



Gone by Midnight

Candice Fox

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**They left four children safe upstairs.
They came back to three.**

On the fifth floor of the White Caps Hotel, four young boys are left alone while their parents dine downstairs.

But when one of the parents checks on the children at midnight, they discover one of them is missing.

The boys swear they stayed in their room. CCTV confirms that none of them left the building. No trace of the child is found.

Now the hunt is on to find him, before it's too late – and before the search for a boy becomes a search for a body...

Gone by Midnight Details

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From Reader Review Gone by Midnight for online ebook

Pauline says

Gone by Midnight by Candice Fox is the third book in a series and it took me a while to get into the story.

A boy goes missing from a hotel room and the police are hoping to find him soon.

Two investigations are hired by the child's mother to look into the case. These characters are pretty unusual and not quite believable.

Thank you NetGalley and Random House UK, Cornerstone for my e-copy in exchange for an honest review.

Sophie Narey (Bookreview- aholic) says

I found this book via Netgalley and thought that I would give it a go!

I hadn't read any books by Candice Fox but I found that the authors writing style was one that eased you quite easily into the book. This is the third book in the series it is the sort of book that you can get engrossed into and find yourself not wanting to put it down. The characters in the novel are very well described and makes the novel have more depth too it and helps to ingrain the characters and the story into your mind even when you are away from it.

I would recommend this book to anyone who likes mysteries/thrillers/murders type stories, and I will definitely be reading more books by Candice Fox

Tien says

Wow! I sincerely hope that Candice Fox never stops writing. She has a recognisable unique voice and I just love it! It's snappy. And kooky. And snort-out-loud-hilarious. I love her characters; their pains & fears, vulnerabilities & courage, their humanity amidst evil. The plot & structure all very neatly tied up and as always, explosive snappy endings.

I still can't get my head around Amanda Pharrell. She's just as loud, in-your-face, and unpredictable as she ever was. This is just what I love; being taken on by surprise by an author because this is a rare thing for me, tbh. On the other hand, Ted Conkaffey is healing and shaping up to be more human; his fatherhood and his hopes & dreams are starting to pull him out of the crushing weight of his misery.

A tense beginning punctured by Amanda's brassy entrance (I adored this scene!) followed by deft weaving of plot threads with touches of comic reliefs made Gone by Midnight a finely tuned suspense read. I can't wait for the next instalment which promises to be most explosive of the series so far. Oh, and it's Not Candice Fox's Crimson Lake if there is no crocodiles; crocs abound!

I would not recommend you to read this book before the other 2 because you'll miss a lot of background and also because, there were some repercussions in this book from the ending of book 2. So, if you haven't read this series yet, Chop! Chop! Don't miss out on a cracking crime series!

Mandy says

Many thanks to NetGalley and the publishers for letting me read this book.

This is the story of Ted Conkaffey, who has quite the past. He was a police officer but was falsely accused of the rape and murder of a child, and it is still believed by most of the population that he is guilty. He has run as far as he could and lives in a house in the middle of the countryside with his dog and his geese. He now works with a woman called Amanda Pharrell, who is a convicted murderer. She has served her sentence and is a rather odd character, who seems to hate and be hated in equal measure.

This is evidently the third book in this series, and I have not read the other two, but I did not feel as if I had missed out as the stories were recapped at various times in the book.

In this book, a boy has gone missing while he was on holiday with his mother and three other families, and the mother of the missing boy hires Conkaffey and Pharrell to help in the investigation. That is rather a gripping story in itself, and I enjoyed that part of the book, but there were side plots thrown in that I did find unnecessary and at times tiresome.

I did like the two main characters, and found their stories interesting and the main plot gripping. There were some laugh out loud moments and the last thirty percent of the book I read with increasing urgency, because I needed to find out what was happening.

I would give this book 3.5 stars.

Elaine Tomasso says

I would like to thank Netgalley and Random House UK, Cornerstone for an advance copy of *Gone by Midnight*, the third novel to feature PIs Ted Konkaffey and Amanda Pharell, set in Northern Queensland.

Richie Farrow and three of his 8 year old friends are spending the evening in a locked hotel room while their parents have dinner downstairs and check on them every hour but the final check reveals that Richie has disappeared. Richie's mum, Susan, engages Ted to find him so once again Ted and Amanda are working with the local police.

I thoroughly enjoyed *Gone by Midnight* which is a high octane read that held my attention from start to finish. The main plot is ingenious and a genuine puzzle as the reader tries to work out how Richie disappeared. British readers will not fail to note the similarities of the premise with the real life disappearance of Madeleine McCann but Ms Fox uses it as a starting point and puts her own, unique spin on it. It adds a further intrigue to the plot. I must admit that one or two elements are scarcely credible but it hardly matters as there is such a zest and speed to the narrative that the reader can't help but get caught up in it.

With such colourful protagonists there is always much more going in the novels than just the current case. The novel will stand alone but I would recommend reading the series in order to get their full backstory. Amanda, who has served time for murder and is not a popular figure in Crimson Lake, has acquired a stalker who manages to make life uncomfortable for her. Some of their encounters are amusing as Amanda is definitely quirky but her self examination and what is said about her is heart breaking. Ted is also a pariah due to charges of child sexual abuse. He is innocent and the investigators on the case accept that but mud

sticks and most people still think of him as a guilty man who got off. His struggles to start a new life say so much about social media and modern thinking are, again, heart breaking but there are signs of green shoots for him. I have come to love these two offbeat, unconventional characters and always look forward to their adventures.

Gone by Midnight is a good read which I have no hesitation in recommending.

Joanne Robertson says

How is it that this is my very first Candice Fox book?! I don't know how she has passed me by before but, thankfully, she's on my radar now! I was attracted to Gone by Midnight by the blurb but what I got went far beyond my expectations as I met interesting, realistic characters who kept my attention focused throughout a strong and impressive storyline. And although it is part of the Crimson Lake series, it can easily be read as a standalone novel.

When a group of parents go out for dinner in the hotel that they are staying in, they leave their children all together in one hotel room with movies, food and fun to keep them busy. There is no way that they can leave the room and the parents will all pop back to double check on their offspring throughout the evening. Honestly, have parents learned NOTHING from media coverage of similar cases involved children left alone?! So it's no surprise (well, not to us as the readers!) when one of the mum's checks the sleeping group of boys and realises that her son is missing. But this missing person enquiry takes on a different direction when a notorious local is brought in to help investigate at the request of the mother.

Yet again I read this bad boy in one session (Christmas has been great for toppling my TBR pile!) as once I was caught up in the drama of this missing child, I couldn't rest until I found out what had happened to him. And the plot didn't develop in quite the way that I was expecting either! The quality of the plotting was quite brilliant which, alongside the wonderfully crafted characters, made this book one to remember. I will definitely be reading more books by Candice Fox in the future if this is the standard I can expect from them. Consider me a fan!

Bex (Beckie Bookworm) says

This was a really great read that kept me guessing throughout and though part of an ongoing series: (I think there are two before this) can totally be read as a standalone story: I did no issues whatsoever everything here is of an extremely self-explanatory nature.

So the blurb says it all really four boys in a room left to their own devices while their parents are dining downstairs in the hotel restaurant.

Checking in with them every hour: but when Ritchie's mum checks on the boys at midnight her son is missing: gone without a trace sending all involved into a sense of confusion and chasing their own tails as the hunt for Ritchie intensifies.

So this was a great crime thriller and I really adored that aspect of this but I also found the backstory of Ted Conkaffey and Amanda: the private detectives this story encompasses so fascinating indeed.

It was almost a story within a story and I was avidly glued to the unfolding drama.

There was just so much going on here in terms of story direction and I for one was hooked completely. We have both Ted and Amanda colourful pasts alongside Ted finding his feet with his young daughter and also balancing this paternal relationship with the new case he is embroiled in. Also an emerging new friendship with the local vet who is unaware of his past notoriety. Meanwhile his partner and boss Amanda is hanging out with local Bikies and also trying to repel some stalker advances of someone out for revenge at what she perceives as Amanda's past sins. So a lot going on behind the scenes here. On top of that is the mystery at the heart of this and this puzzle enthralled me immensely. I liked where this eventually took us and was extremely satisfied with the eventual end game. This was such an enjoyable read that I'm happy to recommend to you. I voluntarily reviewed an Arc of Gone by Midnight (Crimson Lake #3). All opinions expressed are entirely my own.

Reviewed By Beckie Bookworm

<https://www.facebook.com/beckiebookworm/>
www.beckiebookworm.com

Magdalena aka A Bookaholic Swede says

I LOVE this series! When I got the chance to read GONE BY MIDNIGHT didn't I hesitate, I had to read it straight away. And WOW! The first book was great, the second was fabulous, this one is awesome!

FULL REVIEW TO BE POSTED CLOSER TO PUB.DATE!

Lou says

Gone by Midnight is the third instalment in the Ted Conkaffey and Amanda Pharrell Crimson Lake series, and it's another thoroughly enjoyable thriller. The combination of brisk pacing, excellent characterisation and a stellar plot make this a single-sitting page-turner; once you begin putting it down is not an option. This is an interesting and evocative story of a missing child; hardly original I know, but it is very well done. There are some great, unexpected developments and surprises in the self-contained plot of this book and the ongoing minor/sub-plots in which the recurring characters are the focus help them to grow and evolve as people as well as investigators.

This partnership is one of my favourites of the crime couplings out there, and this is mainly due to Amanda being socially inept. She is unintentionally hilarious, which I love. We all know someone like that who is anxious in social situations and blurts out the wrong thing or something accidentally offensive and causes embarrassment not only to themselves but those associated with them too. Amanda takes no crap off anyone and knows how to stand up for herself. I really enjoyed the satisfying conclusion too; it was a great way to close. I look forward to the next instalment and hope it's even better than the preceding three. Highly recommended. This is almost certainly on its way to the bestsellers lists.

Many thanks to Century for an ARC.

peggy says

This author certainly knows how to tell a story.

Four young boys are left upstairs watching a movie while their parents are downstairs in the restaurant having a meal. One of the parents checks the boys every hour, at midnight when the mother of one of the boys goes to check she finds that her son is missing.

The hunt is on and Ted Conkaffey an ex cop who was falsely accused of a heinous crime and his partner Amanda Pharrell have been employed by the missing boys mother to help find her son. This book can be read as a stand alone but I am sure that once you have read this book you will want to search out the other two books in this series.

Ted is still coming to terms with being labelled the most hated man in Australia and Amanda the forest fairy well she is unique and is like a female Sherlock Holmes. I have watched these characters evolve into well rounded and flawed people. I love the scenes with Ted's yard family and I love the way this author writes. The story is busy but not in a bad way and as for the ending I had no idea and I was shocked.

I loved this book, very entertaining and kept me reading until the small wee hours. Highly recommended and an easy five stars. I can't wait to read the next in this gripping crime series with a heart., the Crimson River series.

I would like the author, Random House UK and Netgalley for the advanced copy in return for giving an honest review.

Paromjit says

Just Amazing!! This is the 3rd in Candice Fox's Queensland based series featuring Ted Conkaffey, ex-police detective, with a traumatic past after a false accusation ruined his reputation and destroyed his life and marriage. He now lives by Crimson Lake with his 7 geese and dog, Celine, who have provided much needed therapy and sanity in his life. He works with the offbeat tattooed Amanda Pharrell, with her past as an ex-convict, in her detective agency, where they have experienced some success. Ted may no longer be a person of interest to the police, but this does not stop others making assumptions of his guilt and his reputation continues to plague his life. His wife is allowing him to have his young daughter, Lillian, who he rarely sees, to stay with him for a few days. Only trouble is that one of the geese, Peeper, is very sick, plus he and Amanda have just landed a new case of a missing boy, Richie Farrow, who disappeared from the 5th floor of the White Caps Hotel. He was with 3 other boys whilst his mother, Sara, and the other parents were dining downstairs.

Ted loves and is entranced by Lillian, but needs Val, the medical examiner and close friend to help look after her as he tries to find Richie with Amanda. The police team is led by Damien Clark, who is not happy with Ted and Amanda being employed by Sara to find Richie, but like the rest of the police, shows deeper animosity to Amanda after the death of police officer Pip in their last case. Not that this bothers Amanda, who is an old hand at breezing past any opposition with a screwball determination and bounce that demolishes any resistance that dares to stand in her path, as we see when a motor bike group fail to prevent her becoming a close member of their group. However, Amanda has a dangerous and deranged stalker, with a none too good a handle on reality. The police are stumped when it comes to any leads on Richie, and as the minutes tick by, the less likely it is that he will be found alive. Can Ted and Amanda succeed where the police are struggling?

If you haven't read Candice Fox, I strongly urge you to do so, although I do recommend starting this series from the beginning to get the most from it. I look forward with great anticipation to every new addition, and this one is an absolute corker. It has humour, comic touches and laugh out loud wit, the geese are a inspirational inclusion in the series and Ted's daughter, Lillian, is a great source of amusement and joy here. Amanda may be allergic to children, but this does not bother young Lillian in the slightest, convinced that Amanda is a glorious fairy. Haha, would you ever? There are, of course. some dark, tense and nightmarish moments provided with Richie's inexplicable vanishing. Then there is the off the wall Amanda with her dogged stalker but Fox's mix of darkness, danger, Ted's burgeoning new romance laced with obstacles, the beginnings of a poignant father-daughter relationship and the fantastic supporting characters make for a brilliant read. A wonderful Aussie series! Many thanks to Random House Cornerstone for an ARC.

Eva says

Gone By Midnight is the third instalment in the Crimson Lake series, a fact I was unaware of when I picked this one up to read. Now, luckily, this reads perfectly well as a stand-alone but I already know I'll be making time to read the previous two as well because I can't for the life of me figure out how these evaded my radar.

The premise of the story reminded me somewhat of the McCann investigation. Four eight year old boys are left alone in a hotel room while their parents go out to dinner. But when one of the parents returns to check on them, one of the boys has gone missing. The remaining three boys swear to high heaven that they never left the room and CCTV confirms none of them left the building. So surely the missing boy must be in the hotel somewhere but there is no trace of him.

This is the start of an amazingly intricate and complex investigation. Eight year old boys don't exactly make great and reliable witnesses. For the longest time, I thought I knew exactly what had happened but I was proven wrong. I do so love it when an author manages to lead me in the wrong direction. Gone by Midnight is super tense, insanely addictive and has an incredibly delicious sting in its tail. Let's not forget the amazing Australian setting.

I must say that while the search for the missing boy is intensely gripping, it's the characters that really drew me into this story. Especially, Ted and Amanda. These two work together as a sort of private detective team but their backgrounds are utterly fascinating. I won't be telling you what those are because I feel you need to find that out for yourself and to get a better picture of them, I recommend you start with the first book in the series. Now, I know I said at the start this can be perfectly well read as a stand-alone and that is still the case. You get plenty of background information so you don't feel like you've missed out on anything. Yet, it's also so immensely intriguing that the urge to go back and read the previous books to get the full picture is pretty hard to resist.

I honestly can't believe this is the first time I've read a book by Candice Fox. Gone By Midnight had me hooked from start to finish and was just a fabulous treat.

Louise Wilson says

On the fifth floor of the White Caps Hotel, four young boys are left alone while their parents dine downstairs. But when one of the parents checks on the children at midnight, they discover one of them is

missing!

Ted is a disgraced cop and Amanda is an ex con who runs a Private Investigation company. Four families were staying at the hotel for two nights. Four 8 year old boys had been left in one of the rooms. An adult had been checking on them every hour. On the second night, when one of the parents checked on them, there was only three boys. The boys insist that they haven't left the room and CCTV confirms this. How could a child escape from a locked room?

What a gripping read this book is. It's set in Australia's Queensland. Although this is the third book in this series it can be read as a standalone. Both the main characters have their own set of problems. My heart was in my mouth as the search went on to find the missing child. The first 24 hours are crucial. The characters are believable and true to life. We find out quite early who the main suspect is but we don't know what the connection is. What a great this is.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Random House UK, Cornerstone and the author Candice Fox for my ARC in exchange for an honest review.

Liz Barnsley says

Gone By Midnight is another pacy, intense and addictive thriller in the “Crimson Lake” series and I’m a fan of the main characters, especially the spiky, mouthy Amanda who takes no prisoners with her acerbic irony and total impatience with humanity.

In this instalment a child has vanished in a twisty take on a locked room mystery and our pair are called in by the mother, who believes herself under suspicion.

This fairly rocks along- the mystery is intriguing and emotional, the author keeps things beautifully unpredictable plus we have a terrific finale. The ongoing saga within the series takes a dark turn which is sure to haunt the next novel and overall this was a genuinely terrific read that just solidified my attachment to the books.

Roll on the next is what I say. If you’ve not discovered these yet, Crimson Lake is where to start. Recommended.

Becca says

Gone by Midnight, is the third in the Crimson Lake series by Candice Fox.

Thank you to Century publishing for sending me a shiny hardback copy of this to review. And also NetGalley for letting me have a kindle version, all in the same week!

This was fantastic. I have recently read the second in the series, and I thoroughly enjoyed that. So when I knew this was coming, I was very excited.

What is it about? Ted and Amanda run a private investigation firm in Crimson Lake, Australia. They are an odd duo, drawn together because of their shared experiences on the outside of the law. Amanda is a convicted murderer, and Ted is an accused paedophile. They are hired by the mother of a missing boy, to find him and keep her updated on the case, as she believes the police are focusing too much on her and she

wants someone out there looking for her son.

Richie went missing from a hotel room, in which he was apparently playing with three of his friends, around midnight on the second night of his holiday. With the 7 parents in close proximity, hourly checks on the boys and security cameras all over the hotel, how could he have just vanished, when Sara goes to check on them at midnight?

We follow Ted and Amanda trying to find the boy and whoever has taken him. There were so many things I loved about this book.

First off I love the main characters. We have had enough time in the previous books to get to know them well, and with each installment we find out something new about them, something else to endear us to them. For all her crazy habits and tics, Amanda is just such a loveable rogue - we all need someone as straight talking as her on our side. In this story we get to see much more of Lillian - Ted's estranged daughter. We see another, more gentle, sensitive side to Ted in his interactions with her, and the way he feels about her and the whole situation he finds himself in, being an accused baddie.

Another of the things I love about this, is the descriptions of the Australian rainforest and the area in which Ted lives. It is so well painted for us, it feels like we are there, in the humid, hot swamps of Cairns.

The pace is just right here, with action all the way through. The ending was superb, nicely tied up. I enjoyed the side story of Joanna and Amanda. And Superfish is just adorable! I want one of him.

Main star of the show, is of course Ted's family of geese - Mother being the head of the gang. They are great as a back story and make up a lot of Ted's personality.

I liked the introduction of Laney, and I hope to see more of her in the next installment. Not overly keen on Kelly, she should have stuck by her man. Although, that's a whole other debate.

Overall, 5 well deserved stars! Excellent, I would recommend to all.

www.thebeautifulbookbreak.com
