



Gone

Randy Wayne White

Download now

Read Online 

Gone

Randy Wayne White

Gone Randy Wayne White

***New York Times* bestselling author Randy Wayne White introduces Hannah Smith—a lady with the heart and courage to take on the world...**

Hannah Smith is a tall, strong, formidable Florida woman, the descendant of generations of strong Florida women. She makes her living as a fishing guide, but her friends, neighbors, and clients also know her as an uncommonly resourceful woman with a keen sense of justice, as someone who can't be bullied—and they have taken to coming to her with their problems.

Her methods can be unorthodox, though, and those on the receiving end of them often wind up very unhappy—and sometimes very violent. When a girl goes missing, and Hannah is asked to find her, that is exactly what happens...

Gone Details

Date : Published September 4th 2012 by G.P. Putnam's Sons (first published January 1st 2012)

ISBN :

Author : Randy Wayne White

Format : Kindle Edition 337 pages

Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Suspense

 [Download Gone ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Gone ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Gone Randy Wayne White

From Reader Review Gone for online ebook

Michael says

This is the introduction of Hannah Smith as the private eye of a new series. I liked hanging out in her mind, appreciated her careful attention to details, her blue-collar sensibilities, but I was a bit bored over her ongoing insecurities about her attractiveness as a woman. Also her first case here was disappointing in terms of mystery and detective challenges. She grew up helping her father as a fishing guide and later in his one-man detective agency. One of her wealthy fishing guide customers wants her to track down a missing daughter, judging that her contacts in the Gulf Coast Florida communities will help. Hannah's investigations lead her to suspect the daughter got involved with a man associated with a private cruise service that takes wealthy people out on a fancy yacht for luxurious entertainment and orgies. A particular suspect she learns is very abusive to women, so the pressure is high to work fast. Mistakes are made and Hannah gets herself in serious trouble. The resolution is pretty anti-climactic and does not tap much cleverness from Smith. I love the consistent plotting and charms of White's series with Doc Ford and Tomlinson, so I may give this new series another chance.

Susan Johnson says

It used to be that female sleuths were ex-police and now private detectives like Kinsey Milhone and VI Warshawski. They were hardened, athletic, loners and very professional. Now any line of work provides female detectives. There are chefs and caterers, knitters, herbal doctors and now a fishing boat captain that takes tourists out. And, oh yes, on the side she solves mysteries.

Randy Wayne White has a series of novels featuring Doc Ford in the western Florida Islands. He now has a female protagonist. The problem with Hannah Smith is that you are painfully aware it's written by a male. First of all, there is a lesbian pick-up scene that just doesn't fit. It's just sort of plopped there without any context. This is clearly a male fantasy. Second, the character is always frightened and whenever she achieves something it seems to be accidental. She fumbles around and loses her gun. It falls out of her pants pocket. Really? Third, the villain is a man who controls women through degrading sex. This was clearly a man's view of what women are like.

There was not much of a plot and virtually no mystery. You know who the bad guy was immediately and there are no red herrings. There was plenty of descriptions of a yacht that held sex parties on it. There was a lot of men degrading women. There was a lot about fishing boats. There was just nothing to really hold your interest. If I hadn't been reading it for Amazon, I would never have finished this drivel.

Michelle says

I love this author, and would have recommended any of his books to friends in the past. In fact, I have recommended them. To date, his primary protagonist was a nature-loving marine biologist with decidedly Special Forces-like skills. This book launches a planned new series centered on Hannah, a minor character in an earlier book with a rich back-story intertwined in the history of the State of Florida. I had high hopes going into this book, since I had always enjoyed his other books. Unfortunately, he shows in this book that

his grasp of women and their desires and weaknesses is beyond pathetic. The book rolls along pretty well, even though there are little harbingers of the HUGE way he has gotten women wrong throughout. Initially, I overlooked those, cutting him some slack as he tried to launch a new female heroine for a series. Eventually, though, it became clear that those little oddities were not bumps in the road, to him, they WERE the road. I have yet to meet a single woman whose celibacy has turned her into a controllable love doll by the appearance of any man willing to have sex with her. Perhaps men are more enslaved by their lust and desires than women (to a degree I had never imagined possible) and he is projecting this onto his protagonist. I certainly hope that if he has any women in his life, they have set him straight. Celibacy in women does not cause them to see every remotely phallic shape as a penis nor do they imagine the sex that might follow. And, under no circumstances, I mean NEVER, would they be so mesmerized by a scummy lowlife, talking dirty to them, that they would start undressing at his command.

I may never be able to read this author again after the colossal failure of the second half of this book. What a mess! He owes every person who has read this book a huge apology and a gift of eyewash.

Suzanne Fox says

"The fact that Mrs. Whitney and I wore the same bra size—34D—had helped, too. It created a sisterly feeling..."

"Once I got the straps adjusted, the bra was such a soft pleasure, the way it held me..."

"...the lonely girl's eyes move up the mirror where the woman spills out of her favorite 34D bra..."

"I had undone a third button, enough for him to see me spilling out of Mrs. Whitney's 34D Chenille bra..."

Seriously? Seriously: Randy Wayne White is seriously smart and seriously entertaining, I seriously love his *Batfishing in the Rainforest*, and I seriously hate to diss him. That said, the notion that the above quotations represent the way a "smart" and "strong" woman thinks about herself is seriously silly. (And things get little better when other people share. Sample: "I see you as a gawky American colt who's turning into a swan but doesn't realize it...sensuous...pure motion.")

Seriously sorry, but this one gets a D.

A 34D, in fact.

Rana says

Good enough to keep reading the series, as a sort of palate cleanser, slump-fighter, kind of book. You know, something that I don't have to think about but that will keep me engaged enough. But overall, this isn't good, it's pretty cliched and inelegant.

Glen says

When an author gets a very popular series going, they almost always start another. Not a bad thing. Rex Stout tried to start one himself when Nero Wolfe became very popular, Dol Bonner. She was a little mentioned supporting character in the series. Another detective they called when Wolfe felt he needed a woman detective. He also started Tecumseh Fox, but that's another story.

It seems Randy Wayne White is trying a similar strategy. He launched a series with Hannah Smith, a friend of Doc Ford.

Both Dol Bonner and Hannah Smith are a bit of a let down.

In this case, the story itself isn't so bad, but I got so tired of reading about Hannah's poor body image and problems with her mother that I felt like hurling the book across the room.

Joan says

That's it: 3 stars for me. As in many books, it got much better toward the last 75 pages. I do admire Hannah Smith, her strengths, and how the author can write, as a man, from a female perspective. We do not see (in our imagination) or hear much, unfortunately, about Doc Ford or my hippie-man Tomlinson in this one, though. I do look forward to his other Hannah novels.

Scott Soloff says

Randy Wayne White has pulled off something that I consider extremely difficult, if not impossible. White has taken a minor character from his Doc Ford series and turned her into the central character in his latest outing, "Gone". That, however, was not the impossible part. What he has managed to accomplish is a female character, the lead nonetheless, and make her come across as authentic.

This is no small task. I read mysteries almost exclusively. They are the quintessential American art form. It is possible to explore practically all of the human condition within the limits of this genre. Because of its versatility, I rarely read anything else.

With that in mind, I have occasionally encountered an author that attempts to write in the voice of a character of the opposite sex. To the best of my recollection, I have never seen a writer pull off this Herculean task successfully. That is, until now.

Hannah Smith, a fourth generation 'Hannah', is a beautifully realized, fully fledged character with a feminine voice capable of carrying an entire novel. She is strong, capable and very importantly, likable. Just as interesting, in her early thirties, she is still coming into her own.

Included in the mix is a cast of well drawn characters and a bad guy that you will love to hate. Doc Ford and his hippie friend Tomlinson, White's meat and potato characters, make cameo appearances.

The icing on the cake is White's ability to masterfully construct a narrative. Unlike many modern authors,

there is not one extraneous word to be found. There is no skipping over sentences or paragraphs to get to the next part. This work is beautifully crafted.

It saddens me to see that anyone could give this work less than five stars. True, not all five stars are created equal. In my mind, the two crucial elements for a good story are characters in which you become invested and pacing. With that in mind, White's "Gone" achieves five stars on points alone.

Mike (the Paladin) says

Okay to everyone who like this I'm sorry. I tried. The idea sounded like a nice solid plot and the opening scene was a good one. The action of getting the boat back to shore and leaning on how well she knew the channels and so on was good.

But I have to say that our hero's body issues tended to overpower anything else in the book. I got so tired of the discussion of her poor history with men, how she'd only "flowered" recently and her wondering if now men stared at her because they liked what they saw or not.

My three word reaction is that made famous by Charlie Brown. "Oh Good Grief."

The mom character whom we meet early on started out well, she's not really "with it" any more and so as we see in a lot of older characters used to add color to novels, she speaks her mind in a direct and possibly embarrassing way. But White ran it into the ground. The "inappropriate conversation" that started out as mildly humerus went on and on and on. It ceased to be funny and simply got tedious. Uncle Jake was just as bad. He was another version of the same idea and his conversation was also circular as he always got back to the seeming fixation EVERYONE in the book had with Hannah's love life, or lack thereof.

Hannah, I only wished I could get her to one side and assure her, "YES MEN LIKE CURVY WOMEN. Now move on for crap's sake!"

The idea behind this novel is that Hannah gets called in to track down a missing girl but the peripheral stuff totally overcomes and suffocates the plot. I put it down, don't plan to come back and don't plan to read anything else from the writer. As I've noted about other authors, I'm just not the "target audience".

Jane says

inauthentic female voice, author clearly doesn't know any women. and he really likes 34d cups. overall tone is of a salacious male fantasy.

Michael says

Hannah Smith is a fishing guide in Florida. She inherited the business and a home from her uncle, Doc Ford. He was the father Hannah never had and she was the son, he never had.

Things are difficult, financially, for the fishing guide business. It's the end of the fishing season and Hannah

understands that she'll probably have to get some kind of part-time job to pay the bills.

One of her wealthy fishing clients asks if she'd help find his niece, she isn't exactly missing but might be being held under the influence of an unscrupulous man.

Since Hannah had also helped her uncle with some of this investigations, she accepts.

The narrative displays Hannah's growth as a new investigator and cries out in protest because people don't think she can do the job—either because she's a woman or because she's not adequately educated.

There is good dialogue, lots of action and picturesque settings along with a protagonist who has a strong ethical center. I think this will be a good addition to the Doc Ford series, taken to the next generation.

Viccy says

This is the start of a new series by Randy Wayne White, one of my favorite writers. I adore Marion Ford and his hippy side-kick, Tomlinson. Hannah Smith is the fourth woman of that name in her family. Her best friend, Nathan, calls her Four. She is a strong and formidable woman, like the women who came before her. She works as a fishing guide in Florida, but is hired by one of her clients to find his niece who has gone missing. Hannah discovers Olivia has been seduced by a con artist who preys on weak women. Hannah finds her own strength as she searches for Olivia among the banyan trees and mangrove swamps do the Ten Thousand Islands off the coast of Central Florida. Doc Ford and Tomlinson make several cameo appearances along with a cast of eccentric Floridians. A promising start and I look forward to more Hannah adventures. One caveat: White needs to work on his POV. Writing from a woman's view is not his forte.

Jay Connor says

Well, at least, Randy Wayne White kept the setting the same for his new series, featuring Hannah Smith. Captiva, Sanibel, Pine Island Sound and the rest of the south gulf coast of Florida can certainly support two series. Especially if written by the more than able White.

The key question is can his new lead character – Hannah Smith – do these locales justice?

Well, even with a slew of references to White's previous central character, Doc Ford, and the ever-faithful Tomlinson, and the fact that an introduction to a new series is always top-heavy with exposition, I'm not in Hannah's corner, yet. This may be more due to White's poor history with female characters – all previous efforts were to one extent or another unidimensional and relevant only by their relationship to Ford and/or Tomlinson. The fact that Hannah has the "hots" for an unseen Ford – "so far I've had three dates with him," she says breathlessly about occasions when she and Ford cross paths – is not a good thing.

I'll be patient and see if White can expand his reach, but for now, I wish he would give us another Doc Ford. Or a believable woman.

Katy says

Book Info: Genre: Mystery/Thriller

Reading Level: Adult

Recommended for: Fans of thriller/mystery/suspense novels with a truly strong woman, not just a "spunky", stubborn, and usually actually fairly silly woman.

Trigger Warnings: (implied) rape, bully, sexual predator

My Thoughts: I've been trying to collect the Doc Ford books for awhile, but as luck would have it, this new book in his new Hannah Smith series is the one I've had the chance to read first. Now I'm more determined than ever to read the Doc Ford novels (once I actually have them), because this author is a real hoot. He has a comedic gift that started me giggling about 6 pages in and just kept me going. For instance:

Speaking of something her mother, Loretta (who is brain damaged due to a stroke, and therefore likely to say and do whatever strikes her fancy), did early on in the book, Hannah says, *"Some of the words she wrote were so foul, they had never even passed my lips—not louder than a whisper, anyway—let alone would I use Day-Glo orange to write them in cursive, exclamation points dotted, t's [sic] neatly crossed, for all the world to see."*

"Hippie food, I guessed, was anything that didn't produce grease for gravy or a good old-fashioned heart attack."

Hannah's voice is wry, self-deprecating without being self-denying or self-hating, and I love the way she views the world around her, as well as her zany family. I really had no idea what to expect, since this is the first book by this author I've read, so this was a really joyous discovery.

The next paragraph is about some of the characters, some of which I cannot discuss without spoilers, so will only be posted in its entirety on sites like Goodreads where I can place them under a spoiler tag. Other sites will have an attenuated version, which I have tried to set up so that it will still make sense, just without the spoilerish bits.

The villain of the piece(view spoiler) is a nasty piece of work, and there's no doubt about that. I think he's the only character in the entire book that freaks Hannah out, and I had to laugh over how she dealt with that fear. (view spoiler) He's a sexual predator and a bully, a murderer and a rapist, and very dangerous. I had to admit, he scared me too. I loved the memories that Hannah (also known as Hannah Four) has of her aunt Hannah(view spoiler). (view spoiler) Doc Ford makes a cameo, although we don't actually see him, only hear about him through memories and recounting of "out-of-scene" action. In fact, all the characters are really well done, described just enough without overdescribing, and carefully differentiated with their way of speaking and interacting with others, like Nathan, Darren, Mrs. Whitney, Olivia, Lawrence Seasons, and Martha, to name a few.

Hannah is a truly strong woman, strong within and without, and I really enjoyed learning about her, "meeting" her, and reading this really excellent story. All this has made me that much more excited about finding the rest of the Doc Ford books and reading them, because Randy Wayne White is a very good writer. Technically speaking, the book I read is not perfect, because it is an ARC, but I imagine the final copy will have the last of the typos removed. R.W.W. does an excellent job of "showing not telling." In the scenes where, for example, Hannah is scared, I felt tense too.

If you enjoy reading books with female protagonists, but are becoming irritated with the too-stupid-to-live silliness that is being presented as “spunky” but just comes off as stupidly stubborn, then you really will find this book a breath of fresh air. Highest recommendation from me.

Disclosure: I received an ARC via the Amazon Vine program in exchange for an honest review. All opinions are my own.

Back Cover Copy: Hannah Smith: a tall, strong, formidable Florida woman, the descendant of generations of strong Florida women. She makes her living as a fishing guide, but her friends, neighbors, and clients also know her as an uncommonly resourceful woman with a strong sense of justice, and they have taken to coming to her with their problems.

Her methods can be unorthodox, though, and those on the receiving end of them often wind up unhappy, sometimes forcibly so. And when a girl goes missing, and Hannah is asked to find her, that is exactly what happens.

Rachel MacNaught says

i'm not sure if this book is that rancid, really, it's just so unbelievably plodding and awkward i cannot imagine giving it the two stars to qualify it as 'okay'.

this guy.. wow, man. good on you, Randy White. you tried to make a female protagonist. now, you clearly only used the acting prior to a lowbudget porno as character reference, but you tried to even that playing field. and that's something, hilarious as the attempt was.

the protagonist started off okay. and when i reflect back on it, i realised this capable creature was actually gender neutral in those scenes. she was just a human, and it didn't even occur to me to care or look for her gender.

but then.. wow, man. she, uh, ..is really fucking vapid and incapable lol. toss around mentions of her feeling a 'sisterly bond' to a woman because they have the same bra size (LOL. WUT. WUT? WHEN WOULD THIS EVER HAPPEN EVER LOL). that's fine. it's a quirk, i can take that.

but then she... suddenly sympathises with the girl who was KIDNAPPED because she finds the girl's vibrator and sex toy stash? LOL WUT. WUT

WUT

WHAT WHAT WUT IS THIS. LOL. WHAT.

and then.. okay.. this girl is ... weird as all fucking hell, but that's okay. i can accept this.

but then 75% of this book, literally as i was keeping tabs on my kindle, is about NOTHING BUT THIS. kidnapped girl taken away as a sex slave? 'THIS IS EROTIC I FEEL MYSELF HEAVING AT THE TABOO'. meets a botanist for information? 'HIS HANDS. I WANT TO FUCK HIS HANDS.' in a good mood one morning? 'THAT'S CAUSE I FUCKED MYSELF LAST NIGHT'

AS HER ELDERLY MOTHER CONSTANTLY TALKS ABOUT HER DAUGHTER'S MASTURBATION HABITS, BY THE WAY.

WHAT LOL

WHAT

WHAT

WHAT IS THIS. A GIRL IS POSSIBLY DYING. DRY YOUR VAGINA OFF YOU FUCKING WEIRDO.

it's just hilariously unbelievable. i mean that in the mind blowing sense. i honestly think the author has never even spoken to a woman before. i HONESTLY, 100% believe, he watched the acting portion of pornos to derive his female lead. i had a hard time picturing her in anything else but a thong running around 'solving crime' while simultaneously concerned about her breasts and the breasts of others.

and that's another thing. 'solving crime'.
nothing

nothing

happens until 75% into the book. she talks to people and 'gleans information' (using no deductive skills, by the way. how is she an investigator again??), but nothing happens until the bad guy corners her.

she fights him, she outwits him, yadda yadda. it's finally ACTION and it flows. i can see the angle the author was trying to make her technically helpless against his raw male power to then EMPOWER her with her inner strength, and it's a valid point, but WHAT IS THIS CHARACTER DOING THERE IN THE FIRST PLACE? she's not an investigator. she's not a police officer. she doesn't even care that much, except for that she LIKES VIBRATORS JUST LIKE THE CAPTIVE. THAT'S your turning point? she cares so much because the girl reminds her of herself? why did she take this case in the first place?

why did NOTHING happen until the last 25% of this book. why was her concern HER BRA? MANY TIMES? THE WOMAN HAS BEEN WEARING A BRA FOR DECADES AND SHE'S NOT USED TO IT YET? WHAT? WHYYYY was there a mentioned but never plot-centric moment of a woman trying to seduce her in a naked swim? WHAT? like it did NOTHING for the plot, nothing for the character.

AND IT WAS MENTIONED IN RETROSPECT. whenever ANYTHING happened, the action would abruptly end and it would skip to the next day when protagonist would then choppily reveal what happened. i found myself wondering if i was missing pages, or had skipped by accident, only to find out that Hannah would then have a flashback in which she just recounted one or two sentences from the endeavor.

WHAT?

WHAT?

that's not how a fucking story works.

my god.

so.. hannah's character is hilarious and odd and not human and unqualified and has dialogue and inner thoughts out of a 'fucking the pizza boy' porno. the plot goes no where, and when something happens, it's predictable with one or two interesting moments. but it's just...

he doesn't know what he's writing? that he's never met a female in his life? he tried to make a female protagonist and he failed. he started well until he realised he had to character develop and it all fell apart.

it was just really, really bad.
