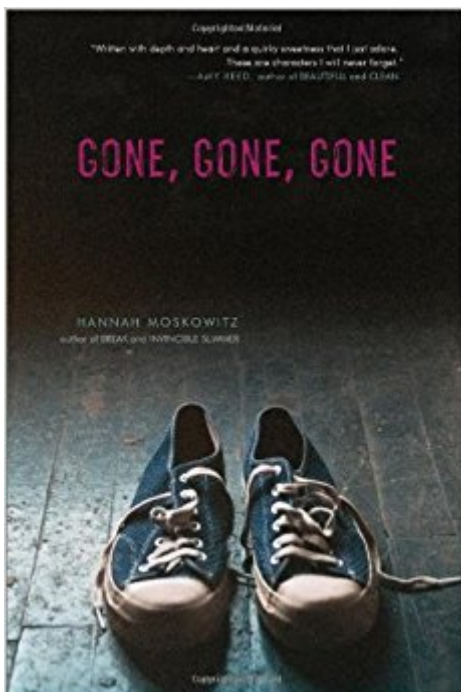


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Gone, Gone, Gone



Synopsis

1 sniper shootings, fragile love finds a stronghold in this intense, romantic novel from the author of > and >. It's a year after 9/11. Sniper shootings throughout the D.C. area have everyone on edge and trying to make sense of these random acts of violence. Meanwhile, Craig and Lio are just trying to make sense of their lives. Craig is crushing on quiet, distant Lio, and preoccupied with what it meant when Lio kissed him...and if he'll do it again...and if kissing Lio will help him finally get over his ex-boyfriend, Cody. Lio feels most alive when he's with Craig. He forgets about his broken family, his dead brother, and the messed up world. But being with Craig means being vulnerable...and Lio will have to decide whether love is worth the risk. This intense, romantic novel from the author of > and > is a poignant look at what it is to feel needed, connected, and alive.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Fifteen-year-old Craig is nowhere close to over his (maybe) ex-boyfriend when a brooding kid with a head of multicolored hair, Lio, transfers to his school. Craig is an emotional motormouth; Lio is a cancer survivor with a twin brother who didn't make it; and their budding relationship is already complicated before the 2002 Beltway Sniper begins terrorizing the D.C. area in which they live. There is trauma to spare in this novel, but Moskowitz, as usual, imbues her prose with a dreamy quality that makes every off moment feel monumental, even when it comes at the expense of realism. Despite featuring the very real sniper attacks of 2002, this is as amorphous as the author's *Invincible Summer* (2011) — not necessarily a bad thing for those inclined to float along with the lullaby rhythm. The theme of the randomness of tragedy (literalized here by

9/11, the sniper, cancer, and Craig's 14 lost pets) is particularly well-handled. Moskowitz is firmly within her comfort zone here; it'll be fascinating to see what happens when she breaks out. Grades 8-12. --Daniel Kraus

"Written with depth and heart and a quirky sweetness that I just adore. These are characters I will never forget. Fans of Will Grayson, Will Grayson will love this book." • Amy Reed, author of Beautiful and Clean

Gone, Gone, Gone is one of those books that will break your heart and then put it back together again, all in the span of 250 pages. Some reasons you should read this book: * authentic teen voice that's intensely quotable: Hannah Moskowitz gives me writer envy so hard * gay book that isn't about coming out with super accepting families on both sides * revisiting recent history: post 9/11 sniper shootings & how growing up in this era affects the characters' worldviews * interracial romance with the "but we can't be together" trope: Craig & Lio are both my new fictional besties that I just want to hug so damn much * raw mental health talk deals with grief honestly: Lio struggles with survivor's guilt over his twin brother's death, while Craig deals with getting over his ex Overall Recommend: This is a great choice for Pride Month • it's highly readable and doesn't focus solely on coming out. Both Craig and Lio are adorable and huggable and pretty much my new besties • and I'm sure they'll be yours too!

You know that feeling when you meet a book right when you needed it, and you tear right through it and stay up until 4am sobbing into its pages? This was that book for me. I know that's not a useful review. I don't care. This book healed something in my queer little heart.

Wow, Hannah Moskowitz, you just knocked me for an emotional loop with this one. It's October 2002. Just as the Washington, DC area is beginning to recover from the 9/11 terrorist attacks the previous year, random people start getting shot and killed by the Beltway Snipers. As I remember all too well, people run to and from their cars, crouch down when putting gas in their cars, and parents fear for the safety of their children while at school. This is the backdrop for the burgeoning relationship between high school students Craig and Lio. Both boys are emotionally fragile in their own ways. Craig is so hurt by his breakup with ex-boyfriend Cody that he has adopted a large

menagerie of stray animals, which he feels he can relate to better than humans. When a break-in at his house allows all the animals to escape, Craig is focused on finding all of his pets and is determined not to let the fear of the snipers interfere with this task. Lio, who moved from New York following 9/11 and his parents' separation, is dealing with the guilt of surviving childhood leukemia while his twin brother did not. The terror being inflicted by the snipers has truly shaken him, and while he doesn't want to let his guard down by falling for Craig, he cannot help himself. Craig is afraid to care for someone else and becomes afraid he could lose Lio, so he cannot help but to push him away. *Gone, Gone, Gone* is a beautifully tender and sincere story of friendship that turns to romance, but that romance is wracked by fear, doubt, and emotional uncertainty. Hannah Moskowitz so perfectly captured the angst of young love, feeling like all you want to do is be with a person, yet so many issues keep getting in the way. All of the characters are drawn so vividly, I could almost picture the story unfolding in my head. Reading this book made me wish that things were different when I was this age, in terms of being more accepting of your sexuality. But at the same time, I'm so happy that we live in a society where, in general, this story could be a true one, and the fact that these boys are gay is an afterthought. I also once again find myself marveling at the amazing talent in the YA genre right now, that we've moved so far beyond the books that existed when I was younger. I'm not sure where I heard of this book--I'm fairly certain it was a recommendation from one of two amazing YA authors I've read this year--but I feel so lucky to have found it. Thank you, Hannah Moskowitz, for making me feel hopeful, happy, and sad simultaneously. This is a keeper.

From the moment I first read *BREAK* by Hannah Moskowitz, I knew I would read each consecutive novel she ever releases. *Gone, Gone, Gone* (from this point on referred to as GGG) is my 4th Moskowitz read (*Break*, *Invincible Summer* & *Zombie Tag* being her first three novels). As usual, I was NOT disappointed! Moskowitz continues to pepper her wonderfully real YA and MG novels with poignant heart-achingly awesome life. She is a master at instilling her readers with an emotional attachment to the worlds of her characters. An absolute master. One of the things I love about GGG is the dual first-person narration. This is something that--as an author--I have used twice myself. Something about the dual first-person viewpoint really gives the reader such great insights into a story. With GGG the two main characters, Craig and Lio, take turns narrating chapters. Moskowitz carries out this back and forth narration flawlessly. One never forgets which of the two characters are narrating, as each are wonderfully unique. GGG opens with Craig discovering that not only was his house broken into, but his menagerie of house pets have all escaped through the broken

windows. Through this discovery, the reader begins to sense a slight brokenness in Craig...an endearing brokenness. We are also introduced to Todd, Craig's older brother. What would a Moskowitz novel be without an extraordinary brother/brother relationship! I still don't know how she does it. The reader gets a quick picture of this relationship in the way that Todd checks up on Craig, shows concern for him. There's this wonderful line in the first chapter that really captures something of their relationship. 'Todd has this way of being affectionate that I see but usually don't feel.' The reader is also made aware in the opening chapter that 9/11 plays a prominent role in the story-line. The denizens of GGG are all on edge from the freshness of the terrorist attacks. Lio is from New York, newly settled in Maryland. While he deals with the memories of New York's version of 9/11 events, Craig struggles with the D.C. area's version--which included the death of his ex-boyfriend's father in the Pentagon. The story begins only 13 months after the towers fell. The raw nerves the characters display get re-electrified with a new fear as the DC sniper shootings begin. To quickly describe the plot of GGG, it opens with an animal hoarding Craig. Apparently he is replacing his boyfriend (and his social life) with a menagerie of furry friends. He acts as something of a Welcome Wagon spokesperson for his school. He is assigned Lio, who is transferring to his school from New York. Their relationship begins in IM, but quickly develops from there. Lio is a boy who can possibly be fixed, unlike Craig's messed up institutionalized boyfriend Cody...who never recovered from his father's 9/11 death. Lio lived through cancer and had a twin brother who did not make it through his own cancer ordeal. Lio is as messed up as his multi-coloured hair. Something about him re-ignites Craig's life. Just as something about Craig re-ignites Lio's desire to speak, to engage in life. "His tragic flaw is that he is a walking tragedy, and his smile makes me feel alive." ~ Craig, describing Lio. As the two form a relationship, they struggle to live in a world gone mad with the random shooting spree of the Beltway Sniper. As everyone around them ducks and weaves to avoid being shot at, they slowly come together amid the chaos. Still dealing with the emotional fallout of 9/11, the two go about their lives trying not to become victims of the sniper. All the while, they are trying to reassemble Craig's gone, gone, gone menagerie. There are some wonderful moments in the story where the boys put everything down to mathematics---the odds of becoming a sniper victim, the differences in the number of tragic deaths in New York as compared to those in D.C.. We are made aware through character growth that the figures don't matter, that numbers don't matter. That each life lost is a life lost, come what may. There is something just achingly familiarly and melancholic in the insights we are given through the eyes of these two boys in love. These two boys each have pasts to unravel and come to terms with. Doing so amid the re-collection of Craig's menagerie and the simultaneously unnerving sniper attacks makes for an exciting pace that will engage the reader

non-stop. I read this novel in just over a day. Not unlike Moskowitz's other books, I just couldn't put it down. She writes with a rawness that makes the reader right at home inside both the tragedies and the joys of her stories. I highly recommend *Gone, Gone, Gone*. If you are not yet a Moskowitz fan, if you have yet to stumble upon her fiction, this book will bring you in hook, line and sinker. Be prepared, though. You'll want to pick up the rest of her quickly growing catalogue of work.

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