



## Gone Black

*Linda Ladd*

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## **Gone Black Linda Ladd**

### **A VENGEFUL PLOT**

His wife is dead, and he knows exactly who's to blame. Nothing will bring her back, but exacting justice is the next best thing—at least for a grieving mafioso...

### **A VANQUISHED LOVE**

Claire Morgan's life is finally coming together. The newly minted private investigator is about to marry the man of her dreams, psychiatrist Nicholas Black, and embark on an Italian honeymoon. But dreams have a funny way of vanishing into thin air...

### **A VALIANT PURSUIT**

Claire assumed Black was dead when his plane exploded in Europe, but a disturbing call reveals he's being held captive by a sworn enemy. Now, the would-be bride and a covert coterie must find and free him—before death's black veil ensnares them all...

## **Gone Black Details**

Date : Published January 5th 2016 by Lyrical Underground

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Author : Linda Ladd

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## From Reader Review Gone Black for online ebook

### Reen says

The best one yet, in my opinion. Claire and Black are about to be married at her cottage on the lake. Black has flown to Italy to make the final honeymoon arrangements and should be back just in time to be the groom. Claire is a beautiful bride and waiting for Black to arrive when she finds out his plane exploded with no survivors. She is devastated. Then she receives a call and finds out Black is not dead but being held hostage and tortured by a sadistic Mafioso and his family who blame Black for the death of their wife/mother. Claire is told by Jaxy Soquet that she will receive further instructions and to come alone or Black will die. Everything rides on her and the help of a small abused little boy who is also the family's prisoner. Black's life and sanity depend on Claire who enlists help on the outside from Holliday, Booker, and Novak. Will Nick Black still be alive when she gets there and what shape will he be in? Definitely another dark story with Black being drugged, tortured and psychologically abused and they barely make it out alive. Hope this series continues for quite a while!

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### Johanna Sawyer says

Thanks Netgalley for a copy to read and review.

Phenomenal book! This has to be the best book in this series yet! Already 2016 will be starting out with a huge bang. I devoured this entire book in one sitting, and was absolutely chilled to the bone. Five stars of amazing entertainment! Claire and Nick Black are really great characters and the terror in this book just made me speechless. I hope to see more from these characters.....really loved it.

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### Paris (kerbytejas) says

I stumbled into **Linda Ladd's Claire Morgan series** a little over a year ago, and have devoured all of the books to date. I was looking forward to this next installment in the series to see what kind of creepy, sadistic character Claire would have to deal with. **Gone Black** book 9 in the series, introduces us to characters from Nick's past, a damaged, sadistic, family of tormentors, whose sole goal is the mental and physical destruction of Nicolas Black.

Frequent readers of this series will be familiar with most of the characters ( Claire, Black, Booker, Holliday, Novak, and Harve), who we've met as the series has progressed, so I'm not going into detail on them. There are 4 new characters introduced in this book, The Soquat family, Marcel the father, Max his son, and Jaxy his daughter. Marcel, has raised his children with the belief that Nick Black caused the death of their mother, his beloved wife. It's this reason, that the Soquat family wants Nick to die in the most painful and unpleasant way. I found that Jaxy was the most prominent of the family characters, followed by Max, and the father was more of a behind the scenes character. The fourth new character is a young boy named Rico, whose family seemed to have just been in the wrong place at the right time. I liked Rico; he's young, brave, and very loveable.

The book has some very descriptive scenes (like the wedding preparations), some repetitive dialogue (like why the Soquat's dislike Black), is action packed, and filled with scenes that allow the reader to imagine the torture being dished out.

The book was enjoyable, held my attention, but I feel that some of the earlier books in the series were creepier, and had more sadistic bad guys. I saw this book, as more of a challenge to Claire & Black, as it was personal threat that also tested the bonds of their relationship. The book has a HEA, and doesn't provide any hint as to what could be in store for Claire & Black, the ending is positive with no cliff hanger.

My thanks to NetGalley who provide this advanced copy on behalf of Kensington Books / Lyrical Underground, for an honest review.

The expected publication date is Jan 5, 2016.

For me this was a strong 3 1/4 star read

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After thought (view spoiler)

### **Bette Stanek says**

3.85 Black Stars. This is book #9 in the Claire Morgan Mystery series. I love, LoVe, LOVE this series. I can't tell you how many times I've recommended it. To everyone. I won't say that I'm disappointed in this one, but it's definitely my least favorite of the series. You don't absolutely have to have read the previous books, but it definitely makes the struggles and people in this one more understandable.

Gone Black is not the edge of your seat action of the previous books. Oh, there's plenty of action and tense moments. There just aren't the twists and turns I've come to expect from Claire and Black. This one seems to be more about a tested relationship between the two. It's finally their long-awaited wedding day and Claire can't wait to see the look on Black's face when he finally gets a look at her. He'll know right away how much she's willing to go through for him. The music is playing, the guests are all gathered, and the bridal party is ready to roll. Only one problem...there's no groom. She knew this was too good to be true. Her luck just doesn't run that way.

Then Claire gets a phone call that she never expected and she realizes she's going to go through a whole heck of a lot more for Black than she ever thought possible. She'll learn of a side of his life she knew nothing about. And she's not quite sure how she feels about that.

There were many redundancies in this book. A feeling/thought would be explained and then rehashed a page or two later. Sometimes, even chapters later. The writing doesn't have the flow of Ladd's previous stories. I'm sure that I wouldn't have picked up on it if I wasn't so familiar with this series. It's still a good book and I still recommend it. It just isn't in the same league as the previous books in the series.

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### **Lana L Fiems says**

First found Linda ladd a year or so. I have now read all 9 Claire Morgan books. I like the characters and the f a c.f. that they are set in Missouri and new orleans. Good plots and interesting villains even though they are completely crazy.

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### **Sheryl says**

What a fantastic book, it's action packed to the very end. I've missed out on this great series. I'll be adding it to my growing list of series to follow and at this rate, I'll never catch up.

Claire Morgan is a feisty, ex-homicide detective who can hold her own with just about anyone. She proves herself very capable in this book for sure. On the eve of her wedding, her fiance, Nick Black finds himself in a terrible position with a sadistic family that has been after him for a very long time. I really don't want to go into much regarding the storyline or it will be full of spoilers. But I will say this, this book starts off with a bang and you'll not want to set it down until you finish it.

The character's are very likable, I love Claire's grit, she seems to be a perfect match to handle herself with Nick Black's Special Operation's detail. Like I said this was the first one I've read and it's the ninth installment in this series. I didn't find myself lost and muddling through a long cast of characters. That's a great sign of a good series.

I would like to thank Lyrical Underground and NetGalley for providing me a copy of this book for my honest review.

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### **Carla Johnson-Hicks says**

I have not read any other books in this series and if they are all like this one, I have missed out. I will definitely go back and read them. The action started on the first page and was non-stop until the last, including the epilogue.

Claire Morgan is getting married to Nick Black. While she is preparing for the wedding festivities, he is being kidnapped by a family full of psychopaths intent on vengeance. The Soquet family have spent years planning the capture, torture and eventual killing of Nick Black to pay him back for what they believe was him causing the murder of their wife and mother. When Claire gets a message from Jaxy Soquet to get on a plane and come to them or they will shoot Nick in the head, she agrees. With the help of her partner and two of Nick's men, they plan a rescue. What happens when the gps chip they are following is not Nick's and is actually a trap. When Claire realizes she needs to save Nick, the action ratchets up. She is one brave and savvy woman who is strong both physically and mentally. A great suspenseful story.

I received a copy of this book from netgalley in exchange for an honest review.

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### **Ivanna says**

Semanggu marathon baca seri ini. Buku INI terakhir satu satunya bukan pembunuhan. Tapi bebasin Black Dari penculikan.

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### **Sparkymom says**

Oh my word!!!! This blew me out of the water. After reading the description, I honestly delayed reading it for a bit. I am completely addicted to this series, so there was no way I was skipping this one, but I just couldn't stand the idea of Claire thinking Black was dead. Once I finally made myself start reading, however, I couldn't put it down...literally. It was definitely not for the faint of heart. Though this tends to be a bit of a dark series anyway, this installment is much more so. I don't want to spoil the story by giving much description, so I will skip giving a synopsis. If you are a fan of the series, you know that Black's most fervent wish is to marry Claire. She put it off before, but has finally given in and planned Black's dream ceremony. Everything is perfect, but we all know that never lasts in Claire's world. This story is the hardest situation Claire has ever had to face. Everything rides on her and the help of a small abused little boy. Black's life and sanity depend on them. Claire has some help on the outside from Holliday, Booker, and Novak, but it's anyone's guess whether they will arrive in time.

This was the best book in the series so far. It is Claire's turn to pull out all the stops to save Black. She really shows what she is made of. Also, can I just say how much I love Novak! I liked him in the previous book, but now I love him. His part in the ending was spectacular!

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Thankfully, I received an ARC from Net Galley for review. :-)

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### **Donna Barrett says**

wow! awesome. very gruesome and brutal. psychotic killers out for revenge. black and Claire finally make it legal. loved little Rico. hated for this one to end.

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### **Diane says**

Another good read from Linda Ladd. My only fault with this book is that I kind felt that I was in that Groundhog Day movie. I got the anguish/fear/creep factors the first time around, I don't need to read it from everyone's experience/point of view twice!

The story line was a different take on Claire Morgan's investigative skills, but it didn't fail to show her sarcasm, wit, and kick ass abilities - love that about her.

The long awaited wedding between Claire and Nick is on schedule until it isn't!

Highly recommend this book, but read the series in order to get the full effect of character development and story continuity.

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### **Amy Plank says**

Another great book in the series. I love Claire and Black. This book featured psychotic killers coming after Black with Claire along for the ride. I'm glad we finally got the wedding, can't wait to see what's next for this couple.

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### **Diane Saul says**

Clair Morgan is about to marry the man of her dreams, Nicholas Black. On the way to the wedding Nicholas is kidnapped. His kidnappers are out for revenge. His kidnappers are also insane, sadistic masters of torture. They are also not above using an innocent little boy in their plot. Is Nicholas strong enough to withstand their cruel sadistic treatment and can Clair and his friends get to him in time. This book had me on the edge of my seat from beginning to end. I couldn't stop til I got to the end to see what would happen!

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### **CasPerfitz~SLiTsReaD says**

More like 2.5 stars cause of the way the rescue came about was so stupidly unreal. I mean, come on, there are these men who could do a recovery but they sat and waited on Claire, and only acted when Claire went and have herself taken? The impact on the beginning of the story was good. And again, getting both views of the story, the enemy and the leads, are also good. But just to make Claire the hero here? Meh. So unbelievably bad.

Anyway, this is one of those unrealistic but trying to be realistic crime mystery drama. And despite on how negative points, I'm still addicted to it. So, yeah, looking forward to the next one.

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### **Heather says**

The best book of the series!

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