant, Michael. *Gone*. HarperTeen, 2008. ISBN 9780061448768. \$17.99. 558 p.

Reviewer: Larysa Bordner

Reading Level: Young adult

Rating: Significant shortcomings

Genre: Adventure stories; Fantasy fiction;

Subject: Supernatural--Juvenile fiction; Good and evil--Juvenile fiction; Books--Reviews;

The whole world is turned upside down when everyone fifteen years old and older in Perdido Beach, California suddenly disappears. They are there one minute, and gone the next. If that is not strange enough, the teenagers, children, and animals who are still around develop paranormal powers. The teenagers struggle to keep things operating as much as they can, but not everyone has the same ideas about how this should be done, and chaos breaks out. Meanwhile, everyone is wondering if they will be the next to disappear and what exactly disappearing entails--the world they knew has disappeared with the adults and may never be coming back.

Gone is a frustrating novel with no clear conclusion since Grant intends to write a sequel. The story jumps around and is told from a different person's perspective every couple of pages, leaving the reader feeling perplexed and overwhelmed. Violence is a common theme throughout the story giving it a sinister feeling. Some characters step-up to the challenge of finding a solution, while other characters give an excellent example of what not to do in a time of crisis. Even the ending of the book does not leave a hopeful mood for what will happen to the characters next, and the reader is left feeling torn between following the series to see if things ever improve or tossing the book aside along with any sequels that might come next.

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