

# MISSING CLAYTON



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**Written by Bev Anne Irwin**

*An introverted single mother risks her life to find her kidnapped five-year-old son when the police fail and she can no longer trust those closest to her.*

## Critical Analysis

★★★★★

A dramatic journey through the abduction and possible kidnapping of Jenny's son Clayton was presented to us in this criminal thriller script. The behind-the-scenes hunt for Clayton, who has gone missing reflects a mother's greatest fear. Several individuals in the script have romantic relationships with Jenny, and the screenplay chronicles their interactions with her and others who are trying to help her.

In the opening scene, Jenny, a newly divorced woman, and her son Clayton are settling into a new home and a new school district. The dynamics of their relationship are shown through seemingly little occurrences, such as the two of them pounding a kicking bag

together. This fact, along with a remark he makes about it at his new school, endears him to the audience, and they are captivated by the connection he and she have.

When the two are seen walking about, no one even glances in their direction, giving the impression that they are completely alone in the vicinity. Even when wishing Jenny a pleasant day, another woman completely ignores them. The two seem to be alone in the area because no one even bats an eye at them when they pass by.

This all changes when Jenny, distracted by her phone, looks out the window to find her son missing. She cries out for him and then she crumbles into the arms of another neighbor, Steve, claiming he's been kidnapped because he is unable to open the gate by himself. She begs him to search for her son.

As the son suddenly vanishes into the air, the reader is powerless to resist feeling heartbroken and helpless. When Jenny calls the police, they start making a number of attempts to locate her missing child. This entails a property search, a dog search, search parties, and broadcast communications. Jenny invites her mother and her ex-spouse to visit her at her house after reaching out to them.

The screenplay centers on a central topic that is equal parts quest for self-discovery and emotional longing. To see Jenny's development as she interacts with these folks and grows in self-assurance and assertiveness. Jenny ultimately stands firm in her decision to remain a single mom and in her defiance of her controlling and abusive mother. The audience has been yearning for just this type of development since they were first introduced to her. Additional details emerge about the community, such as the

fact that Steve, a neighbor, was detained for allegedly "kidnapping" a child, Jenny's ex-husband will do everything to get her back, and the media continues to report on a possible murder.

We look at the protagonist who needs to examine her inner self in relation to the moral themes of identity and the fight of losing power. She experiences an emotional whirlwind that makes you empathize with her desperation at not being able to find her child. Jenny saves her child from a man who intended to use him as a substitute for the son he had lost.

All of the individuals hunting for the son appear to know his whereabouts at the same time, and this dramatic, emotional, and heartbreaking climax perfectly sums up the whole film's relationships. The screenplay reads similarly to something you'd see in *Law and Order* or *Mindhunter*, except instead of focusing on the detectives, it chronicles the journey of a mother.

Jenny's heartbreaking scene in her son's bed is one of the work's most moving parts. The screenplay is therefore less of a crime thriller and more of an introspective journey. When it becomes clear that all she has worked for, including her child, might be lost in a single day, the viewer can't help but feel compassion for her.

This piece's themes center on parenthood, a harsh reality, and love. In the mother and Clayton's connection, motherhood is examined. She is revealed to be an excellent mother who genuinely loves and cares for her son. She can't function without him, and the loss of him breaks her heart. Because Clayton's absence is revealed at the conclusion, a hard truth must be brought up.

The true tragedy and frightening nature of Clayton's kidnapping as well as the overarching subject of the entire script is love. In the end, Jenny makes the ultimate sacrifice for her child, demonstrating that *love* always triumphs. Jenny and Clayton's tale is one that culminates in hope after much heartache and anguish.

It's up-close and personal link to the disappearance of a relative is something that hasn't frequently been shown on screen and has the potential to attract viewers who would normally avoid the crime genre. This movie serves as a somber lesson to cherish your relationships and to never give up hope.

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