

In "Gone Girl," David Fincher takes on Gillian Flynn's critically acclaimed book of the same title, collaborating to create a tightly constructed mystery thriller. David Fincher is best known for his critically acclaimed cult classic "Fight Club," which explores the cognitive dissonance of human nature, and "Zodiac," a similar cerebral thriller about the Zodiac killer.

"Gone Girl" initially presents itself as a love story through flashbacks. The tension between the couple, Nick and Amy Dunne, is immediately palpable. Nick is a men's magazine writer from the Midwest, while Amy is a sophisticated city dweller with a sizable trust fund. Everything seems fine until it is revealed that Amy has gone missing on the day of their 5th anniversary. Nick soon becomes the prime suspect in her disappearance, and his unassuming nature further complicates matters.

The cinematography in "Gone Girl" follows Fincher's usual style, similar to "Zodiac." The shots are often straightforward and centered on the characters. However, there are occasional artistic shots and framing choices that add visual interest. Although it's filmed fairly consistently in the dialogue scenes there are a few scenes where there's a creative choice of framing that implies symbolism such as the Opening shot and its accompanying dialogue.

The script of "Gone Girl" is its strongest aspect. From the beginning, it is clear that every line serves a purpose and contributes to the overall story. Each character's dialogue has a direct impact on the narrative, and scenes flow seamlessly into one another. Fincher's direction, combined with Flynn's excellent screenwriting, results in a lean and powerful script. The dialogue is crude and stylized, creating an unsettling atmosphere. The exchanges of lines between the actors are snappy and pointed, fueling the scene with an electric sort of energy even in moments of simple exposition. With each line exchanged the actors become charged with energy that is then sent back in twofold to the other actor. This ramping up only ends with a scene change at which we are back to base zero and the energy starts up again.

Rosamund Pike perfectly embodies the caricature that is Amy Dunne; an over-educated rich girl who could bend a nation into falling in love with her. Ben Affleck is so well suited for the role of Nick Dunne that reading any Gone Girl-related media has turned into a challenge to try to imagine anyone but him in the role. Nick Dunne is meant to be a salt-of-the-earth mid-western man, captured impeccably by Ben Affleck's aloof and laid-back nature. The supporting cast plays off of each other incredibly well and they all work to highlight the incredible script and direction they're given.

The takeaway from "Gone Girl" may vary depending on how it is viewed. The film is overlaid with heavy themes of gender expectation and loss as well as having incredibly explicit moments that could be jarring for many viewers. However, if you enjoy thrillers that are well-paced, not overly action-heavy, and carry a strong story, then Gone Girl is the perfect film for you.