

FILM TITLE: Have You Seen This Child
 AUTHOR: Peter Cannistraci
 GENRE: Drama
 ANALYST: Eli Holvoet
 PERIOD: Present Day
 LOCATION: Chicago

COVERAGE DATE: March 17, 2026

LOGLINE (one sentence): A boy has a close bond with his criminal family, but when they take in a young girl the lies start to unravel.

RATINGS: (make an X in the appropriate box)

	Excellent	Good	Fair	Poor
Structure				
Plot		X		
Dialogue			X	
Character		X		
Concept	X			

	Recommend	Consider	Pass
Script		X	
Writer		X	

SYNOPSIS:

OLIVER, 12, lives with his MOM, 37, and DAD, 43. He likes to steal things, something his parents actively participate in and encourage. He doesn't get along with kids his age and gets made fun of for playing with toys. One day his parents brought home CHRISTY, 7, who was abandoned.

Oliver and Christy don't get along at first, until he enlists her to help him steal. They get caught, and DETECTIVE FITZGERALD, 47, learns they have both been kidnapped. Oliver's parents get arrested, and Christy gets taken away. Oliver's mother explains he was the son of her best friend, and in the end he trusts them both.

COMMENTS:

The bond between Oliver, his mother, and especially his father in the beginning of the script does a fantastic job at setting the stakes. Oliver could have a bit more in the way of motivation, does he want more friends? Does he steal because it makes his parents happy? His reaction to Christy entering the picture was great and makes him more understandable.

Christy is an interesting plot point, and there's a bunch of room here to have a great character arc between her and Oliver, maybe she helps him develop the skills to talk to others? The way she refuses to talk at first is a bit odd, because she starts talking without much reaction from Oliver. A bit more characterization could go a long way in increasing the stakes even more.

Some space in between Oliver's conversation with Detective Fitzgerald and his parents' arrest could be a cool spot to reflect on the conflict. You could have him actively wonder if his parents are evil and bolster his relationship with Christy by having him want to protect her. The ending, especially with the fidget spinner, is heartwarming and a memorable way to wrap up the film.