

Series 2

Episode one.

A BODY IS FOUND. SUSPECTED HISTORICAL REMAINS (EVIDENCE ON THE REMAINS SUGGESTING IT IS AT LEAST TWENTY YEARS OLD). THE CASE IMMEDIATELY HANDED OVER TO CASSIE'S TEAM BECAUSE OF THE EXPERIENCE THEY ACQUIRED ON THE SULLIVAN CASE. THE BODY FOUND WHEN A TRIBUTARY TO THE THAMES WAS DREDGED AFTER IT HAD SILTED UP. THE BODY HAD BEEN PLACED IN A LARGE WEIGHTED SUITCASE.

Meet Marion Kelly (48) at work, a nurse in a busy paediatric unit of Thomas's. We will meet a young 17 year old patient called Zoe (she is currently in remission from her leukaemia) who has been in and out of hospital for the last three years. She is feisty, and spiky, a bit of a handful but Marion is clearly fond of her. And also the one who seems best able to handle her.

So let's meet Helen Smith (52). As we join her, she is in her car, on her way to work, talking hands free to her husband, Gary (60) about summer holidays, telling him her son (Jason, 29) does not want to come with them to the villa in Portugal. The tiniest hint from Gary that this was not his preferred option (he disguises it well, because he's a nice guy, and probably quite practised at disguising his feelings about this subject) but she knows, she always knows.

Meet Sara Hamoud, (49) a maths teacher in a Northampton Academy school. She wears the Hijab but with a rather stylish outfit from Jigsaw. So we meet her in a lesson, and immediately we know she's sparky, clever, irreverent, and that the kids adore her. In the staff room, a sense of her popularity - that she rather effortlessly straddles the two factions in the school (Muslim and secular) and that she does so with intelligence and humour. Learn here she is standing for election as a Labour councillor. Play her on the phone to her husband Hassan, an accountant, her going to a council meeting later, and him on the way home to cook for their teenage kids.

A 1980 MOBILE PHONE (A MOTOROLA MICROTAC) WILL BE FOUND IN THE CASE. IT WILL BE MISSING VARIOUS COMPONENT PARTS, AND RUSTED TO BUGGERY, AND THE CHALLENGE OF OUR TEAM WILL BE TO SEE IF THE SPARE PARTS CAN BE FOUND, AND IT CAN BE REBOOTED AND ANY INFORMATION TAKEN OFF IT. (OR SOME SUCH). START THE PROCESS OF TRYING TO IDENTIFY THE BODY, THIS WILL COME FROM A COMBINATION OF THE SUITCASE, A WATCH FOUND ON THE REMAINS, AND MAYBE A METAL PLATE FOUND ON AN OLD LEG BREAK. THIS PROCESS WILL BE INTRICATE AND PAINSTAKING, WITH THE REQUISITE DEAD ENDS BEFORE AN IDENTITY IS FOUND.

Meet Colin Osborne (50) working in a small Brighton law firm, doing good work for people on the fringes of society, the disenfranchised, the broken. Follow him on a particular case, as he defends a young man, arrested and charged for drug dealing, his sixth such offence, but we watch Colin passionately plead for leniency, for understanding, eloquently detailing the defendant's difficult history and upbringing. He is not excusing his behaviour, but very eloquently trying to explain it and ask for the court's compassion. He is successful and manages to get his charge into a drug rehabilitation programme.

Meet Marion Kelly's husband Tony (53) who runs his own small bespoke carpentry business (handmade kitchens, sash windows). They live in a nice enough (but very small) house in North London (somewhere like Stoke Newington – the house was bought with an inheritance from her father, definitely not on either their salaries)). When Marion arrives home after a long, long day, he is cooking tea for two children (four and eight) who we must assume, are theirs, so relaxed and easy is the relationship. And then Marion's little sister arrives (Elise, 41) and it becomes clear they are just Marion's nephew and niece.

And then the door shuts, her sister and her children are gone, and for a fragmentary moment, we see a glimpse of a long buried pain in Marion and Tony's childlessness (we will learn much later she is not infertile, she chose not to have children) before very quickly learning what they have been doing for those twenty years to fill in that gap, endless charity work, fundraisers, slavish devotion to work, fabulous social and cultural life. So I think we should sense there is something distinctly "middle-class" about their sensibilities that is slightly at odds with their chosen professions.

CAUSE OF DEATH ESTABLISHED, TWO RIBS FRACTURED AT THE POINT WHERE THEY COVER THE HEART, FAINT KNIFE INDENTATIONS FOUND ON EITHER SIDE....A KNIFE TO THE HEART .

So now we will see Helen Smith at work, and may or may not be surprised to learn she is police officer, a detective of 26 years standing and we will see her in a meeting with one of her bosses, as they discuss her retirement in eighteen months. Which feeds into a conversation with Gary later that day, who is also planning to scale back his workload (he is 60) from the veterinary practice he has worked in for thirty years, Gary, desperate to spend quality time with his daughter from his first marriage (Becca, 15) who lives with them half the week, but who will be going to university in three very short years.

A big family birthday party for Elise, Marion's sister, with lots of extended family, including her mum, 86, a genteel one time Dubliner (their dad is long time dead) and again, that sense that this is a middle class family, and that Marion, as nurse, is something of an anomaly. Deeply historical non-specific tension between Elise and Marion, quickly buried with middle-class politesse. Some jokey reference at some point to Marion's 'wilderness years'. Tony will grin, heard it a million times before. And afterwards, will try to pour oil on troubled waters. Again, a sense Tony has played peacemaker in this sibling tension many many times before. Notwithstanding the tensions detailed above, we should have already begun to sense there is also some unspoken tension for Marion, with her husband.

Join Colin Osborne at home, with his partner Simon (who runs a small cafe/restaurant) spending the weekend with a young girl, Cora (8) who they have been partially fostering for the last two years, and who they are now in the latter stages of finally being able to adopt. We will establish Colin and Simon's relationship also, which is now five years old, and very solid. They are funny, loving, and uncomplicatedly likeable.

See Sara at a council meeting, articulately rebutting the puerile protestations of the local UKIP candidate, even as she passionately fights for the rights of not just her own Muslim community, but all of those, white, black, Asian, Christian, Jewish or Muslim, that she believes is not getting a fair deal from the government. Consensus is that she is very strong candidate, and should be elected.

And here now is Helen Smith's son Jason, at his work in a small IT company. Jason is a nice guy. Kind and gentle and funny, when he is allowed to because he is also painfully shy. He has only been at the company six months (and we can see here the sense that he moves companies quite regularly) and whilst he is good at his job, clearly finds it very hard to make friends. We watch him that night, go home to his lonely flat, his only company, chat rooms.

PLAY POLICE BEAT OF NARROWING DOWN THE IDENTITY OF THE BODY

A meeting with social services for Colin and Simon. Their social worker who has been coordinating the whole process (Janet -a lovely middle-aged woman who challenges the stereotypical notion of what a social worker is, by being relentlessly upbeat and positive) is hugely supportive. Notwithstanding her support, everyone knows it's an extraordinarily difficult and elongated process, and though they are nearly there, it's never done until it's done.

The other fly in the ointment, is the mother of the child (Anne Brydon) who, when she is not in jail, is still sporadically trying to regain custody of her child. Brydon and her sometime partner, Tyler Watkins, are very damaged people, who endlessly sabotage their own lives. They are largely to be pitied, but they are also nevertheless, dangerous, because they are chaotic, poor, and obey few (if any) of the rules the rest of us live by. Seed this as a danger that will return.

Some crisis with the girl, Zoe (personal or medical). Marion over stepping her professional boundaries when Zoe calls her on her personal number, away from the hospital, and instead of telling her to come in to the hospital during work hours, Marion speaks to her for half an hour. When she comes off the phone, Tony gently censures her, but Marion ‘knows what she is doing’.

POLICE FINALLY MANAGING TO GET THE PHONE OPERATIONAL, AND WILL FIND MOST OF ITS TINY MICROPROCESSOR IS FUCKED, BUT, THEY DO HAVE THE LAST TWENTY-FOUR NUMBERS THE PHONE WAS CALLED BY. AND THE PHONE IS PARTIALLY REBOOTED, WE PLAY A LIST OF THE NUMBERS OVER FIRST -

An image of Colin and Simon putting Cora to bed. And we must fear for what we might have hoped would be the beginning of a lovely new family.

Sarah heads home that night. And then play her , Hassan, and her three boys, eating a dinner in front of the telly, deliberate echoes of goggle box here. This is a very ordinary Muslim family, “just like us”. And it is as we play this utterly unremarkable domestic scene, that we will link to a second number in the Nokia.

And lastly, a third number, played over images of Marion, as she stares at a picture of her, her husband, and her nephews on her sideboard, her eyes filled with regret.

Play Helen and Gary at home, Gary, helping his daughter Becca with her homework. And we might learn they have been married for eight years, and we will get a sense of how many years she was on her own before she met him (without at this point understanding why). Some discussion about the holiday, Gary’s tentative articulation of the fact that Jason shouldn’t really be coming on holiday with his mum at the age of 29, which of course she knows, and yet what mother would not plead for a son that does not have a friend to go on holiday with.

WE WILL PLAY THIS SCENE OUT, EVEN AS AN IDENTITY IS NOW ATTACHED TO THE BODY, WHICH IS BELIEVED TO BE A DAVID WALKER, WHO DISAPPEARED IN 1989, AT THE AGE OF THIRTY-FOUR.

End of episode one

Ep two

SO IN POLICE TERMS, CASSIE AND SUNNY, ARE ALSO NOW OBVIOUSLY TRYING TO ATTACH IDENTITIES TO ALL THE PHONE NUMBERS, THEY ALSO OF COURSE WANT TO FIND OUT EVERYTHING THEY CAN ABOUT DAVID WALKER, AND WHO MIGHT HAVE WANTED TO KILL HIM.

So the first knock on the door happens at the beginning of episode two, and is on the door of Helen and Gary’s house, where the news that they have found a body they believe to be her late husband’s, is, even after all these years, an astonishingly shocking piece of information. A formal identification of the remains is arranged (there will be some identifying feature, some jewellery, maybe a metal plate in a broken leg, that will help identify him formally) We will learn here that she is herself a police officer (we will later learn the officers she had met investigating her husband’s disappearance in 1989 were what inspired her to join the force). A formal interview will follow after the identification.

Gary accompanying Helen to a police morgue. Cassie and Sunny present, always interesting to watch the bereaved's reaction, in a potential murder case. But Helen is also a police officer, has worked her fair share of murders over the decades, and so, of course, knows they are watching her. Her reaction is sad, muted, perhaps exactly what you might expect. (Cassie has also already clarified that a very full investigation into any possible involvement Helen might have had in her husband's death, was made at the time of his disappearance, which resulted in her being declared entirely innocent)

Meanwhile, the first phone number link they make is to a city penthouse flat, in a 1980s converted wharf overlooking the river at Tower Bridge. Tenancy agreements are gone through, and eventually the name of Colin Osborne is found, who was living in the apartment at the time the phone call was made from what is obviously believed to be David Walker's phone. They set about trying to trace Colin Osborne.

The next is attributed to a flat in King's Cross, rented in 1989 to a Miss S. Alawi. The police visit the address, to find of course King's Cross in 2016, is a very different place to what it was twenty-seven years ago, the flat, is now part of an advertising agency's offices. They go back to the deeds of the house, to try and find the owner, who let the property.

The third number will finally be linked to a Golders Green address. And now we join Marion at work again, as her line manager speaks to her about Zoe, who had told her parents she had called Marion at home. Her boss nicely reminds her of the perils of getting too close to a patient, but Marion's response is considered, articulate (it was a one-off response to a unique situation, it will not happen again) and enough to reassure her boss that she is in control. But when the meeting is over, we perhaps are not so completely convinced. Whatever it was we were sensing was wrong with Marion before, we must now fear it is affecting her work and her professional judgement.

Even as this is happening, we are playing with two strands in Collins personal life. Firstly, Tyler turns up at Colin's chambers, asking if Colin can help him and Anne out, with a little bit of cash to set up in a flat somewhere, away from Brighton. Tyler is sober, fairly articulate and credible, and makes the argument that knowing that her daughter is being brought up a mile or so away from her, is torture and that if they had the money, they would move away, which would surely be better for everyone. They should not sound like any kind of blackmail, or even an entirely ridiculous suggestion. Colin tells Tyler he will think about it. Meanwhile we are playing a key stage in the adoption process. Final forms being filled in, final hearings being scheduled, everything looking good.

A formal interview with Helen. And here we will start to get some detailed background of David Walker. He was a working class self-made man (he owned four betting shops) he had met Helen when they were at school, and they had married young. In his early 20s, he had become involved in his local Tory party, and had quickly exhibited a knack for fundraising, and by the time of his disappearance/death he was mixing in fairly senior Tory party circles (this was prime Thatcher era).

The marriage was by this stage in trouble, and actually when he disappeared, her first thought was that he had left her and started a new life elsewhere. She had always thought him something of an emotional coward, and she suspected that he thought he was too good for her, but did not have the courage to tell her. A full police investigation was mounted into his disappearance, but it was as if he had just disappeared off the face of the earth. As the years went by, and he never showed up, of course, she often wondered if something worse had happened to him, but actually, she did not think

about it as much as Cassie might suspect, as most of her energy went on raising her son as a single parent, whilst also trying to maintain a career that could support them both.

Cassie of course obliged to ask questions about whether they argued, whether they ever fought, whether either of them ever had any affairs, Helen deals with the question sufficiently and unemotionally. She certainly had no affairs, she cannot of course answer for him. Cassie asks her why she thought he had left rather than something bad had happened to him, given, as she said, he was a ambitious man, going places. For someone like that to just disappear does not seem the most convincing of explanations. Helen has no rebuttal for Cassie's point, a strong sense there is more to mine here.

Further tension with Marion and her sister, whatever it was that Elise did wrong at her birthday party (perhaps it was something to do with when she looked after the kids) it rumbles on, escalating slightly as Marion reacts to Tony trying to mediate, which she perceives as a lack of loyalty. Which in turn pulls the scab off a clearly ancient row between both sisters about favouritism from their parents (Elise was the golden child) which, as ever, ends in tears from Elise and contrition from Marion.

Helen (with Gary) telling her son, Jason, that his father has been found. Which shocking news hit him very hard. Jason had always thought, indeed he had always been effectively told, that he had been abandoned by his father, and so to now learn that was not true? Jason's lifelong sense of shame, guilt, and insecurity, largely came from what she told him about what had happened to his father, i.e. he had just left his son and wife. And actually, it turns out the poor bastard had been murdered? We get it, why he would be so upset.

As they leave, Jason asks if the police have any idea who might done it, and he is looking at her when he says that.

As she and Gary drive back from Jason's, Gary asks Helen how she feels. She had always described her marriage as very dysfunctional in its last five years, but does it still pain her, to know her husband died in this way? And she of course, senses she is being "quizzed", that Gary is digging, and she bristles, yes she is sad for him, of course, but it is 27 years ago, it was an unhappy marriage, and she has lived half a life since then. It's her that raised their son on her own. A sense of some deep seated rage in Helen. On they drive.

So the police finally manage to track down the landlord of the King's Cross flat. Jacob Rose is now in his mid-70s, but all there, and he is unembarrassed to tell them he let the whole house, which at that stage was subdivided into about seven flats, to working girls. He does not remember Ms Alawi specifically, but he very much doubts that she was anything other than a prostitute. Which is interesting, and which immediately provides an interesting potential direction for the investigation, there is only generally one real reason why a man rings the number of a prostitute.

CASSIE AND SUNNY GO BACK TO HELEN WALKER AND ASK IF HE MIGHT HAVE USED PROSTITUTES, WHICH OBVIOUSLY DOESN'T GO DOWN TOO WELL, BUT THERE IS A SENSE THAT EVEN THOUGH HELEN SAYS ABSOLUTELY NOT, SHE FEARS HE PROBABLY DID.

And then the next knock on the door comes, specifically, Cassie and Sunny turn up at the Brighton magistrates Court, where Colin is in a case con. And interestingly enough, Colin is the first suspect who fails conspicuously to disguise his fear. When Cassie tells him she wishes to speak to him about an historical murder, before they go to a quiet interview room, he goes to the lavatory and throws up, which Sunny clocks.

So, of course, he says he has a stomach bug, and maybe he does but it's certainly an interesting start to the conversation. And they show him the photo of David Walker, and he says he doesn't

recognise him. They ask him lots of questions about that period of time, and we are perhaps interested to hear he was a city trader in the 80s, working for a merchant bank called Sanditon Krauss - clearly earning a very large amount of money, to be able to afford to rent the penthouse he did. So what prompted him to give all that up and become a pro bono lawyer? An interesting question, and one, we sense would be too revealing for Colin to answer remotely honestly. He says he has no idea why his phone number was in David Walker's phone, perhaps it was a wrong number dialled. And perhaps it was.

Except when they leave, Colin goes to the clerk of the courts and tells him he is sick, and needs an adjournment of his case. The clerk, Colin's number two, and Colin's client are not too happy but Colin is insistent, and he immediately returns home.

Meanwhile, Sara's campaign for election is heating up and getting a little unpleasant, with UKIP looking to target her weaknesses. Struggling to discredit Sara in the face of her and her husband's boringly normal and westernised lifestyle, they issue a pamphlet showing a photograph of her eldest son, Ahmed, attending a rally given by a vaguely radical imam last year. Ahmed is appalled, he had actually gone there to meet a girl, and did not listen to a word the preacher said, and indeed his mum and dad seem to buy his explanation completely, but when he has left the room, we sense they are rattled.

At work, Helen called in for a meeting with the station superintendent, and offered leave. She declines it, she's absolutely fine, but actually her boss makes it clear it would be best if she took it, till the case is cleared up - she is currently working on a domestic abuse case (an attempted murder by a woman of an abusive husband) and although he doesn't say it explicitly, the implication is that there could be some uncomfortable parallels here that a canny defence lawyer might exploit at some point in the future.

And Helen gets angry, she says things she shouldn't, which her boss forgives her given the intensity of the situation, but his mind will not be changed. She returns home. And now we see fear amid the anger.

The next knock on the door (might it be interesting if we play a little trick on the audience here, and Marion is at her mother's house). And again, that sense she has been waiting for this all her life. And so she invites Sunny and Cassie in, and right now they have little more than just a phone number (which is her mother's number) and so initially they are asking after her mum, but something prompts Cassie to ask where Marion might have been living at that time in her life, and she admits she did live sporadically at home during that period. And although she says she has no idea of who David Walker is when shown his photo, we know she's lying, and I think her 86 year old mother knows she's lying too, but most importantly, so does Cassie.

MEANWHILE, THE POLICE START TO DO SOME DIGGING ON COLIN. THEY FIND OUT WHERE HE WAS WORKING, AND THEY GO BACK AND TRY TO LOCATE SOME OF HIS EX-EMPLOYERS, TO GET SOME SENSE OF WHO HE WAS IN THOSE DAYS, BUT ALSO WHY HE MIGHT SUDDENLY HAVE COMPLETELY CHANGED PROFESSION (IN 1989 AS IT TURNS OUT) CLEARLY SOMETHING OF A COINCIDENCE IN THAT IT WAS IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DISAPPEARANCE OF DAVID WALKER.

Meanwhile, an exhaustive trawl through King's Cross nick's records finally throws up some arrest sheets for a Sara Alawi, there is no address link, but she was often arrested with the same women, and one of them now runs her own massage parlour and is still known to the police.

She is interviewed, and can confirm she was a very good friend of Sara's, but has not seen her for over 20 years. But she does know she got out of the business in the early 90s, that she cleaned herself up, and got married to an accountant in 1993. The last letter she got from her was in 1995 and she

had moved to Northampton and her surname was now Hamoud. The woman wrote several letters to her over the next few years, but none received a reply. And from this point on, it will not take long to locate her.

Jason Smith struggling at work, and finally, when some idiot makes a hapless joke at his expense, this confused and vulnerable young man explodes and physically assaults him. Jason is immediately sacked and returns home. A strong sense, that Jason, a young man who was already teetering on the edge of stability, could now be tipped over by events.

For now Marion has managed not to tell Tony anything about the police visit, although her mother mentions it to her sister, who mentions it to Tony. And so he knows but waits for her to tell him. Which for now, she doesn't. Cassie has already started to put a little heat under Marion's life.

Colin, with Simon at home, carrying on playing the illness, but Simon senses something is wrong and presses him and Colin finally mentions Tyler Watkins turning up, and they discuss the pros and cons of helping them move on (by helping them move away). It would be unethical obviously, and they could never tell social services, but maybe it could really help make everything easier. So Colin still does not mention the fact that the police interviewed him in connection with a murder.

The knock on the door for Sara, will come at school, her headmaster entering an English lesson, to tell her the police are here to see her. And we will be close on her, as we register a momentary flicker of understanding, before she composes herself, with an easy smile, and follows him out to the reception area where Sunny and Cassie are waiting. And Sara is interviewed in an empty classroom, the connection to her explained and a photo of David Walker is shown.

And Sara denies knowing anything about David Walker, or having met him and at this stage, is still completely composed. And remains so until they ask if David Walker could have been a client of hers, when she was a prostitute. At which her composure completely fails, and she starts to cry.

She asks if they would need to tell her employers any of this, or any of her family, she begs them not to, it would destroy her family and her life. Which is a fairly powerful responsibility for Cassie to bear, if this woman, as she claims, has done absolutely nothing wrong, apart from have a shameful secret past. And Cassie does not think she is being unethical, when she assures Sara until she knows different, she will make every effort to be as discreet as she can in the pursuit of her investigation.

Sara asks when Walker died, and Cassie gives her the date he was last seen alive, at which Sara is able to say that she was abroad, working in Spain, from three months before he went missing, and three months after. She never came home, she could not have had anything to do with his death. Which does indeed seem to rule her out, except as ever, as Cassie leaves, she and Sunny, have an instinct that this woman is not telling the entire truth. One of the team is tasked with chasing this alibi down.

And then, by the end of episode two, the police find a connection (albeit a slightly tenuous one at the moment) between David Walker and Colin. They will already of course know that David Walker was a Tory party fundraiser, but what they now discover, was that in early 1989, Colin donated money to the party. Which is interesting, Cassie's instinct telling her that Colin Osborne is not a natural Tory voter.

Jason turning up at his mum and stepdad's house, Helen and Gary have gone out for a walk, to clear their heads, leaving Becca at home alone revising for an English test tomorrow. Jason talking with her about what has happened, and how he would not have put anything past his mother. He is

clearly alarming Becca, and in the end she calls her dad on his mobile and Gary and Helen speedily return home. Helen will always defend her son to the hilt, and Gary is a very decent man, but a socially inept twenty-nine-year-old man has just terrified his fifteen-year-old daughter. This is not good.

AT THE END OF THIS EPISODE, THE CASE TAKES A SHOCKING TURN WHEN EVIDENCE GLEANED FROM AN OLD FRIEND OF HIS ABOUT DAVID'S SCHOOL DAYS, REVEALS HE WAS ABUSED AS A CHILD AT HIS CATHOLIC BOARDING SCHOOL IN THE LATE 60S EARLY 70S.

CASSIE NOW BEGINS TO CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT PERHAPS 15 OR 20 YEARS LATER, ABOUT TO BLOW THE WHISTLE, HE WAS MURDERED BY SOMEONE WHO FEARED THEY WERE ABOUT TO BE EXPOSED. AND SO NOW WE WILL LOOK AT ALL OF OUR ANTAGONISTS THROUGH VERY DIFFERENT EYES, AS WE CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY OF THEM BEING IN SOME WAY CONNECTED TO WHAT OUR SOCIETY TODAY, JUDGES TO BE THE MOST HEINOUS OF CRIMES - CHILD ABUSE.

End of episode two

Ep three

SO CASSIE TASKS SOMEONE IN THE TEAM WITH LOOKING DEEP IN TO HIS PAST, HIS CHILDHOOD, HIS EDUCATION, AND WHO THOSE PEOPLE MIGHT BE THAT MIGHT HAVE WANTED HIM SHUT UP.

Meanwhile the heat that Cassie put under Marion starts to bear fruit. Starting with her maiden name, Marion Joyce, eventually after a fairly circuitous trawl, they find a Marion Joyce arrested in 1988, at a 'Give Ireland back to the Irish' March in London. This gives them a different address to the Golders Green one, which turns out to be a housing association flat in Kilburn. And with painstaking investigation and research, and cross referencing, they manage to trace a couple of the tenants (all Irish) who knew Marion, but perhaps much more significantly, knew her lover, Sinead Quinn, who was a fairly notorious IRA volunteer, jailed in 1989 for 20 years, for her part in a number of mainland bombs.

And so now a very ugly possibility starts to raise its head. That David Walker, a Tory party activist and fundraiser, was an IRA target, and even more astonishing, that Marion's potential involvement in his murder, was in some way connected to her connection to the IRA.

Meanwhile the police team have also continued to try and find a more definite connection between Colin Osborne, and David Walker. Archives gone into, investigations made, and eventually at some point in episode three, a photo will be found at a local Tory party fundraiser, in which Colin is shown shaking David's hand.

At home, Colin's behaviour has become so strained, that he is no longer able to put it down to the stress of the impending adoption process, and when the police ring him to tell him they are coming to his house to interview him again, he is finally forced to tell Simon. And Simon of course appears to accept all of Colin's protestations of total ignorance of this case, but of course he must ask why he had not told him before that the police had wanted to speak to him.

Meanwhile, Gary tells Helen he wants to cancel the holiday, until everything is sorted out. He does his best to keep things non-specific, but it's clear, as it is to us, he senses there is more to come.

THE TEAM MEANWHILE, CONTINUE TO ATTEMPT TO CORROBORATE SARA'S ALIBI ABOUT BEING ABROAD AT THE TIME OF DAVID'S MURDER (A LABORIOUS AND PAINSTAKING TRAWL OF FLIGHTS/FERRIES/TRAINS THAT COULD HAVE BROUGHT HER BACK TO THE UK, AS WELL AS TRAWLS THROUGH DOCUMENTS AT IMMIGRATION/PASSPORT SERVICES). THIS WILL RUN THROUGH THE NEXT TWO EPISODES.

Back with the Hamoud family, the whole gang worshipping at their local mosque, but Hassan is clearly very concerned about his wife, she is taciturn, distracted, and won't eat. Pleads with her to tell him what is wrong, but for now (for ever) she cannot begin to contemplate the idea that she could ever tell him anything of her shameful past.

Marion, clearly also under immense pressure now, is once again contacted by Zoe out of hours, and clearly not herself, again makes a bad judgement call and meets her in a pub, and gets drunk. So it is increasingly clear that Zoe finds Marion physically attractive (she now tells her she is gay) making jokes and flirting with her, and luckily Marion rebuts these and Zoe leaves without anything happening on this occasion, but we sense this is a disaster waiting to happen, in this febrile time.

Around about this time, the police will also begin to make some progress on determining why Colin left the merchant bank he was working for, which will involve some internal disciplinary action. There will be a lot of obfuscation from the bank, which will delay the revelation of what actually happened, and will feed in to our theme of cover-up, but whatever it was, we will get a sense that this was quite serious.

So now Colin is re-interviewed, and she shows him the photo of him with David Walker. So he manages to play it much cooler this time. He will obviously be obliged to accept that he is in the photo, shaking the hand of the man he said he had never met, but he will claim he does not recollect this meeting, and that his initial response was justified.

Meanwhile, the police digging further in to David Walker's history, with relation to the possible use of prostitutes, a colleague of his from the mid 80s, now a political journalist, confirms that Walker certainly did use them, (both male and female!) and like it 'rough'. So now, notwithstanding Sara's "alibi", Cassie has to consider the possibility that Walker had attacked Sara, whilst using her as a prostitute, and she had in self defence, ended up killing him. Sara is contacted again at an interview set up to discuss what Cassie has learned.

Helen is interviewed again, and quizzed about his sexual proclivities. Again she insists she was not aware of this. She concedes she suspected he had not always been faithful, but the picture they are painting of her late husband, is one she says she does not recognise. Cassie asks more detailed questions about the weeks before he disappeared, their respective movements etc (she may be able to tie this to specific information she has already found out about David's last known whereabouts). After the interview is over, Sunny and Cassie discuss the fact that of course if she had anything to do with his death, if it was a row about his unfaithfulness that got out of hand, then of course to admit she knew about it, would be incriminatory. They will keep her in the frame , keep the pressure on.

Meanwhile, Marion is now interviewed about the housing association flat. She is very shocked by the revelation of her flirtation with Irish republican politics, but adamantly and passionately claims that the idea she was a member of the IRA is 'absurd' and she certainly has no knowledge of David Walker being an IRA target. However she cannot begin to explain why he had rung her (or Marion's mother's house) a week before he died.

In other developments, Cassie meets Sara in a park (she begged not to have to go into the police station) and Cassie puts her theory to her, which of course she vehemently denies. Cassie, trying to get more of a handle on Sara as a person, she asks how she ended up as a prostitute, she asks how she ended up turning her life around so profoundly, but Sara is beginning to completely clam up now, and leaves, and Cassie knows she cannot wrap this woman in cotton wool and if the investigation requires it, she will have to get tough, despite the devastation it will cause to her family.

This is reinforced when further investigation now strongly suggests David Walker did indeed use Sara as a prostitute on at least three occasions, after cheques paid into her bank account are linked to his bank account.

In the meantime, Sunny has finally located Sinead Quinn and speaks to her. Released from jail in 1999 as part of the Good Friday agreement, she lives a quiet life as an academic. Whatever happened between her and Marion, it clearly ended very acrimoniously, and although we do not know if she is telling the truth, she says Marion absolutely signed up to the Republican agenda, and that she had identified David Walker as a possible target, having met him she said, at a London party in the late eighties.

In Colin's life meanwhile, he is trying to keep things together, with the final adoption hearing looming. And just about managing to do so, he convinces Simon, they should give Anne and Tyler 3k to move away and set up a new life elsewhere. It is clear Simon is not as convinced as Colin that this is a smart move, but right now he just wants to do anything that he feels will bring Colin back on track. Indeed Simon is very aware that the police investigation is much more significant than Colin wants to admit, and tries to get him to open up, but Colin will only talk in the most general of terms, about the 80s being a terrible time for him, about not liking who he was at that time, his arrogance, his drinking etc. Which is the first time Colin has ever really touched upon this with Simon, his husband of five years. Which, perhaps understandably, is more than a little worrying for him – this is the man he is going to raise a child with, is who he thought he was?

Meanwhile, Marion, behaving increasingly irrationally at home, is finally compelled to tell Tony why the police are interviewing her. And it is of course as devastating as it is utterly bewildering, firstly obviously that she's any way connected to a murder case...but almost as important, for the gentle souls that Tony is, that she could ever have been a woman who was associated with such a vicious terrorist organisation as the IRA.

She swears she had nothing to do with David Walker's murder, nor did she ever commit any IRA acts of terrorism, but we clearly now have no idea if she is telling the truth. Time and again he tries to get her to explain how she ended up at such a terrible place, desperate, we sense for her to give him something to hold onto, some excuse, explanation, but at every turn, she offers up nothing (even as we strongly sense she is holding back everything) and finally, after a blazing row he walks out, and we will sense that perhaps truth and reconciliation does not work so well within a marriage (and indeed a marriage that we have already sensed was in some serious trouble).

Meanwhile, Sara breaks down during a key debate in Northampton council, after the UKIP candidate asks questions in public about her link to the David Walker murder investigation. Whatever dirty tricks UKIP are using they are also clearly keeping tabs on Sara, and watching her movements. Which now, tragically, forces Sara's hand, and she knows she cannot hide the truth from her husband any longer. And so she finally goes home and tells him that the police have been interviewing her as a witness in an historical murder investigation. I think we should suspect she never intended to tell him everything, but somehow, perhaps because he does not seem to be reacting too strongly to this news (in truth, he is simply in shock) he actually manages to draw out much more from her than she intended to tell him.

And indeed are by the end of the conversation, he has finally drawn out from her that before she met him, when she still lived in London, a lost and angry young woman, she had worked as a prostitute for six months on the streets of King's Cross.

At Marion's house, Zoe turns up, having sensed after a phone call, that Marion is emotionally distraught, and now she tries to offer her own mentor/doctor comfort, which leads to an embrace, which leads to a kiss. Which Marion absolutely should pull out of, but which, so vulnerable is she, she doesn't for a second or so. And when she does pull back, she sees that Tony, having returned, has seen exactly what just happened. A real sense, her life is about to unravel on every level, familial, professional, and marital.

And now Cassie gets a break, as a member of merchant bank Sanditon finally points them in the direction of an executive (David Eliot) who worked there in the 80s, who knew both Colin and the woman who made the misconduct allegation against him. Eliot is now retired, but agrees to speak (on the phone at first) to the police. He is clearly deeply uncomfortable discussing the 'incident' because 'times have changed so much - and it absolutely would not happen like this now of course....' But the awful truth is that the complaint made against Colin, was from a temp at Sanditon, and the complaint was that Colin Osborne raped her.

AND THEN FINALLY, AT THE END OF THIS EPISODE, AN EXTRAORDINARY AND DEEPLY UNSETTLING DEVELOPMENT OCCURS, CONCERNING DAVID WALKER'S HISTORICAL SEXUAL PREDILECTIONS. A COLLEAGUE OF HIS CLAIMS THAT A COMPLAINT HAD BEEN MADE IN 1984, THAT HE HAD SEXUALLY ASSAULTED A FOURTEEN-YEAR-OLD GIRL, THE DAUGHTER OF A PARTY MEMBER, WHO WAS EARNING SOME POCKET MONEY WAITRESSING AT A FUNDRAISER.

And even as Cassie is learning this, in a pub in South London, Marion Kelly walks through the door, searching for a quiet booth in the corner, and sitting there, waiting for her, are Sara Hamoud, and Colin Osborne.

End of episode three

Episode four

BITS HELD BACK FROM EPISODE THREE BECAUSE OF SPACE

- 1. Meanwhile, Marion is now interviewed about the housing association flat. She is very shocked by the revelation of her flirtation with Irish republican politics, but adamantly and passionately claims that the idea she was a member of the IRA is 'absurd' and she certainly has no knowledge of David Walker being an IRA target. However she cannot begin to explain why he had rung her (or Marion's mother's house) a week before he died.**
- 2. So Marion, behaving increasingly irrationally at home, is finally compelled to tell Tony why the police are interviewing her. And it is of course as devastating as it is utterly bewildering, firstly obviously that she's any way connected to a murder case...but almost as important, for the gentle souls that Tony is, that she could ever have been a woman who was associated with such a vicious terrorist organisation as the IRA. She swears she had nothing to do with David Walker's murder, nor did she ever commit any IRA acts of terrorism, but we clearly now have no idea if she is telling the truth. Time and again he tries to get her to explain how she ended up at such a terrible place, desperate, we sense for her to give him something to hold onto, some excuse, explanation, but at every turn, she offers up nothing (even as we strongly sense she is holding back everything) and finally, after a blazing row he walks out, and we will sense that perhaps truth and reconciliation does not work so well within a marriage (and indeed a marriage that we have already sensed was in some serious trouble).**

3. A member of merchant bank Krauss Knobbel points them in the direction of an executive (David Eliot) who worked there in the 80s, who knew both Colin and the woman who made the misconduct allegation against him. Eliot is now retired, but agrees to speak (on the phone at first) to the police. He is clearly deeply uncomfortable discussing the 'incident' because 'times have changed so much - and it absolutely would not happen like this now of course....' But the awful truth is that the complaint made against Colin, was from a temp at Sanditon, and the complaint was that Colin Osborne raped her.
4. In other developments, Cassie meets Sara in a park (she begged not to have to go into the police station) and Cassie puts her theory to her, which of course she vehemently denies. Cassie, trying to get more of a handle on Sara as a person, she asks how she ended up as a prostitute, she asks how she ended up turning her life around so profoundly, but Sara is beginning to completely clam up now, and leaves, and Cassie knows she cannot wrap this woman in cotton wool and if the investigation requires it, she will have to get tough, despite the devastation it will cause to her family. This is reinforced when further investigation now strongly suggests David Walker did indeed use Sara as a prostitute on at least three occasions, after cheques paid into her bank account are linked to his bank account.
5. In Colin's life meanwhile, he is trying to keep things together, with the final adoption hearing looming. Simon tries to get Colin to open up about his issues, but Colin will only talk in the most general of terms, about the 80s being a terrible time for him, about not liking who he was at that time, his arrogance, his drinking etc. Which is the first time Colin has ever really touched upon this with Simon, his husband of five years. Which, perhaps understandably, is more than a little worrying for him - this is the man he is going to raise a child with, is who he thought he was?
6. In the meantime, Sunny has finally located Sinead Quinn and speaks to her. Released from jail in 1999 as part of the Good Friday agreement, she lives a quiet life as an academic. Whatever happened between her and Marion, it clearly ended very acrimoniously, and although we do not know if she is telling the truth, she says Marion absolutely signed up to the Republican agenda, and that she had identified David Walker as a possible target, having met him she said, at a London party in the late eightie

7.

CASSIE NOW ANNOUNCES THE INVESTIGATION IS SPLITTING INTO TWO LINES OF ENQUIRY.

THE EXISTING ENQUIRY - THAT ONE OF THE MAIN SUSPECTS (AND POSSIBLY HELEN WALKER) MURDERED HIM BECAUSE OF SOME 1989 CONNECTION THEY HAD WITH HIM, SOMETHING HE DID TO THEM, SOMETHING THEY DID TO HIM ETC..

AND THEN THE SECOND NEW LINE OF ENQUIRY, THAT THIS WAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH CHILD ABUSE. SUNNY TASKED WITH INTERROGATING EVERY ASPECT OF DAVID WALKER'S LIFE FROM WHEN HE LEFT SCHOOL TO WHEN HE DIED.

IT WILL BE AROUND ABOUT THIS POINT THAT CASSIE AND SUNNY FIRST BEGIN TO CONSIDER THE INCREASINGLY COMPLICATED MORAL ASPECTS TO THIS CASE. IF WALKER (HIMSELF AN ABUSED CHILD) WENT ON TO BECOME AN ABUSER AND WAS LATER PUNISHED FOR IT (MURDERED) WHEN DID HE STOP BEING A VICTIM, AND START BEING SOMEONE MOST PEOPLE WOULD BE COMFORTABLE TO CALL A MONSTER?

WE WILL ATTEMPT TO DRAW TWO DIFFERENT OPINIONS FROM SUNNY AND CASSIE, NEITHER WILL BE HELD EASILY, AND THIS MAY BE THE FIRST TIME WE PLAY SERIOUS TENSION BETWEEN THE TWO OF THEM.

Meanwhile Zoe leaves Marion's house, with Marion knowing she has just made a terrible mistake. Tony stunned, of course, and hurt, but still trying to understand where all of this is coming from. Marion seems to be full of anger, about many things, but most of all she says, about Tony's endless support of and defence of her sister. Which accusation seems to make him extraordinarily uncomfortable. But why?

So, Eliot is now visited and a proper formal interview done. And we will learn from him that Colin was an extraordinarily valued member of the bank, was earning them fortunes, and that the circumstances surrounding the allegation were (in 1980s terms at least) a little confusing. The woman, a temp, was drunk at an office party, and had taken drugs with Colin in a lavatory, but then he had turned on her and raped her. She had been found wandering dazed by Eliot, who had of course gone to call the police, but she had stopped him, she had seemed to feel she wouldn't be believed because she was drunk. Rather shamefully, Eliot admits now he did not do enough to discourage her in this course of action, admitting to Cassie that subconsciously, he was aware of how valuable Colin was to the company. So Colin was disciplined internally (for the drink and drugs) but no further action was taken. As it turned out he left the bank six weeks later anyway, of his own volition.

So this is all interesting stuff, but as Sunny says, what does it have to do with David Walker. Well, the truth is Cassie has no idea, but can it be completely coincidental that the rape allegation happened one month before David Walker went missing, and six weeks before Osborne resigned. Interesting also, of course, that this was a woman accusing him of rape, when he would appear (now at least) to be gay. Osborne asked to come back into the police station.

AND EVEN AS SHE PROCESSES THIS INFORMATION, A NEW THOUGHT STRIKES HER. IT IS SORT OF UNFORMED AND IS A RESULT OF SOME VERY TANGENTIAL CONNECTION BETWEEN TWO OF THE SUSPECTS SHE SPOTS AT ONE OF THEIR HOUSES (OBSCURE, OBLIQUE, A CONNECTION. SUNNY SIMPLY CANNOT SEE) THAT PROMPTS HER TO ASK IF THERE COULD THERE BE A CONNECTION BETWEEN MARION, COLIN, AND SARA? YES, WE ARE SHOUTING. THERE IS. CASSIE NOW DECIDES TO PUT ALL THREE SUSPECTS UNDER SURVEILLANCE.

Meanwhile one of Sara and Hassan's kids overheard part of the extraordinarily difficult conversation Sara has been having with her husband, and he tells his brother, who stupidly tells a friend, who tells someone at the mosque, so that really within an hour or so of her telling her husband this most awful private secret, it is known by pretty much the whole of her local Muslim community.

And then Cassie and the team have a break through when they find a spent caution Marion received for trying to break in to an office block, in which David Walker had his office. She is re-interviewed, this new evidence is obviously incredibly incriminatory, but she still insists she knows nothing about his death. But she is unable to give a reasonable explanation for why she had tried to break into an office block. Logic would suggest Cassie's original theory (that Walker was being scoped as a potential IRA target) was gaining traction, but Cassie's intuition tells her there is more, much more behind this story.

MEANWHILE THE TEAM ARE CONTINUING TO CHASE DAVID WALKER'S LIFE BACKWARDS FROM 1989, TO THE MID 80S, TO THE EARLY 80S AND 70S. OVER THE COURSE OF THE EPISODE, LIKE PLAYING A GAME OF TAG, ONE WITNESS WILL LEAD THEM ONTO THE NEXT, WHO WILL LEAD THEM ONTO THE NEXT, WITH EACH ONE OFFERING UP A LITTLE MORE INFORMATION, CONFIRMING THIS ARROGANT, CLEARLY DEPRAVED MAN WAS OBSESSED WITH POWER, SEX AND VIOLENCE.

HELEN CONTINUES TO CLAIM IGNORANCE OF ALL OF THIS, BUT IS CLEARLY STRUGGLING TO MAINTAIN EQUILIBRIUM. AN INCREASINGLY UNSTABLE JASON HAS MOVED BACK HOME, TENSIONS IN THE HOUSE ARE EXTRAORDINARILY HIGH. AND WE SENSE THEY ARE ONLY HEADING IN ONE DIRECTION.

Meanwhile even as word of her shameful past is disseminating into the Muslim community, Sara is having to deal with her family. Firstly, her husband's reaction, which is, as you might expect, is not too good. How the hell does a young woman with a good education, from a good home, end up becoming a prostitute? Which is a pretty valid question, but one, like all of the other suspects, she does not want to give the true answer to (we will not learn the truth for another two episodes) for fear that it will begin the series of connections that will lead to an awful she does not want known. And so she obfuscates, and lies, which of course makes everything worse. We will also at this point, begin to get a sense of that the narrative of her life before she met Hassan that she had always told (that she was orphaned by a car crash in 1981 and made her own way in life in London) is perhaps not the full story.

EVIDENCE UNCOVERED OF DAVID WALKER'S CHARITY WORK IN LOCAL CARE HOMES, AND HOSPITALS IN THE EARLY 80s.

AND (AT THIS STAGE ANECDOTAL) EVIDENCE THAT HE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED RESIDENTS AND PATIENTS.

Meanwhile, Colin meets with Anne and Tyler in a cafe to hand over the agreed 3k. And this time it doesn't feel quite so smart a move, both of them look as if they might be slightly under the influence, and she seems inclined to ask for more money before Tyler discourages her. Colin leaves, but is so unsettled by everything going on in his life that he leaves his briefcase behind, which contains endless printed Google search information on David Walker, on his past life, and of course on the (albeit limited) press the discovery of his body has thrown up. When he remembers and returns five minutes later, Anne and Tyler have gone.

Back at Sara's house, she is now trying to deal with the reaction of her sons. Which will be in many ways be even harder than the reaction of her husband. No child likes to think of their mother as a sexual being, and having to deal with the idea that your mother sold sex for a living, and for quite a long period of time as well, is almost impossible. So when it becomes clear that they already know, she tries to gather them that evening and talk to them. Her oldest son, who is 19 does his hardest to be understanding (but he is clearly deeply hurt and ashamed) her youngest, who is only 14, is incredibly tearful and scared of what his friends are going to say when they find out (which of course he knows they will) and her middle child, who is 16, does not return to the house, despite her and her husband's multiple phone calls. Over the course of the next 48 hours, this becomes, for now at least, the only thing that they are united in, finding out what has happened to Raj, Who seems to have disappeared off the face of the earth. Notwithstanding everything else that is now happening in their life, this of course trumps everything.

So Colin now has to attend the police station, where they confront him with what Eliot told them about the rape allegation in 1989. And Colin breaks down, and shamefully admits the awful truth. He says he doesn't remember any of that night (in fact, he never did. such was his intoxication from drink and drugs) but he has lived with the shame of it all his life. It was this that was the prompt for his total change of lifestyle. Cassie knows there is a connection to Walker here, but cannot, for the time being, make it. They resolve to track down the woman who made the allegation.

Meanwhile, Tyler has Colin's briefcase, and unbeknownst to Colin, followed him from the cafe, they met in, to the police station. Tyler may be a drug addict, but he is also street smart and he

has now put two and two together and realises that Colin is a suspect in this case. Which of course is valuable to him. He calls Colin and tells him, they need to meet again.

In her personal and professional life, things are unravelling fast for Marion after the embrace she shared with Zoe. Because she has refused to see Zoe again, Zoe make an accusation of sexual abuse against her, and Marion is suspended.

In Helen's house, things finally come to a head, when Gary learns what Helen is now being interviewed about, i.e. that her husband was a paedophile. And of course he must ask her out right if she knew anything about this, and her reaction is perhaps just a little too violent, a little too horrified, because actually of course, it is a reasonable question to ask. And from this point on we will know, this marriage is in serious trouble. And even if she manages to convince him right now that she knew nothing, we do not believe her.

What is tragic, is when Gary finally decides he cannot safely remain in Helen's house with his 15 year-old daughter.... And Jason. The implication, of course, that whatever Jason's father did, or whatever he was, Jason could have inherited it, that this was his father's true legacy. Jason deeply wounded by this betrayal.

Meanwhile, Colin and Tyler meet, and Tyler tells him he wants 20 grand, or he will tell the adoption agency that he is being interviewed in connection with the murder. Colin tells Tyler he does not have that sort of money, but Tyler does not believe him.

The Muslim community's reaction to Sara's plight is mixed, their local imam offering his kind counsel and full support through this difficult time, and a number of friends do their best to try and "understand" but there is also a good proportion of their community, who are uncomplicatedly appalled by Sara's past. She tells the local council she will stand down from the elections next week, but the ballot papers have already been printed, there is no further time to replace her as a candidate, so they resolve she will still stand, in the certain knowledge she will not be elected.

And when story hits the local papers, this would seem doubly certain. Episode four ends for her with a further twist, the father she had always told Hassan had died when she was 16 (along with her mother, in a car crash) turns up at her house, having seen the story in the paper and having found her address from their local mosque.

In Marion's house, the tension is unbearable, twenty years of secrets and lies, about to reveal themselves.

Gary and his daughter, leave Helen and Jason. It is a brutal decision, and one that Gary does not take remotely lightly, and one that pains him almost as much as it devastates both Helen and Jason. Jason all over the place emotionally as he desperately struggles to deal with the ever changing narrative of his late father's death, and character.

AND THIS CO-INCIDES WITH THE INVESTIGATION FINALLY DELIVERING CONCRETE EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT IN THE EARLY 80S, WALKER IN WAS PART OF A GROUP OF POWERFUL MEN, THAT SYSTEMICALLY TARGETED VULNERABLE 14/15 YEAR OLD KIDS FOR SEXUAL ABUSE.

CASSIE'S THEORY THAT THE MURDER IN 1989 WAS NOT ABOUT AN IRA TARGET, OR A PROSTITUTE'S CLIENT, OR WHAT EVER CONNECTION COLIN OSBORNE HAD WITH WALKER, BUT CONNECTED TO ABUSE THAT TOOK PLACE AT PARTIES AT A BOARDING HOUSE IN BRENTFORD, IN THE LATE 70S AND EARLY 80S, STARTS TO GAIN TRACTION.

End of ep four

Ep five

SO CASSIE NOW STARTS TO DIRECT A CONSIDERABLE AMOUNT OF HER FIRE AT FINDING OUT AS MUCH DETAIL ABOUT WHAT MIGHT HAVE HAPPENED AT THIS BOARDING HOUSE, AS POSSIBLE, AND OF COURSE WHICH, IF ANY, OF OUR THREE MAIN ANTAGONISTS MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRESENT AND /OR VICTIMS OF WALKER.

PLAY THE MASSIVE EMOTIONAL SHIFT IN HOW WE NOW PERCEIVE WALKER. FROM THE WHOLE INVESTIGATIVE TEAM.

THE SURVEILLANCE ON THE THREE SUSPECTS HAS SO FAR FAILED TO REVEAL ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN THE THREE - THEY HAVE NOT MADE ANY ATTEMPT TO CONTACT ONE ANOTHER (OBVIOUSLY, SINCE WE SAW THEM MEET).

BUT CASSIE IS INCREASINGLY CONVINCED THAT THERE IS A CONNECTION BETWEEN THEM, AND INSTRUCTS THE TEAM TO LOOK FOR IT IN THE PAST. SHE WILL ALSO START TRYING TO FIND IT IN THE PRESENT. THE INVESTIGATION IS TAKING A VERY DIFFERENT DIRECTION.

AND WITH THIS NEW DIRECTION, THE INVESTIGATION HAS TAKEN, THE KEY SUSPECTS ARE GOING TO BE REINTERVIEWED.

Meanwhile, the appearance of Sara's father stuns everyone in the Hamoud family, but slowly, after the shock has worn off, some truths begin to emerge. We will chase these truths through across the episode, so that the revelations come at pretty much the same time as the police work out, through the investigation, the same things we are learning through conversations with her father and her husband. But the basic facts are these. Sara was a rebellious, albeit highly intelligent only child, who fought relentlessly with her authoritarian Iraqi parents. She repeatedly bunked off school and stayed out overnight, until, desperate, and hoping it would bring her to her senses, her father told her to leave. She was 15. It was completely the wrong strategy, which he acknowledges now, but he was at his wits end. So she stayed in homeless shelters by lying about her age, but then over the next few months, she fell in with groups of men she met on the streets of Southall, who gave her a bed and food, and who seemed at first, kind. And then they started taking her to parties and getting her very drunk, and at these parties....stuff happened. She was still only fifteen. For now, she does not give any more detail than this, she is still clearly very reluctant to suggest any connection between her and David Walker, to anyone, but we must surely suspect the real connection is not primarily that he was a client of hers in 1989 (although he was) the real connection is, as Cassie has begun to divine, what happened at a party in a boarding house in Brentford, in 1980.

So Colin is the first to be re-interviewed. He denies ever attending any parties at a boarding house in Brentford, in fact, he was living 300 miles away at the time, in Pontypridd. Once again he denies any connection to David Walker, other than a fleeting political connection in the late 80s.

Marion interviewed next, and the supposition put to her, she vigorously denies she was ever abused by Walker, and offers up concrete evidence that she could never have attended any parties in any boarding house in Brentford, because at that time in her life she was living in Ireland. Cassie's theory dealt a further blow..

So now the most likely candidate to be connected to this party now has to be Sara and she is interviewed. She vehemently denies attending the parties, and of course, murdering Walker and we sort of have to believe her because she still has a watertight alibi for Walker's murder.

Helen Smith's marriage gone over with a fine tooth comb, what she could and could not have known about his activities as they try to gain supporting evidence about his attendance at the

Brentford parties. She continues to deny she had any idea about what he was doing. And of course she is coping with all of this, even as she is trying to keep Jason stable.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION INTO WHAT HAPPENED AT THE BOARDING HOUSE, NOW BEGIN TO SUGGEST VARIOUS WELL-KNOWN FIGURES OF THE TIME, WERE INVOLVED. AT NOW PRESSURE FROM ABOVE MIGHT START TO APPEAR, A SENSE THAT CERTAIN WELL-KNOWN FIGURES IN AUTHORITY ARE GETTING RATHER NERVOUS AND ARE ATTEMPTING TO BRING THEIR INFLUENCE TO BEAR AND GET THIS INVESTIGATION STOPPED. THIS PRESSURE WILL BE INSTANTLY QUASHED BY HER IMMEDIATE BOSS. MOST EXCELLENT.

Meanwhile, Colin is beside himself, so many past dealings threatening to rise up and devour his present - a murder charge, an historical rape, and now the possible loss of the two things he loves more than anything else in the world, Cora, and his relationship with Simon. And it is this, as Simon says he cannot stay if Colin clearly continues to hold things back from him, which leads to him breaking down and finally telling his husband 'the truth', about the rape, about what Tyler has discovered, and about his drug addiction – at the same time reiterating he did not kill David Walker. And here's the thing, Simon reminds him he loves him, and he says he can forgive him. That he knows he is not that person now, and that they will overcome this together, even if the worst happens, and they are unable to adopt Cora.

It is an extraordinary act of forgiveness, and should demonstrate an extraordinary level of love he has for his husband. But the most important thing they have to do right now, is go social services, and explain everything before Tyler does. Which they do.

AND EVEN AS THIS IS BEING DISCUSSED, CASSIE'S TEAM ACCUMULATING MORE SPECIFIC INFORMATION ON 34 RANDOLPH AVENUE.

THAT IT WAS USED BY A NUMBER OF PROMINENT FIGURES IN THE LAW, AND POLITICS, AS A PLACE TO HOLD PARTIES, WHICH WERE ALSO ATTENDED BY VULNERABLE CHILDREN FROM VARIOUS CARE HOMES, OR SOMETIMES FROM THE STREETS, WHO WERE BROUGHT TO THE PARTIES, PLIED WITH DRINK AND SEXUALLY ABUSED.

Meanwhile Marion and Tony trying to find a way through their crisis. Him trying to explain how difficult he has found it historically, to mediate in the relationship between her and her sister constantly, how lonely he has felt at times their marriage, how hard he found it to accept her unilateral decision not to have children. And she knows where this is heading, and challenges him to admit the truth, that he has had an affair with her sister, and that her youngest nephew is in fact his son. Which stunning accusation, is met with incredulity. Well it is certainly one explanation for the difficulty of her relationship with her Elise - the only problem is, it is entirely untrue.

Tony now in a position where he doesn't believe he can make the marriage work anymore, because he simply does not understand where his wife is coming from. But he is about to find out.

Meanwhile, after much searching, the woman who made the allegation against Colin Osborne is finally located living in Scotland. They have also discovered she once worked for David Walker as a temp, and that one week before she made the rape allegation, 5k was paid into her bank, from David Walker's account.

Barrington is interviewed and finally shamefully admits Walker paid her to make the rape allegation (although she seems to genuinely have no idea why Walker wanted her to do this) she was desperately poor, needed the money, and was meant to get Colin very drunk and then go to the police and get Colin put into jail, but in the end she lost her nerve. But the truth is Colin Osborne never raped her.

CASSIE MUST NOW CONSIDER THE POSSIBILITY THAT OSBORNE KNEW SOMETHING OF WALKER'S PAST (BECAUSE HE WAS HIMSELF A VICTIM OF IT OR KNEW A VICTIM OF IT?) AND WAS EITHER GOING TO BLOW THE WHISTLE ON HIM, OR WAS BLACKMAILING HIM, AND SO WALKER TRIED TO GET RID OF HIM BY PAYING BARRINGTON TO MAKE THE ALLEGATIONS AGAINST HIM OF RAPE

AND THEN FINALLY, CASSIE GETS A BREAK. THE TEAM LOCATE A WITNESS (A FOURTEEN YEAR OLD AT THE TIME, NOW A FIFTY-YEAR-OLD WOMAN) WHO WILL GIVE VERY CREDIBLE EVIDENCE CONFIRMING THAT SARA ALAWI WAS AT SEVERAL OF THE SEX PARTIES, OFTEN ALREADY VERY DRUNK, AND THAT ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, DAVID WALKER HAD SEX WITH HER, IN THE SAME ROOM IN WHICH THE WITNESS WAS BEING ABUSED BY A VERY SENIOR MEMBER OF THE JUDICIARY.

THIS SAME WOMAN WILL GIVE EVIDENCE THAT HELEN WALKER (SMITH) USED TO PICK HER HUSBAND UP IN THE EARLY HOURS OF THE MORNING FROM THE PARTIES, AND THAT ON AT LEAST ONE OCCASION, THE WITNESS HERSELF TOLD HELEN WHAT HER HUSBAND GOT UP TO IN THERE.

SO INVESTIGATIVELY THIS IS A PROFOUND SHIFT, HERE FINALLY IS THE MOTIVE THEY HAVE BEEN LOOKING FOR.

WHICH MAKES IT A REAL STINGER, WHEN THE TEAM NOW FIND CONCLUSIVE PROOF THAT, AS SARA HAD CLAIMED, SHE WAS ABROAD AT THE TIME OF WALKER'S MURDER. SHE NEVER CAME BACK TO ENGLAND, AND SO SHE COULD NOT HAVE KILLED HIM.

SO HAVING FOUND A SORT OF SMOKING GUN CONNECTING WALKER'S HISTORICAL ABUSE TO HIS MURDER, THIS WOULD SEEM TO BE SOMETHING OF A DEAD END FOR THE INVESTIGATION. EXCEPT THEN THE REAL BREAKTHROUGH. EVIDENCE IS FINALLY FOUND, WHAT CASSIE HAS BEEN LOOKING FOR ALL ALONG.

A LINK BETWEEN OUR THREE ANTAGONISTS. ALL THREE ATTENDED A SURVIVORS OF ABUSE SELF-HELP GROUP IN 1988. THE LEADER OF THIS GROUP IS LOCATED, AND RECALLED ALL THREE OF THEM ATTENDING FOR HALF A DOZEN SESSIONS, AND CLEARLY FINDING SOME BOND IN ONE ANOTHER, BEFORE ONE DAY, THEY JUST STOPPED COMING. AND AT THIS POINT, CASSIE WILL HAVE A STARTLING IDEA.

THAT THE REASON THEY CAN'T FIND ANY CONNECTION BETWEEN MARION AND DAVID WALKER, OR INDEED COLIN AND DAVID WALKER, IS BECAUSE, AS THEY HAVE TRUTHFULLY CLAIMED, NEITHER OF THEM *WERE* ABUSED BY HIM. BUT WHAT IF MARION AND COLIN HAD BEEN ABUSED BY OTHER PEOPLE, AND WHAT THEY DID, AFTER WALKER UNWITTINGLY CAME BACK IN TO SARA'S LIFE (AND RE-AWAKENED ALL HER OLD DEMONS) NINE YEARS AFTER HE HAD RAPED HER AT THE PARTY...

...WAS AGREE TO KILL THE OTHERS ABUSER. THAT IN ORDER TO SET THEIR LIVES BACK ON THE RIGHT TRACK, THEY HAD TO STOP BEING VICTIMS, AND START PUNISHING THE PEOPLE THAT HAD SO HURT THEM. UNDERSTANDING THAT THIS COULD END UP WITH THEM ALL IN JAIL FOR MURDER, THEY DETERMINED, LIKE STRANGERS ON A TRAIN, TO MURDER EACH OTHER'S ABUSER, AT THE SAME TIME MAKING SURE THAT WHEN THEIR OWN ABUSER WAS MURDERED, THEY WERE OUT OF THE COUNTRY TO THUS PROVIDE A WATERTIGHT ALIBI.

IF HER THEORY IS CORRECT, THEY ARE LOOKING FOR TWO OTHER ABUSERS (OF COLIN AND OF MARION) AND ALSO....

...THEY ARE LOOKING FOR TWO FURTHER BODIES.

End of Episode five

Episode six

We are with Colin and Simon as they tell a fairly appalled, Janet, the social worker handling the adoption, about the police investigation. And she is as sympathetic as she can be, but she cannot lie to them, nor indeed to the adoption panel. What they have told her would obviously seriously affect the decision of the panel. She asks them when Colin might know what the outcome of the police investigation will be, he of course cannot give her a timescale. She asks him directly if he

did it - what they have accused him of, and without any hesitation, he is able to look her in the eye, and tell her he is completely innocent of the crime.

And so now, undoubtedly, against all ethical procedures, she suggests that perhaps before they make any disclosure at all, they should wait a week or so to see how things pan out. It is an astonishing gesture of trust, and we must pray it is not misplaced.

AND NOW CASSIE STARTS TO ATTEMPT TO PUT MORE FLESH ON THE BONES OF HER THEORY. SO AN UNWITTING WALKER HIRED SARA AS A PROSTITUTE IN EARLY 1989. SHE THOUGHT SHE RECOGNISED HIM, AND TOLD HER FELLOW SURVIVORS. IT WAS AT THIS POINT THAT THEIR IDEA WAS HATCHED. SO MARION THEN AGREED TO TRY AND FIND THIS MAN FOR HER, TO USE THE RESOURCES OF THE IRA TO TRACK HIM DOWN. WHICH IS WHEN SHE DISCOVERS WALKER IS (AFTER BREAKING IN TO HIS OFFICE) A FUNDRAISER FOR THE TORY PARTY AND THUS (SHE ARGUES TO HER GIRLFRIEND) A LEGITIMATE AND EASY TARGET.

BUT HER GIRLFRIEND HAD MUCH BIGGER FISH TO FRY AND SUSPECTED THE ULTERIOR MOTIVES MARION DID IN FACT HAVE, SO FORBADE HER FROM TAKING ANY FURTHER ACTION AGAINST DAVID WALKER.

AT WHICH POINT SHE AND SARA BOTH MADE CONTACT WITH COLIN, WHO UNLIKE THEM, HAD MONEY AT HIS DISPOSAL. SO COLIN TOOK OVER, GOT CLOSE TO WALKER, INSINUATED HIMSELF INTO HIS LIFE TO BEST WORK OUT HOW THEY MIGHT KILL HIM. EXCEPT WALKER WAS SMART, AND AFTER COLIN ASKED ONE TOO MANY QUESTIONS ABOUT HIS PAST, SUSPECTED HE WAS LOOKING TO BLACKMAIL HIM.

AND SO TO GET HIM OFF HIS BACK, HE PAID A TEMP WHO WORKED FOR HIM, TO GET A JOB AT THE BANK COLIN WORKED FOR, GET COLIN DRUNK AND THEN MAKE THE RAPE ALLEGATION.

WHICH IRONICALLY BACKFIRED CATASTROPHICALLY ON WALKER. NOT ONLY DID THE TEMP FAIL TO INFORM THE POLICE, BUT ALSO, WHAT COLIN BELIEVED HE HAD DONE MADE HIM REALISE JUST HOW DAMAGED HE WAS, AND EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO HELP PUNISH WALKER, ON BEHALF OF SARA. THREE WEEKS AFTER HE LEFT SANDITON, DAVID WALKER DISAPPEARED.

AND OF COURSE WHEN THIS THEORY IS PUT TO THE THREE ANTAGONISTS, THEY ALL VEHEMENTLY DENY IT. THEY ARE, IF NOTHING ELSE, RESOLUTE IN THEIR REBUTTAL OF EVERYTHING THE POLICE THROW AT THEM.

AND SO CASSIE SETS ABOUT TRYING TO PROVE HER THEORY, WHICH IS OF COURSE PARTLY ABOUT PROVING ABUSE HAPPENED TO ALL OF THEM, AND THEN PROVING THAT ONE OF THE OTHERS COULD HAVE HAD THE CAPABILITY TO THEN KILL ONE OF THE OTHERS ABUSERS.

AND IT DOES NOT TAKE LONG BEFORE TWO FURTHER ABUSERS SUGGEST THEMSELVES.

ONE WAS A TEACHER AT COLIN'S SCHOOL IN THE 60S AND 70S, A SCHOOL THAT WAS LATER SHUT DOWN FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS OF SYSTEMIC ABUSE. NONE OF THE SUSPECTED TEACHERS EVER WENT TO TRIAL BUT ONE TEACHER FAILED TO TURN UP TO WORK ONE DAY IN 1991, NO ONE EVER KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED TO HIM BUT HE WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE COMMITTED SUICIDE (THOUGH HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND).

OVER THE COURSE OF EPISODE, CASSIE'S TEAM FIND VERY GOOD EVIDENCE TO SUGGEST THAT THIS MAN WAS INDEED ABUSING HIS CHARGES, ONE OF WHOM WAS COLIN. AT THE TIME OF HIS DISAPPEARANCE COLIN HAD TAKEN A SABBATICAL IN AMERICA FOR SIX MONTHS. SARA HOWEVER IS LOCATED NEAR COLIN'S ABUSER'S LAST KNOWN SIGHTING.

AND THEN THERE IS A DEEPLY SHOCKING REVELATION FOR CASSIE. THAT MARION'S FATHER WENT MISSING IN 1992. HE WAS BELIEVED TO HAVE JUMPED OFF A FERRY, BUT HIS BODY WAS NEVER FOUND EITHER. WHEN HER FATHER DIED, MARION WAS TREKKING IN NEPAL. COLIN HOWEVER IS LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF MARION'S FATHER'S LAST KNOWN SIGHTING.

AND INDEED EVENTUALLY, MARION WILL BE LINKED TO DAVID WALKER'S LAST KNOWN SIGHTING, CASSIE'S THEORY BEING, THAT IT WAS MARION THAT STABBED HIM TO DEATH.

Helen, meanwhile, will be arrested and interviewed in connection with concealing the crimes of her late husband. Gary will look after a very vulnerable Jason during this time, in a change of heart that goes some way to acknowledging his un-just and cruel reaction before. Jason is very angry with his mother, and refuses to have any contact with her whatsoever, so appalled is he with what she is alleged to have done.

And so now we begin to head towards the concluding beats of the story. We will begin to understand the historical tension between Marion and her sister, the fact that their father only abused Marion, and never Elise, the appalling psychological damage that caused, and kept on causing all through her life, until the moment, we must suspect she had him murdered (by Colin) in a vain attempt to try and move on.

And of course, to some extent she did, but never being able to meaningfully discuss what had happened to her for fear of revealing some/any kind of link to her father's death being too great, the dark, dirty secret of her father's abuse of her had done its work, creating a toxic substrata of anger and pain beneath the middle-class exterior.

It is this theory and proposition that the police put to her, and which they put to Tony when she stonewalls them, hoping that he will be aware of her history, and not such a good liar. And of course the instant they suggest the notion to him, it makes total sense, in fact it makes sense of everything, the wilderness years, the relationship with Sinead, the career she chose, her refusal ever to have a child, and pass on those "evil genes", the awful historical tension with her sister, her absurd belief that her husband would have an affair with her sister, it all makes sense, and it is all unbearably heartbreaking. And yet at the same time, it will be the beginning of his and Marion's rebirth. Because of course, he plays a blinder to the police, has no idea what Cassie is talking about, Marion's father never abused her and she certainly never commissioned anyone to kill him.

So now Cassie re-interviews Colin, and puts to him, the same theory. That Colin was abused at school, was never able to talk about it, or recover from it, it went on to cause all of his drink and drug problems, before he met in the late 80s, two people who finally understood what he had gone through. And together they decided they were no longer prepared to let their abusers get away with it. She puts to Colin the idea that he agreed to kill Marion's father. She presents him with her (albeit very circumstantial) evidence. He denies it. She tells him she knows he was investigating Walker for Sara. He denies it. She shows him her proof, that Walker paid Barrington to make a false rape accusation against him, why else would he have done that if he had not have suspected Collin was on to him.

That the rape allegation was false, is of course astonishing, and in many ways, devastating news to Colin. He has lived with the guilt of what he was alleged to have done for thirty years, and it is one of the many things that has shaped his life. So to find out it was never even true unleashes a powerful cocktail of emotions in him. But he still absolutely refuses to accept Cassie's theory.

And finally she speaks to Sara. And despite the fact she can offer no reasonable explanation for how a well educated girl from a decent home, ended up as a prostitute, she resolutely denies the connections Cassie is making.

AND HERE'S THE THING. CASSIE, ABSOLUTELY BELIEVES HER THEORY IS CORRECT, BUT THAT IS NOT THE SAME AS IT BEING ABLE TO STAND IT UP IN COURT. WHICH, AFTER LONG CONSULTATION WITH THE CPS, APPEARS TO BE THEIR POSITION AS WELL. CASSIE AND HER TEAM COULD SPEND TEN YEARS TRYING TO FIND THE EVIDENCE FOR A MURDER AND TWO POSSIBLE MURDERS THAT TOOK PLACE OVER A QUARTER OF A CENTURY AGO, AND NEVER FIND IT. NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE TWO FURTHER BODIES.

THE MORAL COMPLEXITY OF THIS CASE IS UNQUESTIONABLE, AS MOST CLEARLY REPRESENTED BY THE COMPLEXITY OF THE EVER-CHANGING RELATIONSHIP WITH DAVID WALKER. FIRST A SIMPLE MURDER VICTIM, THEN, WE LEARN WALKER WAS ABUSED AT HIS PREP SCHOOL, AND THEN FINALLY WE LEARNED HE WAS A PREDATORY ABUSER WHO MANY MIGHT SAY DESERVED HIS FATE.

WHICH IS HER PROBLEM.

BECAUSE AT WHAT POINT DO WE STOP EXCULPATING PEOPLE LIKE WALKER, AT WHAT POINT DO WE SAY NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM AS A KID, NO MATTER THAT HE HIMSELF WAS A DEEPLY DAMAGED PERSON WHEN HE COMMITTED HIS OWN CRIMES, ARE WE REALLY NOW CONTENT TO LABEL HIM UNFORGIVABLY EVIL AND TO LET OTHER VICTIMS, JUST LIKE HIM, TAKE THE LAW INTO THEIR OWN HANDS – AND MURDER HIM?

OR A TEACHER?

OR THEIR OWN FATHER?

IT IS CONFUSING AND UNSATISFACTORY AND REDUCTIVE.

BUT, IN THE END, CASSIE AND THE CPS WILL NOT LAY ANY CHARGES AGAINST THE THREE ANTAGONISTS. AND HALF OF HER IS GLAD TO ALLOW THESE PEOPLE TO GO AWAY AND TRY AND REBUILD THEIR SHATTERED LIVES, AND HALF OF HER THINKS SHE HAS FAILED.

And so how do the stories play out.

Colin and Simon will wait, in muted terror, for the police investigation to do its worst, as each day goes past, and they are unable to reassure Janet, they know the chances of them being able to successfully adopt Cora, are dwindling. During these days, they will be allowed to spend some time with her, and they will have the resonance of them being potentially the last time they ever spent with her.

As for Sara and Hassan, after he has had time to process all of this extraordinary information, the husband tells her that she has nothing to apologise for, that the people that should be apologising, endlessly, are an establishment, that not only allowed this to happen, but covered it up for 35 years,

Whatever happened to her, whatever she did (and I think it is key that none of our three antagonists ever admit to what they may or may not have done) whatever she became, this was their fault, not hers. Sara and Hassan's son, Ali, finally returns, apologetic (play some conclusion to this) and Sara and her father begin a tentative rebuilding of their relationship, which, at the age of 80, is everything to him. And she will stand in the election and win. The story of a woman who rebuilt a shattered life, to become a good wife, mother, teacher, and member of her community (articulated eloquently by her husband at a final hustings before the election) inspiring her community to vote for her.

In the end, Zoe, and her family will withdraw their complaints. This will come after a difficult conversation between them all, Zoe, Marion and Tony, in which Zoe's family go some way to understanding, because of their own understanding of Zoe's problems, that Marion was a very vulnerable woman.

The clinic will give Marion a six-month sabbatical to get her life back in order, which they will do. And we will leave this story with a very strong sense that a boil has been lanced, and that Marion may now finally be able to start repairing the damage.

And In the end, Colin will not be charged with anything, and will not be obliged to reveal anything of the investigation to the adoption authorities, and Cora's successful adoption will take place.

As for Helen Smith, there will be enough evidence to arrest her, and to charge her for failing to report her husband's crimes. She will in the end, received a suspended sentence, but will be sacked from the police force and lose her pension entitlements. It will be a brutal end for her, but she will not complain, in her heart she knows she deserves her punishment.

Her relationship with Gary will not recover, but she and Jason will in the end be reconciled.