



The Moment You Were Gone

Nicci Gerrard

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Gaby and Connor seem to have a loving marriage - one that is built on knowing every last intricate detail about one another, or so Gaby has always believed. When their son Ethan sets off for university, discovering for the first time, the raw and uncontrollable intensity of falling in love, Gaby and Connor will be alone again - a chance to rediscover their relationship, just the two of them.

But there is one person missing from Gaby's life. One person who she cannot forget - Nancy, her best friend since childhood. As teenagers they shared their deepest secrets, fears and dreams for the future. As adults they discovered love - Gaby with Connor and Nancy with Gaby's adored brother, Stefan. The foursome became inseparable.

Then one day, Nancy upped and left.

Now, almost twenty years later, with Ethan away from home, Gaby finds herself idly watching television when a sharp stab of recognition hits her - the face she recognizes on the screen belongs to Nancy. Suddenly, the friend she thought she'd lost for good is within her reach. But does Nancy want to be found?

The search for her long lost friend forces Gaby not only to revisit her past, but could also shatter the course of her future . . .

The Moment You Were Gone Details

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From Reader Review *The Moment You Were Gone* for online ebook

SaraSam says

Nicci Gerrard has unique ability to reflect subtleties of life in her books. "*The Moment You Were Gone*" tells the truth about the need to reveal secrets from our past.

Mariska says

Dit boek is onnodig lang. Op de helft van het boek heb je de grote onthulling (die je al mijlenver ziet aankomen), daarna worden de gebeurtenissen daar nog wat verder losjes op gebaseerd. Aan het einde, wanneer het lijdend voorwerp/personage van het boek naar een vakantiehuisje gaat, heb je nog heel even het idee dat het boek een rare wending gaat nemen en de hoofdpersoon doodgaat aan een ziekte in totaal isolement, maar uiteindelijk heeft het boek toch een happy ending en blijf je een beetje bedrogen achter.

Isa says

The book had a good beginning, with the accident, and so I expected some action. But that was nearly everything that happened and it was incredibly boring. Also, I don't get the obsession with enumerating the contents of every fridge, cabinet, wardrobe or cat boot in England. It became annoying, bland, boring.

Barbara Elsborg says

Despite the predicatibility of the plot, I really enjoyed this. The characterization is fabulous. You don't have to like the people in the story - some are more likeable than others - but the detail with which they are drawn is just great. The basis of the story is two friends who swear they'll be friends forever, and suddenly aren't. One just walks out of the other's life and disappears. Around 18 years later, the MC of the story sees the friend on a news item - not giving away anything here, that's on the back of the book. But the story is about what drove the two apart, the consequences on their lives and the lives of those around them. I really enjoyed it.

Christie says

Nicci Gerrard writes terrific psychological suspense thrillers with her husband Sean French. As Nicci French they have written a few books I have enjoyed immensely, particularly *Killing Me Softly*. On her own, Gerrard is a thoughtful and talented writer, generally concerned with the minutia of daily life and the relationships which both trouble and sustain us.

So I'm going to blame the fact that I didn't love Nicci Gerrard's third novel *The Moment You Were Gone* on the fact that August was a bit of a bust for me reading-wise. Perhaps it was the spectacular weather, but this was the third novel I've started in the last couple of weeks (and the only one I finished).

The Moment You Were Gone is the story of Nancy and Gaby, childhood friends. We see them as children, as young adults and then we meet Gaby again as she's dropping her only son, Ethan, off at university. At this point in the story, she and Nancy have been estranged for almost 20 years, although Gaby has an inkling of where her old friend is. Instead of going home after leaving Ethan, Gaby decides to revisit her past and hops a train to Cornwall where she tracks Nancy down. It is this reconnection which sets off a chain of events which you can see coming a mile off. What you might not see coming, however, is the way these revelations change and shape the people involved.

This is a novel about friendship, certainly, but is also a novel about love: the love between siblings and families, between husbands and wives and between friends. As Gaby's life begins to unravel, Ethan's life begins to flourish. We watch him navigate those first few weeks away from home and we watch him fall in love with his best mate's girl.

Despite the secret that is central to this novel, there are no bad guys here. Everyone makes the choices they think are the best for the right reasons. Watching Gaby deal with the fall out from her discovery is more like watching a fender bender than a train wreck, but I think I actually mean that as a compliment. Although I didn't necessarily warm to Gaby, I did admire the way she moved forward despite the fact that her world had been tipped over.

The last third of this book is a thoughtful meditation on what happens when you reach a certain point in your life. From this vantage point you can look back.

"She asked herself what point there was in the frantic emotions of the past few weeks if in the end she was just a pinprick on a dot in a galaxy that was itself negligible. All the scrabbling around, the desperate search for happiness, meaning and union – while around us the millions of stars shine on, implacably distant and remote.... How strange, to care so passionately and yet to mean so little and to die alone and go where no one can follow." (362)

It would be impossible not to relate to some aspect of this book and I can't fault either the story or the writer for the fact that I didn't love it. Just reader's fatigue, I guess.

Jennifer Barclay says

Really enjoyed this. It was so much better than it appeared from the cover/blurb! David Nichols/Joyo Moyes type read, intelligent, romantic story with good characters.

Flora says

Ik vond dit een goed en mooi verhaal. Wel een beetje voorspelbaar, maar dat stoorde niet.

Michelle Richards says

I love the way this woman writes, so descriptive and I find myself reading lines over and over again. Interesting story about a friend who leaves all her friends and boyfriend and never comes back and the discovery of why and what happened. about to start her next one straight away.

Joyce says

Good

Marie says

I cannot point out enough how much I love this book. This is my second time reading it and it didn't lose any of its charme from the first time. Gaby is...there are no real words for Gaby other than that she's a lot like me in some respects and also completely crazy so I love her to bits and pieces. The whole story is like one of those flowers that look quite ordinary at first glance but when it unfolds, it turns out to be beautiful. I adore the side-story of Ethan, the way Nicci describes him in the car when Gaby drives him to college is absolutely amazing. And then he gets his own little space in the book which is a little seperate from the other big story and it's quite nice to take a short break from the drama and wander over into Ethan's world every few chapters. As for the main story, I could quote half the book, honestly. But I won't and you'll have to just read it to find all those magic little moments.

Connie53 says

Een heel goed boek dat ik met veel plezier heb gelezen.

Iris van Krimpen says

Oh my... This was bad, well at least it totally isn't my cup of tea. I picked this book because of the popularity of Nicci French and Nicci Gerard and thought: "You must try it, see what all the fuss is about". I don't know where all the fuss is coming from but definitely not from me. On page 30 (of 467!) I figured out the plot, but kept on reading hoping it would get better or there even being a plot twist. Sadly that didn't happen. One positive? At least now I know what kind of books Nicci Gerard writes and I never have to doubt again whether or not to read one of them. That will be a no to that.

Linda says

I thought this deserved 4 stars although many have given it 3 stars and less. I did like the storyline and the outcome but some might think it a bit mundane, but it kept my attention and intrigued how it was going to end.

Janet Camilleri says

Loved it.

Vera says

Heel saai met veel overbodige opsommingen en beschrijvingen die niets bijdragen aan het verhaal. Mag gerust 200 bladzijden minder zijn!
