



# Vanished

*Irene Hannon*

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## **Vanished** Irene Hannon

Reporter Moira Harrison is lost. In the dark. In a thunderstorm. When a confusing detour places her on a rural, wooded road, she's startled by the sudden appearance of a lone figure caught in the beam of her headlights. Though Moira jams on her brakes, the car careens across the wet pavement--and the solid thump against the side of the vehicle tells her she hit the person before she crashes into a tree on the far side of the road.

A dazed Moira is relieved when a man opens her door, tells her he saw everything, and promises to call 911. Then everything fades to black. When she comes to an hour later, she is alone. No man. No 911. No injured person lying on the side of the road. But she can't forget the look of terror she saw on the person's face in the instant before her headlights swung away. The person she hit had been in trouble. She's sure of it. But she can't get anyone to believe her story--except a handsome former police detective, now a private eye, who agrees to take on the case.

From the very first page, readers will be hooked into this fast-paced story full of shocking secrets from fan-favorite Irene Hannon. *Vanished* is the exciting first book in the Private Justice series: Three justice seekers who got burned playing by the rules now have a second chance to make things right.

## **Vanished Details**

Date : Published January 1st 2013 by Revell

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Author : Irene Hannon

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# From Reader Review Vanished for online ebook

## Loraine says

SUMMARY: A tenacious reporter. A skeptical PI. And a secret that will shatter lives.

Reporter Moira Harrison is lost. In the dark. In a thunderstorm. When a lone figure suddenly appears in the beam of her headlights, Moira slams on her brakes--but it's too late. She feels the solid thump against the side of her car before crashing into a tree on the far side of the road.

A man opens her door, tells her he saw everything, and promises to call 911. Then the world fades to black. When she comes to, she is alone. No man. No 911. No injured person. But she can't forget the look of terror she saw on that face in the instant before her headlights swung away. And she can't get anyone to believe her story--except maybe a handsome ex-homicide detective turned private eye, who reluctantly agrees to take on the case.

As clues begin to surface, it becomes obvious that someone doesn't want this mystery solved--and will stop at nothing to protect a shocking secret.

REVIEW: Irene Hannon once again introduces a new series (The Private Justice Series) with a suspense-filled, riveting, page-turner. Once you start, this book will be hard to put down. Focusing on the theme of mercy killings and morality, Hannon fills this book with a grounding in faith without being "preachy." She also shows how major events early in our lives can affect our decisions later on in life.

I would have give this book a 5 but there were a few things that bothered me: 1) Both Cal and Dev's repeated use of the words "hot" and "looker" to describe Moira. Felt that didn't fit with their persona as Christians. 2) The depiction of Moira as a somewhat "helpless" female who made some less than wise decisions.

Overall, though, another great suspense read from Hannon. I look forward to reading the rest of the series.

FAVORITE QUOTES: "Much as we might want to, we can't protect the people we love every single minute."

"In my book a hero doesn't have to be perfect. He just has to do his best."

"Our prayers should be for blessings in general, for God knows what is best for us." (Socrates quoted in *Vanished*)

" 'Every heart sings a song, incomplete, until another heart whispers back.' (Plato) Your heart whispered to mine and made it whole."

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## Sarah Grace says

Wow! I've heard so much about Hannon, and *Vanished* did not disappoint!

Moira is a genuine and relatable character, and you quickly find yourself wanting to see justice served as much as she does. Her backstory, if slightly cliché, is intriguing and draws your sympathy. Cal was also a fantastic character, with a tragic backstory that tugs hard on your heartstrings. Strangely enough, I liked his character better than Moira, and found myself relating to him more. I also loved the other characters at the Phoenix Inc agency. The camaraderie between them felt so natural, and lended a lighter tone to the story.

The mystery is well thought out and keeps your interest from page one. The villain and his motive was very good and believable - if incredibly creepy. I really enjoyed Hannon's writing style, despite the incomplete sentences that drove me nuts most of the time. I can't say I'm a huge fan of that style in general, but it seems to work in this type of story.

One of my biggest issues with this novel was the "villain backstory dump" a little over a quarter of the way through. I would have preferred that information to be relayed to me more naturally over the course of the book instead of all at once near the beginning.

All in all, I really enjoyed this novel by Irene Hannon, and look forward to reading more!

CONTENT NOTE: (view spoiler) Recommended for ages 16+ for mature themes\violence.

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## **Paul Falk says**

The author delivered a knockout punch in *Private Justice*; her first in a series. The suspense rarely took a back seat in this character-driven mystery crime thriller. I was held captive as the storyline glided effortlessly, chapter by chapter forbidding any chance for the book to be put down. The underlying lives of the main protagonists became slowly unwrapped before me and allowed a deep look inside their souls. I got to know them personally. They were no longer strangers.

Driving home one night during a rainstorm, a downpour, Moira encountered a wild-eyed woman standing in the middle of the road desperately waving her arms. She tried to avoid hitting her but there was not enough time. It all happened in the blink of an eye. The car careened out of control, struck the woman and crashed into a tree. Within seconds after the accident, while assessing her condition, a man suddenly appeared at her driver's side door. Next thing she remembered, vaguely, was regaining consciousness. What had caused that rift in time?

When the police arrived on the scene, no trace of a body had been discovered. She was told that she may have imagined it all. After all, she had lost consciousness and was most likely concussed. But she knew what she had seen.

She enlisted the aid a PI firm and got to meet tall, dark and handsome Cal. At first sight, Moira is infatuated. She's not alone in her feelings. The same can be said for him. He thought that she was a real *looker*. A potential romance is in the workings. And why not? They were both single.

The investigation led them to a doctor who worked in a local hospital. By all appearance, he seemed squeaky clean. A pillar of the community. It is learned that the good doctor had been financing a medical clinic in Guatemala that provided medical aid to needy children. But something didn't sit quite right. Where was all the money coming from needed to support the ongoing enormous expense of running the clinic? It was discovered that his salary alone wouldn't cut it - nowhere near. Something mighty suspicious seemed to be

going on.

As they followed the clues that guided them slowly to the truth, they began to learn more about *each other*. And they both like what they learned. They've been alone for far too long. Maybe there was a silver lining to this cloud. They could only hope.

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### **Hannah says**

Excellent suspense, which is exactly what I've come to expect from Hannon's books. Moira can't get the strangeness of her roadside adventure out of her mind, even though the authorities clearly think it was a delusion from head trauma. As an award-winning reporter, she knows the value of fact—so she goes to top-rated PI group Phoenix for help in her research. She hardly expected to recognize a well-known doctor as someone she saw on her misadventure—and stranger circumstances soon follow. An excellent mystery.

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### **Casey says**

It's a mystery that is vanishing into the dark of night and the evidence left behind is more baffling than the crime itself.

Suspense is my guilty pleasure (I think I might have said this before, so this should come at no surprise) and I thought the novel's back cover copy would fit the bill (er...craving) quite nicely. A dose of romance against the suspense element had great balance and worked well throughout the entire story.

The best part of this book? We knew who the villain was basically from the very beginning. I know that sounds like it wouldn't have the "kick" you would expect in a suspenseful novel, but in putting the reader in the villain's point of view. Knowing his name and profession and where he was in relation to our hero and heroine put a great edge to the story that I absolutely loved.

The crime of this novel is an odd one and it gave me great curiosity into what makes this villain tick. So often I can feel jipped when I'm "told" at the end of the book why the villain did what he did, but this one took us there. Great element!

Overall I was quite pleased with my latest novel find and have already passed it on for other family members to read.

This review is my honest opinion. Thanks to the publishers for my copy to review,

**\*\*Available January 2013 from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing\*\***

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### **Laura says**

Moira is a reporter who focuses on facts. When she hits someone standing in the middle of the road and is left unconscious by a Good Samaritan, she becomes frustrated when there's no evidence of what happened

and no trace of both people she encountered that night. Determined to find out what happened that night, Moira goes to a private investigator, Cal. Will they discover love in addition to what happened that night?

Irene Hannon starts off her new series with a bang. The characters are interesting and well-developed, the action is fast-paced, and the mystery is intriguing.

I enjoyed Moira and Cal's backstories and struggles and felt that the suspense didn't override the characters as many suspense novels do.

I loved the characters of the PI firm, and I look forward to reading their stories in the rest of the series.

Hannon is quickly becoming one of the top Christian suspense authors, and this book is further evidence of that.

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### **Laura says**

A good Christian thriller/mystery that was suspenseful. Moira is driving home in a torrential storm when she sees a figure in the middle of the road flagging her down. She tries to miss the person, but hears a thud as she spins out of control. When the car stops and she gets her wits somewhat about her, a dark figure in a raincoat says he saw what happened, would help the person struck and would call 911. When Moira wakes an hour later, no emergency personnel are around, and there is no sign of a person in the road. Did she hit someone? Did she imagine everything? She has to know. This is that story.

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### **Diamond Jones says**

A really good book! Can't wait to continue with this series.

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### **Marianne says**

Looking for a suspense writer? Irene Hannon to the rescue once again. Vanished, just the title causes one to desire this novel. The blurb on the back is enough to have you pulling out your wallet, if the name of the author hasn't done that already.

Dramatic, well written with twists and turns and enough uncertainty and suspense on each page to keep you turning it in anticipation. Difficult if not downright impossible to put down. It is a legal thriller, the first in the Private Justice series, but as always, Irene does a fabulous job of making the dark and heavy work of lawyers easily navigable for the uninitiated reader. It does not take Irene many pages to have the reader deeply immersed in reporter Moira's mind, and to feel the frustration of finding no one who believes that she

saw what she knows she saw, the terror of the unknown and the disappointment of the roadblocks she encounters. The characters are well rounded, though not all as well liked as Moira, Cal and Dev. Things are not all as they may appear, and the answer is not easily found. Irene Hannon is one author that is on my Keeper shelf.

I received this book free from Revell Publishing and Julie Warkentin for the purpose of reviewing. A positive critique was not required, only an honest one. The opinions stated are my own.

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## Gabrielle says

Title: Vanished (Book 1 in Private Justice Series)

Author: Irene Hannon

My Rating: 4 out of 5 Stars

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Synopsis From Book's Back: Reporter Moira Harrison is lost. In the dark. In a thunderstorm. When a confusing detour places her on a rural, wooded road, she's startled by the sudden appearance of a lone figure caught in the beam of her headlights. Though Moira jams on her brakes, the car careens across the wet pavement--and the solid thump against the side of the vehicle tells her she hit the person before she crashes into a tree on the far side of the road.

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### My Review:

A couple of years ago, I never would have pegged myself as a lover of Christian romantic suspense. Then I was introduced to Irene Hannon and it has been full steam ahead ever since. Beginning with her "Heroes of Quantico Series" and then her "Guardians of Justice" series, I found Irene's writing entertaining, suspenseful yet not scarily so....and I knew I wanted more. You have to imagine how excited I was while, in interactions with Irene on Twitter, I was given the opportunity to review this book before its release date!

Immediately, I found myself hooked. The tale of a mysterious encounter on a lonely desolate road just has a way of getting one excited ;-) You feel Moira's drive throughout the entire story--her quest for justice, for someone to believe her. She's a likable character and frankly, I appreciated that she isn't a pushover or one who doesn't have her own opinions. And as to the male character in the story--private investigator Cal Burke--I thought he was fantastic. He has own secrets to share with us, the reader, and ones with Moira.

My one gripe with Christian fiction can be that the villain is never dastardly enough; he always has some redeeming quality. I won't give away the book, but there is a lot to hate about the perpetrator. On the flip

side, there is a lot to love about the fellow P.I's that Cal works with: Conner and Dev. Knowing that the subsequent books will follow these guys makes me very excited! Hopefully there will be a casual reference to a character from former books in "their" books. This one does: see if you can find it! ;-)

You won't be disappointed if you pick up a copy of "Vanished!" I sure wasn't and I look forward to book 2 in Fall of 2013.

**\*\*Much thanks to Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group, for providing the book for reviewing\*\***

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## **Rebecca (whenallotherlightsgoout) says**

Vanished by Irene Hannon

1 star

I don't understand why there are so many good reviews for this book. Maybe that is because most of them are by people who like other Irene Hannon books, but because this was the first book by her I read, I was unaware that, although her book is shrouded in a guise of suspense, Irene Hannon is really just a romance author.

I was really disappointed in this book because I thought the story looked really interesting and was really looking forward to reading it. And the cover is awesome! (classic case of cover fraud) I just wish it had as great of a story inside.

The first chapter was deceptively great. It had my hopes up that this really would be a great book. This chapter is basically the scene described on the back of the book. It had mystery and intrigue, but is practically the only chapter with these elements. Well, the only chapter in the first fourth of the book, because that is as far as I got before I could not stand the book any more.

I knew this was labeled romantic suspense, but most Christian fiction mystery/suspense books are labeled that way because they contain a small element of romance. This book contained more than a small element of romance. The private investigator is instantly attracted to Moira (the protagonist) because she is a 'knockout' and can't stop thinking about her. Moira similarly falls for the PI. They can't stop noticing how attractive the other person is whenever they are together. This was very annoying! Seriously, they are meeting to go over the details of the case, and all Moira could think about was how wonderful his aftershave smells! Ugh! I was hoping the case would progress (because it has basically halted since they met) at the meeting and I do not care about what his aftershave smells like! This book is really a romance novel with a little action thrown in for flavor. Where is romance even mentioned in the synopsis?!? I cannot find it.

The dialogue was unrealistic and seemed forced, Moira's in particular. She kept saying and explaining things to strangers that I would never bother to vocalize. And her thoughts were basically a repetition of what was just said in the conversation. Seriously, I got it the first time.

Almost all of the sentences in the book were short, and I found the paragraphs broken up awkwardly. It drove me nuts! The only good thing it did was make me realize just how important the length of sentences and placement of new paragraphs are to a story. I am sure my English teacher would be pleased.



As I said, I only made it through a quarter of the book. By that point I totally stopped caring what will happen in the mystery, and every time I picked it up I was even more turned off by the sickening and surface based romance. It's not that I hate all romance, but I much prefer it as a side plot and one where the romance grows slowly over time.

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## **Melanie says**

Review on Amazon: <http://www.amazon.com/review/R2VHK4DZ...>

Review on my blog (to be posted 1/9/13): <http://christianbookshelfreviews.blog...>

4.5 stars

This is the seventh of Irene Hannon's books I've read and it did not disappoint! Vanished started off with a bang and held my attention throughout! While I did guess a lot of what was going to happen in the story, it was still a great suspense read.

I thought the characters were great and I especially liked Cal and Dev. :) I have to say, though, I couldn't help getting a little frustrated with one of the characters because I found what he/she was doing to be very foolish.

Overall, I enjoyed Vanished very much and can hardly wait to read book two in the Private Justice series when it releases! I recommend it if you enjoy romantic suspense novels.

\*I received a complimentary copy of this book from the publisher for my review. I was not required to give a positive review, only my honest opinion - which I've done. All thoughts and opinions expressed are my own.\*

“Available January 2013 at your favorite bookseller from Revell, a division of Baker Publishing Group.”

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## **Penney says**

Finally! This book dragged on and on and on, I thought I was never going to finish. If it weren't a book club read I probably wouldn't have bothered. I admit I didn't realize this was a Christian romance, and unless they're too preachy (and this was) I don't usually have a problem with the genre. This book's biggest problem was that it was boring, boring, boring. Far too many unnecessary scenes and dialogue paired with completely uninteresting characters made Vanished a very difficult read for me. It didn't help that the heroine suddenly turned into a complete idiot in the last few chapters. I guess it was the only way to finally make something exciting happen.

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## **Chantel says**

So I finally finished this book and I must say I really enjoyed reading this story. It was so exciting! This book didn't have as much action per say as the previous books I've read of hers. There was more of a mystery

type of feel, which makes sense because it's about a Private Investigation office. But the story still held it's own, and kept me on the edge of my seat.

And let it be said that the villain in this book I think is the most mentally disturbed, out of all the characters Irene Hannon has written and she has written some crazies in the past, but this person takes the cake. Lol, just read the book...

Dev kinda became my favorite in this book so I'm looking forward to reading his story in book two. This is definitely a series worth checking out. ;-)

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### **Monique says**

This book has all of the things I look for in a good suspense novel. An emotionally captivating plot driven by dangerous circumstances, with compelling characters, and subtle elements of faith and romance blended in. A page-turner that was difficult to put down.

*Vanished* captured both my mind and my heart. I found this book to be truly entertaining. Both thrilling and uplifting.

I very much look forward to reading more of Irene Hannon's suspense work!

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