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Document 001: Logline, Synopsis of Feature Novel Adaptation (*The Disappearance*)

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Title: *Eight Years*

Logline: *Having endured great pains to forget his past, a naval machinist returns home when his mother's body is found eight years after her disappearance in 1972 and obsesses over the incarcerating her killer while trying to balance fatherhood.*

Theme: The influence of parenthood - Be present with your children.

Audience: Up-and-coming parents

Synopsis:

1972: A true crime in Valdosta, Georgia sets a chronicle of anguish for a happy-go-lucky boy when his mother disappears.

A year later, Harold, a 13-year-old rebel finds pleasure through temporary distractions; romantic summer flings, underage drinking, and juvenile tactics of avoiding late-night boredom. His widowed father, looking for reconciliation further wounds his son's mental health by neglecting paternal duties and replacing his mother with another. Harold finds himself in more pain than before and joins the Navy to relieve the suffering caused by this horrible reality.

As Harold nears his early twenties, he finds solace by suppressing the plague of his past by working towards his future. He builds a career as a Naval Nuclear Machinist and begins anew by marrying a young woman; pregnant with his first child. However, all this effort falls short in 1980 when he learns of his mother's body being unearthed back home. In addition to this news, a suspect is named, and the childhood trauma Harold spent years suppressing, resurfaces. Harold catches sight of himself as a 13-year-old boy amongst the crowd and puts his career on hold to return home. Harold strives to keep his life in balance while seeking the incarceration of the man accused, but little does he know; this venture will invoke further turmoil in his life.

During the trial, Harold's son is born, but tensions rise as spousal duties and expectations go unfulfilled. Harold's wife wanes from her responsibilities as a mother and avoids giving Harold the support he needs in the courtroom. Eventually, the man accused is found guilty and though justice is pronounced for his mother, Harold slips into a depression. Across the room, he sees the 13-year-old boy again and pushes his buried emotions deeper. This materializes in the inevitable separation of Harold and his wife's infidelity.

While trying to start over, Harold struggles to balance his career and maintaining a present father, but becomes absent in his son's life, symbolically like his own mother. In his last efforts to find support, Harold finds the past catching up with him once more, but this time it is in the form of a romantic interest. A woman who he knew back in high school changes his life

for the better and in time becomes his wife. She, like his mother, is a presence of unconditional love; through her a foundation and stability is built for Harold.

In 1987, Harold preps for the appeal of the accused and reaches out to his family, but no one wants to be affiliated any longer. They have all moved on with life. Harold must face his past on his own. In his mind, whether it be the accused or himself, someone is going to prison. The final courtroom battle begins, evidence is presented, arguments are made, and the accused is sentenced to prison without parole.

In the closing scene, Harold stands outside the courthouse with his son, daughter, and wife. She tells him of their pregnancy and how it is a sign of new beginnings. Harold finds closure, his past behind him and to forever be present in his family's life. As they step into the taxi, Harold sees the 13-year-old boy run past him and catch up to a woman whose likeness is that of his mother's. They embrace to then walk away hand in hand. Harold smiles and tells the driver to take he and his family home.