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## REVIEW: THE GIRL IN THE PARK

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THE GIRL IN THE PARK (15) is a gentle and considered film about a mother's inability to deal with the disappearance of her daughter.

Sixteen years after her child is abducted, Julia Sandburg (Sigourney Weaver) is a woman living an existence devoid of emotional attachment.

The only person to penetrate the gloom is Louise (Kate Bosworth), a troubled young woman who, despite her lies and bad behaviour, revivifies Julia.

Sigourney Weaver's performance is very affecting, although writer and director David Auburn's script does not give her the opportunities she needs to make Julia entirely convincing.

Bosworth plays Louise with the right mixture of vulnerability and arrogance. Julia's son Chris is suspicious of Louise's motives and is right to be so, but the line between dependence and taking advantage is a fine one; Louise is merely playing the role that Julia calls upon her to play.

David Auburn is better known as a playwright and his stage credentials are evident here. The subtle interactions between family members and careful examination of personal responses to loss make The Girl in the Park watch-able and touching, but it may be too ponderous for some. - JO CAIRD

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