

MISSING TRIO



A screenplay by Gary B. Haley
...but the story belongs to the girls' families.

SETTING

Fort Worth, Texas
1974 and the present day

FORMAT AND TONE

Feature screenplay
Historical drama and
mystery
Intimate, restrained,
compassionate

STORY FOUNDATION

Based on publicly reported facts. Private moments and dialogue are dramatized. The screenplay does not claim to solve the case or accuse any individual.

MISSING TRIO

FEATURE SCREENPLAY | HISTORICAL DRAMA / MYSTERY

LOGLINE

When three girls vanish during a Christmas shopping trip in 1974 Fort Worth, their families begin a search that spans fifty years - forcing a new examination of a mysterious letter, fading memories, and the few stubborn facts that may still lead them home.

SYNOPSIS

On December 23, 1974, seventeen-year-old Mary Rachel Trlica takes fourteen-year-old Lisa Renee Wilson and nine-year-old Julie Ann Moseley Christmas shopping at Seminary South. The girls browse stores, share food, tease one another, and make plans to be home before evening. When they fail to return, their families find Rachel's locked Oldsmobile in the upper Sears lot with the day's purchases still inside - but no reliable explanation for how the girls left.

The following morning, a letter claims they have gone to Houston and will return in about a week. Its authorship cannot be established, and the promised return never comes. Searches, reported sightings, conflicting accounts, and unanswered questions accumulate as the families fight to keep Rachel, Renee, and Julie from being reduced to rumors.

Fifty years later, Rachel's brother Rusty and Julie's aunt Sandy revisit the surviving evidence with a cold-case investigator. Their careful review separates documented facts from theories repeated so often that they have begun to resemble truth. The screenplay offers no manufactured solution. It remembers three vibrant young lives while the search for an honest answer continues.

COMPS

Lost Girls, meets *Zodiac*, with the family urgency of *Changeling*. These comparisons describe *Missing Trio's* tone and storytelling approach. None have identical plots.

WHY THIS FILM

Missing Trio combines the emotional immediacy of a family drama with the disciplined tension of an unresolved historical mystery. Its dual-period structure offers strong roles across generations, a recognizable 1970s setting, and a present-day investigation grounded in restraint. Most importantly, the girls remain people rather than plot devices, and the families' endurance provides the story's emotional center.

AT THE HEART OF THE STORY

Rachel, 17 - a practical young wife still imagining the life ahead of her.

Renee, 14 - lively, witty, and excited by the first promises of adulthood.

Julie, 9 - curious, compassionate, funny, and determined to keep up.

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