

TELEVISION

# Parents' greatest fear propels Starz's 'The Missing'

Actors relate to pain and try to find truth in worst-case drama

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USA TODAY

The loss of a child is a primal fear, a repellent concept in real life but so basic and relatable that it's a strong attraction for a fictional story.

Starz's *The Missing*, premiering Saturday, is an eight-episode drama, the latest built around the disappearance or death of a child or teen, joining Fox's *Gracepoint* (Thursdays 9 ET/PT), a remake of the U.K.'s *Broadchurch*; Sundance TV's *Top of the Lake*; and AMC's *The Killing*.

"There is something about that topic that rivets people, because



After their son vanishes, the relationship between Emily (Frances O'Connor) and Tony (James Nesbitt) suffers.

it's their worst nightmare," says Atlanta media psychologist Robert Simmermon. "It's as if they can keep ahead of it (and) in some way might be more protect-

ed from having something like that happen to them."

In *The Missing*, Tony Hughes (James Nesbitt) and his wife, Emily (Frances O'Connor) play a British couple vacationing in France in 2006 when their 5-year-old son, Oliver, gets separated from his father after a swim. A guilty Tony desperately searches for his son for nearly a decade, ruining his marriage even as he picks up clues that could explain what happened.

O'Connor says she and Nesbitt can relate: "We both have lost our children for a few minutes where you're like 'God, where is my child?' Most parents, at some point, have kind of gone through that. We love our children, but they make us vulnerable."

Nesbitt tried to identify with Tony's pain. "Being in a foreign country with a different language, justice system and culture, Tony

and Emily "are totally disconnected," he says. "It can only add to the awful isolation."

A French investigator, Julien Baptiste (Tcheky Karyo), initially is suspicious of Tony but eventually pursues the case with him in 2014. "Two disparate souls who were antagonistic in 2006 (are) somehow drawn together again in 2014," Nesbitt says.

With the pain and stress of dealing with their son's disappearance, Tony and Emily ultimately see their relationship unravel.

"Tony, because he was there when Ollie went missing, feels a great burden of responsibility," O'Connor says, but Emily "loses herself, because she feels so out of control."

Tony, prone to violent outbursts, "has to self-destroy," Nesbitt says. "That's his journey to deal with his guilt."

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**MISSING**  
**CARMESIA FLANNIGAN**

**DOB:** Oct 30, 1998 **Sex:** Female  
**Race:** Black  
**Missing:** Dec 18, 2013 **Hair:** Brown  
**Age Now:** 16 **Eyes:** Brown  
**From:** Montgomery, AL  
NATIONAL CENTER FOR MISSING & EXPLOITED CHILDREN  
**1-800-THE-LOST**

## PUZZLES

Report puzzle problems to us at [feedback@usatoday.com](mailto:feedback@usatoday.com) or 1-800-872-7073

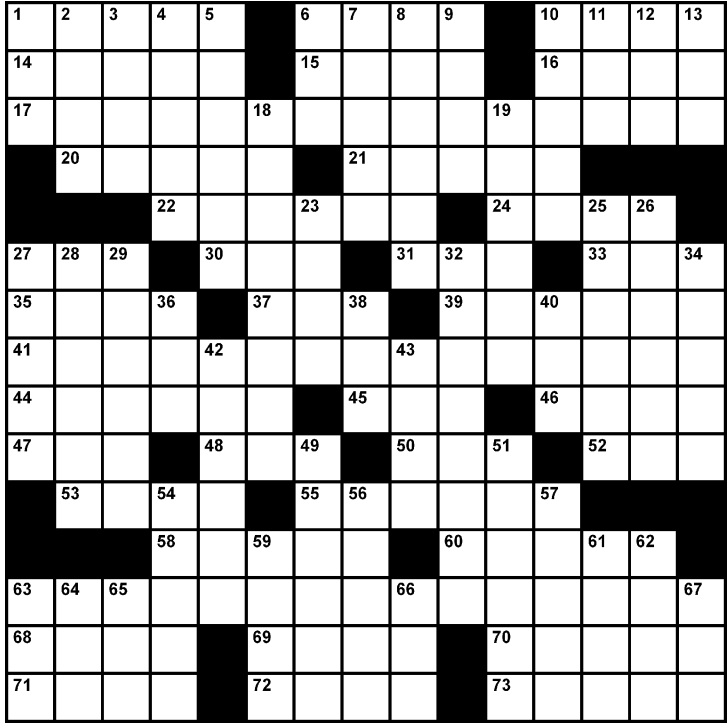
**CROSSWORD**

EDITED Timothy Parker  
BY Jolene Andrews

**RANDOM AMOUNT**

**ACROSS**

- 1 Bill of cowboy legend
- 6 "Not only that..."
- 10 Snorkeling wear
- 14 Greek marketplace
- 15 Contraction not in the King's English
- 16 Diaper cream ingredient
- 17 James Jones novel or Shirley Maclaine film
- 20 Baseball, e.g.
- 21 Biological subdivision
- 22 Medium-sized sofa
- 24 Tide classification
- 27 Hallucinogen letters
- 30 Morse code sound
- 31 Fond du \_\_\_\_ Wisc.
- 33 Fix, as a horse race
- 35 Away from the wind, to sailors
- 37 Sure-footed pet
- 39 Legally accountable
- 41 What a clue provides
- 44 Evening affair
- 45 Formal requirement
- 46 "Thereabouts"
- 47 Photo \_\_\_\_ (media events)
- 48 Tokyo before it was Tokyo
- 50 Bride's title
- 52 "America the Beautiful" ender
- 53 \_\_\_\_ lily (Utah state flower)
- 55 Ages, as cheese
- 58 Butchered remains
- 60 Ambitions
- 63 As good a time as any



- 68 Anagram of "veer"
  - 69 Flu symptom
  - 70 Creepy
  - 71 Grocery line?
  - 72 Course finale
  - 73 Cover loosely
- DOWN**
- 1 They're part of concert equipment
  - 2 They give people big heads
  - 3 Free, as a ticket
  - 4 Triple-layer treats
  - 5 Like some vows
  - 6 One of the Ewings on "Dallas"
  - 7 Feudal vassal
  - 8 Disentangle, as fishing line
  - 9 "Star Trek" weapon setting
  - 10 Dwelling of clergymen
  - 11 He dethroned Foreman
  - 12 Prince, to a king
  - 13 Frat-house order
  - 18 Stapled together, e.g.
  - 19 Vatican ambassador
  - 23 Ethnic cuisine
  - 25 Garden shelters
  - 26 Covered with soft hair
  - 27 Bronco catcher
  - 28 Single-masted boats
  - 29 Life's conclusion
  - 32 Hyde, to Jekyll
  - 34 Columbus was born there
  - 36 Musket add-on?
  - 38 Blasting stuff
  - 40 In times past
  - 42 Start on the links
  - 43 Hobbling walk
  - 49 Popular fruit
  - 51 Was a sound sleeper?
  - 54 Folks on the move
  - 56 Severe colic
  - 57 Better balanced?
  - 59 Italian-made auto
  - 61 Italian coin, once
  - 62 Scissors cut
  - 63 Wine description
  - 64 In vitro items
  - 65 Sign on many doors
  - 66 Greeted
  - 67 Capital of Greece?

**Wednesday's Answer**

MOSH ACNE FAVOR  
AREA THOR ICILY  
REAR HORNBLENDE  
COLDWAR SUI ESS  
SONDE RAH  
CASHED NEGLECTS  
LOPES PAGE ALIT  
ARIL HUMOR ROLE  
ITLL APES ETUDE  
MATERNAL EASTER  
DOS SIXTH  
CRIT YON DISARMS  
HISTAMINES PEEP  
AVAIL NEAT EDNA  
PERMS AWLS DOUR

**WORD ROUNDUP**

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek 11/13

Find and Circle:  
**Nine things meant to be worn**  
\_\_\_\_ in "The Pink Panther"  
**Two Florida cities**  
\_\_\_\_ Korea  
**Bog or swamp**

Wednesday's answer: LANDFILL LITERAL LOGICAL LAWFUL LETHAL LAPEL LULL / FORWARD CENTER GUARD / HAWK DOVE LOON / PORTLAND SEATTLE / PANDA

**QUICKCROSS**

By John Wilmes 11/13

Jedi master

By mouth

Microbe

Types of beers

Meditative method

Former MLB player

Hershiser

Challenge

Gifts

Wednesday's Answer  
**ORAL**  
**NOLA**  
**MAIN**  
**EDGE**

**QUICKCROSS**  
ON YOUR PHONE  
[mobilegames.usatoday.com](http://mobilegames.usatoday.com)

**UP & DOWN WORDS**

By David L. Hoyt and Russell L. Hoyt 11/13

1. **OK**

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

**NEWS**

Clues:  
1. "This Too Shall Pass" band  
2. Request by a QB  
3. REM state  
4. Stay in bed until noon  
5. Letterman's program  
6. Entertainment industry  
7. CNBC's specialty

Wednesday's Answer  
SPECIAL / GUEST / GUEST / BOOK / CLUB / SODA / SODA / POP / MUSIC / MUSIC / FESTIVAL

**SUDOKU**

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains the numbers 1 through 9 (no repeats).

2	6		3	9				
3				4				
	9			1		2	3	
6	8	7	2					
9			5	8			2	
			1	4	8		5	
2	6		4				1	
				9				6
			1	8		2	3	

11/13 DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x2 box contains the numbers 1 through 6 (no repeats).

1			2	3	
	3	2	1		
		5	6		
			1	5	
			4	3	6
	6	3			1

DIFFICULTY RATING ★★★★★

**Wednesday's Answers**

6	7	2	3	4	1	8	5	9
1	3	4	9	5	8	7	2	6
5	8	9	7	2	6	3	4	1
2	6	8	5	1	7	9	3	4
4	5	3	6	8	9	2	1	7
9	1	7	2	3	4	5	6	8
7	4	5	1	9	3	6	8	2
8	2	6	4	7	5	1	9	3
3	9	1	8	6	2	4	7	5

11/12

**TXTPERT**

Across  
1. 32222  
4. 582632  
6. 6253  
7. 72228  
8. 7582

Down  
2. 22623772  
3. 6247624  
4. 5462  
5. 627885

Today's theme: **Capitals**

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues. For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5/8 could be LOST

**1** a o  
**2** abc  
**3** def  
**4** ghi  
**5** jkl  
**6** mno  
**7** pqrs  
**8** tuv  
**9** wxyz

**FR E E H A N D**

**DON'T QUOTE ME**

Journalist Maureen Dowd thinks about the dangers of fame.

Rearrange the words to complete the quote.  
**AUTHORITY BEAUTIFUL CELEBRITY DEMOCRACY DESERVE FAMOUS GIVING**

\_\_\_\_ DISTURBS \_\_\_\_ BY \_\_\_\_  
THE RICH, \_\_\_\_ AND \_\_\_\_ MORE  
\_\_\_\_ THAN THEY \_\_\_\_

Wednesday's Answer: "Humor keeps us alive. Humor and food. Don't forget food. You can go a week without laughing." - Joss Whedon