



## Gone Missing

*Linda Castillo*

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**Gone Missing** Linda Castillo

**Linda Castillo's bestselling series continues with GONE MISSING—a deeply chilling novel about a rite of passage gone horribly wrong.**

Rumspringa is the time when Amish teens are allowed to experience life without the rules. It's an exciting time of personal discovery and growth before committing to the church. But when a young teen disappears without a trace, the carefree fun comes to an abrupt and sinister end, and fear spreads through the community like a contagion.

A missing child is a nightmare to all parents, and never more so than in the Amish community, where family ties run deep. When the search for the presumed runaway turns up a dead body, the case quickly becomes a murder investigation. And chief of Police Kate Burkholder knows that in order to solve this case she will have to call upon everything she has to give not only as a cop, but as a woman whose own Amish roots run deep.

Kate and state agent, John Tomasetti, delve into the lives of the missing teen and discover links to cold cases that may go back years. But will Kate piece together all the parts of this sinister puzzle in time to save the missing teen and the Amish community from a devastating fate? Or will she find herself locked in a fight to the death with a merciless killer?

## Gone Missing Details

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Author : Linda Castillo

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## From Reader Review Gone Missing for online ebook

### Sean Peters says

Another gripping, tension filled book by Linda Castillo, number four in the Kate Burkholder books.

Rumspringa is the time when Amish teens are allowed to experience life without the rules. It's an exciting time of personal discovery and growth before committing to the church. But when a young teen disappears without a trace, the carefree fun comes to an abrupt and sinister end, and fear spreads through the community like a contagion. A missing child is a nightmare to all parents, and never more so than in the Amish community, where family ties run deep. When the search for the presumed runaway turns up a dead body, the case quickly becomes a murder investigation. And chief of Police Kate Burkholder knows that in order to solve this case she will have to call upon everything she has to give not only as a cop, but as a woman whose own Amish roots run deep, and for the first time leaving her local town behind to work as part of a team with Tomasetti.

Kate and state agent, John Tomasetti, delve into the lives of the missing teen and discover links to cold cases that may go back years. But will Kate piece together all the parts of this sinister puzzle in time to save the missing teen and the Amish community from a devastating fate? Or will she find herself locked in a fight to the death with a merciless killer?

A tense filled, suspenseful read, with the relationship between Kate and Tomasetti growing and the same time the characters growing as well. An action packed last few chapters as the plot builds to a shocking ending, with no glues at all throughout.

4 stars for me, another great book.

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### Brenda says

Chief of Police Kate Burkholder received a call from Agent John Tomasetti with a request for her to join his colleagues to assist in a case that was puzzling them all – young teenagers were going missing, and it seemed their only connection to each other was that they were Amish. With Kate having been informed of a missing Amish teen just that morning in Painter's Mill, the likenesses were chilling.

Leaving Detective Glock in charge, and only a phone call away 24/7, Kate drove the one hundred miles to join John and his team to investigate – Kate's knowledge of Pennsylvania Dutch, the language of the Amish, was to be an advantage; it would help to break down the reserve between the Amish and the *Englischers*...their mistrust ran deep. Kate had been born Amish and had left the way of life as a teenager – she knew how their minds worked and could empathise with them, even while it frustrated her.

When the body of a young girl was found then another young girl went missing their determination to catch the monster who was preying on young Amish teenagers was great. Discovering evidence of cold cases going back years, the tenuous link was definitely there, but the depth of the puzzle was ominous. Suddenly Kate's gut feeling and intuition was leading her in a dangerous direction – would she find the killer before he struck again or would she be too late?

Once again Linda Castillo has not disappointed! Absolutely brilliant! That incredible twist at the end...I found myself reading faster, holding my breath, not knowing what would happen. The pace of *Gone Missing*

is full-on, the emotion is deep. This is a deep and heart pounding thriller, one which I have no hesitation in recommending.

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### **April says**

In her latest novel, Linda Castillo again creates a world of thrilling suspense and intrigue flavored with a spicy side of sizzle that leaves readers hungry for more!

Her strong protagonist, Kate Burkholder, approaches her latest case with tenacity tempered with compassion. Her complicated and precarious balance as a small town police chief, who happens to be formerly Amish, is challenged in new and uncertain directions as her relationship with the edgy state agent John Tomasetti begins to take on a life of its own, threatening to tear down some very hard won barriers she's built around her soul.

Unwilling to let her tumultuous feelings for Tomasetti become a distraction, Kate never loses focus in her search for a missing Amish teen. As the investigation unfolds, several cold cases rise to the top, adding a fresh sense of urgency to all involved in the hunt. Can they find the missing girl in time? Or will the innocent fall prey to the same evil as the others?

I am in love with Kate and Tomasetti, as well as the well-rounded supporting cast of this Amish series. Linda Castillo builds a world I eagerly visit and reluctantly leave with each book.

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### **Angela DeSilva says**

This is definitely one of my favorite series. Full of suspense and hard to guess killers. Highly recommended!

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### **Jenni Boyd says**

This book got off to a great start, grabbing my attention with the first line in the prologue, 'Becca had always known her life would end in tragedy. I could feel Becca's pain and sadness, and eagerly went through the chapters wanting to see justice served against those that had made her life a misery, but about halfway through the book, it began to drag, and became repetitive, to the point I was skimming through the pages, until it again began to build to a nail biting end, but found the finale a disappointment, almost as if the last chapter was missing from the book.

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### **Liz says**

Didn't see that ending coming. Another worthwhile endeavor from Linda Castillo.

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## Susan says

Awesome story!!

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## Barbara says

### 3.5 stars

In this fourth book in the series, Police Chief Kate Burkholder of Painter's Mill, Ohio assists the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) in their search for missing Amish girls. Kate was raised Amish and speaks Pennsylvania Dutch, so she can help interview Amish people - who normally eschew interaction with 'the English.'

The book opens with a dramatic scene in which an Amish girl - distraught about long-term sexual abuse by her brother - commits suicide by jumping into an ice fishing hole on a frozen lake.

Leap ahead and Agent John Tomasetti of the BCI (who happens to be Kate's boyfriend) asks her to help investigate when two Amish teenagers - from different Ohio towns- are reported missing. Information from a national database reveals that these incidents may be related to other local missing persons cases. Two Amish girls vanished in the past - 12 months ago and four years ago - and an Amish boy disappeared nine years ago. What's going on with these teens? Could they be runaways? Suicides? Abductees? Snatched by aliens? (Just kidding)

When Kate and Tomasetti question the parents and friends of the missing youngsters, they learn that the teens had been taking advantage of Rumspringa - a time when Amish adolescents are allowed extra freedom - to act out. Thus the kids may have been doing things like: hanging out with 'Englisher' friends; drinking; smoking; fighting; having sex; getting pregnant; and so on. This is all very 'un-Amish' behavior that goes against the Ordnung (set of rules).

While looking for the missing persons, Kate and Tomasetti consider various suspects and come across a photographer who uses a telephoto lens to snap inappropriate photos of unsuspecting Amish youngsters - at least one of whom has vanished. Other possible suspects include an Amish girl's secret boyfriend and a jealous 'English' girl who made threats.

Eventually Kate makes a momentous discovery that helps solve the case.....and endangers her life. The book has a dramatic and bloody climax that's suspenseful and exciting.

Some readers will probably have suspicions about possible motives for the crimes, but the 'big picture' will elude even the most astute armchair sleuth.

The novel has an undercurrent of angst between Kate and Tomasetti who - though they care for each other - have a lot of baggage from their pasts. This is worrisome for Kate, who's on the cusp of getting REALLY serious with her sexy beau. So we'll have to see what happens there.

This is a solid, entertaining thriller that I'd recommend to mystery lovers, especially 'Kate Burkholder' fans.

Though the book is part of a series, it can be read as a standalone with no problems.

You can follow my review at <https://reviewsbybarbsaffer.blogspot...>

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## chrisa says

My loooooong thoughts on "Gone Missing":

I enjoyed the latest in this Amish mystery series (I've read all the previous books as well). The story was complex and had enough twists to keep me guessing for a bit who the murderer(s) was/were. I definitely recommend the book to anyone who is interested in detective stories or those set in Ohio and/or with Amish settings. I also really enjoyed the dialogue between Tomasetti and Kate.

I do have a few quibbles though.

Linda Castillo needs a better editor.

There were a few grammatical errors that jumped out at me, but more importantly there were problems with repetitive ideas, sentences, and expressions of feelings. Kate thinks/talks a lot about her complex relationship with Tomasetti and his dead children and wife. She reiterates the same points multiple times particularly the thought that she's not sure if she's just a stand in woman for his wife. I understand that characters do ruminate over the same ideas - it's what people do - but after a while I found it a bit unnecessary. Likewise, there are many scenes where Katie thinks about how helpful she will be because she speaks Pennsylvania Dutch and used to be Amish. Everyone is always astonished that she used to be Amish, I understand it is unusual but after a while, I was thinking, yeah you \*used\* to be Amish, big whoop. Moving on. I'm not entirely sure that her reasoning (Amish families will be more willing to talk to an essentially exiled member of their faith, than English men and women) is realistic. As far as they are concerned she has sinned in an extremely big way so why would they trust her more? Also, she makes a point to mention that Amish people are distrustful of Amish even from other communities which means that she could possibly be an impediment to getting the truth from them, yet she mostly ignores this and instead focuses on the fact that she used to be Amish and is therefore awesome.

I really do enjoy the series and the books but I do think that the author needs to think a bit more about realistically how people actually react to others, their motives etc.

Additionally, I have two more quibbles. :p

An example of repetitiveness that drove me up the wall is Katie's description of Rumspringa. On the book jacket the blurb reads: "Rumspringa is the time when Amish teens are allowed to experience life without rules. It's an exciting time of personal discovery and growth before committing to the church."

Fair enough. Page 14: "Rumspringa is the time when young Amish people are allowed to experience life without the constraints of the Ordnung, while all the adults look the other way. Most teens partake in some drinking and listening to music - small infractions that are generally harmless. I wonder if this girl will be one of the 80 percent who eventually become baptized."

Page 162: "Rumspringa is the time when Amish teens are allowed to experience life without all the constraints of the Ordnung, while all the adults look the other way. It's an exciting time of personal discovery and growth before a young person commits to the church."

Page 193: "Some had entered rumspringa, which is basically a period of one to two years when the teenager

is granted the freedom to experience the outside world before being baptized."

(Additionally she mentions her 80% fact at least one if not two more times, including another description on page 195: "Sure, you hear about Amish kids misbehaving during rumspringa. But something like eighty percent of them go on to be baptized and join the church.")

After the first description I was good, especially since the book jacket describes what Rumspringa is and it's relation to the mysteries, the repetitive descriptions were unnecessary and lead me to believe, like I said, that an editor is needed.

On a second note, I wish that Castillo had delved into the attitude of the Amish towards sexual abuse and rape a bit more. She mentions in the first section one twisted view but she never expresses if that is indeed the collective opinion of the Amish as a whole or not. She opened the door to have a potentially interesting discussion about the Amish and rape, abortion, etc. but then she fails to follow through.

My second quibble deals with Kate and her amazing abilities. She is sometimes on the verge of becoming a Mary Sue. When Kate discovers the motives behind the murders she says this: "I found the connection," I say without preamble. "The missing teenagers were breaking the rules. They were misbehaving. Acting out." Well.... that's what she and Tomasetti have been focused on pretty much the entire book. It's not amazing to realize that someone who has a problem with Amish teenagers breaking the rules is targeting them. I was pretty underwhelmed by this moment which should have been pivotal to the plot.

Also, when is Kate going to learn that if she wants to live past 40 she needs to follow proper protocol and not go into dangerous situations where she is forced to grapple one on one with murderers? Of course, at this part of the book amazing Kate shows up who gets scalded with burning water and doesn't feel a thing at all. Indeed she does not even apparently get medical attention for what are described as pretty substantial second degree burns on her blistered arm, hand, neck etc. A little more realism would go a long way in grounding Kate and making the reader fear for her safety.

When Kate went into the tunnel I was thinking, yeah she'll probably run into the Masts, say fuck a lot, and escape with a few bruises, maybe a conveniently placed gunshot. :p Kate doesn't have to be super woman to be an engaging and dynamic main character that we want to stick with and follow as she figures out and solves the crime. Make her a bit more human and understandable and your readers will still want to know what happens to her.

Last I must admit that I was hoping that Sadie would leave the Amish community and come live with Kate as a sort of relative outside the Amish world. Unrealistic perhaps but more fitting than the explanation that after being kidnapped and abused, Sadie would feel more at peace with the Amish lifestyle and be extremely willing to give up the one thing that had nourished her soul and fueled her passion for life.

I really enjoyed the book, and look forward to the next book in the series which will hopefully have better editing, a more realistic Kate, and some progression in the relationship between her and Tomasetti. And how about letting her sleep one night through?! That's not too much to ask for, right? lol.

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## Jim says

**"...this case is mostly about the lost ones who fall through the cracks, both Amish and English.**

The fourth book in the Kate Burkholder series and going strong. A page turning, keeps you on the edge of

your seat thriller.

In previous novels Chief of Police Kate Burkholder of Painter's Mill, Ohio called the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) and John Tomasetti for assistance. In this story the roles are reversed. Tomasetti calls Kate for assistance. Two Amish girls are missing and he believes Kate, who was raised Amish, can assist. She speaks Pennsylvania Dutch and can help break the barrier between the Amish and the "Englischer". As Kate and Tomasetti pursue their investigation into the missing teens other cases of missing teens, some going back years, come to light. They appear to have a serial predator on their hands. The teens have all disappeared without a trace. Things escalate quickly. First the body of one of the missing teens turns up. Then another teen, this one from Painter's Mill, disappears. For Kate it is a race against the clock. She knows the teen from Painter's Mill. Can she remain objective and professional?

All of the teens had been taking advantage of Rumspringa - a time when Amish adolescents are allowed extra freedoms before being baptized and bound by Ordnung (the set of rules the Amish live by). Is someone taking advantage of the teens who are enjoying new freedoms? If so how is this someone finding them? The missing teens are located in different parts of the state. One was from Pennsylvania. There are plenty of suspects ... a photographer who uses a telephoto lens to take photos, some inappropriate, of unsuspecting youngsters; a man who helps the Amish escape the plain life; a church leader ... or is it a cult; the boyfriend with a record and bad temper?

There is a climatic ending when Kate stumbles on the location of the predator. But, just when you think there is a happy ending the author throws a surprise curve ball. I was thinking of giving this book 3 stars. I liked it but the ending alone deserves another star!

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## **Jonetta says**

*Originally posted on The Book Nympho*

Kate Burkholder is called in as a consultant with John Tomasetti when several Amish girls have gone missing. What follows is an unsettling dive into the girls' activities prior to their disappearance and the troubling relationships they'd formed.

The prologue sets the tone for this disturbing story and was always in the background as the investigation proceeded. There are plenty of red herrings but the clues helped eliminate suspects and focus on the remaining. However, I was still surprised at the resolution.

While I really liked this story, I wasn't thrilled with the number of issues left unresolved. I'm hoping some of these are addressed in future stories. Kate and Tomasetti's relationship, however, was a real positive. It's moving slowly and consistent with the personalities of the characters. This remains one of my favorite series and I'm anxious to continue. Kathleen McInerney's narration is another highlight, making each of the characters more vivid with her performance.

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## **Maureen DeLuca says**

One of my favorite series! This is a 4 star read, but I'm throwing in another star for the combination of the other 3 books, this one and of course the future books to come!

For those who never picked up this series, I would suggest you start from book one, for the characters are developing as you read on. ( like in most series!)

Great read!

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### **Wendy says**

Loved this 4th book in her Kate Burkholder series!

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### **Donna says**

I won this ARC copy of Gone Missing on a Goodreads Giveaway which did not influence my review.

I am fan of this series, but this latest entry was a disappointment to me on various levels. First off, I hope that the book goes through another editing before the final edition goes to print, because there were so many dropped words and misspelled words or incorrect words used that I had to stop myself from grabbing a red pencil and correcting them. Next, the writing was repetitive. I lost count of how many times John Tomasseti grimaced, or snarled out his words, or used the "F" word to show frustration. Even Kate kept swearing and sighing endlessly. And at one point, Kate is observing an Amish man with a long beard down to his belly that overhangs his pants, telling her the man is married and well-fed by his wife. And a few scenes later, she observes another Amish man, describing him in exactly the same way. How strange.

As for the story itself, again, it was repetitive of other books in the series. I thought that it was going to be different with Kate assisting John with an investigation outside her little town of Painters Mill. But it was the same murder and mayhem involving the Amish. How much serious crime can such a community support? Way too much, it seems. And this time around, the crime spree was way over the top, stretching the story's credibility and in my opinion, showing the Amish in a poor light. And please, oh please, do not have a sequel to this story as it seems there might be. Enough is enough. Time to take this series in a different direction.

I think that the author has created some very interesting characters in Kate and John and all the people who populate Painters Mill. That is why I keep coming back and reading the next book. But she has backed herself into a corner, having a little town for Kate to police. Painters Mill isn't Chicago or Atlanta or Los Angeles where so much crime can run rampant. I would like to see some more personal stories involving the Amish and the Englishers in that town, ones that don't rely on serial crimes and mass destruction. That would intrigue me and have me eager to read another book in this series.

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### **Jean says**

As a big fan of the Kate Burkholder Amish thriller series by Linda Castillo, I was excited to get started on the fourth installment, Gone Missing. It begins promising enough with the prologue: "Becca had always

known her life would always end in tragedy. As a child, she couldn't speak to her certainty of her fate or explain how she could foresee such a thing. She believed in providence, and it came as no surprise when she realized she would also die young."

Castillo sets the scene as in the previous three novels, in Ohio, although much of it takes place away from Chief Burkholder's town of Painter's Mill because her John Tomasetti, her CBI colleague/friend/lover requests her assistance in a case of missing Amish teenagers. Kate grew up Amish and speaks Pennsylvania Dutch; Tomasetti and local law enforcement officials are looking for an edge in obtaining information from the missing girls' families, so Chief Burkholder travels from Painters Mill to "consult" on the case.

Because the girls are in their teens and are all rebelling against Amish rules and traditions, it is unclear whether they have met with foul play. After all, we are told (over and over) "rumspringa is the time when Amish teens are allowed to experience life without the rules. It's an exciting time of personal discovery and growth before committing to the church. " Then the body of one of the missing girls emerges, and the hunt becomes more urgent.

The pace of this book felt much different from the three previous Painters Mill novels. For the first 17 chapters, the investigation plods along. Kate and John question parents, teens, and potential suspects. Kate returns home when a local teen goes missing, and suddenly, in chapter 18, the heart-pumping, nail-biting action begins.

I have mixed feelings about *Gone Missing*. For the most part, I enjoyed it, but I found parts of it very repetitive. Kate constantly reminds her colleagues and the reader that rumspringa is a time for – well, rebellion – but that 80% of Amish adolescents return to their communities and are baptized. The plot seems less complex, but no less evil or psychotic, than previous works. Castillo skillfully weaves Becca's disappearance from the prologue into the plot eventually. I was not surprised at the revelations at the end, although I was somewhat disappointed at the finale. I suppose it's normal to want everything tied up in a neat, tidy package, but the conclusion felt strange to me. Yet I suppose the real world does not always hand us our packages tied up with pretty red bows.

Also, there are problems with what is realistic. Yes, Amish folks are human and flawed, like any other portion of the population. Despite the fact that much of this occurs away from Painter's Mill, there seems to be a lot of Amish crime in this little part of Ohio. There is also the matter of Chief Burkholder's lack of adherence to police protocols. Time and again, she fails to go by the book, puts herself in danger, gets injured; but of course, she saves the day and recovers nicely, thank you. Maybe that's why we love her so much? At least for now, she is not drinking vodka.

There was not nearly enough Kate and John in this story. I really liked what there was, but there wasn't enough. Just saying. I haven't even peeked at *Her Last Breath*, but I'm guessing that their relationship takes a major turn in one direction or another in that next venture.

I look forward to reading the fifth in the Kate Burkholder series because I do enjoy the writing, the characters, and the setting. This one, however, did not quite measure up to the earlier ones. If I could, I would give it 3-1/2 stars.