

Missing Person

By Valerie Hockert

WGAW# 2237854

Crime/Drama. 100 pages

LOGLINE:

A desperate drifter successfully cons a wealthy family into believing he is their long-lost son—only to discover the terrifying truth: he actually *is* the boy they kidnapped twenty years ago.

SYNOPSIS:

Three-year-old Joshua is kidnapped, leaving behind a devastated family and a cold case that spans two decades. Twenty years later, a down-on-his-luck young man named Patrick—who grew up in a lonely foster care home—sees a shocking twist of fate. Encouraged by a friend who notices his striking resemblance to the media's missing person age progression software images, Patrick hatches a desperate plan. He decides to pretend to be the missing child to gain a real family, financial stability, and public glory.

Welcomed home with open arms and showered with expensive gifts, his scam initially succeeds. However, a mandatory paternity DNA test exposes a jaw-dropping plot twist: Patrick actually *is* the real Joshua. In a horrifying final revelation, he learns the truth about his child abduction—his own biological father arranged the kidnapping years ago because he falsely believed Joshua was not his biological son.

AWARDS:

Bridgefest
Selected/Overall Monthly Winner
2024 (two different months)

Las Vegas International Film &
Screenwriting Festival
Selected
2024

Cambridge Script Festival Summer
Edition 2024
Finalist
2024

Las Vegas International Film &
Screenwriting Festival
Finalist
2024

Oxford Script Awards
Selected Writer
2025

Reno Tahoe Screenplay Contest
Finalist
2025

Tokyo Film & Screenplay Awards
Award Winner

2025