

Pam's coat and purse are missing.

Tim's crib is empty. The mattress is cold. Tim's favorite "bear" is gone with him. His winter coat is missing.

They check every room, the basement, the back yard.

Anita tries dialing Pam on the cell phone -- but it is turned off. She calls Pam's apartment and get her machine. They call the hospital, but no one matching their description has arrived.

Anita calls Pam's brother, Roy, a gruff, boxy man who lives in the area and drives a bread truck. Roy says he doesn't know anything about Pam's whereabouts and can offer no ideas of where they might be.

Then Dennis notices that a door in the bedroom has been opened. A window is missing. Dennis recalls that the nanny had taken some money from the house.

"Dennis, call the police." He nods, police.

The unthinking has abducted the

Chapter 3

The Sherwood investigators, who examined, inside and

Anita and Dennis describes the situation. Dennis tells the story of finding Pam distraught in tears. Anita and Dennis describe Pam's car, what she was wearing, what Tim was wearing. Height, weight, eye color, hair color. They offer photos of Tim and Pam to investigators.

The questions continue fast and furious. Does Pam have a boyfriend? No. Family in the area? Just the brother; her parents live in Florida. A police officer is sent to question the brother, while another contacts Pam's parents. Anita phones her own parents, hysterical, but has to cut the conversation short to keep the line free.

The police can find no sign of forced entry by an intruder. Neighbors can offer no clues, aside from one older woman who recalls seeing the nanny's car departing around 8:00 -- not long after Dennis and Anita left for their dinner engagement. Anita is appalled when one of the

From my notecards, I created a 55-page synopsis, chapter-by-chapter, with minimal dialogue.

Here's a sample.