



EIGHT YEARS

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Logline:

When his mother's buried remains are discovered in a South Georgia field eight years after she vanished from her employer's office, a young father enters a courtroom reckoning against the powerful man accused of killing her, only to realize that his pursuit of justice may turn him into another absence in his son's life.

Synopsis:

After two farmers uncover a box containing Helen Harmon's remains, the long-stalled disappearance of a South Georgia mother becomes a murder case built from degraded evidence, old witnesses, business records, keys, rope, a green dress, and the shadow of a powerful local family.

In the courtroom, each testimony reconstructs what happened to Helen and what her disappearance did to her family. Harold Harmon, her son, believes that seeing Kenny Winkler punished will finally release him from the wound. Instead, the case deepens his obsession, strains his marriage, damages his body, and threatens to make him emotionally absent from his son Scott.

In the final courtroom confrontation, Harold faces the man who killed his mother and chooses not revenge, not performance, and not one more public bleeding. He chooses to go home.



Settings:

World A

South Georgia family/farm world:
Helen's kitchen, Harold's childhood,
pines, chores, Rosie, Jerry's guitar,
rural domestic life.



World B

Winkler/Valdosta power world:
advertising business, courthouse,
police/investigators, wealthy family
hierarchy, rumors, class/racial order.



World C

Harold's adult survival world:
Navy machinery, motel rooms,
gym/bodybuilding, Mississippi
home, Anne/Scott/Louisa,
scrapbook, final kitchen.





COMPS

THE IRON CLAW

Family-system tragedy in which a man survives the machinery that consumed his family and refuses to pass the curse to his children.

MANCHESTER BY THE SEA

Grief, ordinary care, fatherhood pressure, and emotional paralysis.

MYSTIC RIVER

Crime, community, masculinity, and the long shadow of childhood.

IN THE BEDROOM

Intimate grief, restrained rage, and the cost of justice on a family.

EIGHT YEARS

CHARACTERS

A family bound by blood.
A town bound by silence.
Eight years that
changed everything.



HAROLD



HELEN



SCOTT



ANNE



JERRY



LISA



KENNY



FOXY

ACT 1

THE WOUND



OPENING IMAGE

Farmers uncover Helen's box in South Georgia dirt. The earth gives up the dead.

SET UP

Harold is powerful, wounded, controlled, and still trapped at thirteen. He survives through endurance and obsession, not investigation.

FAMILY & WORLD

Jerry collapses into absence. Lisa carries memory and anger. Anne carries boundary and future. Scott carries living need.

ORDINARY WORLD

South Georgies is shaped by family, work, class, race, money, silence, and reputation.

CATALYST & DEBATE

Harold sees Kenny and hears the case language in court. The past erupts. Can he sit through this again? Can he survive the truth?

INCITING INCIDENT

Kenny calls Jerry. Helen is gone. Car and purse remain. The disappearance ruptures.

DEBATE & B-STORY

Was she murdered, did she leave, what can be believed, who controls the truth? Rumor wounds. Harold must move from son to father.

Theme Stated: Helen's pine-tree lesson: living things need tending.

ACT 2

THE RECKONING



BREAK INTO ACT 2

The courtroom begins reconstructing the decade. Testimony becomes a memory machine.

HEART: FRIENDS

Collier, Hillar, Lisa, Anne, Scott, and Helen's memories give Harold truth, but not all truth heals.

HEART: ENEMIES

Kenny, Foxy, Barker's doubt, town rumor, legal rot, and Harold's own obsession. The internal antagonist remains dominant.

TEST

Every witness forces Harold to choose: stay in the wound or tend the living. Courtroom beats mirror family costs.

MIDPOINT

Legal victory or apparent conviction. Justice appears to arrive, but Harold is not healed.

BAD GUYS CLOSE IN

Appeals, domestic collapse, Scott slipping away, body strain, scrapbook obsession. The case keeps reopening the grave.

RUN / CAUGHT

Harold tries to build life with Scott and Anne, but the final legal summons catches him.

ACT 3

THE CHOICE



ALL IS LOST

Harold realizes he is becoming another disappearance in Scott's life.

DARK NIGHT OF SOUL

Motel, gym, scrapbook, body collapse. Court and home cannot both own him.

THEME RE-STATED

Anne: "You keep saying you're doing this for her. But you're not living like the son she raised."

MOMENT OF CLARITY

Harold sees Scott as the child waiting the way he once waited. The wound is transferring.

BREAK INTO ACT 3

Harold attends the final hearing, knowing the cost to his home.

QUIET BEFORE STORM

Harold sees Kenny, Anne, Scott's absence, and the courtroom wood closing in.

STORM & FAIL

Kenny's presence triggers violent daydream. Violence is captivity. Not the path.

SACRIFICED & WIN

Harold sacrifices the fantasy of full answers and revenge. He tells the judge he wants to go home.

FINAL IMAGE

Scrapbook finished. Hands washed. Breakfast made. Pines dancing.

The true victory is exit. He chooses to tend the living.

PRODUCTION, MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

A CONTAINED, EMOTIONAL PRESTIGE DRAMA WITH UNIVERSAL RESONANCE

PRODUCTION

Design for a contained prestige drama that is character-driven, location-specific, and visually grounded.



Every location reflects character, class, and consequence.
The world is specific. The story is intimate.

MARKETING

Lead with the emotional truth, not a true-crime label.
This is a story about fatherhood, justice,
and the miracle of truth surviving rot.



CAMPAIGN PILLARS



FATHERHOOD

A father's fight to be present while seeking what was stolen.



JUSTICE

Not revenge.
Not performance.
Truth.



TRUTH SURVIVES

In a world of silence and power, love keeps tending.

*We're not selling a case.
We're telling a story about what it costs to stay, and what it takes to go home.*

DISTRIBUTION

Pursue a festival launch and align with prestige independent distributors and premium streamers.

FESTIVAL LAUNCH

Target: Telluride, Toronto, New York, AFI Fest, Chicago, and Beyond.

POSITIONING

A prestige independent drama in the tradition of character-first, emotionally brutal American stories.



THE MOTEL ROOM CASE SHRINE

The case has become his cell.
Truth is the only way out.

DISTRIBUTION PATH



FESTIVAL PREMIERE



AWARDS CONSIDERATION



PRESTIGE DISTRIBUTOR



PREMIUM STREAMER / GLOBAL AUDIENCE

"A film about the wound of absence and the grace of choosing to return."

EIGHT YEARS

PRODUCTION BUDGET

BUDGET SUMMARY	LOW-END GEORGIA INDIE	HIGH-END PRESTIGE
Estimated Pre-Contingency Spend	\$4,185,000	\$6,750,000
Producer Contingency (10%)	\$418,500	\$675,000
ESTIMATED GROSS PRODUCTION BUDGET	\$4,603,500	\$7,425,000
Preferred Gross Target	\$5,200,000	\$6,500,000
Budget Comp Anchor	\$5,800,000	\$5,800,000
Estimated Georgia-Qualified Spend	\$3,774,870	\$6,237,000
Max Statutory GA Credit Value (30%)	\$1,132,461	\$1,871,100
Estimated Monetized Cash Value (90%)	\$1,019,215	\$1,683,990
ESTIMATED EFFECTIVE NET PRODUCTION COST	\$3,584,285	\$5,741,010

Thank you for your
time, consideration
and belief in
Eight Years.



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