



UNDERNEATH
the
DAFFODILS

AN ORIGINAL SCREENPLAY BY ISAIAH MOUW

Introduction

Logline: An elderly man has his life turned upside down when a true-crime podcaster suspects he was responsible for the disappearance of his daughter twenty years ago.

Genre: Drama, Crime, Mystery
Status: Available
Runtime: 100 Minutes

Synopsis: UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS is THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI meets PRISONERS. It explores the subjects of gossip, grief and our society's obsession with true crime all while mixing memorable characters, a mystery that keeps you guessing and a jaw dropping denouement viewers will never forget.

 r/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 53 min. ago • u/93crimejunkie


Guilt causes stress.
Stress causes cancer.
Ruth was involved. #ruthknew

#theories

 r/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 20 hr. ago • u/lmjml


Richard did it.

#discussion

 r/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 1 mo. ago • u/shadowoscar

Ruth did it and Richard covered it up.
#hatecrime

#theories

 rr/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 6 days ago • u/mfcw9871

its always the quite neighbor.

#discussion

 r/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 2 hr. ago • u/podcastgod13

He used to be an alcoholic.
Homophobic fuck.

#theories

 r/TrueCrimeDiscussion • 1 mo. ago • u/ladonnarex

The dad killed her.
It's the only answer that makes sense.
70% of the time it's someone from the family.

#theories

 rr/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 8 hr. ago • u/hughjanus69

I'm in the Mountain Dew Intruder camp! Imfao!

#discussion

 r/SomeoneKnowsSomethingPodcast • 14 days ago • u/kpopfangirl9

What kind of parents don't let their kid read Harry Potter? So weird.

#facts

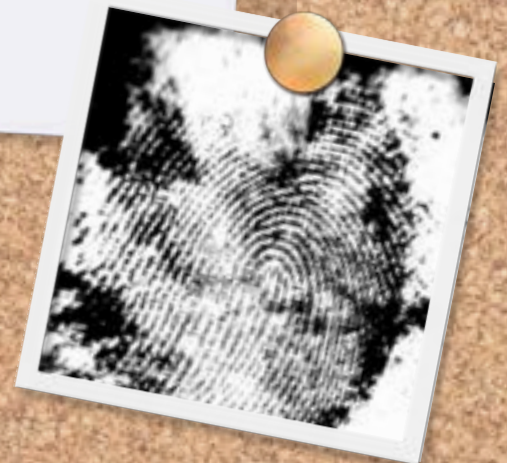
Whodunnit?

Everyone loves a gripping whodoneit. From the viral success of HOW TO MAKE A MURDERER and THE JINX television shows to the groundbreaking podcast SERIAL, audiences worldwide are captivated by true crime mysteries.

But the cases that truly stay with us - the ones we debate around the water cooler or dissect on online forums for years - are the ones with no closure. These are the unsolved stories that divide opinions and spark endless theories. Think of JonBenet Ramsey or the Zodiac Killer: the allure lies in the unanswered questions.

UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS channels this magic of true crime storytelling. It presents just enough evidence for viewers to craft their own theories, with interpretations shaped by their cultural backgrounds, personal histories, and lived experiences.

This unique blend of intellectual stimulation, emotional investment, and the tantalizing possibility of closure ensures that UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS will captivate audiences worldwide.





THE VISITOR

DIRECTOR: TOM MCCARTHY

@2007 GROUNDSWELL PRODUCTIONS, PARTICIPANT PRODUCTIONS, NEXT WEDNESDAY
PRODUCTIONS

The Story

RICHARD FLOWERS is an ordinary man. He's a widower. He loves his garden and golden daffodils. Never misses a service at church. Has very few friends, but his cat and daffodils keep him company. But in one devastating way, he's remarkably different than you and I. Richard was a key suspect in the disappearance of his daughter ABIGAIL FLOWERS twenty years ago.

MERYL STONE is a podcaster in town investigating and telling the story of Abigail's disappearance. She's joined by ALLISON ANZALONE, a strong-willed woman with a mysterious connection to Abigail. Together with the help of the crude CHIEF HOWELL, they keep the pressure on Richard and the decades old disappearance. As the layers of mystery surrounding Abigail's disappearance slowly gets peeled back, Richard's world unravels.

The Southern, small-town struggles on how to deal with a member of their community being suspected of such a heinous crime. The community takes sides. Some shun. Some pretend nothing ever happened. But when Richard decides to fight back and join the podcast on a livestreamed finale, the community and lead characters are forced to confront how each of their actions and accusations brought us to the devastating outcome.

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PRISONERS

DIRECTOR: DENIS VILLENEUVE

©2013 ALCON ENTERTAINMENT, 8:38 PRODUCTIONS, MADHOUSE ENTERTAINMENT

STYLE AND TONE

UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS will embrace a dark, atmospheric, and meticulously crafted visual style that immerses the audience in a complicated and morally complex world. The cinematography will use muted tones, heavy shadows, and natural light to amplify the tension and emotional weight of each scene. Dimly lit interiors and stark cemeteries juxtaposed with bright, colorful gardens highlight the community's vastly different opinions: Is Richard a monster or is he a wrongfully accused, innocent man?

UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS blends Southern, small-town America aesthetics with an unpolished, gritty realism. The tone is unrelentingly intense, with an undercurrent of dread that permeates every moment. It balances psychological drama through visions, flashbacks and dreams with gritty realism. The narrative is morally ambiguous, leaving audiences questioning the characters' actions and their own definitions of right and wrong. Suspense builds methodically, punctuated by moments of shocking violence and raw emotional vulnerability, ensuring viewers are on edge throughout.

At its heart, the film explores gossip, grief and our society's obsession with true crime, yet it does so with a sardonic edge that keeps audiences off-balance.



THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

DIRECTOR: TATE TAYLOR

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PRODUCTIONS

CHARACTERS

RICHARD FLOWERS is seventy. While lonely as a widower, he loves his routine which includes gardening, visiting his wife's gravesite, daily crossword puzzles, volunteering at church and the local boys and girls club and playing with his cat. Anytime he finds a moment of peace or happiness, he's quickly reminded of his daughter's disappearance, who went missing twenty years ago. Many people think Richard was involved. The more the spotlight is shed on Abigail's disappearance through Meryl's podcast, the more his social anxiety and reclusiveness worsens. Richard does what he's always done: hides. But when the only other things he loves are destroyed, Richard will finally stand up for himself and fight back.

MERYL BRIDGES is in her sixties. A writer turned podcaster, Meryl dreams of becoming the top podcast in the world. Meticulous and thorough, Meryl is the type of person who always texts with perfect punctuality, spelling and grammar. She loves the sense of purpose she finds from her hit podcast, *Someone Knows Something*, shedding light on cold cases to bring closure and healing to grieving families. The positive reviews, social media praise and rising up the charts motivate her to keep moving forward regardless of those hurt along the way. Her friendship with Allison, galvanized through the investigation, pushes her to face her fears and takes unnecessary risks.

CHIEF HOWELL is a Southern good ole boy police chief in his early 50s. Chief Howell has tried for decades to put Richard behind bars but has never had enough evidence to make an arrest. He sees the podcast as a way to put more pressure on Richard to cause him to hopefully crack under the pressure. The often-crude Chief isn't afraid to bend the rules if it means bringing down Richard, which is more important to him than providing justice for Abigail.

ALLISON ANZOLONE is in her early fifties. Social anxiety fears Allison. If she had been born a decade earlier, she would have been a Deadhead traveling with the Grateful Dead. A former production assistant in Boston, Allison searches out Meryl to introduce the case due to Allison's close connection with Abigail. Allison has encountered much pain throughout her life, hardening her into a tough, bitter woman on a crusade to expose Richard to bring justice for Abigail. She's blinded by this rage and hate. But when Richard fights back and pleads his case, Allison must decide what to do with this hatred.

TAWANA MILLER is the non-nonsense manager for the local boys and girls club where Richard volunteers with the community garden. She sees Richard as the kind volunteer that he is regardless of any past mistakes or transgressions. When the podcast sheds further light on his past, Tawana must decide if he should be volunteering with children and if he is worth showing up for.

PAM is in her sixties and was a one-time love interest for Richard. A sweet and cheerful disposition, you can see why she means so much to Richard. A widow and gardener herself, Richard holds a special place in her big heart. With each passing episode providing more circumstantial evidence pointing towards Richard, Pam must decide to defend her friend or assist with the investigation.



MEMORIES OF MURDER

DIRECTOR: BONG JOON HO

©2003 CJ ENTERTAINMENT, SIDIUS PICTURES

STRUCTURE

UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS follows a three-act structure.

1

ACT ONE introduces Richard Flowers, his garden, and how he fits into the Cold Creek community as the onetime key suspect in the disappearance of his daughter. Meryl Stone interviews locals and investigates any lead to bring exposure to Abigail's disappearance on her popular true crime podcast. Allison Anzalone recently moved to Cold Creek and assist Meryl and Chief Howell with the investigation.

2

ACT TWO ratches up the conflict when Meryl releases her episode on Richard as the key suspect. Old police interview recordings of Richard are released. An affair is revisited. A crime committed by Richard as a teenager is uncovered. As more stories are shared with the world, the more the community struggles with how to interact with Richard. When Richard's precious daffodils are destroyed by Chief Howell during a search of Richard's property, Richard finally agrees to an interview.

3

ACT THREE will climax with the four lead characters coming together for a final livestreamed interview that will hopefully provide answers or closure to Abigail's disappearance.



THREE BILLBOARDS OUTSIDE EBBING, MISSOURI

DIRECTOR: MARTIN MCDONAGH

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CUTTING EDGE GROUP

MARKETIBILITY

A small-town crime mystery set in the South with a podcast angle has the potential to resonate strongly with audiences for several reasons. First, the Southern setting provides a rich cultural and atmospheric backdrop that has long been a favorite in storytelling. The South's deep history, distinctive dialects, and layered social dynamics naturally lend themselves to the intrigue and complexity required for a gripping mystery. Its small-town environment, where everyone knows each other but secrets abound, amplifies the tension, making it the perfect setting for exploring hidden truths.

The inclusion of a podcast angle taps into the modern fascination with true crime and investigative journalism. Podcasts like SERIAL and CRIME JUNKIE have demonstrated the massive audience appeal of serialized storytelling combined with real-world mysteries. By weaving a podcast element into the narrative, the story aligns with current media trends, potentially drawing in both mystery enthusiasts and true crime aficionados. It also offers a meta-narrative device, where the protagonist or narrator can reflect on the events while engaging directly with the audience, creating an immersive experience.

From a marketing perspective, this blend of Southern charm, gripping mystery, and contemporary podcast culture offers multiple avenues for engagement. It allows for cross-promotion with true crime podcasts, social media campaigns mimicking real-time investigative updates, and audience interaction through online discussion boards and social media. Additionally, the genre appeals to a wide demographic, from younger viewers intrigued by the modern podcasting element to older audiences drawn to the Southern Gothic and mystery tradition. This mix of timeless storytelling and modern relevance ensures strong marketability and broad appeal.

The screenwriter has also written six unrevealed different post credit scenes that give six different clues pointing to six different possible explanations for Abigail's disappearance with the innovative idea to release different versions of the film for different streaming markets without letting audiences know. Through discussions boards and social media, viewers will soon realize different viewers had slightly different post credit scenes and will compare notes and theories ensuring UNDERNEATH THE DAFFODILS goes viral.



Thank You!

CONTACT



ABOUT THE WRITER

Isaiah Mouw is an Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences Nicholl Fellowship semifinalist screenwriter from Tennessee. Isaiah brings an authentic voice to his screenwriting, rooted in his upbringing in a small southern town. Having lived the experiences of its richly textured characters and walked the streets of its charming yet complex locales, Isaiah writes with an insider's perspective. His stories capture the humor, heartache, and resilience of small-town life, delivering narratives that resonate deeply because he's lived them.



I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud

By William Wordsworth

I wandered lonely as a cloud
That floats on high o'er vales and hills,
When all at once I saw a crowd,
A host, of golden daffodils;
Beside the lake, beneath the trees,
Fluttering and dancing in the breeze.

Continuous as the stars that shine
And twinkle on the milky way,
They stretched in never-ending line
Along the margin of a bay:
Ten thousand saw I at a glance,
Tossing their heads in sprightly dance.

The waves beside them danced; but they
Out-did the sparkling waves in glee:
A poet could not but be gay,
In such a jocund company:
I gazed—and gazed—but little thought
What wealth the show to me had brought:

For oft, when on my couch I lie
In vacant or in pensive mood,
They flash upon that inward eye
Which is the bliss of solitude;
And then my heart with pleasure fills,
And dances with the daffodils.

