



1 "My child is missing!" — the anxious cry
strikes terror in a mother's heart.
It's a bad dream, this can't be happening [to me]*
[plays o]ver & over & over in the panic of [her mind].
I only let go of her hand for a —
she was right here, right here, just a foot away;
she can't have joined those statistics
That's just TV & radio play, we hear day after [day].

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HOOK: KIDNAPPED! Stolen away.
KIDNAPPED! More were taken today (and each [day]).#

TIME: 3:05

2 The rush of her heart, like no other flood of feelings
will never, never, never, ever fade with time.
Every cell to the marrow of her soul is bleeding
She can't grasp the motivation or nature of [this crime].
[The fa]ther of the child holds back the tears
but the dam, O damn, broken man — is ripped away!
"My baby can't be a victim of this — ~~not this~~.
That's only what we read each day,
what the newspapers [say]."

DATE WRITTEN:
9-22 to 9-23-95

STYLE/ARTIST/MARKET:
Sting/Police style
rock

- 3 Year after year our children disappear
near a million & growing like a fire you can't [put out]
[But you] don't have time, caught in your daily grind
to explore what this horror of horrors is a[bout].
[While you] have no doubt it would never happen
to your own child, under your watchful eye,
till the day you turned, the car speeds from your curb
—your toddler in the window for the last time
waves at you good[bye].
- 4 There's no need to be paranoid but we can't avoid
what we all need to do
To assure our own little one won't ~~ever~~ become
another of those we thought it could never happen [to]...
[Hold]ing your hand in the store or off to the schoolroom
or playground — even by twos,
they vanish, they disappear with only dead-end leads,
no witnesses, no traces and no usable [clues].
- 5 The world is so vast, even if they could last
to their grown-up years, it's a losing bet
to think you could recoup your loss of not knowing
and your own years of a lifetime of re[gret].
[Guard] these precious treasures with your very life
it's not enough to have a loving [intent].
[It's too] late, once they slip through that gate
of that tragic second you can never go back to pre[vent!]

END

*Overlap the words or syllables in brackets with next line.
#Repeat "hook" after each verse, and modify second line with
"Another one taken today" "It happens many times every day"