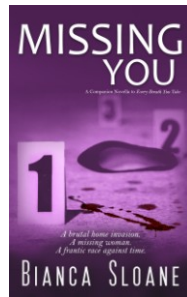


Behind the Book – *Missing You, a companion novella to Every Breath You Take*



Missing You is a story that caught me completely off-guard.

At the end of 2014, as I was finishing up *Every Breath You Take*, I had a hard time letting go (read my blog post about my separation anxiety [here](#)). I don't know if it's because the book had lived in my head for so long or because it took a near eternity to figure out the story, but I could not shake the tortured world of Natalie Scott.

For one thing, I was itching to find out what happened after Natalie's kidnapping. How were her loved ones coping? What about the police investigation?

These burning questions led me to *Missing You*. I knew this wasn't a sequel and I wasn't particularly interested in a full-length novel, so a companion novella was perfect. Telling this story also presented some (good) challenges for me as a writer, as it was a "short" piece (something I'd never done before) that had to be a standalone story while still maintaining its ties to the 'source' material.

Another interesting challenge was developing a law enforcement character to investigate Natalie's disappearance. I remembered that John Grisham's creation, FBI Director, F. Denton Voyles, made appearances in *The Firm*, *The Pelican Brief* and *The Client*, three totally unconnected, standalone books. And that's how I decided to bring Detective Bill Hanson from *Sweet Little Lies* over to *Missing You*. It was fun seeing what he's been up to since the events of *Sweet Little Lies* and I enjoyed getting to know him better. Who knows? Maybe Hanson will show up in another Bianca Sloane book someday. . .

The title of the book comes from one of my favorite 80s tunes, “Missing You,” by John Waite. “Missing” was obviously a recurring theme throughout the book, so it was the perfect title. It didn’t hit me until later that the song, “I’ll Be Missing You,” by Puff Daddy featuring Faith Evans and 112, in memory of Christopher “The Notorious B.I.G.” Wallace could have also been a contender, as it samples. . . “Every Breath You Take,” by The Police.

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