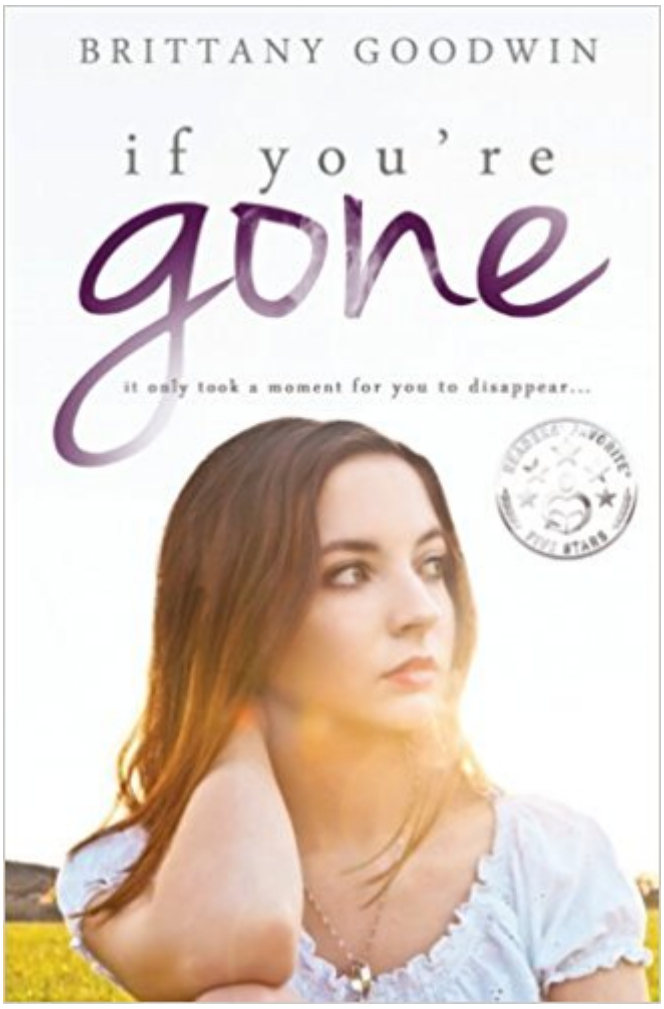
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If You're Gone



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Synopsis

A thrilling debut that explores the heart-wrenching reality faced by those with missing loved ones, If You’re Gone is a coming-of-age mystery about young love, loss, and unfailing faith. Lillian White’s plans for the perfect summer are shattered when her boyfriend, Brad, mysteriously disappears the night of his graduation ceremony - the same night he tells her he loves her for the first time. After law enforcement dismisses the case, classifying Brad as voluntarily missing, Lillian becomes desperate to prove that he couldnÃ¢â ¬â„¢t have just walked away. Not from his friends. Not from his family. Not from her. But her quest for the truth reveals more questions than answers as she uncovers secrets from BradÃ¢â ¬â„¢s past engineered to be kept from everyone in their small town. She is soon forced to question everything she thought she knew about Brad and their relationship, as well as her own faith, in hopes of finding him. What she discovers may bring her one step closer to solving the mystery...or change her life forever.

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Customer Reviews

"Soul-stirring...Truly one of the most innovative voices to come along in a while. Goodwin has weaved an engaging web of deceit and intrigue that embodies not only her storytelling prowess but highlights her visionary filmmaking abilities in novel form." Justin Price, creator of 'Future' SVOD channel "Intriguing page turning read! Highly recommend this book!" Stormy Nights Reviewing (5/5 Stars) "I had tears in my eyes when I read about Lillian's struggles... If You’re Gone is a quick and easy read with a lot of depth and an interesting plot." With

Love For Books (5/5 Stars)"In a world where YA characters are beginning to feel fake and unrealistic, and plots cliche, If You're Gone was a major breath of fresh air. I highly recommend If You're Gone..." The Book Forums (5/5 Stars) "I'm looking forward to what the author comes up with next. This is a promising start to a literary career." Branden Johnson, Author of Heaven's Forgotten (5/5 Stars)"

Brittany Goodwin is an author, performer, screenwriter and director, best known for the internationally distributed faith-based feature films, Secrets in the Snow and Secrets in the Fall, which have both been awarded the highest honor of five Doves from the Dove Foundation. Brittany lives outside Nashville, TN with her husband and every growing number of rescue pets. She enjoys traveling with her hubby and dogs, DIY projects, quoting John Hughes films, playing (and winning!) movie trivia games, and binge-watching Investigation Discovery Channel. A self-proclaimed armchair detective, Brittany is an active member of many Missing Persons blogs and Facebook pages, which inspired the topic of her debut novel, If You're Gone.

If You're Gone is a fascinating exploration of a young girl's journey through the disappearance of her boyfriend and coming to terms with life without him. Lillian, a rising high school senior, is very much in love with her boyfriend Brad, who has just graduated. On the night of his graduation Brad tells Lillian that he loves her, and then he disappears without a trace. Lillian is desperate to find Brad and feels lost without him. She doesn't believe he would choose to leave her or his family without an explanation of some sort, but with no evidence to the contrary, she is left feeling confused, dejected and unwanted. The search for Brad seems to go cold and with no clues leading to his whereabouts the authorities have no reason to continue looking for him, assuming that he, as an adult, has left of his own accord. Lillian is devastated but she refuses to give up on Brad. This book realistically examines the emotions felt by those who are left behind when a loved one disappears. You can feel Lillian's grief and frustration as she continues her search for Brad, often unaided by others. I appreciated that this book shared some very real and raw emotions, along with the concept that when one has not gone through a certain experience, they cannot "understand" what you are going through. It also delves into the topic of forgiveness, which is so often overlooked in today's literature and society in general. I can't say that I wasn't occasionally frustrated with the main character for being a bit whiney and needy but the author does an excellent job in portraying the emotions of a teenage girl. It is also a pleasure to see Lillian mature in her thoughts and choices throughout the course of the book. Finally, it was very refreshing to read a book that mentioned God, faith, and

prayer semi frequently and was not chock full of curse words or filthy topics (only 2 or 3 words that I noticed). I really enjoyed this book despite the fact I rarely read young adult romances and I highly recommend it!I received an advance copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

First, let me say I love this book. Kudos to Brittany Goodwin!Is it perfect? Maybe not quite. In this first edition there are a few problems with typos, grammar and punctuation, but the story rises above this level, and it kept me reading to the very last chapter. Being a middle-age man, I donÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get much of a thrill from chick flicks, nor do I read mushy romance novels. This was not mushy at all, though. It may have dwelt a little too long (in my aging male opinion) on LillianÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s feelings of loneliness, helplessness and depression. Still, the book did not have the effect of depressing me. In fact, I really like the way Lillian pulled herself out of her justifiably deep depression and moved on. The book had me hooked from the beginning. I could hardly put it down.The ending is a fabulously unique surprise, and I will describe it no further. YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll just have to discover it on your own. Please do treat yourself to this marvelous story. YouÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll be glad you did.

The story in this book kept me on the edge of my seat and wondering what happened and that is what I want when I read a book with mystery involved.Lillian and Brad were high school sweethearts. Brad is one year older than Lillian and he graduates from high school in the beginning of the story. That night was the best night of LillianÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s life or so she thinks. After the graduation ceremony and pictures with his parents they go on a picnic. Then they race the clock to get Lillian back home by ten pm her curfew. After Lillian got to her room she heard this sound like something hitting her bedroom window, it was Brad and he was calling out her name. Guess what he just had to tell her before he left? I love you Brad tells her and she shouts the same to him before he leaves.She had borrowed her dadÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s car and Brad drove them back to her house. Brad supposedly walked home.The next morning when Lillian woke up she saw she had missed four calls. They were from BradÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s mom so she calls her back and Mrs. Lee tells her Brad never came home. Lillian calls BradÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s phone and doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t get an answer.She even calls Lizard one of BradÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s unsavory friends from his days before he met Lillian. Brad had a date with her and the Lees asked her to call them if Brad doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t show up. She goes ahead and dresses like she would as if she and Brad were going on the date because she doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t even want to think about him not showing up or being gone. She waits till 7:15 then calls his parents. He

isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t here she tells them. The Lees and Lillian get classmates and people in their community together and they try and search the area for Brad but have no luck.The disappearance of Brad has devastated Lillian. She thinks her life will never be the same again. She can barely function and has no idea how she will survive life without Brad. They made posters with his picture on them and hung them all over town. Lillian prays constantly for answers.The police think that Brad might have just disappeared of his own accord.Detective Pardon is on the case and he comes over to interview Lillian.He questions what they did together the last day she saw him and it is then she learns that he had a criminal record but Lillian already knew he had done some childish pranks.The detective eventually tells Lillian that he hopes she understands that some people just do not want to be found.Lillian can barely function as she misses Brad too much and not knowing what happened to him is more than she can handle.School starts back up and her parents and her friends are very worried about LillianÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s senior year. She hasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t been eating and she is a skeleton of her former self. She starts missing classes and having anxiety attacks.Lillian takes on being a detective herself and goes back to visit Lizard one of BradÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s friends before he met her. She wants him to think really hard, does he know anything that might help her find Brad? Lizard finally tells her that a man had come looking for Brad the day before he graduated.She meets a mystery guy name Chris who seems to have an understanding of what she is going through. Just who is Chris? He loans her a book to help with her grieving.Lillian decides to bury a box like a time capsule that is filled with treasures Brad had given her. While she is doing that she finds a note stuck to the tree she is burying it under. The note is from Brad but the words are washed out and she canÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t read them. Do they ever find Brad? Is he forever gone?One of the best YA mystery books I have read in along time!

If You’re Gone was an intriguing story that kept me reading to find out what happened next. The author did a wonderful job of making me feel the emotion of the characters, especially the main character, Lillian. The story is full of mystery and unpredictable twists. The ending was a complete surprise to me! The only negative about the story is that it left me asking, "what happened next?". I wanted more, but then I read the epilogue! Perfect ending and gave me the closure I was missing!! Great, quick read that I would definitely recommend!*recieved in exchange for honest reviewComment

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