



The One That Got Away

Simon Wood

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Graduate students Zoë and Holli only mean to blow off some steam on their road trip to Las Vegas. But something goes terribly wrong on their way home, and the last time Zoë sees her, Holli is in the clutches of a sadistic killer. Zoë flees with her life, changed forever.

A year later and still tortured with guilt, Zoë latches on to a police investigation where the crime eerily resembles her abduction. Along with a zealous detective, she retraces the steps of that fateful night in the desert, hoping that her memory will return and help them find justice for Holli. Her abductor—labeled the “Tally Man” by a fascinated media—lies in wait for Zoë. For him, she is not a survivor but simply the one that got away.

With an unforgettable heroine, a chillingly disturbed psychopath, and a story that moves at breakneck speed, *The One That Got Away* is thriller writer Simon Wood at his finest.

The One That Got Away Details

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Author : Simon Wood

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From Reader Review The One That Got Away for online ebook

Darcia Helle says

Survivor's guilt and post traumatic stress have left our heroine slightly damaged, though not in the timid, skittish way often portrayed in this type of book. I enjoyed the way Simon Wood handled these issues. Zoe's character incites sympathy in her recklessness. I wanted to both hold her back and help her surge forward.

This book is more suspense/thriller than mystery, since we always know who the bad guy is. The author does include enough twists to keep us slightly off balance. The pace is quick, while also allowing the story room to breathe.

The opening scene is a blast of terror straight in our face. If you're squeamish or you dislike violent books, you might want to skip this. But the violence here is necessary to move the story forward, to show us what shapes Zoe's future and what torments her subconscious no matter how fast she runs.

This is a powerful story that left me thinking about victims, and how sometimes surviving can feel worse than dying.

Suze says

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY

I am glad I chose this book for my Kindle First, it is very good. Zoe is the victim who doesn't want to be one, she's a very likeable, understandable character- even when she does some strange things. It's a fast, easy read; very interesting and thrilling.

Nancy says

This book is very much like an episode of criminal minds but very enjoyable quick read.

?Susan? says

This started out pretty stereotypical and got better through the middle and then had a great ending which saved it a star. I could see this as a movie with the right characters and only if it was not Hollywooded up.

Joel says

The One That Got Away is a story about a young woman named Zoë who escaped from a serial killer, leaving behind her friend who had also been abducted, but did not escape. Fifteen months later, as Zoë

struggles to keep her life together, the killer discovers her location and vows to finish the job.

This book has the makings of a good story. Unfortunately, that's all it has. The book is full of clichés, including the characters and plot line. Zoë's life has crumbled and she has turned to martial arts for self defense. While I believe this is a good idea in real life, it just seemed too obvious, and later in the book, too convenient for the story. The police officers seem to be taken directly from just about every template serial killer story, including one good cop and one bad cop. No surprises there.

The serial killer is ridiculous. He plans out his killings leaving nothing to chance. He miraculously finds Zoë within minutes of her appearing on the news. These miracles happen several times throughout the book, making the story less and less plausible. Many of the killer's lucky breaks come from unbelievable gaffes from the police. Then, when it's convenient for the book, the killer makes his own (unbelievable mistakes) and the story ends. Disappointment. It was easy to see what was going to happen at every turn.

The story wasn't totally un-enjoyable, but I found myself shaking my head too often. I feel that a little more depth to Zoë's character and the killer would have gone a long way. This is a fast read, but it's also forgettable. Unfortunately, I can't recommend *The One That Got Away*.

Zoeytron says

A weekend trip to Las Vegas for college chums Zoe and Holli plays into something for which they had not gambled. The course of Zoe's life is altered dramatically after escaping what could have been a deadly abduction. Beat with her as she battles survivor's guilt, PTSD, and impulsive behavior that may very well be masking a death wish.

Fast-paced, believable dialogue, and a story that kept my interest. This was a Kindle First offering and most enjoyable. Thank you.

Susan Holdman says

Page Turner!

Excellent thriller, kept me on the edge of my seat. Would highly recommend it. I'm on to my next Simon Wood now :-)

Jim says

Zoe Sutton and her friend Holli are college friends who decide to take a break from their studies with a trip to Las Vegas. The trip turns into a nightmare when they are kidnapped. Zoe manages to escape but not before seeing her friend in the clutches of a sadistic killer. Fifteen months later Zoe is trying to deal with the PTSD. She has quit school and taken a job as a mall security guard. She is a loner having shunned family and friends. When Zoe hears of another murder that sounds eerily similar to what happened to Holli she forces herself into the investigation. With the help of one of the investigators she retraces the events of the night she and Holli were abducted. Her involvement brings her to the attention of the serial killer the media have

dubbed the “Tally Man”. For him she is not a survivor rather the one that got away. Zoe is portrait of a person dealing with PTSD and a real heroine. The “Tally Man” is a chillingly psychopath. The One That Got Away is a terrific read.

Andrew Smith says

I downloaded this as an audiobook via Audible. The premise sounded interesting enough: two girls are abducted by a stranger intent on doing them harm and one girl (Zoe) manages to escape leaving her friend, bound and naked, at the mercy of the evil-doer. But what happened next was very, very routine with nothing even approaching a twist to sharpen the tale. This really is a simpletons story, one for the reader (or listener) who doesn't want to be teased or challenged – not to mention excited!

Had I read this in printed form it might have left a slightly less negative impression but the audio version was just terrible. The female narrator produced some of the strangest sounding male voices I can ever recall hearing and read it with an exaggerated awe that simply confirmed the true dullness of the whole thing.

On the upside, I did finish it and therefore it escapes a one star review from me. But only just.

Julie says

The One That Got Away by Simon Wood is a 2015 Thomas & Mercer publication.

I am not sure about this, but I think this book was a “Kindle First” book I chose with my prime membership.

This is my first book by this author and I enjoyed this one well enough to go back for more.

Zoe and Holli, two girls working hard on obtaining their PHD's, decide to kick up their heels for a change, so they drive from San Francisco to Las Vegas and hoop it up for awhile. But, things go horribly awry and Zoe wakes up to Holli's screams and the horrible realization she is being held captive and whatever is happening to Holli, is going to happen to her next. But, Zoe manages to escape... however, Holli was never seen or heard from again.

A year passes, and now Zoe is a completely different person, with dreams of acquiring a PHD long forgotten. She is working as a mall cop now, is in therapy, and still showing signs of PTSD on top of what one might term “survivor's guilt”.

But, when by sheer chance, Zoe hears of a murder victim she is positive was killed by her own abductor, she begins working alongside the police to catch the guy and puts herself directly into the line of fire as a result. Will Zoe find peace or will she lose the fight the second time around?

This is a dark, graphic, tense, and fast paced thriller that will suck you in from the first chapter on. Zoe is a mess after having survived her ordeal, haunted by the death of her friend, and consumed, or maybe ravaged is a better word, by guilt. Her psychological behavior is most curious as it certainly does appear Zoe is

attempting to put herself in risky situations on purpose, perhaps as a way of punishing herself for having left Holli behind.

The murders were disturbing enough, but the underlying theme that women should be “good girls” , meaning they should not go out and have fun, flirt with men, or drink, was not only picked up by the inner thoughts of our killer, but even Zoe's therapist pointed out her provocative clothing was waving an “I'm asking for it” sign. Zoe too, seemed to buy into that logic, by going out at night, alone, dressed a certain way, and having a few too many, she believed she was putting herself in harm's way, which was something she seemed to hope would happen, recreating the Vegas scenario.

Do you think if a woman goes out dressed up in sexy clothes, has a few drinks, and maybe flirts a little, that she is asking to be raped, abducted, or murdered?

The sicko killer having those thoughts was in line with the character, but I did cringe when the therapist also made this suggestion to Zoe. I understood he was pointing out certain behaviors, prompting her to examine her motives, which was a valid point. However, I did I think he was sending out the wrong message by mentioning the way she was dressed. Otherwise, the good doctor went above and beyond for his patient was the best support system Zoe had.

I had the feeling Zoe was a ticking time bomb and was quite concerned about her, but then she finds purpose by joining forces with a determined cop to stop a dangerous serial killer. From this point on, the suspense is absolutely edge of your seat. The last paragraph of chapter twelve guaranteed I would not be putting this book down until the last chapter was read.

There was only one weak area for me in the book, and that was the the killer's psychological state of mind and a full explanation of his motives were pretty much skimmed over. I would have liked more clarification or maybe a brief recap in the last chapter, just so I was sure I had picked up on all the finer points.

Otherwise, I thought this was a solid psychological thriller, quite thought provoking and chilling. If you can handle graphic violence, creepy serial killers, and edgy suspense, then this book has your name on it.

Danielle (The Blonde Likes Books) says

Graduate student Zoe and her friend Holli go on a road trip to Vegas. On the way home, they are abducted and tortured by a man who says he wants to teach them a lesson. Zoe manages to escape while Holli is being tortured, and she leaves, swearing she'll come back to save Holli. The problem is, she was given rohypnol, and doesn't remember where the building was located or where she came from. Holli is never found and the killer is still out there.

A year later, Zoe is racked with guilt, and acts out because of it. One night after bar hopping alone, she stumbles onto a police investigation of a murder that sounds eerily familiar to the man who tortured her. She decides she is going to help do whatever she can in order to see the killer brought to justice.

I've read a number of books lately where the killer's identity is not a secret. In *The One that Got Away*, we

know who the killer is by chapter three, and the book alternates perspectives between Zoe and Marshall, the man who kidnapped her. To Marshall, Zoe is only a girl who escaped, who still needs to be taught a lesson. He's not done with her. After reading so many of these books lately, I have to say that I don't love them. Don't get me wrong, I don't hate them, but they just aren't as exciting for me as the ones where the bad guy is a surprise or the ones where the protagonist also knows who the bad guy is, but is being stalked or can't go to the police for some reason. But when we know who the antagonist is but the protagonist doesn't? It takes away from the suspense for me.

Zoe is a mixed bag for me. I was rooting for her, but I also didn't love her as a character. She was reckless and immature, and while I get that there's probably a lot of guilt around the fact that she survived while her friend didn't, I would like to think that she'd try and live her life and be grateful for the second chance at life rather than purposely try and throw it away by putting herself into situations similar to the one where she got abducted, sort of hoping it would happen again.

Overall, I liked the book despite the lack of surprise twists. I thought Marshall as a killer was really creepy. His thought process was so twisted and disturbed that he was definitely a scary character, especially knowing he lived a relatively normal life outside of his nighttime proclivities, and no one suspected a thing. The book was really fast paced, and I finished it in a few hours. If you're looking for a thriller that's short and quick but that doesn't have a lot of surprise elements, this is the book for you!

Books n All Jill Burkinshaw says

Feb-15

This is the 2nd Simon Wood thriller I have read and both have been excellent. Gripping heart racing everything a thriller should be. I will be reading more by this author

May-16

This book is still very much in my mind over a year later so I wanted to add to my review as I don't feel I did the book justice back then. This book is 'edge of your seat' gripping and Simon expertly described the effect of post traumatic stress and survivor guilt. The characters are realistic and well developed throughout the book. This was one of the first books I read by this author and I have since made up for lost time and have never been disappointed. I am still hoping that Simon will write a sequel to this.

MissSusie says

I received this book from the Kindle First Program, this was a new to me author and the description intrigued me, so I thought I'd give it a chance and I was not disappointed. I really liked this book this was a great thriller. Zoë and her friend Holli take a road trip to Las Vegas but something terrible happens on the way home; Zoë wakes up in a shed naked and handcuffed with Holli screaming in the next room but Zoë is able to get loose but can't see any way to save Holli other than going for help. The problem is she has been drugged and by the time she finds help she can't remember any details, she has no idea how she got to the place, she doesn't know what the man looked like or where he took them from and can't remember the route she took to get away. The cops in the small town aren't really buying her story.

A year later Zoë is still suffering from PTSD and Holli has never been found after Zoë got home she dropped

out of school took a job as a mall security guard and is taking self-defense classes . She's also seeing a shrink for her PTSD and her impulse control because she seems to keep putting herself in situations that may put her back in danger and has had a few run ins with the cops because the littlest touch sets Zoë into a rage. Then there is another murder that sounds like what she remembers seeing Holli go through. But can the cops believe her? Is she a victim or a killer or just a nutcase they should be wary of?

I had trouble putting this book down; I needed to know what happens next and when we see the story from the killer's point of view we realize Zoë is not safe and this guy is a whack job. I liked that the story was told from both sides for me it upped the tension because Zoë kept putting herself out there even after she realized the man who took her was right in her own town. I also understood in some way where Zoë was coming from she wanted this guy caught she wanted to find Holli and that catching him might ease some of the survivors guilt she feels the guilt of leaving Holli there. Yes there are times you have to shake your head and say oh Zoë. However that just adds to the tension because she is working on pure adrenaline and in the back of head knows she is putting herself in danger again but seems to not be able to stop herself.

Ok I'll stop now, as you can tell I really liked this one and would highly recommend it. I will also be reading more from this author because I liked his style.

4 Stars

Carolyn Robertson says

Decent but Flawed

Story was ok, standard victim tormented by perpetrator plot. However, some of the elements of the story held no truth. So, 2 girls being abducted and one not coming home didn't make the news? The people at the bar that saw them (pretty much everyone there since they made a spectacle of themselves) and no one saw the story and came forward? Laurie is murdered and no one from the shelter discusses it? Would have liked more development of the friendship between Holli and Zoe.

BERNICE says

Another great Simon Wood thriller

As soon as as I saw a novel by Simon Wood as one of the selections for the Kindle First for February, I snapped it up and began reading. My first introduction to Simon's writing was his novel "Accidents Waiting to Happen." I liked it so much, I bought and read "Paying the Piper." I liked that book so well, I bought 3 more of his novels. That is rare for me. Rarely do I own more than 2 novels by the same author, especially Indie authors.

The One That Got Away is one of Simon's greater works. He keeps getting better. Great writing style, quick pace, interesting story that you can't put down. The hardest part was getting through the first chapter, not because there was anything wrong but because of the spoilers that I had read before buying the book.

So.... no spoilers... no additional comments about the story..... Just this. Get the book. You won't be disappointed.

FYI. I am not a writer or a reviewer. I am just a 60-year-old woman who likes to read good books.
