

A review



- 1** **Gone Girl** is the third novel by American writer Gillian Flynn. A thriller, set in the present day in a small town in Missouri in the USA, it immediately became an international bestseller.
- 2** The main characters in the novel are a couple, Nick and Amy Dunne, now living in Nick's home town of Carthage, after Nick lost his job as a journalist in New York City. Nick now owns a bar, opened with his wife's money, which he runs with his sister Margo. On the day of his fifth wedding anniversary, Nick discovers that his wife, Amy, is missing. For various reasons, he becomes a prime suspect in her disappearance. The first half of the book is told in the first person, alternately by Nick, and then by Amy through extracts from her journal. The two stories are totally different: Nick describes Amy as stubborn and antisocial whereas she makes him out to be aggressive and difficult. As a result, the reader is left guessing whether Nick is guilty or not. In the second half, however, the reader realizes that neither Nick nor Amy have been telling the truth in their account of the marriage. The resulting situation has unexpected consequences for Nick, Amy, and the reader.
- 3** The great strength of this book is how the characters of Nick and Amy unfold. Despite having the typical devices common to thrillers, for example, several possible



suspects and plenty of red herrings, the novel is also a psychological analysis of the effect on personalities of failure and disappointed dreams. My only criticism would be that the first half goes on too long and perhaps could have been slightly cut down.

- 4 Not only is this a complex and absolutely gripping novel, but it also tackles real problems in society, such as the unhappiness that is caused by problems with the economy and the effect of the media on a crime investigation. For all lovers of psychological thrillers, **Gone Girl** is a must.

Glossary

red herring

an unimportant fact, event, idea, etc. that takes people's attention from the important one