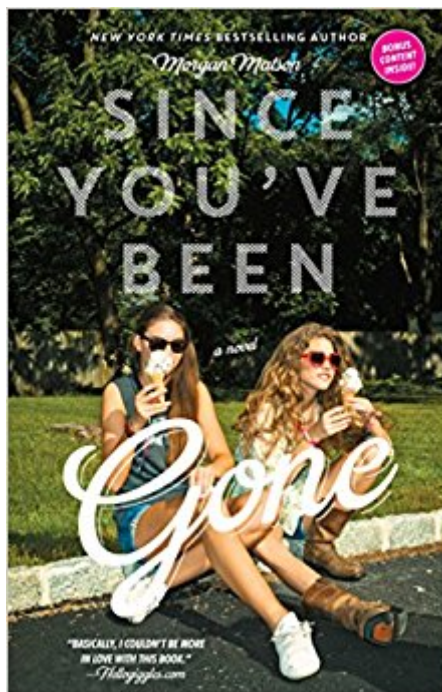


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# Since You've Been Gone



## Synopsis

Emily is about to take some risks and have the most unexpected summer ever. Hellogiggles.com says, “Basically I couldn’t be more in love with this book” from the bestselling author of *Second Chance Summer* and *Amy and Roger’s Epic Detour*. Before Sloane, Emily didn’t go to parties, she barely talked to guys, and she didn’t do anything crazy. Enter Sloane, social tornado and the best kind of best friend—someone who yanks you out of your shell. But right before what should have been an epic summer, Sloane just disappears. There’s just a random to-do list with thirteen bizarre tasks that Emily would never try. But what if they can lead her to Sloane? Apple picking at night? Okay, easy enough. Dance until dawn? Sure. Why not? Kiss a stranger? Wait, what? Getting through Sloane’s list will mean a lot of firsts, and with a whole summer ahead of her—and with the unexpected help of the handsome Frank Porter—who knows what she’ll find. Go Skinny Dipping? Um—Includes sixteen pages of bonus content!

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 0970 (What’s this?)

Paperback: 480 pages

Publisher: Simon & Schuster Books for Young Readers; Reprint edition (May 5, 2015)

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Product Dimensions: 5.5 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 15.2 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 346 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #21,584 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #40 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Dating & Sex #42 in Books > Teens > Literature

& Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Self Esteem & Reliance #105 in Books > Teens >

Literature & Fiction > Social & Family Issues > Friendship

Age Range: 12 and up

Grade Level: 7 and up

## Customer Reviews

Gr 7 Up—Emily is bereft when her bubbly and energetic best friend, Sloane, leaves without saying goodbye at the beginning of what should have been the best summer of their lives. Sloane

was the one who planned their adventures and befriended everyone they met, and Emily is feeling more than a little lost when a letter arrives from Sloane containing a list of tasks for Emily to do over the summer. Hoping that the list contains clues to Sloane's whereabouts that will become clear as she crosses items off, Emily tackles the challenges, making new friends, overcoming her fears, and gaining confidence as the summer goes on. Readers will root for Emily as she gets a new job, skinny dips, uses the fake ID Sloane got for her, crashes a wedding, and kisses a stranger. Though marred by a few leaps of logic and the occasionally clunky turn of phrase, this is a thoroughly enjoyable book with a terrific romantic subplot and an ending that ties up the loose ends believably and satisfyingly. It will appeal to readers who loved Maureen Johnson's *13 Little Blue Envelopes* (HarperCollins, 2005). --Stephanie Klose, *Library Journal* --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

Imagine the ominous stillness of waking up one day to find that your best friend and constant companion is suddenly gone -- family and all. Emily and Sloane shared every thought via text ever since Sloane moved into town, and Emily became the faithful sidekick to her fearless personality. Now, without Sloane as her navigator, Emily is stuck with no friends, no job, and no plans, with only her self-absorbed playwright parents and adventuresome younger brother, Beckett (one of the many literary references sprinkled throughout the narrative). Then a to-do list arrives in the mail from Sloane, and Emily begins a transformative summer that she hopes will lead her to her friend. In Matson's gentle portrayal, Emily's completion of the list propels her to participate in her own life, stand in no one's shadow, have a voice, and value that which makes her whole. The author of *Second Chance Summer* (2012), among other titles, creates a time-and-space experience for teens that might actually interrupt their social-media convos until they're finished reading. Grades 7-12. --Gail Bush --This text refers to the Hardcover edition.

3.5-4 stars  
1. Kiss a stranger  
2. Go skinny-dipping  
3. Steal something  
4. Break something  
5. Penelope  
6. Ride a dern horse, ya cowpoke  
7. 55 S. Ave. Ask for Mona  
8. The Backless Dress. and somewhere to wear it  
9. Dance until dawn  
10. Share some secrets in the dark  
11. Hug a Jamie  
12. Apple picking at night  
13. Sleep under the stars  
For the last two years, Em and Sloane have been the best of friends. So when Em returns home after a family trip to discover that Sloane and her family have completely disappeared, she's beyond shocked. Even more so when a list comes in the mail in Sloane's handwriting, detailing what Em is supposed to do for

the summer. Left without any other options, Em follows the instructions and discovers that she may be just as strong on her own as she is with her friend. Em gets a job, begins new friendships, hangs out with her brother and more in the summer she never expected to have. A great story about self discovery and how we can often let our friends define who we are instead of defining ourselves. Em's journey was fascinating, even if it's from the perspective of a lost sixteen year old girl. Watching Em grow as a character is the best part about this book, and how she finds her inner strength to explore her past decisions and makes better future ones based on it. All of the side characters were very well developed and never felt one dimensional; they read like people the reader would meet in real life instead of a flat character in a book. One criticism to be noted on this work is the length. It was about 450 pages which can be daunting. Also when reading, there seemed to be a lot of details on places/people/things that weren't extremely important to the book. For tweens who are reluctant readers this would not be ideal. For voracious teen readers it shouldn't be a problem. This book may be for the older tweens, but the content was fairly clean. Not too many curse words, and no more than a few kisses in the romance department

I love the cover of *Since You've Been Gone* and I have read quite a few raving reviews, so I had to get my hands on it. I had a \$5 gift card from my Bing Rewards, so I think it was the perfect investment. I didn't really have any idea what the story was about, but I was quickly addicted to finding out. Likes: This book is a neat little package wrapped up in a bow. You slowly pull it apart and cannot wait to see what is inside, but the wrapping is so pretty you want to do it delicately. I love this whole book. I didn't want to go to sleep, I wanted to read. I wanted to hide away with this book and keep it a secret from the world. The book was so well-paced, all the sudden I looked down and an hour had past and I was over halfway done with the book. I was sucked into the world-building and Emily's life. I wanted to be part of the list and wished that my friends and I would have done something like that with each other. I especially love the lists Sloane would write for Emily when she was going on vacation. I know I say I can relate with so many characters, but Emily and I were so on the same page. I had a friend like Sloane and I was her shadow. She was a bright bulb and people really just knew me as her friend. I was along for the ride, not enjoying the ride. Once my parents divorced and I had to start at a new school, I had to force myself out of my comfort zone like Emily did. Sloane was so neat, I can't help but wish we got more of her in this story. I think Morgan Matson should write this story, but from Sloane's POV. I have a new book boyfriend! I have the

hugest book crush on Frank. Oh boy, I think he is at the top of my list now! Gripes: The only thing would be wanting more Sloane, as I have already mentioned. Favorite Quote: "I knew the answer to that immediately. It was like swimming under the stars, like sleeping outside, like climbing a tree in the dark, and seeing the view. It was scary and safe and peaceful and exciting all at the same time. It was the way I felt when I was with him. Like a well-ordered universe."

I've heard so many good things about this and it sounded interesting enough, so I picked it up. And I'm so glad I did! I related to Emily so much with how shy she is. Painfully shy and just everything about her, except the running part. Basically I went "Emily is me, I am Emily, we are one". I really didn't like Sloane at first, but I loved getting flashbacks and learning more about her as time went on and this book, for both Emily and Sloane, screams character development! And I loved every bit of it! Anytime I got worried about something, it did end up being addressed! The pacing was steady, it was readable and still made me think. It made me laugh out loud as well cry and even hug the book! I don't want to spoil anything and this book is already very hyped, and now I understand why! If you like contemporaries I'd highly recommend checking this book out!

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