

Gone Girl Study Guide

Gone Girl by Gillian Flynn

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Plot Summary

"Gone Girl" is a novel by author Gillian Flynn. The story follows a married couple, Nick Dunne and Amy Elliott Dunne, from the time they meet and up until Amy goes missing under suspicious circumstances. Amy Elliott Dunne and Nick Dunne are both writers by trade, but when they both lose their jobs, and Nick's mother falls ill with cancer, Nick and Amy move back to Nick's hometown of Carthage, Missouri.

As a New York City girl, Amy is not a proponent of the move. Nick borrows some money from Amy's take on her parents' book series, *Amazing Amy*, to open The Bar with his twin sister Go. With their marriage failing, Nick starts an affair with one of his college journalism students. One day while Nick is at The Bar, his neighbor calls to say the front door to Nick's house is open and the inside cat is outside. Nick arrives home to find the living room ransacked and his wife missing.

As the investigation proceeds, all clues point to Nick as the primary suspect. After being gone for a little over a month, Amy shows up at Nick's door, claiming one of her former stalkers kidnapped and raped her. Amy, Nick and even the detectives know that Amy was trying to frame Nick for her murder. The problem is that nobody can prove it.

Amy continues to act on a new plan once she returns to Nick. This time, it involves getting pregnant and urging Nick to drop the investigation against her. While this works for some time, right before Amy goes into labor, Nick makes a statement to Amy that just might be enough to set her off on new direction—one where she tries to take Nick down once again.



Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 1-15

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 1-15 Summary

Nick says what he remembers about his wife is the shape of her head.

He then seems to go back in time. He talks about waking up at 6 am one morning and he can hear the sounds of his wife Amy making breakfast downstairs in the kitchen. He also talks about how he was a writer in New York City, but that when he lost his job, he moved them to his hometown of Carthage, Missouri. He says his twin sister, Margo, which he calls Go, moved back just prior to him and Amy moving there. Go moved back when their ailing mother was dying and because she also lost her job.

Go and Nick borrow \$80,000 from Amy, the last of her trust fund, to open a bar in town called The Bar. It is connected to the bowling alley so they can always hear the sounds of bowling.

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 1-15 Analysis

Nick implies that something happens to his wife, which is why he says that he remembers the shape of her head. When Nick goes back in time to tell the story, it is presumably the day that his wife goes missing or is found dead. Nick describing how much Amy didn't want to move to Missouri and how much she didn't want to buy the pretentious house they buy is Nick's guilt talking. Now that something has happened to Amy, he feels like it is all his fault that she was here in the first place.



Amy Elliott: January 8, 2005

Amy Elliott: January 8, 2005 Summary

Amy Elliott is writing in her diary. She is talking about a great guy that she met at her friend Carmen's party. Amy is also a writer, but she writes questions for personality quizzes. Amy confirms that the guy's name is Nick. She also says he's gorgeous. They chat about his boyhood home and Nick continues to make movie references throughout their conversation.

Nick and Amy also share a cab home. even though it is 1 am, they hit a traffic jam so decide to walk the rest of the way. A bakery is receiving a delivery so powdered sugar is billowing in the air as Nick leans in to kiss Amy.

Amy Elliott: January 8, 2005 Analysis

Presumably, Amy is writing about when she met Nick for the first time. Amy is recounting the first night of the relationship with Nick, that eventually leads to their marriage. Amy is creating a metaphor between the sugary sweetness of the bakery delivery and the sugary sweetness of her relationship with Nick.



Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 22-32

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 22-32 Summary

When Nick arrives at The Bar, he finds his sister cleaning glasses and one elderly woman customer. Go asks Nick what's wrong. Nick tells her it's his five year anniversary with Amy. Go asks if Amy is going to do one of her favorite treasure hunts. Nick thinks back to their one year anniversary, which was a disaster because Nick didn't know the answers to the clues Amy left for him to find his present.

Carl Pelley, a retired salesman and Nick's across the street neighbor calls. He tells Nick the front door to his house is wide open and that the cat is outside. Nick recalls how when one of their neighbors found out he and Amy live in their house alone she said how lonely it must be. Nick thinks lonely it is.

When Nick gets home, he finds the door wide open and the cat, Bleecker, sitting on the front steps. Nick finds the glass of the coffee table shattered and the end tables and ottoman turned over inside the house. He goes down to the river to see if Amy's in their rowboat. Amy is gone.

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 22-32 Analysis

The front door to Nick's house is open and the indoor cat is wandering around outside because something has already happened to Amy. Nick mentions "back when Amy still made him happy" which seems to indicate that he and Amy are having some marital strife. Since this is the case, when Amy goes missing, or is found dead, the police will assume that Nick has something to do with it.

Nick thinks living in the house with Amy is lonely because they no longer have good marriage. It seems as if their relationship is deteriorating. With the turmoil in the living room, the door wide open and Amy missing, it suggests that something bad has happened to Amy. It doesn't suggest that she left on her own accord because she would never allow the indoor, declawed cat she loved to wander outside.



Amy Elliott: September 18, 2005

Amy Elliott: September 18, 2005 Summary

Amy writes in her diary how Nick turns up again after eight months. He says he wrote her phone number on a sticky note that then went through the wash. Amy says she is perusing the bodega bins deciding what she wants for lunch when she sees Nick sticking to her side. She jokingly says that he certainly takes his time about it. She also says that they are officially together now as a couple.

Amy says the timing is interesting since her parents base a book on Amy. The twentieth book in the series has the book Amy getting married and the book launch party was the night before she runs into Nick again. By this time, Amy is 32, but she feels lonely. All of her friends seem to be married and ponder, as her parents do, as to why a successful, pretty girl like Amy with money is still single.

She wishes for a marriage that isn't like the friends of hers that are married, but have settled.

Amy Elliott: September 18, 2005 Analysis

It seems as if the relationship between Nick and Amy was not meant to be from the start. This is why there is an eight month lag in time between them meeting and kissing, and them finally getting together again as a couple. Amy is predicting that Nick will become her husband in less than a year from meeting him. Ironically, it seems as if Amy settles for Nick when she marries him as well. This is why their once great marriage is in a downward spiral by the time she goes missing.



Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 39-45

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 39-45 Summary

Nick is waiting for the police to arrive. He wants to explain to them how Amy would never leave the iron on, the teakettle going on the stove and then there's the sign of the struggle in the living room. Riordan, the male African-American cop, and Velasquez, the female Hispanic, cops show up to the house.

The two police officers call in two detectives, Jim Gilpin and Rhonda Boney. The detectives search upstairs and look around downstairs while they talk to Nick. Nick tells them it's their anniversary. Boney is looking at the wedding picture hanging on the wall while Nick thinks back to finding out how rich Amy was seven months into their relationship. They were married in Cape Cod, which is where the wedding photo was taken. When the detectives ask if they had reservations at Houston's and Nick says yes, he admits to himself that it's the fifth lie he has told the police so far.

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 39-45 Analysis

All of the clues point to something bad causing Amy to be missing. Since the police officers call in detectives to take over the case, they too must feel something ominous has happened to Amy. When Nick admits to lying to the police five times already, this makes it sound as if he is guilty of something. So far, he has been portraying that he is a concerned husband that doesn't know what happened to his wife. His admitting he has been lying makes it seem as if foul play might be involved.



Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2008

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2008 Summary

Amy writes in her diary about how ecstatic she is to be married to Nick. She talks about how Nick gives everything in her life perspective. She also talks about how they do silly things, such as drive across the border to Delaware to have sex because neither one of them has had sex in Delaware before. She mentions how much they love their house that the proceeds from the Amazing Amy books have built for them.

Amy is writing this journal entry on the day of their one-year anniversary, so she talks about the treasure hunt she has created for Nick to find the embossed stationary she bought for him.

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2008 Analysis

Illustrating how Amy sees their marriage, and specifically their one-year anniversary, shows how different her perspective of their marriage is from Nick's perspective. At this point in their marriage, Amy and Nick are still newlyweds and still very much in love with each other. She's very excited about creating the treasure hunt for Nick. Earlier, Nick spoke about how the treasure hunt ends up being a disaster and making Amy mad because it makes him look as if he doesn't know his wife at all.

Amy also mentions that Nick has been coveting the expensive and Embossed stationary. Earlier, Nick spoke about how it was a gift he didn't like or even want.



Nick Dunne: The Night of Pages 50-61

Nick Dunne: The Night of Pages 50-61 Summary

Nick goes to the police station to continue the interview with Gilpin and Boney. He consents to having them monitor Amy's credit cards and cell phone for usage. They take DNA to eliminate him as a suspect. After this, they turn a tape recorder on to record their interview with Nick. They ask about their marriage, Amy's friends, how long they've lived in the area, and Nick goes to the police station to continue the interview with Gilpin and Boney. He consents to having them monitor Amy's credit cards and cell phone for usage. They take DNA to eliminate him as a suspect. After this, they turn a tape recorder on to record their interview with Nick. They ask about their marriage, Amy's friends, how long they've lived in the area, and Amy's unemployment situation. Nick mentions telling the eleventh lie to the police.

Nick thinks about how Amy had told him that morning to go to the picnic table by the river to read his paper and think about what he wants to do about their marriage. Nick reveals to the reader he had already decided.

It is after midnight when Nick finally calls Amy's parents from the police station, his mother-in-law, Marybeth Elliott, asks to speak to the person in charge after she gets angry for Nick waiting so long to call them. Nick hears his father's voice and then finds him sitting in one of the rooms at the police station. A female officer tells Nick they picked his father up after he wandered away from the home. She says he has a few scraped and bumps, but he's fine. Nick's father keeps saying, bitch, bitch, bitch over and over again.

A police officer drives Nick's dad back to the home, and another gives Nick a ride to Go's house. He tells her what's happening, tells her he's scared and asks her to be nice to him because he has to be back at the station in a few hours. Go says she feels sorry for Amy.

Nick Dunne: The Night of Pages 50-61 Analysis

Nick is fully admitting to himself and the reader that he has told numerous lies to the police. This makes it seem as if Nick is guilty of something and that is why he is lying. Nick admitting he already decided what he wants to do about their marriage suggests that he intended on getting rid of Amy, so he staged the scene at the house to make it look like there was a struggle after he murdered Amy.

Since Nick's father doesn't like Amy and he has some scrapes and bumps, it could be that he and Amy had an altercation, Nick's father could be the one responsible for Amy's disappearance. Ironically, Go feels sorry for Amy when Nick has made it clear that Go and Amy don't get along with each other and couldn't be more different than they are.



Amy Elliott Dunne: April 21, 2009

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 21, 2009 Summary

Amy writes about a night out for drinks with her fiends Insley and Campbell. While the evening is winding down, the girls wait to see if their husbands show up. Insley and Campbell's husbands do, but Nick doesn't Amy writes about how it's OK with her because she and Nick make fun of girlfriends and wives that treat their significant others like "monkey" or puppets that have to do everything they say. When Nick gets home, Amy finds out he went to play poker instead of meeting her at the restaurant. She says it sounds like more fun than her evening and then they have sex.

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 21, 2009 Analysis

At the beginning of their marriage, Amy is very accepting of Nick and the way he is. As the years wane on, however, Amy starts to get mad at how inconsiderate Nick is. This is a little confusing to Nick because he is the same way he has always been. While Amy accepted his ways before, now she is getting angry with him. The divergence in their viewpoints explains why the marriage is suffering by the time Amy goes missing.



Nick Dunne: The Night of

Nick Dunne: The Night of Summary

Nick continues to drink at his sister's house. He finally catches a short nap right before dawn. When he wakes, he has a little hangover. He drives Go's car to his house to change clothes, and finds three police cars there. Velasquez escorts Nick upstairs to pack some clothes. He asks if he can open the gift wrapped box from Amy to him, but Velasquez says not right now.

When Nick arrives at the police station, Amy's parents are there clinging to each other. He thinks about how the Elliots are very affectionate with each other, while his own parents divorced when he and Go were 12, and how his father was emotionally abusive to his mother. Nick explains that his father didn't like women in general.

Later that morning, a public relations woman is telling Nick that he needs to make a statement to the public to plea for Amy's safe return. Go also returns to the station after taking care of a few things at The Bar.

During the press conference, Nick speaks but he's struggling because of the hangover. Rand Elliott, Amy's father, takes over for Nick. Nick mentions that he has a "killer smile."

Nick Dunne: The Night of Analysis

Amy's parents were completely differently role models than Nick's parents were as a basis for a relationship. Since their experiences were so different, Nick and Amy have different viewpoints on how a marriage should be. This no bought continued to the problems they were having in their marriage. In short, their expectations of a relationship are different from each other.

Ironically, when Nick's father gets dementia, they have to move him into a home where women take care of him all day. Nick telling the reader about his "killer smile" during the press conference, while standing next to Amy's weeping parents suggests that Nick is Amy's murderer.

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2010

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2010 Summary

It is Nick and Amy's third anniversary. He calls to tell her he's taking the 16 writes that got laid off at his job out for a drink. She's trying to be understanding, but she cries as she drinks wine. When her father calls, she tells him what happened. When Nick gets home, it's 4 am and he's drunk. While she's trying to have a conversation with him, he goes on the defensive.

Nick says Amy doesn't have to work. She says her money is his money. He says not according to the prenup. Nick stomps off to bed. Amy goes through the receipts Nick took out of his pocket and finds a phone number for someone named Hannah. When Amy climbs into bed. Nick wraps his arms around her and they say they're sorry at the same time.

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2010 Analysis

Amy is trying to be an understanding wife, but Nick is being very inconsiderate. He turns everything Amy says and does around to be something negative. Some of this is a perception problem. Amy clearly writes her intentions and the way she feels and intends things to be in her diary. The way Nick perceives them seems to be completely different. Of course, without Amy telling him how she feels, or without Nick having access to her diary, he would have no way of knowing how Amy feels except for his own assessment of it.



Nick Dunne: One Day Gone Pages 82-93

Nick Dunne: One Day Gone Pages 82-93 Summary

On his way out of the press conference, Gilpin tells Nick they searched the vacant house on their block and another house where squatters were, so they have lab there taking samples. Nick thinks about how the mall used to employ about a fifth of the town, but now many of those workers have been laid off—explaining why there is more of a homeless population than before. One by one, stores in the mall closed, until the entire mall closed. Even Nick's mother lost her job there working at one of the shoe stores.

The detectives take Nick to a room in the police station that has Amy's gift box with the first clue in it. Nick reads the clue and takes them to his office at the college where he is adjunct professor. There, he finds another clue on his desk. Nick lies, telling Gilpin he doesn't know what the second clue means.

When Nick leaves the college, he makes a call on a disposable cell phone. Nick meets Amy's parents at their hotel. They tell him the police questioned them on his relationship with Amy. They also ask if Nick plans to solve Amy's treasure hunt. He agrees he will. Additionally, they say the police checked out his reservations for their anniversary but found out he never made reservations. Nick says they are confused and he'll clear it up with the police.

Rand says he told the police about the time Nick saved a mouse from a glue trap at their beach house. When he says that doesn't sound like a guy that would hurt his wife, Nick feels guilty. Nick's disposable phone rings while he's in the hotel room. Nick and Amy's parents talk about a couple of stalkers Amy has had over the years. Amy's mom mentions that they think the person responsible for Amy's disappearance is someone close to home. Nick mentions one of her former stalkers lives only 45 minutes away.

Nick Dunne: One Day Gone Pages 82-93 Analysis

Nick says that most people don't get to see how things end, but he says that he and Go will get to see how this ends. Nick implies that he and Go will find out that Amy is dead, who is responsible for her death and the punishment they received. Since Nick mentions and Go, it suggests that Nick killed Amy and then at some point Go helps Nick to cover it up.

The clues Amy leaves Nick in the treasure hunt are a glimpse into Amy's emotions over the last year. Since their marriage was in trouble over the past year, Nick suspects her clues will illustrate this to the police. Nick continues to lie to the police because he doesn't want to reveal himself as the killer. Nick has a disposable cell phone because he doesn't want the police to trace the call he makes. It could be a call to an accomplice in Amy's murder.



Nick feels guilty because he has something to do with Amy's disappearance. Nick is trying to put the attention onto one of Amy's stalkers to divert the attention away from his involvement in Amy's murder.

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 23, 2010

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 23, 2010 Summary

Nick experiences a layoff from his job. Amy talks about at first Nick focuses his time on taking care of things that have gone undone around the house. Then, he says it's a good thing they have her money to fall back on, so he goes on a shopping spree. Amy mentions that they have almost \$800,000, which is not enough to stop working for the rest of their lives. this is especially true after Amy loses her job too.

Amy says that her parents come over to talk to them. They confess that they are basically broke because they have not properly managed their money lately. They ask to borrow some money from Amy and Nick. They ask to borrow almost the entire amount Amy has left.

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 23, 2010 Analysis

Financial problems are one of the primary reasons that married couples have problems. Amy is starting to paint the picture with her journal entries that money is a constant problem in her marriage with Nick. these problems compound when Amy's parents also find themselves in financial straits. The inference is that Nick might have disposed of Amy to collect on life insurance.



Nick Dunne: Two Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Two Days Gone Summary

Nick spends the night on his in-laws pullout couch in the hotel. While he's normally a heavy sleeper, he finds himself suffering from insomnia. A ballroom of the hotel is the headquarters for Amy's search party. Lots of people Nick knows show up. One of them is his old high school friend, Stucks. Stucks tells Nick that the "Blue Book Men," which are the factory workers that used to produce Blue Books for schools are camping out at the empty mall now. He says a girl was raped there last month. Stucks says he told the cops they should be searching the mall.

The cops send Nick out with the search party for one of the parks in the area. the cop has him as a greeter because Nick realizes they don't want him near any crime scenes. One of the women that Boney says is a "groupie" approaches Nick, essentially trying to hit on him through her sympathy. She ends up taking a picture of them together with her cell phone—the picture looking like they are spending a day at the baseball game.

Nick Dunne: Two Days Gone Analysis

Nick's insomnia stems from his guilt. It's keeping him awake. Nick is looking for any and all events and locations that point the blame away from him and toward another person. Nick says he would even hate the guy in the cell phone picture because Nick feels guilty. His guilt is making him hate himself as much as everyone else will hate him when they find out he murdered his wife.



Amy Elliott Dunne: September 15, 2010

Amy Elliott Dunne: September 15, 2010 Summary

Amy is cooking breakfast when the phone rings. She hears the voice that Nick uses when he talks to Go as he goes into the other room for privacy. When he returns, he tells Amy that his mom has stage 4 cancer. When he mentions his dad's Alzheimer's, Amy is shocked because Nick never told her about his dad being sick.

Amy suggest looking into a nurse, but Nick says his mom's insurance won't cover it. She knows it's a dig because they could have paid for her care if she hadn't given all their money to her parents. Nick tells her they are going to do the right thing, which is move to Missouri and take care of his mom.

Amy and Nick are packing a U-Haul for their move. When they have enough room in the truck for the bed they've promised to a friend, Nick asks Amy if she wants to take it. He mentions not wanting to hear about it anymore if she decides not to take it. She says no. as they drive away, Amy feels as if she is a piece of trash to be tossed in the trash or the river. She says she feels as if she could disappear.

Amy Elliott Dunne: September 15, 2010 Analysis

Nick isn't confiding in Amy as a husband typically confides in a wife. It seems as if Nick is moving away from their marriage and Amy senses this. He doesn't even consult Amy about the move. Instead, he tells her what they are going to do—as if Amy is a possession rather than an equal to Nick. Amy's feeling that she is a possession that could easily be tossed out or disappear is foreshadowing of Amy's demise.



Nick Dunne: Three Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Three Days Gone Summary

The search parties are back at headquarters. Everyone's sentiment is that Amy will only be found if the killer wants her to be found. Nick's disposable cell phone rings. It's the someone he called returning his call, but he can't answer it now. Marybeth catches Nick's attention.

She tells him Amy's stalker from high school, Hilary Handy, lives five hours away in Memphis. She pleads with Nick to drive there and check it out since the police won't. He agrees and says he'll also stop off to visit the other stalker, Desi, in St. Louis. Nick passes Stucks on the way out, who says the police should search the mall at night, but they went during the day. Sticks, Nick and the Hillsam brothers plan to go to the mall tonight. The disposable cell phone rings again. When Nick doesn't answer, Stucks says he should answer every call.

Nick gets a volunteer to drive him to the police station to pick up his car that has been released. He drives to Hannibal, Missouri, which is where Amy's second clue leads him. This is where he worked summers as Huck Finn. When he's there, Nick thinks about how he's brought Amy to the end of everything—his mom's life, dad's life, their marriage and the demise of the town. He also says the end of Amy's life.

Nick finds the next clue and reads it. He realizes Amy is trying to bring them back together while he has a different mindset. He knows where the next clue is but he's not ready to go there yet, so he drives back to Go's house. When Go comes home, they talk about what Nick did today—the search party—and how he's been acting. Go says she doesn't care how he acts around her, but that he needs to be careful around other people because they judge too fast.

They also talk about telling their dad about Amy's disappearance. Go says Nick shouldn't tell him. Go says she always got the impression that Amy reminded their dad of an ex-girlfriend because he treated Amy like a 12-year-old boy with a crush on her.

Stucks, Nick and Rand ride in the Hillsam's pickup truck to the mall that night. They enter the mall with baseball bats and flashlights. When they make it to the area where the druggies are, they talk to a man named Lonnie, who is a Blue Book Boy. When Nick shows him Amy's photo, Lonnie recognizes her, saying she wanted to buy a gun.

Nick Dunne: Three Days Gone Analysis

Nick is insinuating the Amy's killer doesn't want her body to be found. It suggests that Amy's body is either out-of-town, or she has been disposed of in a way that is unlikely to ever be found. Whoever is returning Nick's call is insistent because they keep calling. Since Nick doesn't answer it in front of anyone suggests that it is a private call that he



doesn't want anyone to overhear. It is likely someone who is involved in Amy's disappearance, so it could be that Nick hired someone to kill Amy so that Nick didn't have to do it himself.

Nick knows that Amy is dead. He is trying to pick up the clues she left behind in the treasure hunt so that the cops don't find them. Go's observation about their father's feelings for Amy again points to the fact that he could be involved. Since their dad is sick and was missing at the same time something happened to Amy, it is possible. It could even be Nick that planted the thought in his father's head.

Since Lonnie recognizes Amy, it suggests she went to the bad element of town looking to buy a gun. Something could have happened to Amy when she was dealing with people that are down on their luck. It also suggests that Amy could have contemplating suicide since she was looking for a gun. Although, suicide by gun is rare for women.



Amy Elliott Dunne: October 16, 2010

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 16, 2010 Summary

Amy writes about it being her one-month anniversary in Missouri. She talks about how the cuckoo clock her parents gave them before leaving New York is driving them all crazy—even the cat. Although Nick is the only who says so. It's also the day for their house warming party that Nick's mother insisted they have.

When Bill Dunne, Nick's father, sees Amy at the housewarming party, he asks what she's doing in their house he says she has some nerve being here.

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 16, 2010 Analysis

Bill Dunne's reaction to Amy at the housewarming party suggests Amy looks like and reminds him of someone he knew in his past. Since he has Alzheimer's he doesn't understand that Amy is not who he thinks she is, but is Nick's wife. This is additional evidence that Bill Dunne could have done something to Amy to get rid of someone in his past that he has mistaken Amy as.



Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Summary

Nick and Rand are back at Amy headquarters talking about Lonnie saying Amy saying she was sacred of someone and wanted a gun. She tried to buy it on Valentine's Day. They talk about the neighbor, Noelle Hawthorne, and how she told the police she and Amy were best friends. Nick says her husband said Noelle was looking at pictures of Amy and crying hysterically. Rand mentions Noelle quoting from an Amazing Amy book about best friends.

Rand and Nick meet with the two detectives at IHOP. The detectives say they are looking at a more personal motive and that they've spoken to Lonnie. They say that Amy's two stalkers are on their list and that Noelle is on their list too. They mention picking Nick's brain for more information, especially about the argument their neighbor overheard them having the night before Amy disappeared.

Nick lies, saying the argument was about what they would have for dinner for the anniversary. Before Nick and Rand leave, the detective asks if Amy is still a size two. Nick says yeas and the detective frowns.

When Nick arrives back at Amy headquarters, he calls Hilary Handy to see if she's heard from or seen Amy. Hilary gets mad that it's about the incident back in high school and hangs up on him. Nick's disposable cell phone vibrates in his pocket. He thinks he has to find a place to stow the phone. Shawna Kelley, the groupie lady, appears, urging Nick to take her casserole and catch a nap. She offers to drive him home but he wishes she would just go away because people are starting to stare.

When Shawna leaves, Noelle appears. She insists she is Amy's best friend here. She also mentions that Nick seems to be taking Amy's disappearance well. He asks if she has any information about Amy. Noelle insists she does and will share it with the police when they get around to talking with her. Nick concludes that all women are crazy.

Nick drives to the vacant house where his father once lived because this is where Amy's clue leads him. He punches in his birthday as the alarm code, but it doesn't work, so the alarm goes off. When the alarm company calls, he can't answer the name of Amy's first pet so the lady says she's calling the police and won't run off the code. Nick remembers it is Stuart and calls back the alarm company, gets a different lady and the police and alarm are called off. He finds the next envelope and returns to his car. He doesn't know what the next clue means, decides he's mad at all women but his sister and goes to her house.

As Go hands Nick his dinner, she asks why the police would be asking her if Amy is a size two. He says they won't let that go and suggests maybe they've found her clothes.



After Go is in bed, Nick's disposable cell phone gets a text and it's someone saying they are outside and for him to open the door.

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Analysis

The detective asks Nick if Amy is still a size two because of the panties they found in Nick's office when they went to look for the second clue. The panties must be a size other than that of Amy's size two, which means the panties do not belong to Amy, as Nick indicated they were Amy's.

Nick implies that Amy changed the alarm code because she always thought it being his birthday is too predictable. Nick thinks about how he'll always have to face Amy's trivia because even the alarm company is quizzing him on the name of Amy's first pet.

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 28, 2011

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 28, 2011 Summary

Amy writes about how she is making the best of a bad situation in Missouri because Nick seems to have lost interest in her and his ailing parents. As Amy sits with his mom at chemo, she thinks about a book proposal she found while snooping on Nick's computer. She says she snoops to gain insight into what Nick is thinking. The proposal is about endings and beginning and mentions his wife resenting him for moving her out of her New York life.

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 28, 2011 Analysis

Amy starts to see that Nick is starting a new life—a life that doesn't include her. He feels as if he is back in his element now that he has returned to his hometown. She mentions his loss of weight, haircut and new clothes. She also mentions him going out without her and she doesn't know where he's going. These are all signs that Nick is having an affair.



Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Pages 156-167

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Pages 156-167 Summary

When Nick goes outside, he sees Andie standing there. When she rushes to his arms, he feels as if he has finally scratched an itch. Nick admits to the reader that he has a young and beautiful mistress. They go inside and Andie climbs onto Nick's lap, telling him she needs him. Nick says that Andie likes to talk about Amy a lot—that she's always asking him questions about it.

Nick tells Andie they have to be careful, even though he wants to drag her into the bedroom and have sex with her. He worries the police might have Go's house under surveillance and he has a very young and very pretty mistress inside the house right now. He thinks about she was his student in his class and how Andie seduced him. He says he really loves Andie and that she fulfills in him everything that Amy no longer did.

The affair starts when Andie comes into The Bar after a bad date. She and Nick stay talking and drinking until after closing time. This is the night that Nick realizes he doesn't love Amy anymore, which is over a year ago now. Andie ends up spending the night and Nick is pushing her out the door when he hears Go getting ready in the bathroom. Go sees him and calls him an idiot.

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Pages 156-167 Analysis

Nick having a mistress adds to his motive for wanting Amy dead. Nick is also painting a picture where Andie has a motive for making Amy disappear too—so that Andie can have Nick all to herself. Andie continuously probing Nick for information about Amy suggests an obsession with Amy. If the word gets out that Nick is having an affair, this will point the guilty finger at him even more than it already does.



Amy Elliott Dunne: July 21, 2011

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 21, 2011 Summary

Amy writes about going to the plasma donation center with Maureen Dunne and some of her friends. Maureen asks Amy to be her proxy because Maureen cannot donate plasma anymore. The problem is that Amy has a serious phobia of needles and blood. When they get to the clinic, she tells the nurse this and says she can't do it. When Amy gets up to use the bathroom, she faints. Maureen and her friends take Amy home and Maureen puts Amy to bed.

When Nick arrives home, it's after 11 pm. When he slides into bed, Amy knows he's about to lie so she doesn't even listen to what he says.

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 21, 2011 Analysis

Ironically, Maureen is the one dying of cancer, but Maureen is taking care of Amy. Subconsciously, Amy seems to know that Nick is having an affair. She tells herself excuses, however, such as he likes to take a shower after working at the bar and before going to bed, or that he likes his freedom and she doesn't want to be a shrew about his making his own plans.



Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone Summary

Go demands to know how old she is and how long it's been going on. Nick tells her 23 and over a year. Go is astonished Nick's never told her about the affair. She also says they need to hire a lawyer with PR experience because if the media finds out about this, it's all over for him.

Nick falls back to sleep. He dreams of a bloody Amy with her head bashed in crawling across the kitchen floor. He wakes up and thinks that he should return to the scene of the crime. When Nick arrives, goes up to the bedroom. Go calls his cell to say a talk show is doing a show on Amy. When Nick watches it, they flash photos of him smirking at the press conference, smiling as he gets out his car and the cell phone photo of him and Shawna. Then, the camera shows Shawna in the studio.

Shawna tells the host that Nick was calm, friendly and flirty when she met him at the search party location. The rest of the show picks apart Nick's alibi on the day his wife went missing. Nick continues to stew over the show while he drives to the mansion where Desi lives in St. Louis.

Desi recognizes Nick when he opens the door. After sitting and talking with Desi for a few minutes inside, Nick realizes Desi was at the Amy headquarters the first day of the search. Desi talks about how Amy and how she makes you feel when she shows you attention, and then how you feel like you're lying on the floor naked when she's done with you. Nick relates to Desi's statement but can't believe Desi is saying this about someone else's wife.

Desi asks if Amy's father was definitely in New York when Amy went missing. Nick confirms he was. Desi's wife, Jacqueline, comes into the room. She looks like an older version of Amy. They talk about the letters they wrote to each other over the years. Nick says Amy always threw Desi's away unopened and that she never wrote him back. Desi also says he's already spoken to the police and is surprised that Nick doesn't know this. As Jacqueline shows Nick out, she says if he has any more questions for Desi to contact their lawyer and hands him a business card.

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone Analysis

Nick's dream is a memory of when he killed Amy. When he says she needs to return to the scene of the crime, it is house, in the kitchen where Amy met her demise. Now that Go and possibly people that Andie know that he and Andie are having an affair, someone is going to leak the news on purpose or accidentally to the police.

Desi is suggesting that Amy's father has a motive for harming Amy. Desi's reaction to Nick saying Amy never wrote him suggests that Amy was writing letters to Desi but lying

to Nick. The fact that Jacqueline tells Nick to contact their lawyer next time instead of them suggests the Collings' have something to hide.

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 17, 2011

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 17, 2011 Summary

Amy talks about tracking Nick's moods toward her. Last month, it was all bad. The last week she says has been all good. He even came home from work, kissed her full on the mouth and they had sex. He's also been showing her all of her childhood haunts lately. She caught him going through their documents the other day. He says he just wants to make sure everything is in order. Amy thinks he might ask her for a second mortgage on The Bar.

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 17, 2011 Analysis

Nick's attitude has changed toward Amy because he is in love with Andie. Additionally, Nick has decided to end his marriage with Amy. Amy catches Nick going through their box of documents because he is reviewing their life insurance. He wants to make sure Amy's is in order so when he kills her he can collect on the insurance claim.



Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone Summary

Nick picks up a message from the detectives telling them to meet at his house at 4 pm. They try talk in Nick's living room, but the planes practicing for the upcoming air show are flying overhead. Nick tells the detectives about Desi, but they say he's not a suspect. Boney asks Nick to talk about where he was the morning Amy went missing. She asks him again if anyone saw him there.

Boney asks where Nick bought the coffee he drank at the beach that day. He says he made it at home, but Boney says there isn't any coffee in the house. Then, she starts talking about how the mess in the living room doesn't look like the dozens of home invasions they've investigated. They also say the kitchen floor lit up when the lab tech used Luminal on it—and it lit up with blood that is Amy's blood type. They ask again what Amy and Nick were arguing about the night before she went missing. He says mundane things, such as who should clean the cat box. Then, he launches into an explanation about how Amy wasn't happy whether she stayed home or worked and he was tired of being the one that was supposed to make her happy.

The detectives bring up the financial situation that Amy was wealthy when they first married and now they have over two hundred thousand dollars in credit card debt. When Nick looks at the bills that only have his name on them, he says it must be identity theft because someone spent seven thousand dollars on golf clubs and he doesn't even golf. They say they'll check into that. They also say they spoke to Noelle.

Noelle says Amy was very upset about the bills and worried Nick married her for her money. They say it's funny Nick says Noelle and Amy weren't friends because there are pictures all over Noelle's living room of Amy and Noelle together. The detectives mention that Nick keeps trying to point the finger at everyone. Then, they bring up the fact that Nick increased Amy's life insurance policy to \$1.2 million. they also mention the search Nick did on his computer a few months ago for a body float in Mississippi River. Nick says that was for a book. Finally, Nick asks for a lawyer.

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone Analysis

Boney is inferring that Nick is lying and that the home invasion was staged. While Nick tries to question the detectives, they are pointing toward the fact that someone hurt Amy and then staged the scene to make it look like there was a struggle, and then cleaned up the bloody mess in the kitchen. The detectives are indirectly accusing Nick of doing this because they keep questioning him on the state of his marriage.

The detectives are suggesting that Nick's motive for killing Amy is financial. One piece at a time, the detectives are unraveling Nick's stories, which are lies.



Amy Elliott Dunne: October 21, 2011

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 21, 2011 Summary

Amy says she hasn't written in some time because Nick's mom died. She was in hospice for three days before she finally went. Amy says that Nick has come undone. Amy has been spending a lot of time at Noelle's because she enjoys spending time with the triplets. It's making Amy want to have a baby.

When Amy mentions having a baby to Nick, he cracks. He says now is the worst time to have a baby. He says he's having a hard enough time providing for the two of them and he can't take any more stress. He says if he takes on any more stress that he'll snap. Amy says she knows he's telling the truth.

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 21, 2011 Analysis

One by one, bad things are piling up. It starts with both of them losing their job. Add to it the move to Missouri, two sick parents and now a dead mother. Slowly, Nick is coming undone. He forewarns Amy that he is about to snap, and she believes what he says. This could be the reason that Amy buys a gun. She is scared. She's scared of her own husband and what he is capable of doing to her.



Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Summary

Amy's story has gone national in the week she's been missing. There is a candlelight vigil for Amy tonight at the local park. The new media is attacker Lance Nicholas Dunne, his character and his personality traits.

As the Elliotts drive the vigil with Nick and Go, they mention getting their own experts to offset the coverage that the crime scene was staged. The Elliotts don't seem to know about the other stuff. Noelle, however, is booked on the same talk show that Shawna was one, airing after the vigil.

The Bar is doing great business because everyone wants to drink at the place owned by the maybe-killer. At the vigil, Nick reads a speech about Amy Go wrote for him. He spots Andie in the crowd when he's talking about how much he loves Amy and wants to grow old with her. Nick diverts his eyes away from Amy. At the end of his speech, Noelle approaches the stage with her triplets and asks Nick what he's done with Amy. Nick notices Noelle is pregnant again and he makes a face that he knows will be analyzed later.

Before Nick realizes it, Noelle has taken over the microphone. She poses some questions she says Nick needs to answer. She wants to know what he's done with his wife, his pregnant wife. Go grabs Nick and starts moving him toward her car while the droves of reporters flash cameras and throw questions at them.

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Analysis

Unbeknownst to Nick, if he killed Amy, he also killed their unborn child. Just as Nick was keeping secrets from Amy, Amy also started keeping secrets from Nick. When Amy suggested they try to have a baby, she was likely testing the waters to see how Nick felt about having a child since she was already pregnant.

Amy Elliott Dunne: February 15, 2012

Amy Elliott Dunne: February 15, 2012 Summary

Amy thinks that Nick might be unstable. She says she catches him looking at her with such disgust, as if he's caught her doing something wrong instead of eating a bowl of cereal. She says she caught him fretting over a pile of credit bills recently. She also says that when she offered to get a job, Nick pushed her and she hit her head on the island in the kitchen. Amy admits that the look on Nick's face while she was on the floor—like he wanted to push her again—is what caused her to drive to mall to try to buy a gun.

Amy Elliott Dunne: February 15, 2012 Analysis

Amy's diary is unraveling all of the secrets as to why she bought a gun. The question is who is in possession of the diary. If it was in the house, then it is likely in the hands of the detectives that are investigating the case. The diary provides insightful clues as to what was happening during the time leading up to Amy's disappearance.



Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Pages 212-216

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Pages 212-216 Summary

As they drive away, Go asks if Nick knew Amy was pregnant. he says no. when he gets to Go's house, Rand calls to ask if Nick knew. Nick says no. Rand says the police are subpoenaing Amy's records from the doctor that she went to confirm the pregnancy, so they'll know tonight. When Nick gets off the phone, Go says Nick has been lying since Amy went missing and she doesn't know what to think.

Andie calls on the disposable cell phone and makes Nick meet her at an abandoned fort on the outskirts of town. When Nick is back at his own house a few hours later, the nursing home calls Nick to tell him his father is missing again. Nick glances out the back window and spots his dad down by the boathouse. The nursing home comes to pick up Bill when Boney arrives to tell Nick Amy was pregnant. As he acts shocked and sad, he pictures Amy on the kitchen floor holding her stomach with her head bashed in.

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Pages 212-216 Analysis

Even Go, Nick's own twin sister, is starting to doubt that Nick is innocent of his wife's disappearance. Nick is a murder. He is a double murderer. When the detectives prove that Nick is responsible for Amy's death, they will charge him with the homicide of his unborn child as well.



Amy Elliott Dunne: June 26, 2012

Amy Elliott Dunne: June 26, 2012 Summary

Amy wakes up in the morning. She feels sick and runs to the toilet to vomit. She counts the days in her head. She thinks she can't be pregnant because she is on birth control, even if she has missed a few and is almost thirty-eight. She goes to the drugstore, buys and takes a pregnancy test. She runs to Noelle's door with the stick in her hand to announce that she's pregnant.

Amy decides to use the treasure hunt to tell Nick. She'll make the present a wooden cradle, since wood is the fifth anniversary gift. Her second thought is that she wishes she were able to buy the gun. Amy still feels as if Nick might kill her. She even writes at the end that if she's found dead then the reader will know who did it. She's only partially kidding.

Amy Elliott Dunne: June 26, 2012 Analysis

Amy is torn between being happy and sad that she's pregnant. even though she's never really wanted children, she started to think a child might repair her marriage and relationship with Nick. Ironically, even though they were barely having sex, weren't trying to have a baby, and Amy was on birth control, Amy did get pregnant. in a further twist of irony, Nick is the one that always wanted to have kids, and now that he has killed his wife, he has also killed his child.



Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Summary

Nick decides to hire Tanner Bolt. He's an attorney that takes on impossible cases, such as cases of other supposed wife killers. Nick flies to New York to meet with Tanner. Tanner tells Nick everything he has to do. Tanner is not happy to hear that Nick has left some messages for Amy's parents but that they haven't spoken since they found out Amy is pregnant. Tanner also asks Nick about a guy that supposedly date raped Amy. Nick says he doesn't know anything about it and finds out it was in the eight months between the time he and Amy met and became boyfriend and girlfriend.

Nick agrees to hire Tanner, so Tanner says Nick as to tell him the truth about their marriage. Nick confesses to his yearlong affair with Andie. Tanner says he has to end it. On the plane ride home, Nick goes from being in love with Andie to not being in love with Andie.

He rereads the last clue from Amy. He guesses the gift is a wooden cradle because he knows his wife so well. He realizes that Amy hid it in an old wooden shed behind Go's house. When Nick gets to Go's house, he goes to shed, opens the door and cries out no.

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Analysis

Tanner is looking for any loophole possible to point the blame at someone other than Nick. The problem with Nick breaking it off with Andie is that it will likely cause Andie to go public with their affair. This bad publicity could damage Nick's reputation worse than it already is. Ironically, Nick knows Amy better than he even thought he did. He is able to guess the present is a wooden cradle for Amy to announce to Nick that she is pregnant. when Nick screams no as he opens the door to the shed it is because there is wooden baby cradle there waiting for him to find.



Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of Summary

Amy is writing again. She is alive. She admits that she has been plotting for the last year to frame Nick for murder. She is driving away from Missouri now. She describes how deep she had to cut her arm to get the amount of blood she needed to make her injuries look serious. She says her arm still hurts now. She cleaned up the blood, so it would look like Nick cleaned it up and then made it look as if there was a struggle in the living room.

The real Amy describes how the diary she wrote is a work of fiction. That Amy is a character that she made up. She says that over the years she had made up different personas to fit the situation she was in and the guy she wanted to be with at the time. Amy blames her parents because her mother had seven miscarriages and stillborn babies before Amy was born.

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of Analysis

In a twist, Nick is right. He is innocent. Amy has been planning to frame him for her murder over the past year or so. Everything Amy has been doing was all part of her master plan to set the stage for her disappearance. Her motive is that she wants to make Nick pay. It seems as if she knows about his affair. In reality, Amy seems as if she is a very spiteful, vindictive and unhappy person. She resents her parents for bringing her into the world and she resents Nick for "forcing" her to be the Amy, the Cool Girl, that he thought she was.



Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 239-245

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 239-245 Summary

When Nick enters his sister's woodshed, it is filled with all of the purchases that were on the credit card statements the two detectives showed to Nick. The woodshed is also one of the places that Nick had sex with Andie many times. He realizes that the locations where Amy has been leaving the clues are all the places he has cheated on her with Andie. This is when Nick realizes Amy knows about his infidelity and that she is actually framing him for her disappearance, and eventually her murder.

Nick retrieves Go from her house and shows her the shed. He tells her what he thinks is happening. She urges him to look for the gift, which Nick finds. When he opens it, it is a male wooden puppet, female wooden puppet and a baby wooden puppet. They believe the puppets are a clue, that Amy is trying to tell Nick something, but they aren't sure what it is. They go inside the house and Go does some research online, using the quote Amy used in her note included with the puppets.

Go figures out they are Punch and Judy dolls from an old puppet show, where Punch kills their baby.

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 239-245 Analysis

Everything Nick has been telling everyone all along is true. He didn't kill Amy. Amy was purposely acting the way she was over the past year or so that they've been living in Missouri to set Nick up. She wants to punish him for cheating on her. Nick is coming to realize just how mentally ill his wife is. Ironically, Amy is mentally ill and both of her parents are world famous psychologists.



Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of Pages 246-252

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of Pages 246-252 Summary

Amy says she found out Nick was cheating on her when she went to The Bar. She saw him leave with the young girl, and eventually push her up against a tree to kiss her and fondle her before going up to her apartment. Amy says Nick never even noticed Amy was there or following them.

She says she doesn't want to take the high road. She doesn't want to divorce him because that will just make it too easy for him. Instead, she plans on truly making Nick pay. She explains how she is driving away in a used car she bought five months prior to her disappearance. She paid cash for the car and bought it in Arkansas. She's been parking it in long-term lots around town, paying cash and wearing a ball cap so nobody recognizes her.

Amy is now driving to a group of cabins in the Missouri Ozarks, where she plans to stay for the first few weeks. She stops at a gas station bathroom to cut and dye her hair so she looks totally different. Amy also mentions that she planted her diary in hopes that the cops will find it.

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Day of Pages 246-252 Analysis

Nick is right about Amy making lists and being very anal about getting things done. In fact, she has a checklist for framing Nick for her murder. She is working through each of the items on the list. Nick believes that Amy is pointing him to a final item that can help to exonerate him. Amy admitting that she planted the diary she's been writing over the past year, but backdating the entries, is what can exonerate Nick. If the police find it, it is additional evidence that Nick is guilty of Amy's disappearance and eventually her murder. If Nick finds it first, however, he can get rid of the diary and work to prove that he is innocent.



Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 253-257

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 253-257 Summary

Nick calls his lawyer to tell him he thinks Amy is framing him. Tanner tells him he'll be in Missouri in the morning. Go goes to bed. Nick hears a banging on the back door that turns out to be Andie. She's going on and on about how she needs Nick and he has to tell her that they can't see each other anymore.

Nick thinks about how he sought Andie out the morning of Amy's disappearance. He went to Andie's apartment to have sex with her. Andie says that she's Nick's alibi for that morning and that they should go to the police. Nick explains that they can't see each other anymore. Andie gets angry and when Nick tries to stop her from leaving, she bites him.

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 253-257 Analysis

Nick is starting to see Andie for who she really is. It seems as if he was lusting after her or infatuated with her, which is what kept their relationship going. Now that the stark reality of what is happening to Nick is hitting him in the face, he sees Andie for the young, naïve girl that she is.

Now that Andie is scorned, Nick sees what she will do. He expects her to drink a little too much and then confide in people she knows or family members. Once this happens, the affair rumors will spread and it will make the police investigation worse than it already is for Nick.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days Gone Summary

Amy is hiding away in her cabin. Her disposable cell phone rings, which is the alarm company. This clues Amy to the fact that Nick has made it to his father's house in the treasure hunt. She changed the code and put her disposable cell phone number as the first contact a few weeks prior. Amy is watching the talk show, where the host is tearing Nick apart and flashing all of the photos that make him look guilty.

Amy explains that she's been stockpiling money over the past year. She used cash advances on the credit cards she took out in Nick's name, made small ATM withdrawals, stole from Nick's pockets and stole from the tip jar at The Bar. She says she has enough to live on until she kills herself. She plans to get on a booze cruise in the Gulf of Mexico, drink sleeping pills with alcohol and then drown herself overboard.

The man, Jeff, living a few cabins down from Amy delivers fresh fish to her. The front desk lady gives Amy tomatoes from her garden. Amy is using the name Lydia, which is what her parents would have named her if they hadn't chosen Amy. Amy admits to being a friend of Andie's on Facebook, with a made up profile, so she knows Andie likes to share and expects Andie to share her affair with Nick in about three days or less.

Amy talks about how she has transitioned herself into the opposite of Amy. Amy was pale and thin. Lydia is dark brown from the sun and has put on 12 pounds. With the haircut and color, Lydia looks nothing like Amy. Additionally, people treat Lydia different than they did Amy.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days Gone Analysis

Amy plans to commit suicide. It seems she is waiting to see Nick pay for what he has done to her before she commits suicide. Amy is a very calculating person. She has been carefully planning each piece of her disappearance so that it really looks as if Nick is responsible for her death. Since there is no such thing as the perfect murder, and because Amy is overly confident about her ability to plan the perfect murder, there is foreshadowing that Nick will eventually be exonerated. The problem is that they might find out of his innocence after he is put to death because Missouri does have the death penalty. This would be the ultimate twist of irony.



Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Summary

Nick tries to call Andie, but she doesn't answer, so he leaves her a voice mail. Boney shows up and asks about the bite Mark on Nick's face. He says it's hives that he gets when he's stressed. She tells him they found Amy's purse on the riverbank in Hannibal with Nick's fingerprints on it. She asks if he's been to Hannibal. Nick thinks about the drive he made there the morning he got his car back from the police because that is where Amy's clue led him.

Nick tells Boney she needs to speak to his lawyer. When she finds out it is Tanner, she says guilty people hire him. She says to let her know when he gets to town so they can sort everything out.

When Tanner arrives, he checks out the woodshed. When returns, he wants Nick to tell him why Nick thinks Amy is setting him up. Nick starts to tell about Amy's character so Tanner understands how brilliant and calculating Amy is. Nick tells a story about a truck driver that once cut Amy off. She makes Nick call the "How is my driving number?" on the back of the truck and report the driver. Months later, Nick catches Amy telling another fake bad driving story on the phone. She says it's her fourth call over time, how she's even tracked the trucking routes to make it believable and that she plans to get the driver fired.

Nick goes over each of the clues with Tanner. He tells Tanner how each clue has a double meaning. His wife knows him so well that she got him to start loving her again while he was reading the clues, but her true intention was to screw him over. Tanner points out that each location, there was some item—in his office, the panties, in Hannibal, her purse and in the woodshed, all the items from the credit card bills. He wants to know what's at his dad's house.

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Analysis

Boney suggests that she thinks Nick is innocent, but she implies he is making it difficult to prove his innocence. Amy intentionally planted her purse with Nick's fingerprints and then used the clue to send him to Hannibal. This way it would look as if he dumped Amy's purse there after he killed her. Tanner suggests that Amy has left another item at Bill Dunne's house—an item which Nick didn't previously find. The implication is the Amy has hidden her diary there, but of course, the characters do not know this yet. It foreshadows Tanner going to search Bill Dunne's home to see what he finds.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 273-282

Amy Elliott Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 273-282 Summary

Amy sees that her pregnancy is now part of the news coverage. She explains that she drained her toilet and then invited Noelle, who had told her she was pregnant, for lots of lemonade. When Noelle uses the bathroom, she discovers the toilet doesn't flush, which Amy feigns surprise. Amy goes back with an empty jar to collect the urine. When Amy goes to the doctor, she tells him about her fear of needles, which is a lie also, so that he'll just do a urine test. Now, she has a pregnancy on her medical record.

Amy thinks that mostly her plan is going well, but that there are so many things that are out of her control. For example, Andie hasn't spoken out about the affair yet and Amy might need to help someone find the diary. Amy marks three days from now on her wall calendar so she can call the tip line. In the meantime, a woman that looks abused moves into the cabin next to Amy. Amy decides to study her as part of her next persona. When the girl shows up at the pool where Amy is, Amy introduces herself as Nancy instead of Lydia. The girl introduces herself as Greta.

Greta invites Amy to her cabin. The talk show comes on covering Amy's story. Greta says Amy sounds like a stuck-up bitch spending her husband's money. Amy thinks about how she did nice things around Missouri since she created her plan. She used to visit Bill Dunne at the home and whisper in his ear that they loved him and that he should come live with them. When Greta returns from the bathroom, and the show continues, Greta says she hopes it isn't true that Nick killed Amy. She hopes Amy got away.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Seven Days Gone Pages 273-282 Analysis

Amy is starting to slip up. If the woman tells someone that Amy is Nancy instead of Lydia, it could draw suspicion onto Amy. Ironically, Greta doesn't recognize Amy in the features of the woman that sits right in front of her. All of the nice things that people said Amy did for them that Nick didn't believe was all part of Amy's plan too. Additionally, Amy notices that her own friends are bending the truth during their interviews to make Amy look like the good one and Nick like the bad one, because everyone likes their few minutes of fame.



Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Summary

Nick, Go and Tanner search everywhere in Bill Dunne's vacant house, but they don't find anything. When Tanner asks Nick where he was the morning of Amy's disappearance before he went to Andie's apartment, Nick admits to reading his old magazine he wrote for in the garage of one of the vacant houses in their neighborhood.

Nick, Go and Tanner search everywhere in Bill Dunne's vacant house, but they don't find anything. When Tanner asks Nick where he was the morning of Amy's disappearance before he went to Andie's apartment, Nick admits to reading his old magazine he wrote for in the garage of one of the vacant houses in their neighborhood.

When Nick arrives home, his in-laws show up at the house. Marybeth expresses her surprise at Nick hiring Tanner Bolt. Marybeth discusses how the altercation was in the living room where they're standing, and she even tries to overturn the ottoman, which the police proved is not an easy feat. Rand wants assurance from Nick that he didn't kill Amy and Nick gives it to him.

After they leave, Nick calls Tommy O'Hara, who is the guy Amy accused of date rape. Nick introduces himself and Tommy tells Nick to call back in 10 minutes. Nick calls back and Tommy says this is a conversation he needs a drink to have so he is in a bar. He tells Nick that he and Amy were dating for a few months and when Tommy started dating someone else and making excuses not to see Amy, Amy found out about it.

She shows up at his one night with a DVD and they end up having sex. Next thing Tommy knows, the police are at his door saying she was raped. They find two ties tucked under his mattress that match the ligature marks on Amy's wrists. The charges get dropped by Amy, but Tommy says he receives an anonymous note a couple weeks later telling him to think twice next time. Tommy says when he saw the news story, he knew Amy had graduated to murder.

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Analysis

Tanner is playing devil's advocate. He is thinking of all the angles the police can come at them with if they try to get ahead of the story. If they tell the police about the stuff in the shed, the police could say that Go is Nick's accomplice or even that she is the one that opened the credit cards in Nick's name.

Nick and Tommy are living parallel lives, in a way. Both men crossed Amy and she has made a plan to make both men suffer for what they did to her. Amy set Tommy up for date rape and now she's framing Nick for murder.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Days Gone Summary

Amy spends some time with Greta and Jeff, riding bumper boats and playing mini-golf. Amy reveals to the reader that her reason for trying to buy a gun was so she could commit suicide with it. Now, Amy decides she isn't going to die, which means that she has to do something about money because she only has \$9,132 left to live.

Amy tries to talk to Dorothy about the rent, thinking Dorothy will allow her to live there rent free. Dorothy just tells Amy that she better get a job then. When Greta, Jeff and Amy go to the hot dog stand for lunch, Greta catches Amy with a big wad of cash.

Later, Jeff comes to Amy's cabin to offer her a job—\$50 for one night's work. He takes her to catch catfish that he says he sells to a special buyer. Amy catches the fish in the net and then Jeff kills them with a bat and puts them in coolers full of ice. When the work is over, Jeff suggests they swim to get clean. As they are swimming back to shore, Amy swears Jeff is trying to reach the moneybelt and her clothes that she has left on the shore before she reaches it.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Days Gone Analysis

Amy carries as much cash on her as possible because she is scared to leave it all in her cabin. If she is robbed while she is out then she will lose all of her money, and it is all the money she has. Since Greta sees how much money Amy has, it foreshadows Great robbing Amy for her money.

Either Amy is starting to get paranoid that Jeff and Greta are trying to rob her, or they are looking for ways to steal Amy's money.



Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Summary

When Nick hangs up with Tommy, he calls Hilary Hand. He gets Hilary to tell him what really happened with Amy in high school. Hilary says they were friends for a few months. Amy called Hilary, Suzy, which is Amazing Amy's sidekick from her parents' books. Amy got Hilary to do stuff like buy clothes like Amy's when they went shopping, or to tell Amy's mom that Hilary was Amy now, her daughter, just as a joke.

When Amy pushed herself down the stairs and broke her own ribs, she told the school it was Hilary that pushed her down the stairs. Hilary realized that once she got to know the real Amy, Amy needed to set Hilary up to make it look like she was stalking Amy. Hilary says it started when a boy asked her out instead of Amy, a girl invited her to Thanksgiving instead of Amy and because Hilary's grades were slightly better than Amy's grades.

Nick takes a walk and winds up in a bar. The bartender recognizes him and won't serve Nick a drink. A young girl nearby gets the drink for Nick. She says she's a writer for a blog and she's there to get an interview with Nick. She says she took a break to get a drink and she just happens to turn into him in the bar. She begs him to give her the interview and after a few drinks Nick finally relents.

The girl videotapes the interview. Nick goes on and on about how great Amy is and how much he wants her back so he can show her how much he loves her.

Nick Dunne: Eight Days Gone Analysis

Amy always has to be the best. When she isn't the best, or she's not the one getting the attention, this is what causes her to set people up for their own fall. She did it to Hilary way back in high school. She did it Tommy when they were dating. Now, she's doing it to Nick.

Nick goes to the bar to blow off some steam and some stress. This might come back to haunt him because now the reporters are going to say that Nick is out drinking while his wife is missing. Additionally, the videotaped interview is going to go viral, which could send the audience to attack Nick even more, or to start thinking that he might just be innocent after all.

Nick is lying throughout the entire video interview. Even though he is drunk, Nick knows that he has to convince Amy to come out of hiding. The only thing that might work is to convince Amy that Nick is still in love with her.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone Summary

Amy wakes up feeling paranoid. She starts analyzing Jeff's fast swim toward the shore and her money and Greta seeing Amy with a big wad of cash. Amy also wakes up to the news that Nick Dunne has a videotaped confession. When Amy returns from McDonald's Dorothy is on the porch of her cabin demanding Amy's rent. Amy pays Dorothy in cash, as usual, but Amy notices Greta and Jeff watching from Greta's porch.

Amy starts packing and wiping down her room for fingerprints. She even cleans the drains out so she doesn't leave behind any of her hair. As she's about to finish, Greta and Jeff knock on her door and insist on coming inside. When they get inside, they rob Amy and take all of her money. They warn Amy she should be more careful next time about flashing all of that money around.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone Analysis

While Amy thinks she is brilliant, she is out of her element. In dealing with Greta and Jeff, she is dealing with an element of the population that she is not use to dealing with—grafters. When Amy watches Nick's interview in the bar, she really starts to believe that Nick loves her again. She even mistakes the bite mark on Nick's cheek as hives from being stressed and nervous.

Now that Amy is penniless, she is going to have to change her plan. A change in plan is what could get her outed as being alive. When everyone finds out that she is alive and that she faked her own death, they will all turn on her and hate her.

Nick Dunne: Nine Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Nine Days Gone Summary

Nick wakes up with a bad hangover, but is enjoying to positive reviews of his bar interview video. Everyone is starting to say that Nick might not be guilty after all. Tanner and Go show up because Tanner has booked Nick with the interview host Sharon Schrieber. Tanner scolds Nick for doing the bar interview, but says that it's what got Nick on Sharon's radar screen.

Nick says he hasn't heard from Andie and that they can't count on the Elliotts for support anymore. Tanner takes Nick to his wife, Betsy Bolt, to get him ready for the TV interview. Betsy turns out to be a six-foot-tall black woman, which takes Nick by surprise. They do a mock interview, where Betsy is Sharon. She and Tanner coach Nick through what to say and what not to say.

Nick Dunne: Nine Days Gone Analysis

Tanner is trying to use the media to turn around Nick's image. Even the video in the bar was impromptu, it is working in Nick's favor so far. It might be the leverage Nick needs to turn around public opinion to be on his side. Ultimately, this is what might keep Nick out of jail and out of the electric chair.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone Summary

Amy doesn't have any money. She's sleeping in her car in a parking lot of a shopping center. Suddenly, it comes to her what she has to do.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Nine Days Gone Analysis

Amy has never been down on her luck before. In true Amy style, nothing keeps her down, though. An idea comes to her on how she can turn her bad situation around. It foreshadows her reaching out to Desi, since it seems as if the two have kept in touch over the years. Since Amy framed all of the other "stalkers" in her life, it is quite possible she has been lying about Desi all of these years too.



Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Summary

Nick is in the spare room of Tanner's suite, which is where the interview is scheduled to take place. Boney calls Tanner's cell phone but he ignores her call because they don't want anything to disturb Nick for his upcoming video. Sharon enters the room but someone runs up to her and whispers something in her ear. Sharon says Oh my God.

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Analysis

Boney was calling Tanner to warn him about some information that came out about the investigation. Now, it seems that Sharon knows it but Nick and his crew do not. Based on Sharon's reaction, it seems as if the news is not going to bode well for Nick. Sharon is likely to use this negative information during her interview with Nick. Since Nick doesn't have time to prepare, it will likely throw him off and make him look guilty again—meaning the plan for the interview to change his image will backfire.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone Summary

Amy meets Desi at a nearby casino. She admits she's kept in touch with Desi over the years. Amy mentions that Desi has the need to rescue his women, so she has to put on an act where she plays as if she needs Desi to get him to help her. Amy bursts into tears while she makes up a story about Nick abusing her for years.

Back in boarding school, when she was dating Desi, Amy made up a story about her father. She told Desi that her dad would sneak into her room at night and rape her. Desi tells Amy about Nick's visit to his house. Desi mentions that Amy should divorce Nick and marry the right man. A man keeps staring at Amy and eventually asks if she is related to a specific family. Amy tells him no, but she is uncomfortable that he continues to stare at her when returns to the bar.

Throughout their meeting, Desi keeps trying to get Amy to go to stay at his lake house. Finally, Amy relents. As they are leaving the casino, Amy sees Andie doing a press conference on TV.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone Analysis

When Nick was visiting with Desi at his home, the reason Desi was asking about Amy's father is because Amy told Desi that her father raped her when she was living at home. Desi is implying that the "right man" that Amy should marry is him. Desi is in love with Amy and wants to marry her—at least the Amy that he thinks she is.

The guy that thinks he recognizes Amy at the bar, mistakes her for being part of some well-to-do family. Later, he might realize that Amy looks like the missing wife who is all over the news. When and if he does, he'll report the sighting to the police.



Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 348-354

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 348-354 Summary

Sharon, the talk show host interviewing Nick, finds out about his affair with Andie. Nick uses the air time to apologize to Amy for everything he did wrong. He promises he will treat her the way she deserves to be treated, if she just comes home.

Everyone is thrilled with how well Nick did in the interview. Go calls Nick to tell him the cops are at her house with a warrant for the woodshed. When Nick and Tanner arrive, they show Nick some abusive porno DVDs, and they say that his fingerprints are all over everything.

The detectives show Nick a black bound book to see if he recognizes Amy's diaries. Nick says she didn't keep a dairy. They say they have seven years' worth of her diaries.

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 348-354 Analysis

Nick continues to use his time on the air to lure Amy back to him. Nick is lying through his teeth about how much he loves her and about how much he wants her back. His real motive is to get Amy to return so that people can see he didn't kill her and then he can get out of trouble with the police. When it breaks that Nick was having an affair with Andie, however, everything that had been going great for Nick takes a turn for the worse.

As predicted, now people see his affair as additional motive for wanting to get rid of Amy and their unborn child. Amy has thought of everything. Even though Nick didn't touch anything in the shed, his fingerprints are all over the merchandise in the shed, as if he handled it. Amy likely put Nick's fingerprints on the object while Nick was sleeping. Nick is taken by surprise that Amy has seven year's worth of diaries since he didn't know she kept diaries.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone Summary

Amy dumps the car she bought and Desi drives her out to his lake house. Desi gives Amy a tour of the house when they arrive. He assigns Amy to the second biggest bedroom in the place. Desi says he had it painted her favorite color, which Amy thinks was her favorite color in high school, not now.

Desi takes Amy out to a greenhouse that he has had filled with tulips. He says he hopes they are still her favorite flowers. Amy asks Desi to leave her some money, but he insists she doesn't need money since she has everything she needs in the lake house. When she insists, he gives her \$40. Amy starts to think she's made a mistake by coming here.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Days Gone Analysis

Amy is manipulating Desi once again to get what she wants. She was living in her car and was penniless. She knew she could count on Desi to rescue her. While she expects him to give her money and help to put her up in a posh spot, it foreshadows that Desi will take control over Amy. He wants to be the one controlling her so that he can have her to himself. Amy is going to wind up as a virtual prisoner in Desi's house because she doesn't have anywhere else to go or anyone else to turn to, unless she goes back to Nick.



Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 359-364

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 359-364 Summary

Boney talks about how Amy wrote about Nick fixing her drinks. Then, she says how sick she got. Boney points out that Nick was trying to kill Amy and that their handwriting experts agree that the diaries are in Amy's handwriting. Nick has a bad feeling that something is going to happen. Boney goes on to mention that Amy tried to buy the gun because she was afraid Nick might kill her.

The detectives admit that they found the diary in the furnace at Bill Dunne's house. They say only the edges were burnt. Nick warns them that they were supposed to find it and that's why they received an anonymous tip on the tip line. Tanner tells the detectives that Amy is alive and that she is trying to frame Nick.

They discredit Hilary Handy by saying that she tried to kill herself twice since high school. They discredit Tommy by saying that he has been in rehab twice. Boney looks at the Punch and Judy puppets and questions where the handle is for the Judy puppet. She mentions that it is similar to a club.

Nick Dunne: Ten Days Gone Pages 359-364 Analysis

The clues Amy writes about the illness she got after Nick gave her drinks suggests that Nick was poisoning Amy with antifreeze. Nick's bad feeling is that he is going to be arrested for killing Amy. Amy is the one that called the anonymous tip line to lead the detectives right to the diary. Boney is suggesting that the handle for the Judy puppet could be the weapon to beat Amy.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Eleven Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eleven Days Gone Summary

Amy is watching Nick's interview with Sharon Schrieber. Desi knows Nick's interview is that night so he brings all of Amy's favorite foods back to the lake house for her. Neither of them discusses the baby because Desi knows that miscarriages run in her family. By the end of Nick's interview, Amy thinks she has to get home to Nick.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eleven Days Gone Analysis

Nick's plan is starting to work. Amy is starting to believe that what he is saying on the air is true—that he really loves, that he wants her to come home and that everything will be different this time. Amy is explaining away the fake pregnancy to Desi by inferring that she has had a miscarriage. Desi doesn't find this strange because he knows about all of the miscarriages and stillborn babies Amy's mom had before having Amy.

Amy thinks she should go back to Nick. This means she has to take care of Desi first. She'll have to make up a story about him, or even kill him, so that nobody finds out the truth about her disappearance.



Nick Dunne: Fourteen Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Fourteen Days Gone Summary

Nick wakes up the morning after the interview with a bad hangover. He's sleeping on Go's couch. Now, the media is back to calling Nick a murderer. The relationship between Go and Nick is changing, because now they snap at each other when they talk. Nick goes back to his house.

Later that night, he finds his father knocking on his door asking if "she" is here. Bill Dunne tells Nick that he knows who. Then, he starts saying little bitch, over and over again.

Nick Dunne: Fourteen Days Gone Analysis

As new evidence presents itself, even Go is having a hard time believing that Nick is innocent. Bill Dunne keeps coming to Nick's house. Bill is looking for Amy. Amy must have said something to Bill that keeps drawing him to their home.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Twenty-Six Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Twenty-Six Days Gone Summary

Desi is at the lake house again. He won't let Amy go anywhere. Even if she wanted to, she is in the house without any money or a vehicle to take her anywhere. Desi brings Amy lunch and food every day, but she covets to be able to eat out at the fancy restaurants she knows Desi is frequenting. Desi talks to Amy about moving in with her.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Twenty-Six Days Gone Analysis

Amy continues to string Desi along. In her head, she hates him. Outwardly, however, she is acting like he is her savior so that he continues to do whatever she needs him to do. Desi is a bit manipulative too because he tells Amy that if he ever came there and she wasn't there that he would have to go to the police. Ironically, Amy is the prisoner.



Nick Dunne: Thirty-Three Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Thirty-Three Days Gone Summary

Nick comes home one day to find Tanner and Boney waiting for him. In an evidence bag, they have the puppet handle that is missing from the Judy doll. Boney says they found it down the river from Nick's house. Boney says Amy's blood is on it and that the case is classified as a homicide now. Nick says it's time.

Nick Dunne: Thirty-Three Days Gone Analysis

Once again, Amy has planted evidence to implicate Nick in her murder. When Nick says it is time, he is telling Tanner that it is time to reveal how Amy is framing him.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Forty Days Gone

Amy Elliott Dunne: Forty Days Gone Summary

Amy says she finds a piece of twine and a wine bottle. These are the items she needs for her project. When Desi arrives, Amy starts to seduce him. After they have sex, Amy says she has mixed up some martinis and serves one to Desi with the rest of her sleeping pills crushed and mixed in with the drink. He falls asleep and Amy says she begins.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Forty Days Gone Analysis

Amy is preparing to set Desi up somehow. Amy drugs Desi so she can get away or so that she can kill him. She likely has to kill him so that he won't be able to tell anyone her story.



Nick Dunne: Forty Days Gone

Nick Dunne: Forty Days Gone Summary

They arrest Nick, but he has been processed and released now. Tanner has a team of detectives trying to hunt Amy down. Nick just finishes his nightly taping for Amy when he turns the camera off. He's taping messages for Amy. The girl uploads them to her blog so that Amy can see them.

He hears a commotion outside with the reporters as if someone is approaching his door. When he opens the door, Amy is standing there. Amy blames Desi for kidnapping her. Nick asks where Desi is.

Nick Dunne: Forty Days Gone Analysis

Nick continues to tape video messages for Amy. He is trying to compel Amy to return to him, so that he can clear his name for her disappearance and murder. It seems as if Amy killed Desi.



Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return Summary

Amy undergoes a medical exam to gather proof of Desi allegedly raping her. Amy mentions to the reader that his semen is still inside of her from her having sex with Desi. Amy says she's thrilled that Nick turned out to be a great guy after all, which is why she returned home to him.

When the doctor performs the exam, he says that there isn't any damage from the miscarriage Amy says she had. He says it could be because she miscarried early. Amy reunites with her parents and the media publishes numerous photos of the Elliotts embracing.

The police question Amy while everything is fresh in her mind. Amy claims that Desi knocked on their door after Nick left the house. He used the handle from the Judy doll to club her and then tied her up. She says she saw him mop up the blood in the kitchen when she woke up. Desi then knocks a few more things over in the living room before driving off with Amy.

Amy claims Desi made stops to throw out her purse, at Nick's office to plant something and then Go's woodshed. Boney says that there are so many strange coincidences in this case

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return Analysis

Boney is implying that she knows Amy is responsible for staging her disappearance. Boney is trying to get Amy to break and admit it. Unfortunately, it doesn't work and Boney doesn't have anything to prove that Amy is responsible for planning everything.



Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return

Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return Summary

When Nick goes to pick Amy up, he describes it as if she is a rock star because of all of the photographers and news reporters gathered outside. Nick sees Marybeth and Rand inside the station and they motion him to join them. Tanner and Betsy arrive to find out where the investigation on Nick is. Go comes in after them.

Desi's mother arrives at the police station. She starts yelling at the press that her son is innocent. She also alleges that Amy is responsible for killing her son.

Amy goes home with Nick. Nick says that she's beautiful. He also admits to the reader that he hates her and is afraid of her. Amy makes Nick take off all his clothes and stand in the shower with her while she admits everything she did. She wants to make sure Nick isn't wearing a wire.

She admits to tying herself up when Desi wasn't around to leave the marks on her wrists and ankles. She also admits to using a wine bottle to make it look as if she was brutally raped. She also admits to manipulating Desi into having sex with her to plant his semen and then killing him with a knife after drugging him with sleeping pills in his martini. Amy says she had a backup plan, which was the diary and her vomit, to make it look as if Nick was attempting to kill her.

Nick calls Tanner to tell him Amy killed Desi, but Nick also admits that he doesn't have any proof, except Amy admitting it to him. Tanner tells him to play nice for now and that they'll keep looking, but that Amy seems to have fool proofed her plan.

Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return Analysis

Amy and Nick are acting as if they are a reunited married couple. In truth, Nick and Amy both know that Amy is responsible for everything that has happened. Nick even gets Amy to admit everything to him. She is so egotistical, however, that she thinks she has planned the perfect crime and that she will never be caught. She threatens Nick, letting him know that she can still take him down other ways if he doesn't play along with her.



Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 411-414

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 411-414 Summary

Amy sees that Nick is afraid of her. They argue with each other about divorce and Amy accuses Nick of being just like his father.

Amy Elliott Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 411-414 Analysis

Amy is pushing Nick's hot buttons. She is also pointing out all of the ways that she has a hold of him to do exactly what she wants him to do. She wants them to return to the way that they were when they were first married. The problem is that Nick sees Amy now for what she truly is, so he's having a hard time pretending to love someone he hates, and that scares him.



Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 415-417

Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 415-417 Summary

Nick is choking Amy and cursing at her while he does. She's trying to fight him but Nick is stronger than Amy is. Nick releases her when he realizes what he will be if he kills Amy.

Nick Dunne: The Night of the Return Pages 415-417 Analysis

Nick realizes that Amy made him the man he is today. He also realizes that he is the one that has to take charge of putting Amy where she belongs. Nick concludes that Amy belongs in a box, but it's not a coffin. He believes she deserves to suffer in prison.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days After the Return

Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days After the Return Summary

Amy recognizes that Nick is not the same man that he was before. She says she needs to be careful around him. She mentions that putting the precautions in place will take some planning on her part. Amy decides that she has tied up all of her loose ends, except Nick. She is convinced, however, that she can win Nick over to back up her story.

Rand and Marybeth's publisher wants them to write another Amazing Amy book. They settle on a fat sum and the Elliott's leave Carthage. Amy thinks she has her own story to tell, but in the meantime, she needs to get Nick on the same page so they can write a happy ending to the story.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days After the Return Analysis

Amy intends on blackmailing Nick into staying with her. She plans to put together another scheme in place to keep Nick with her. Amy truly believes that she has committed the perfect crime and that she won't be caught for what she did, or convicted of any crime. Amy intends on getting a book deal out of the incident. She also plans to have Nick work on the book project with her.



Nick Dunne: Thirty Days After the Return

Nick Dunne: Thirty Days After the Return Summary

Nick, Go and Boney are working together, but Amy doesn't know this. Go and Nick meet Boney at the pancake house. Boney admits that she knows Amy killed Desi and framed Nick, but that she can't prove it.

Nick moves back into their bedroom. They don't have sex but they do sleep in the same bed. Nick and Amy are pretending to be in love.

Nick Dunne: Thirty Days After the Return Analysis

Go insisting that Nick has to leave the house because one day Amy is going to kill him is foreshadowing. It is the ultimate way for Amy to win. She can plot and plan, saying that Nick attacked her and she had to kill him in self-defense, or something like this. Nick has to keep reminding himself that he has to be careful because Amy is dangerous. This point in Nick's life is a transformation for him. While he once was never one to pay attention to the details, now all he does is pay attention to the details.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Weeks After the Return

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Weeks After the Return Summary

Amy says she feels safe now. She's not under arrest and nobody is questioning her anymore. The previous day, Amy found the empty jar that once held her vomit sitting on the counter. Amy now has a book deal to tell her story.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Weeks After the Return Analysis

Now that Amy feels safe is the time when she might just slip up and make a mistake. The mistake could cost Amy her freedom because Nick, Boney and Go can finally take her down by proving all of the wrongs she has committed. Amy assumes that Nick has gotten rid of Amy's vomit as a signal that everything is okay between the two of them. What she doesn't realize is that he has turned it over to Boney.

Nick Dunne: Nine Weeks After the Return

Nick Dunne: Nine Weeks After the Return Summary

Nick found the jar of vomit hidden in the back of the freezer. He says he poured the vomit down the drain. When Amy tosses the jar out, Nick feels as if something is very wrong. They continue to scour Amy's diaries to see if they can find any discrepancies in her story.

Nick's dad dies. After the funeral, Nick goes home with Amy. This is when he realizes that he has to end it with Amy so that he can find out who he is without her. He says he needs to tell his own story. The next morning, while Amy is working on her book in her study, Nick takes out his laptop and reads the first line of his own book.

Nick Dunne: Nine Weeks After the Return Analysis

Since an epilogue is a follow-up after the fact, Nick is using a metaphor to say he feels he's dying when he says his life is like an epilogue. This foreshadows Nick himself going after his own book deal.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Weeks After the Return

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Weeks After the Return Summary

Amy says both of them are still pretending. She says she knows Nick is writing his own book because she hears him pounding away at his keyboard late at night. She's tried to hack into his computer but she can't get in. This is why she is glad that she took her precaution.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Weeks After the Return Analysis

Once again, Amy is one step ahead of Nick. She has already put something into place to hurt Nick. Since Amy believes Nick is telling his side of the story, she has her plan in place to make Nick look bad and her look good.



Nick Dunne: Twenty Weeks After the Return

Nick Dunne: Twenty Weeks After the Return Summary

When Nick reveals his manuscript, "Psycho Bitch", to Amy, Amy reveals she is pregnant. Nick makes her take the pregnancy test in front of him. Then, he drags her to the doctor for a blood test and she is pregnant. He says it's not his, but she says it is.

Amy tells Nick he has to delete his story and sign an affidavit swearing that he bought the stuff in the shed. She says he needs to admit that he thought she was framing him but now they love each other. Nick deletes his story for the sake of his unborn son

Boney call Nick to tell him to meet her at the pancake house. Nick tells her no, saying that he's going to be a father and he's going to retract his original story. Nick goes to Go's house to tell her about the baby and she calls him an addict and crazy.

Nick Dunne: Twenty Weeks After the Return Analysis

Amy obviously preserved some of Nick's sperm and has now had it put inside of her to become pregnant by him. Nick remembers the semen he gave when they were trying in-vitro fertilization. When the will-destroy notice came to the house, he left it on the table. Amy must have contacted the clinic not to destroy it and this is where she obtained the semen.

Nick feels as if he and Amy are equals now. They are each other's antagonist and that their story is at its climax.



Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Months, Two Weeks, Six Days After the Return

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Months, Two Weeks, Six Days After the Return Summary

Amy's due day is tomorrow, which also happens to be their six-year anniversary. She talks about how Nick has been the best father-to-be ever. This morning he changed that though. When he asked if there is anything he could do for, she asks why he's so good to her. He says it's because he feels sorry for her that every day she has to wake up and be her.

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Months, Two Weeks, Six Days After the Return Analysis

Amy intends on having the last word, the last action, Nick has finally slipped up and said something that has angered Amy. Now, Amy will seek retribution for his comment to her.



Characters

Nick Dunne

Nick Dunne is one of the primary characters of "Gone Girl". Nick is married to Amy Elliott Dunne. As the novel unfolds, Nick and Amy have been married for five years. By trade, Nick is a writer for a magazine. He meets Amy while living in New York City. Nick is originally from Carthage, Missouri. When he loses his job, he and Amy move back to Carthage to help care for his ailing mother.

Nick opens a bar with his twin sister Go. Shortly after returning to Carthage, Nick teaches a journalism class at the local college. He starts an affair with one of his students, Andie. Nick says he has a face that people don't tend to like. When Amy goes missing, his demeanor and his actions help to form public opinion that Nick is responsible for it.

Nick is not a very observant person. He misses many clues and indications that his wife is actually a sociopath. By the end of the novel, Nick learns to pay closer attention to the details. He also seems to learn how to admit defeat, while he was not able to admit this earlier in the novel.

Amy Elliott Dunne

Amy Elliott Dunne is one of the other primary characters of the novel. Amy is married to Nick Dunne. As the novel unfolds, Nick and Amy have been married for five years. By trade, Amy writes quizzes. She meets Nick while living in New York City when she attends a party her friend is throwing. Nick is originally from Carthage, Missouri, so when they both lose their jobs, he and Amy move back to Carthage to help care for his ailing mother.

Amy is the daughter of two psychologists, Rand and Marybeth Elliott. Amy's parents are also the authors of a best-selling children's book series, *Amazing Amy*. The books are based loosely on Amy's childhood. Amy is an only child and the eighth attempted child because her mother kept having miscarriages and stillbirths.

When Amy finds out her husband is having an affair, she seeks revenge. She spends a year planning to frame her husband for her disappearance and murder. Amy is very methodical and pays close attention to detail. These characteristics serve her well when she is framing Nick because even the detectives investigating the case cannot prove that Amy is behind the crime.



Go Dunne

Go Dunne is Nick's twin sister. She is also his business partner and part owner of the bar. Go is single. She also loses her job in New York City. She returns to Carthage to live there prior to Amy and Nick moving there.

Go and Nick have a very close relationship. They tell each other everything, but Go is surprised when she catches Nick with his mistress after Amy is already gone. Go stands besides Nick the entire way through the investigation. She points out things Nick should change in order to help his case.

Maureen Dunne

Maureen Dunne is Nick and Go's mother. Her friends call her Mo. She divorces their father when Nick and Go are kids. When Mo has cancer, Go and Nick return home to help care for their mother. Amy, too, takes Mo to cancer treatments and doctor appointments. Mo dies shortly after Amy and Nick move back to Carthage.

Bill Dunne

Bill Dunne is Nick and Go's father. When they were younger, he was abusive to their mother. Neither Nick nor Go have a close relationship with Bill Dunne. Bill Dunne is living in an assisted living facility because he has Alzheimer's. Throughout the novel, Bill Dunne escapes from the home. The home threatens to evict Bill Dunne from the home if he continues to escape.

Rand Elliott

Rand Elliott is Amy's father. He is also one of the authors of the Amazing Amy series. Rand is also a psychologist. Rand is an emotional man, so his daughter's disappearance deeply affects him. Throughout the novel, he stands up for Nick's innocence, although this wanes a little when he finds out that Amy is pregnant.

Marybeth Elliott

Marybeth Elliott is Amy's mother. She is also one of the authors of the Amazing Amy book series. Marybeth is also a psychologist. Throughout the novel, she stands up for Nick's innocence. When Marybeth finds out that Amy is pregnant, she cuts ties with Nick.



Rhonda Boney

Rhonda Boney is one of the detectives investigating Amy's disappearance. She is one of the only people that believe Nick is innocent. Boney even continues to help Nick try to prove Amy is behind her own disappearance. When Nick tells Boney Amy is pregnant and that he's no longer pursuing the investigation, she warns him to be careful.

Detective Gilpin

Detective Gilpin is Boney's partner in the investigation. He seems to think Nick is guilty. He does not continue to help Boney with the investigation after Amy returns.

Desi Collings

Desi Collings is Amy's former boyfriend from boarding school. Amy makes up a story that he stalks her after she breaks up with Desi. She also makes up a story about him trying to commit suicide in her dorm room after the breakup. Over the years, Amy and Desi stay in contact. Amy uses her relationship with Desi, who is really in love with Amy, to help her when she is in hiding. When Amy decides to return home to Nick, she frames Desi for kidnapping and raping her. Then, Amy kills Desi.

Hilary Handy

Hilary Handy is one of Amy's former high school friends. At the time, Amy sets Hilary up to make her look as if she is stalking Amy too. Nick reaches out to Hilary during the investigation, which is how Nick uncovers the truth about Amy.

Andie

Andie is a college journalism student. She meets Nick while taking his class. Andie and Nick have a yearlong affair. Andie is 25-years-old and very pretty. When the media finds out about their affair, Andie becomes a media darling. When Nick breaks off the affair with Andie, she moves on and starts dating a guy that is closer to her own age.

Greta

Greta rents the cabin next door to Amy when Amy is hiding out in the Ozarks. Greta appears to be hiding from a man that was abusive to her. Greta sees all of the cash Amy carries, so Greta ends up robbing Amy, along with another cabin resident, Jeff.

Jeff

Jeff rents one of the other cabins where Amy rents a cabin when hiding out in the Ozarks. Jeff steals fish from a lake behind a seafood restaurant nearby. He hires Amy to help him one night and pays her fifty dollars for two hours of work. Greta tells Jeff about all of the cash Amy carries, so he and Greta rob Amy of all her money.



Objects/Places

New York City

New York City is where Amy and Nick are living when they meet. They also live there for a few years after they marry. They leave New York City to move to Nick's hometown when his mother falls ill with cancer.

Carthage, Missouri

Carthage, Missouri is Nick's hometown. It is where Nick and Amy move to help Nick's mother when she's sick. Go is also living in Carthage at the time. Nick and Go open a bar together in Carthage. Amy goes missing from Carthage, Missouri, as well.

Hannibal

Hannibal is a town close to Carthage. Hannibal is the hometown of Mark Twain, so there are numerous tourist attractions honoring Mark Twain and his character Huck Finn. Hannibal is where Nick had a summer job growing up. Hannibal is one of the places Amy hides a clue in the treasure hunt for their fifth wedding anniversary.

The Ozarks

The Ozarks is a mountainous area where Amy goes after she disappears. Amy rents a cabin in the Ozarks. She spends a couple weeks there following the investigation on the news. This is also where Amy meets Jeff and Greta, who rob her of all of her cash.

Diary

Amy starts writing a diary when they move to Carthage. She backdates the entries in the diary to make it look as if she was writing the entries while it was happening. She purposely twists the events around in the entries to make it seem as if Nick is trying to kill her. Amy plants this diary in Bill Dunne's vacant home and then calls in an anonymous tip so the detectives find it.

Disposable Cell Phone

Nick has a disposable cell phone, in addition to his regular cell phone. He uses the disposable cell phone to communicate with Andie. Nick continues to use the disposable cell phone to communicate with Amy after Amy disappears. Amy also buys a disposable

cell phone in preparation for her disappearance. She uses her own disposable cell phone to call in the anonymous tip so the police find her diary.

Fort

An abandoned Fort on the outskirts of Carthage is one of the rendezvous spots for Andie and Nick during their affair. Nick and Andie have sex in the abandoned Fort prior to Amy going missing. Andie has Nick meet her at the Fort after Amy goes missing.

Woodshed

An old woodshed sits behind Go's house. Nick finds all of the items that were purchased on the credit cards he didn't know about inside of the woodshed. The police also find the items inside of the woodshed. When Amy put the items in the woodshed, she also puts Nick's anniversary present, which are the wooden Punch and Judy puppets.

Amazing Amy Books

"Amazing Amy" books are a children's book series. The authors are Rand and Marybeth Elliott. The Elliotts base the topics of the books on events that happen in Amy's life. The book series is also responsible for the sum of money the Elliotts provide to Amy.

Lake House

Desi owns a lake house. This is where he takes Amy to help her hide after she leaves the Ozarks. Amy kills Desi is the lake house.



Themes

Good versus Evil

The primary plot throughout the entire novel is that of good versus evil. In the first half of the novel, Nick represents evil and Amy represents good. As Amy recounts events in her diary, she is painting Nick as a selfish man that is trying to push her away.

Amy even implies that she thinks Nick might try to kill her and that she is very afraid of him. In the same Diary entries, Amy creates a persona where she is a very loving wife trying to turn her failing marriage around. In the second half of the novel, Amy reveals her true personality.

She is actually conniving and manipulative. She admits that she is the one responsible for staging her own disappearance and death. She also admits to setting Nick up to take the fall for her disappearance and murder. In reality, Amy represents evil and Nick turns out to represent good.

Mental States

Another primary theme of "Gone Girl" is the mind or mental state of human beings. Primarily, the focus falls on the sanity, or insanity, of Desi, Hilary and Amy. Amy tries to make it seem that Desi is a stalker and that he is mentally unstable because he tries to commit suicide when Amy breaks up with him.

Amy also tries to make Hilary seem insane. Amy talks Hilary into buying clothes similar to Amy's clothes and play a joke on Amy's mother saying Hilary is her daughter now. Amy is trying to make it look as if Hilary is trying to be Amy as payback for getting better grades, getting a date with a boy and other things that Amy didn't like.

Ironically, even though Amy is the daughter of two psychologists, it seems as if Amy is sociopath. She methodically plans to frame her own husband for her disappearance and death. She manipulates anyone she can to help her carry out her plan. She even ends up killing Desi, who was helping her to hide, to make it seem as if he kidnapped and raped Amy.

Relationships

Relationships are a third major theme that runs throughout the novel. Specifically, the novel speaks of the relationships between family members. In this particular case, it is the relationships between the Dunne and Elliott families.

The relationships in the Dunne family seem to be the polar opposite of the relationships in the Elliott family. Nick's parents are not affectionate toward one another. They seem



to be going through the motions of a marriage, rather than enjoying the time they spend married to each other. Ultimately, Mo and Bill Dunne divorce.

Marybeth and Rand Elliott are very affectionate toward one another. They always seem to be kissing, hugging, holding hands or walking with their arms around each other. They are still married and they have and still do dote on Amy.

Then, there is Nick and Amy's marriage. Amy and Nick seem to have completely different perspectives on their marriage. Both seem to admit being very in love with each other when they first started dating and during the first few years of their marriage. While they can't seem to get enough of each other to start, by the time Amy goes missing, they are not even having sex anymore and Nick is planning to ask for a divorce.

Family is the central theme throughout the entire novel. This is because the storyline is about the lives of these two families—the Elliots and the Dunnes. While every family has their trials and tribulations, these families have their own family dynamics that are the same and that are different from those of other families. In the end though, each family ends up pulling together to get through the situation together.

Style

Point of View

"Gone Girl" is written in the first person point of view, from the perspective of each of the two main characters, Nick and Amy. Each section is from one of their perspectives. Then, the next section alternates to the other character's point of view. The novel swings back and forth between the present and the past. The present represents the time after Amy's disappearance. The past represents the time leading up to her disappearance.

The point of view of this novel is intimate, allowing a reader to connect closely with each of the main characters. The book written in this manner allows the reader to get inside the heads, thoughts and inner struggles that each of the characters are experiencing as it pertains to the plot. The point of view also allows the author to inject her own opinions into the narration and to expand on the events taking place around the other characters and the occurrences taking place.

Setting

The novel is set primarily in Carthage, Missouri, which is Nick's hometown, and where he and Amy are living when Amy disappears. The novel takes place during the 21st century. The novel covers the five-year period when Nick and Amy are married. The main characters are involved in the aftermath of Amy's disappearance and the investigation that Nick is responsible.

The setting of this novel works well with the plot. At first, the reader is not aware that Amy is framing Nick for her disappearance and murder. However, as events unfold, the disappearance is a constant part of the plot, the lives of the characters and even the outcome of the novel.

Language and Meaning

The language of this novel is relatively simple and easy to read. The language is from the 21st century, which is when the novel is set. The language is descriptive enough that it helps to explain the situations and is detailed enough for the reader to truly understand.

Structure

The novel is divided into sections. Each section is from the perspective of Nick or of Amy. The perspectives alternate throughout the book. The length of each sections ranges from one page to 20 pages long. The chapters tell the story primarily in

exposition and with some dialogue. The narrator injects her own voice and thoughts throughout the book, providing her opinions and feelings of the events unfolding in the novel.

The novel contains one main plot and several subplots. The main plot is the struggle of human beings in choosing between good and evil. One subplot is the mental states of the characters. Another subplot is relationships.



Quotes

"Amy will be fine."

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 1-15, p. 11

"Nick's the kind of guy you can drink a beer with, the kind of guy that doesn't mind if you puke in his car. Nick!"

Amy Elliott: January 8, 2005, p. 20

"I just thought you should know...your door is wide open, and that cat of yours is outside. It isn't supposed to be, right?"

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 22-32, p. 30

"Well, you certainly take your time about it, don't you, Nick?"

Amy Elliott: September 18, 2005, p. 33

"I don't blame you at all, Nick."

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 39-45, p. 44

"This is how I always pictured it. This is exactly how I pictured it."

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2008, p. 47

"Can you tell me what your wife's blood type is?"

Nick Dunne: The Night of Pages 50-61, p.

"Oh, Campbell and Insley and their dancing monkeys. Boring. You dodged a bullet. A really lame bullet."

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 21, 2009, p. 65

"We just want Amy to get home safe..."

Nick Dunne: The Day of Pages 66-74, p. 73

"Fuck you, Amy."

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 5, 2010, p. 80

"The police definitely seem to think..it's close to home."

Nick Dunne: One Day Gone Pages 82-93, p. 93

"Amy, you and I should discuss..."

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 23, 2010, p. 99

"The mall will be searched, Nick. We have cops heading over there now."

Nick Dunne: Two Days Gone, p. 105

"We are going to help my parents for once."

Amy Elliott Dunne: September 15, 2010, p. 112



"Her? She wanted to buy a gun."

Nick Dunne: Three Days Gone, p. 130

"She doesn't belong here."

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 16, 2010, p. 137

"I'm outside open the door."

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone, p. 151

"Nick doesn't have to prove his love for me. I know he loves me."

Amy Elliott Dunne: April 28, 2011, p. 153

"Nick. You fucking idiot."

Nick Dunne: Four Days Gone Pages 156-167, p. 167

"He was like that as a boy too — a wanderer."

Amy Elliott Dunne: July 21, 2011, p. 170

"We can never stop thinking about the superb Amy Elliott, can we?"

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone, p. 182

"Here is my life. It's finally returned."

Amy Elliott Dunne: August 17, 2011, p. 186

"Maybe it's time I got a lawyer."

Nick Dunne: Five Days Gone, p. 196

"I am cracking under the pressure. I will snap."

Amy Elliott Dunne: October 21, 2011, p. 202

"Nick, was Amy pregnant?"

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone, p. 208

"It's not my idea of life."

Amy Elliott Dunne: February 15, 2012, p. 209

"I can come here anytime. You may hate me, but she loves me."

Nick Dunne: Six Days Gone Pages 212-216, p. 216

"So if you find this and I'm dead, well..."

Amy Elliott Dunne: June 26, 2012, p. 219

"Never, ever mention your wife in the past tense."

Nick Dunne: Seven Days Gone, p. 222



"Not Diary Amy, who is a work of fiction (and Nick said I wasn't really a writer, and why did I ever listen to him?), but me, Actual Amy."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *The Day of*, p. 232

"She's sending me up the river."

Nick Dunne: *Seven Days Gone* Pages 239-245, p. 242

"I've always thought I could commit the perfect murder."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *The Day of* Pages 246-252, p. 248

"I feel like a dumb college girl that you started fucking because you were bored with your wife and I made it extremely convenient for you. You could go home to Amy and eat dinner with her and play around in your little bar that you bought with her money, and then you could meet me at your dying dad's house and jack off on my tits because, poor you, your mean wife would never let you do that."

Nick Dunne: *Seven Days Gone* Pages 253-257, p. 255

"You're brown as a berry, girl!"

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Five Days Gone*, p. 263

"So, Nick. There are incriminating women's panties in your office, where you fucked Andie, and there is Amy's incriminating purse in Hannibal, where you fucked Andie, and there is an incriminating treasure trove of secret credit-card purchases in the woodshed, where you fucked Andie."

Nick Dunne: *Eight Days Gone*, p. 272

"It's be nice to think that maybe she just got away, just ran away from him, and she's hiding out all safe and sound."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Seven Days Gone* Pages 273-282, p. 282

"She doles out punishment. Hard."

Nick Dunne: *Eight Days Gone*, p. 289

"Ever heard of a purse, Moneybags?"

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Eight Days Gone*, p. 295

"Instead, she starts getting me to do things. I don't realize it at the time, but she starts setting me up."

Nick Dunne: *Eight Days Gone*, p. 304

"Give us the money."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Nine Days Gone*, p. 321

"It gave you an interesting wrinkle: Before the video, it was clear you did it. Now there's a slight chance you didn't."

Nick Dunne: *Nine Days Gone*, p. 325



"I know, suddenly, what I must do."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Nine Days Gone*, p. 333

"Oh. Oh my God."

Nick Dunne: *Ten Days Gone*, p. 337

"I am deeply ashamed of having been involved with a married man."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Ten Days Gone*, p. 345

"You seem totally different than before. In charge but not cocky."

Nick Dunne: *Ten Days Gone Pages 348-354*, p. 350

"It's like a fairy tale."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Ten Days Gone*, p. 357

"A handle like a goddamn club?"

Nick Dunne: *Ten Days Gone Pages 359-364*, p. 364

"I have to face this. With you. I can do it with you."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Eleven Days Gone*, p. 370

"Last night someone leaked the information about the shed, about Amy's purse and diary."

Nick Dunne: *Fourteen Days Gone*, p. 371

"If you ever left here and I didn't know where you were, I'd have to go to the police."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Twenty-Six Days Gone*, p. 381

"It's time, Nick. It's time."

Nick Dunne: *Thirty-Three Days Gone*, p. 382

"And I can begin."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *Forty Days Gone*, p. 385

"Desi Collings took me."

Nick Dunne: *Forty Days Gone*, p. 389

"There seem to be so many strange coincidences in this case."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *The Night of the Return*, p. 398

"How'd she use the knife if she was always tied up?"

Nick Dunne: *The Night of the Return*, p. 400

"Play nice."

Amy Elliott Dunne: *The Night of the Return Pages 411-414*, p. 411

"You fucking crazy bitch."

Nick Dunne: *The Night of the Return Pages 415-417*, p. 415



"Things will have to be different."

Amy Elliott Dunne: Five Days After the Return, p. 418

"Amy killed a man, and she will kill you if you are not very, very careful."

Nick Dunne: Thirty Days After the Return, p. 425

"I feel safe."

Amy Elliott Dunne: Eight Weeks After the Return, p. 427

"I have to get out of this house. I have to be done with Amy once and for all."

Nick Dunne: Nine Weeks After the Return, p. 429

"Because he isn't writing a love story."

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Weeks After the Return, p. 432

"It's a boy, by the way."

Nick Dunne: Twenty Weeks After the Return, p. 433

"Because every morning you have to wake and be you."

Amy Elliott Dunne: Ten Months, Two Weeks, Six Days After the Return, p. 437



Topics for Discussion

Who is the true Nick Dunne? Is he a loving husband or a wife killer? Why do you think he has an affair with Andie? Why does he wait to tell the police he thinks Amy is responsible for framing him for her disappearance and death? Do you believe Nick is responsible for Amy's disappearance before Amy reveals that she is framing him? What do you think happens to Nick after Amy has the baby?

Discuss the relationship between Nick and Amy. Are they ever in love? Does Nick recognize Amy's sociopathic tendencies prior to her disappearance? How does Nick feel about Amy? How does Amy feel about Nick? How do Nick's feelings change after seeing how manipulative Amy is? What does he do about it?

Who is Amy Elliott Dunne? Is she very intelligent or is she a sociopath? Why does she choose to frame Nick? Why do you think she comes back to Nick? What do you think Amy does to Nick after she has the baby?

Why does Go start to doubt Nick's innocence? What changes Go's mind again? Why do you think Go tries to get Nick to move out of the house after Amy returns?

Discuss Amy's disappearance. What impact does it have on the characters of the novel? How does it motivate them and how does it derail their lives?

What do you think happens to the Nick and Amy's baby? Do you think Nick and Amy remain married and raise the child together?

Do you think the Boney continues the investigation on her own? Is there anything Amy didn't think of, or anyplace she might have slipped up, that would reveal she is guilty? What do you think Boney knows that prompted her to try to get Nick to meet her at the end of the novel, before he calls off the investigation? Do you think Amy ever gets caught?