



Two Days Gone

Randall Silvis

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Gli agenti lo stanno guardando, in attesa, e questo lo fa davvero infuriare. «D'accordo, diamoci una mossa!» grida il sergente Ryan DeMarco. «Portatemi il professore, lo voglio qui sul sedile posteriore della mia macchina, vivo e vegeto e in manette, prima che il sole tramonti su questa bella giornata di ottobre. Ha solo i suoi vestiti addosso e non durerà molto, là fuori. In questo esatto momento avrà freddo e fame. Quindi entriamo nel bosco e facciamo il nostro lavoro, d'accordo?» Un comando perentorio, una sicurezza ostentata, quella del detective DeMarco - polizia della Pennsylvania -, che non lascia trasparire lo shock.

In una piccola comunità è destabilizzante sapere che l'assassino è uno dei tuoi, un insegnante a cui i genitori avevano affidato l'educazione dei propri ragazzi, quello che si vedeva sempre sorridente in ogni libreria della città, lo scrittore di successo: Thomas Huston.

Ma c'è di più. Cosa avrebbe dovuto raccontare il poliziotto ai suoi?

Che aveva letto tutti i romanzi del professore, le cui prime edizioni autografate erano accuratamente sistemate nell'armoire che sua moglie gli aveva lasciato? Che una di queste aveva una dedica personale proprio per lui, DeMarco? Piazzata accanto ai gioielli della collezione, *Il nome della rosa* di Umberto Eco e *Riders to the Sea* di J.M. Synge.

Avrebbe dovuto raccontare dei tre pranzi che aveva condiviso con il famoso romanziere? dell'ammirazione e dell'affetto che sentiva per quell'uomo?

Che ironia. Il detective e lo scrittore di best seller. E ora: il detective e l'assassino.

Un uomo che era fuggito nei boschi dopo essersi lasciato alle spalle la sua famiglia. Massacrata. La famiglia perfetta, la casa perfetta, la vita perfetta. Tutto finito. Tutti morti.

Negli ultimi tempi, lo scrittore stava lavorando al suo nuovo libro e girava per i locali a luci rosse della zona, ossessionato da un personaggio femminile del romanzo.

Nei suoi occhi c'è una nudità che mi spoglia.

Scrivendo il professore, nei suoi appunti.

Una nudità innocente, primitiva in un senso che non so dire.

Una ragazza che per la polizia potrebbe essere la soluzione del caso, ma che pare irrintracciabile, come se non fosse mai esistita.

Così inizia questo raffinato thriller, scritto nel pieno controllo delle fonti letterarie a cui Randall Silvis si è ispirato, da Edgar Allan Poe a Vladimir Nabokov.

Magistralmente congeniato, a parere della più esigente critica americana, il romanzo coniuga la serrata investigazione e la trama appassionante a un'atmosfera inedita e originale. Randall Silvis è tradotto per la prima volta in Italia.

Two Days Gone Details

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Author : Randall Silvis

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Genre : Mystery, Fiction, Thriller, Mystery Thriller, Suspense

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From Reader Review Two Days Gone for online ebook

Sarah Joint says

I really loved this book and would highly recommend it. I wasn't aware when I came across it that the author lives and teaches locally. That was intriguing enough, but he also based the novel in the same area. There was just something so neat about recognizing the bars and places mentioned, they're the same establishments I've visited! **He described the city perfectly, a "season of surliness prevails" during the six months of bleak gray.**

While the personal touch added something extra, that's not the reason I rated this book five stars. **It's perhaps the most literary mystery novel I've read lately.** Beautifully and intelligently written, it deserves each one of those five stars. I usually burn through books in a day or less, but I savored this one. It's not a short read and not one to rush through.

Author **Thomas Huston** is very well known in the small town he teaches in. To his students, he's a supportive and well-liked professor to look up to. To many others around the world, he's an amazing author. To his wife and kids, he's the perfect husband and father... until they're dead. His wife and three children are murdered, and he's fled the scene. He's led a seemingly admirable and successful life. **What could possibly drive him to murder?**

Sergeant **Ryan DeMarco** doesn't have the perfect life anymore either. Once happy and in love, tragedy has touched him as well. Now he must chase Huston, a man he considered a friend. He's having a hard time wrapping his mind around the idea that Huston is the only suspect in the murder of his entire family and is now on the run. He starts to pour over Huston's notes for his novel in progress, hoping to find clues hidden in the thoughts the author scribbled down. **He begins to find out surprising things about his friend that seem very suspicious... but does that make the man a murderer?**

I received a copy of this book from Net Galley and Landmarks, thank you! My review is honest and unbiased.

Meredith says

There's a darkness that pervades *Two Days Gone*. Not only in the horrible events that occur--a man's family is brutally murdered, but also in the characters and the setting of northwestern Pennsylvania.. The water is dark, the woods hide a murderer, and a grayness fills the sky eliminating all signs of warmth and color. The author's use of descriptive details and imagery brought the dark, eerie setting alive and transported me into this book, which was not a comfortable place to be.

Thomas Huston, renowned author and college professor, was living the perfect life: "The perfect family. The perfect life", all destroyed in an instant: "All gone now. Snap your fingers five times, that's how long it took. Five soft taps on the door. Five steel-edged scrapes across the tender flesh of night." Huston's wife, two sons, and daughter have been murdered and the "perfect man" has fled from the scene of the crime, hiding out in the woods.

The community is in shock. No one believed that this perfect man was capable of committing such a crime.

Why would the man who was living the perfect life kill his family? Sergeant Ryan DeMarco, who is battling his own demons, also is in a state of disbelief that Huston could do such a thing. The two men formed a bond when Huston was doing research for a book. DeMarco leads the investigation, trying to uncover the reason why this crime occurred.

Two Days Gone is more of a character study of Huston and DeMarco, and the focus is on events that tie them together vs. the mystery of whether or not Huston killed his family.

This was a really interesting reading experience for me. At times, I felt like I had to force myself to continue reading. There was something about it that I wasn't connecting with and I felt like the darkness was pushing me away. Now that I have finished, I feel differently. This book and characters have stayed with me, and I continue to think about DeMarco and Huston.

I would definitely recommend *Two Days Gone*--the characters are complex, the sentences are finely crafted, and DeMarco is a likable main character. Just be prepared for the darkness.

I received a copy of this book from NetGalley and the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Diane S ? says

3.5 A wife and mother, three children found murdered. Suspect, husband, college professor, successful author. Things seemed perfect in their lives, happy,, complete as a family, could there be a hidden darkness to the man? Is he capable of this horrific act?

DiMarco, a man marred by his own private sadness, is given the case. The professor was a friend and he is not convinced by his guilt. In alternating narratives we hear from DiMarco, learning his tragic back story in the process, and the suspected killer, now on the run.

Starts out strong, but then there was some dialogue that seemed out of place, not fitting the circumstances and the author almost lost me there. DiMarco saved it for me, I just loved his character, this police officer that needs all the answers, asks questions, follows his own rules, but a bit deeper than the regular renegade officer. Along the way we are privy to some of the artistic elements of putting together a book, thought processes. There is an underlying sadness to many of the characters and the tone of the book is often melancholy.

So the strength of a character made this an better read for me than I initially expected, along with a few plot twists. Appreciated the end, and DiMarco's realizations and actions taken in his personal life.

ARC from Librarything.

Debra says

Received from the publisher and NetGalley in exchange for an honest review.

Thomas Huston is on the run and is being searched for by the police (one of whom is his friend) for the

Murder of his family. He is a college professor and best selling author. Ryan DeMarco, a police officer and Thomas' friend is leading the investigation into the Huston family Murder. This is the gist of the book. The book also contains several other characters who tie into the story rather nicely. There are some twists and turns, and several reveals. Most of the characters have a purpose that is revealed during the book.

I'll be honest, in the beginning I was not a big fan of this book. I kept finding other things to do and read. Then I got past a certain part of the book, and I found that I had to keep reading. It was not a page turner for me but yet I wanted to see "who dunnit" and why. Did Thomas Murder his family? If he did not, who did and why? I found the book to be nicely paced, even though the beginning was slow for me. Nice detective work.

See more of my reviews at www.openbookpost.com

DeB MaRtEnS says

Frankly, I thought that *Two Days Gone*, by Randall Silvis, was of two minds and that the author couldn't decide which one he was choosing to write with, in what became a rambling affair of a novel.

The lyrical introduction and breadth of character ascribed to both Professor and novelist Tom Huston and the defeated detective Ryan DeMarco grabbed me by the throat as soon as I opened the book. I forgave awkward dialogue in the police station with the useless character of boss Bowen since I was so intent on pursuing the ravaging mystery and intense depths of the first two men.

Bereft, Huston runs from police. Alternating between agony over the murder of his family and a shocked psychological distance where he tracks his course as if he is the protagonist in one of his novels, it is Tom's intent to find the woman who will point to the murderer. The prose is dark and dramatic, heart rending. I, meanwhile, am thinking that I've been introduced to a virtuoso storyteller, similar to my favourite famous Southern writers, those who bend words and wring emotions.

Full stop.

"He wanted Claire's body against him again, wanted her breasts crushed against his chest, wanted his dick in her mouth, wanted to taste her pussy and to feel her body rocking against him wave after wave. He wanted all of it and he would never have any of it ever again. Only a man like Thomas Huston deserved those things. Who he was now, he did not know."

I did not know this character either. He had nothing to do with the desperate man who had just a paragraph prior been bleeding his pain through the page. He wanted HIS DICK SUCKED?

Randall Silvis' characters and I suffered a parting of the ways from that point on. From depth, the novel dived into sizzle, stripper joints, lap dances and hookers displacing earlier nuance, instead meant to approximate the noir grittiness of a hard line detective oeuvre. The promising beginning was beguiling, not sustained and Silvis could not bring himself to give us a good dose of Southern redemption for those most fragile heroes. I tiredly read the conclusion, and thought, "Who cares?" Randall Silvis, you shouldn't have shown me that you could write like a genius, and then mid-book give up your pen to a publisher's flack.

The hard landing after such a heady lift off as I began *Two Days Gone* may have predisposed my review to be a bit harsher than it should have been, but I really was disappointed.

Carolyn says

Thomas Hutson, popular professor and best selling author in a small college town in Pennsylvania seemingly has it all, including a good marriage to a beautiful wife who adores him and three beautiful children. That is until his wife's parents arrive at his house to find their daughter and her children murdered and Thomas on the run. Shocked at the scale of the crime, Sergeant Ryan deMarco must hunt Huston down and bring him in for questioning. However, deMarco has trouble believing that the man he knows and likes so much could be responsible and he starts to delve deeper into Huston's life and movements prior to the murders, hoping to get some clues as to where he has gone.

This was an excellent, suspenseful literary psychological mystery. By interweaving chapters describing the hunt for Huston with Huston's own thoughts while he is on the run, Silvis has drawn a picture of two complex main characters, one who has already been damaged by life's events and one who is struggling to believe all that has happened to him. Huston's life as a writer and teacher is central to the book and deMarco is slowly able to put together some idea of what may have happened with the help of one of Huston's students. This is a hard book to put down as the questions and suspense keep building right up to the final chapter and a very satisfying but unexpected ending. 4.5★

With thanks to NetGalley and the publisher SOURCEBOOKS Landmark for a digital copy to read and review

Esil says

3.75 stars. I agree with a few other GR reviewers that Two Days Gone starts off really strong but then loses a bit of momentum. But I thought it came together pretty well in the end. Two Days Gone starts with the murder of a mother and her three children. Set in a small town in northern Pennsylvania, it is told from the point of view of the children's father -- a bestselling author and English professor -- and the police officer charged with solving the case. Both are interesting troubled men. I won't say much more to avoid spoilers, but I will emphasize again that the set up is really strong. This is very much a literary mystery/thriller. Silvis is an excellent writer, and he throws in plenty of good literary references. The characters are interesting, and his take on relationships is not simplistic. The story deflated for me toward the middle when it took a few turns that felt quite ordinary and the plot line got a bit slack, but then the end picked up again with a good twist and satisfying closure. Two Days Gone makes for a good read and I would be happy to try Silvis' next book. Thank you to Netgalley and the publisher for an opportunity to read an advance copy.

Norma * Traveling Sister says

I have never read anything by RANDALL SILVIS before and I thought that TWO DAYS GONE was a fairly good murder mystery/thriller with aspects of it written like a literary fiction novel. I really enjoyed the authors writing style and the narrative throughout this story as it was very interesting and entertaining, which is actually what made me appreciate this book so much more.

The story was told in two different points of view that of Thomas Huston a writer and professor who was accused of murder and Detective Ryan DeMarco who was tracking him down. I actually really enjoyed both of these characters; they were funny, witty, and a bit sarcastic with each of them dealing with their own personal struggles.

The story unravels slowly as we follow along with Detective DeMarco's investigation, learning all the different facts and sides of the people involved. You can't help but feel for Huston that there must be a reasonable explanation for his actions.

It was an interesting, enjoyable, steady-paced, quick and easy read with a satisfying ending. Would recommend!!

<http://www.twogirlslostinacouleereadi...>

Thank you NetGalley and the publisher for the opportunity to read an advance copy of this book.

Liz says

A college professor supposedly snaps and kills his entire family before taking off on the lam. Ryan's DeMarco, the state trooper searching for him, is a recent friend, having helped the professor with research on his most recent published novel. The mystery dwells on the man hunt with flashbacks to each man's life. It's well written but at times I wished it were faster paced. The author gives in depth descriptions of each man's mental state. When Thomas is on the run, he writes "something had happened to his concept of time. Time had been shattered and broken, some of the pieces melted together, others wholly lost. Ten minutes might carry the pain of a month, two days nothing more than a sliver of glass in the corner of his eye". Thomas's confused mental state makes for some difficult reading. And Thomas is so detached, it's hard to feel sympathy for him. Or would I have liked him more if his novel in progress wasn't so pretentious?

DeMarco is also a wounded soul. His young son died in a car accident and that event caused the failure of his marriage. As he tries to understand what might have caused his friend to murder his entire family, he flashes back on his own life. His search for Thomas is an odd one, concentrating on Thomas's new work in progress. He's a well written character and all my interest lay with him.

The book finishes with a strong ending. My thanks to netgalley and Surcebooks Landmark for an advance copy of this book

Ashley says

It's rare that I come across a book I enjoy reading simply because of the way the author has strung together words as much as I did this one. I found myself pausing to appreciate a sentence more than once, and I have to admit that I am envious of the author's talent.

Thrillers are one of my favorite genres; so, it wasn't surprising that a story with a mysterious synopsis would capture my attention. I really enjoyed the way the book was told from two points of view: the professor

accused of murder and the detective hunting him down. I always feel this makes plot lines more interesting because the back and forth keeps the momentum going and keeps me turning the pages.

This story was very enjoyable and entertaining for the majority of the book. Somewhere around three-fourths of the way through, however, it started to drag for me a bit. The book could have ended a little sooner for my personal tastes. I felt the ending was too long and a bit contrived. Overall, however, this was a very enjoyable read, and I will be looking for more books from this author in the future.

I would like to thank Randall Silvis, Sourcebooks Landmark, and NetGalley for providing me with an advance reader copy of this book in exchange for an honest review.

Kaceey - Traveling Sister says

A grisly murder of an entire family. Now the husband, a best-selling author is on the run. Is it even conceivable that he's responsible for this horrid crime? Is he running because of guilt? Or is he tagged as the next victim?

Thomas Huston is a College Professor and best-selling author. His wife and three children are discovered dead in their home from vicious, devastating knife wounds. Huston himself is nowhere to be found. Hiding out.

Detective DeMarco, a friend and confidant is in charge of the investigation. He is obliged to follow the clues where ever they may lead... even if that points to his old friend Huston. To aid in the investigation, DeMarco cleverly uses excerpts from Huston's own novels to get in the mind of Huston...either a killer or the last victim.

When does a novel become reality? Where do the lines blur between the written word and an author's brutal reality?

"Had the writer become the character?"

It is heavyhearted. Even borderline depressing. Can a thriller actually be depressing? The characters are all sad and tragic souls, all fighting their own personal demons. Searching for redemption and perhaps a second chance at anything resembling a normal life. Certainly not a book to rush through. It's a slow read that builds in tension. A well-executed dark thriller.

Taryn says

2.5 Stars. I'm beginning to think that I have a bias against books centered around college professors! (See also: Listen to Me, All Things Cease to Appear) I didn't dislike Two Days Gone. I just couldn't get into it. The writing was lovely, but the story and characters were just okay for me.

Tom Huston's wife and three young children were stabbed to death and he's on the run. Could the beloved college professor and bestselling author have slaughtered his family? Sergeant Ryan DeMarco leads the

search for the missing professor. Perhaps Tom's latest manuscript holds the answers to this mystery? The investigation takes DeMarco from the campus of Tom's university to seedy strip clubs.

I'm reminded of Nabokov's contention that there are always two plots at work in a story. The first is the plot of the story, but above it, hovering ominously like a fat-bellied cloud, is the writer's consciousness, which is the real plot of everything he writes. If a book is filled with love, it is because the writer longs for love. If the book drips violence, it is because the writer burns to levy justice, to decimate his enemies. The writer composes such books as a means of survival. Otherwise, his psyche would unravel. And the unraveling, depending upon its form, can be either pitiful or disastrous.

RYAN DEMARCO

Amazon calls this book a *Ryan DeMarco Mystery*, so I'm assuming it will eventually be part of a series. DeMarco is the character we spend the most time with. He was the inspiration for one of Tom's fictional characters, so they had previously become acquainted during Tom's research. DeMarco is disdainful of academics, but he immediately identified with Tom despite their many differences. He is shocked when the picture perfect Huston family is found murdered, presumably by Tom's hand.

The banter between DeMarco and his boss (his former subordinate) at the station was sometimes amusing, but I felt like I'd missed an earlier book in a series. I liked DeMarco most when he was doing fieldwork because the investigative interviews allowed me to know Tom from different perspectives. The two worlds that Tom was traveling between couldn't have been more different: (1) a university campus filled with grudges and professors fighting to make a name for themselves & (2) the strip club with tight-lipped employees who would rather stay off the grid. **The closer DeMarco gets to finding Tom, the more he has to look to the literary greats to get a view into the suspect's psyche.**

DeMarco suffers from a lonely and empty home life. **His personal life slowly takes over the narrative, which might have been why I wasn't overly enthused by the story as a whole.** He and his wife Laraine separated after the tragic death of their only child. Laraine lives in a cottage where she entertains random lovers. DeMarco sits outside her home and watches, occasionally becoming one of his wife's nighttime visitors. (Their story would have been right at home in Roxane Gay's *Difficult Women*!) **While I wasn't that interested in DeMarco's personal life, the description of his relationship with his estranged wife had a good mix of the intimate and the everyday that made their relationship feel authentic.**

THE HUSTON FAMILY

He was both a fiction and the truth. The stronger of the two was truth, however, and the truth sickened him and hollowed him out.

When we first encounter Tom Huston, he has just disposed of a large knife and is on the run. **Unable to process what happened to his family, he begins to disassociate and think of himself as a fictional character.** He decides to contact the mysterious Annabel, the only person who can help him piece together what happened. **I was disappointed when his frenzied perspective became less frequent as the story**

continued!

The death of Tom's entire family was objectively horrifying, but I never got a real sense of Tom as a family man so **I had a hard time linking into his grief or caring whether he was guilty or innocent.** The humanizing parts where there (victim intros and the Huston/DeMarco interviews), but I wasn't completely sold--maybe because the family was just a little too perfect. At round 75% there's a picture of family life which gave me inklings of emotion, but it was already too late.

Tom's beautiful wife Claire is such a perfect extension of him that her portrayal, as minor as it was, irritated me. She felt more like wish fulfillment than a real-life person. The most interesting thing about her was that she and Tom used to spend nights in abandoned buildings, *"places where their only real concern was how far through the night Claire's cries and moans might carry."* I was rolling my eyes by the time she murmurs *"Baby, make love to me again. I can never get enough of you."*

Doesn't every guilty man hide his deeds behind his words and hid his thoughts behind his smile? Or behind other deeds?

I liked what I assumed was the dramatic finale, but the story just kept going and added an unnecessary complication. It was beautifully-written. Even the acknowledgments were a pleasure to read! I just didn't care about the characters enough to care about the other elements. Since what makes a character and their relationships compelling differs for everyone, I'm going to end with links to two positive reviews from Kirkus and Publisher's Weekly.

"What I have to do now is that which is not easy. That which I most fear. If I keep accommodating my fears, I can only move in reverse. That would be fine if by moving in reverse I could move back through time, but the past is a wall, a solid and impermeable wall. The past is a fortress that cannot be stormed."

I received this book for free from Netgalley and Sourcebooks Landmark. This does not affect my opinion of the book or the content of my review. The publication date is January 10, 2017.

Louise Wilson says

A college professor is accused of murdering his whole family. His wife and children are found brutally murdered in their own home. The professor is missing.

What a great read this was. I liked the authors style of in writing this story. I do recommend this novel.

I would like to thank NetGalley, Sourcebooks Landmark and the author Randall Silvis for my ARC in

exchange for an honest review.

Cheri says

! NOW AVAILABLE !

In writing a novel, writers may research different places, people, professions. While working on his best-seller, Thomas Huston had conferred with state trooper Ryan DeMarco about legal aspects, criminal behavior and related topics. They became friendly over the course of many of these meetings,. Ryan DeMarco can't quite make himself believe that Huston has killed his family, this family DeMarco believed he so cherished. He had everything, why would he do that? And where is Thomas?

Huston's been working on a new novel, which may or may not hold some clues to his state of mind, give DeMarco something to probe, but are there answers there? Huston's also a college professor with students and co-workers. Student affair? Professional jealousy? And where is the novel he was working on?

Thomas Huston is a man with his own demons, though, his mother brutally murdered during a holdup in their little store, his father, unable to live without her, with the memories, takes his own life soon thereafter. As happy or content as he may be now, these memories never really leave.

"He understood how a single event could shred a privileged life, leave it tattered and flapping in the black gales of night."

Ryan DeMarco also has his own demons, his son and wife gone – a tragic car accident which both Ryan and his wife survived, only to lose the one thing that tethered them to each other. This haunts him still.

A student of Huston's, Nathan, is helpful in giving insights into what Huston's new novel-in-progress was about, a Lolita-like character merged with Poe's Annabelle Lee who is young and hopeful, an exotic dancer? Perhaps. In the name of research Huston went in search of the one to build his Annabelle from. And, also in the name of research, DeMarco follows in an attempt to find a girl who Huston might have viewed as his muse.

There were parts of "Two Days Gone" which I loved, but there was so much of this that I "knew" from fairly early on in the story to take some of the thrill out, but by this point in the story there were enough other avenues involved that kept my attention. I enjoyed the various forks in the road taken. I was entertained. The writing was atmospheric, the prose often lovely.

Pub Date: 1 Jan 2017

Many thanks to Source Books Landmark, NetGalley, and to Randall Silvis for providing me with an advanced copy.

Susan says

Thomas Huston is a beloved college professor and bestselling author, living in a small, Pennsylvania town. When his beautiful wife, Claire, and his seeming perfect family – children Thomas Jr, Alyssa and toddler David – are all found murdered and Huston vanished from the house, he seems the obvious suspect. Sergeant Ryan DeMarco is in charge of the case, even though he previously met Huston several times, when he was researching his latest book. DeMarco admired Huston and also envied him his family and career. His own personal life is troubled and has affected his career; leaving him sleepless, lonely and depressed. As DeMarco sets off in pursuit of Huston, he discovers that the professor had his own issues behind the perfect façade. There are problems with colleagues at work as well as the tragic loss of his parents.

This is very much a literary mystery, which goes beyond the normal thriller boundaries and delves into the background and relationship between the two main characters. DeMarco uses Huston's writing to try to understand his state of mind – if he is guilty, why would a successful, seemingly happy man snap? If he is not guilty, then where is he? We do have some scenes where Huston is on the run, but mainly the book centres on DeMarco, his investigation, and with clues in the manuscript he is currently working on. With the background in academia, plus the fact that the main suspect is a writer, this will appeal to book lovers everywhere. I really enjoyed DeMarco as a character – he was undoubtedly the best part of the novel for me. I received a copy of this book from the publisher, via NetGalley, for review.
