

Episode 6 – The Denouement

SCENE 1: INT – The Business Suite – Day 6

We hear the assembled crowd chatting. We hear snatches: “What’s this about then?” “I heard that the guy they caught escaped” “I heard that he was innocent” “I heard he escaped and Giles Hampson chased him down and caught him again”

ALEX: Coo—ee, Kara!

KARA: Oh, you’re back?

ALEX: Yeah, well Gethin figured that now they’ve caught the guy, it would be safe to come back. You know what this is all about? Very mysterious! Not more bad news, I hope?

KARA: I’m sure we will see shortly.

ALEX: Ooh, I have to tell you about these amazing shoes I found in town. They are just to die for... I’m going to wear them with that bag, you know, the one I took to the work party last year and...

VERONIKA: Yo, Kara! Over here.

KARA: I’m sorry, It looks important... I should probably.... Um

ALEX: See ya in work tomorrow! Have a great meeting!

KARA (VO): Have a great meeting? Who in the world has ever wished anyone that? A psychopath, that’s who...

KARA: Thanks for the save, V.

VERONIKA: What’s this about then?

MACIEJ: He’s figured it out... Hasn’t he?

KARA: (mysteriously) Maybe... I just hope to god he can prove it.

[JACK enters]

JACK: Excuse me! Everyone... Can I have your attention?

GERAINT: (putting on his best teacher voice and yelling) Quiet, please! Mr Williams, are you paying attention? Good. Right, Jack, the stage is yours...

JACK: Thanks for coming at such short notice, everyone. It's been a strange few days for us all and I wanted to –

MR HAMPSON: What is this? Where is Khan?

JACK: Mr Khan will be along shortly. He asked me to start the meeting while he gets here.

MR KHAN: Outrageous! This is most irregular.

JACK: Even so, Mr Hampson. We are in irregular times... The reason I brought you all here today, is to reveal to you the identity of a killer.

[The crowd gasp]

JACK: A killer – Or I should say; killers – that brutally murdered Daniel Harris and Linda Patel-Smith, amongst many others. And have been here, in our midst the whole time.

MR HAMPSON: Have you lost the plot? We already found the killer?

JACK: Unfortunately, what you found, Mr Hampson, was a scared asylum seeker, lured here to provide cover for the real killers. The man the police have in custody can barely walk, let alone murder a fully-fit ex-policeman and flee the scene in seconds.

MR HAMPSON: Ridiculous! I'm not wasting any more time listening to this... this piffle. Come on Jillian, we are leaving.

WILL: Oh sit down and be quiet, will you! We want to hear what Jack has to say.

[Murmurs of agreement go up in the crowd]

MRS HAMPSON: We will not be spoken to like that by you.

WILL: Why not? That's how you talk to everyone else. And we have to sit here and listen politely to your stupid, small-minded opinions. Just sit down, you self-important bunch of wind-bags. You're making yourselves look like a bunch of idiots.

[There is a small smattering of applause]

MRS HAMPSON: Well, never in my life have I –

VERONIKA: Ssshhh, I'm trying to listen.

KARA (VO): Wow, well who had money on Will being the one to snap? But it seems to have worked. They are sitting there, like scolded children.

JACK: (trying to regain his train of thought) So... um... thank you, Will. As I was saying, the killers have been hiding here, in Prosperity Heights, in plain sight.

GETHIN: Who is it? Tell us!

JACK: And tell you, I will... But first, let's run through the suspects and who had both the motive and opportunity to kill.

[Crowd groan... "Do we have to?" shouts someone]

JACK: I'm glad you asked, Mr Williams, as by running through this, you will be left in no doubt of the guilt of the murderers... You all remember that first meeting after Dan was murdered? At the time, Mrs Hampson made her feelings quite widely known that we should be talking to Amelia Farrington – Dan's girlfriend. Despite having no motive to kill her boyfriend, we are nothing if not reasonable, so decided to check out Mrs Hampson's grudge... I mean hunch.

JAMES: And?

JACK: Like I said, she had no motive to kill. What's more, she wasn't even in the building when Dan was murdered. So, that was pretty open and shut. Amelia was not the killer... But she did reveal to me that Dan had been dating the Hampson's daughter. She also confided that when the relationship broke down and Dan and Amelia got together, the Hampson's started a campaign against the pair, which resulted in a drunk Giles Hampson turning up in the middle of the night looking for a fight. Isn't that right, Giles?

MR HAMPSON: (Glaring at JACK with hatred and spitting) It's Mr Hampson to you. And, I already admitted to this 'brief loss of wits' when you burst into my home and accused me of murder!

JACK: Which made me wonder if Giles had suffered any other 'brief losses of wits' - one that might have led to the killing of Dan Harris...

MR HAMPSON: (almost growling) I'd be very careful where you are going with this.

JACK: But, alas. While Giles certainly had the motive, and is clearly a very angry and bitter old soak, a murderer he certainly isn't.

KARA (VO): Ooh, this is some additional fun, I wasn't expecting. Mr Hampson is absolutely seething. If he clenches onto the seat of his chair any harder, it might just break in half and he'll tumble to the floor... let's hope...

JACK: Which brings us onto Mrs Hampson...

MRS HAMPSON: Me? How dare you?

JACK: Ah, but I have to dare. Or, I couldn't work out for sure who killed Dan and Linda. You seemed to hate Dan even more than your husband. Is that not true?

MRS HAMPSON: Well, yes. He tore up my family and then shacked up with that... trollop, without even a second thought.

JACK: So, you see everyone, We have a motive... and, as we started wondering how someone could kill Dan and escape before the Hampson's found his body, there was also an opportunity for murder...

MRS HAMPSON: (crying) I didn't kill him!

JACK: No, no you didn't. Dan had been stabbed in the back. Which means unless you have a lot more strength than I'm giving you credit for, you are not the killer...The killer was someone in the lift with Dan when he was murdered.

MR HAMPSON: Then what about her? [*pointing at KARA*] She was in the lift with him last?

KARA: Who? Me?

JACK: Luckily, Reeshi was visiting friends on our floor. He was leaving as Kara left the lift and saw Dan, very much alive and well, carrying on his upward journey.

REESHI: Yeah, that's right. I was just opening the door to the stairwell when I heard the screaming.

GETHIN: Then who did kill him?

JACK: I'm getting to it, don't worry! On returning from The Hampson's, we received a mysterious note from Linda, telling us she knew who had killed Dan. But, by the time we got there, it was too late. At this point, we had to suspect everyone – even you and your good lady were under suspicion, Gethin.

ALEX: What? Us, why? What did we do?

JACK: Um... let me check my notes... running up the stairs, I believe...

GETHIN: That's ridiculous

JACK: Well, yeah it is. But to find the killer you have to discount all possible alternatives. The thing is, you were seen close to both Dan and Linda's killings. And, in the case of Linda's death, you were actively seen running away from a crime scene!

GETHIN: Rubbish, we were just running. It wasn't away from anything.

JACK: Aah, not knowingly. But, there we have the opportunity again.... But, no motive. There is no conceivable reason why it would make sense for you to want either Dan or Linda dead. And only a crazy person would still continue to think you did until they become so obsessed over it that they would ultimately break into your flat to look for evidence.

GETHIN: Say, what now? Who broke into our flat.

KARA (VO): The git. He's enjoying this!

JACK: Keep up Gethin, I said 'no one' would break into your flat..

GETHIN: (confused) Oh...

JACK: Only a crazy person would still think you killed either Dan or Linda. But, it shows you the mindset needed to find the real killers – motive and opportunity.

MR HAMPSON: Quit stalling. Tell us who did it, or stop wasting our time.

JACK: I told you, I'm getting to it... chill! So after hitting a brick wall, Amelia told us that Dan was a detective in the police before the war. Something unbeknownst to me at the time.

WILL: Really? I thought everyone knew that?

JACK: Well, apparently everyone did. Apart from me. She also revealed that Dan had been trying to solve some cold case from his time in the force and it's possible he and Linda used to discuss it together... But, what case could have been so big that it resulted in the murder of both himself and Linda?

JAMES: And?

JACK: As it turns out, a really big one... We aren't just looking at the murder of two people here. This goes a lot deeper... This is the work of serial murderers trying desperately to cover their tracks! Tracks which led Dan to these apartments two years ago so he could keep watch over his main suspect. Isn't that right, Jimmy?

KARA (VO): Boom!

JIMMY: (surprised) What?! Me? Come on now boyo. That's ridiculous. Why should I want to kill 'im? Either of 'em?

JACK: I think that Dan finally worked out exactly who you are, Mr Rich and exactly what you had done...

JIMMY: Done what, mun? You're not making sense! Clearly, the stress has gotten to you?

MRS HAMPSON: Really, Jack. This is getting out of hand... someone needs to put a stop to -

VERONIKA: Ssssshhhh, we want to hear!

JACK: You know, when Giles found that that poor guy above the pool, I would probably have agreed. I thought my hunch was wrong and I was going crazy. Occam's Razor – the most simple explanation is probably the right one.

KARA (VO): Oh, not you too!

JACK: Except, in this case. It wasn't. In fact, it was a very elaborate plan that had been unfolding for decades. A plan that saw you and your partner, Jimmy Pickings kill over 45 people dating from 1983, right through to this week, when you brutally murdered Dan and Linda for uncovering your crimes.

JIMMY: What? No! That's ridic'lus! Everyone? You can see that, right?

JACK: Thanks to the wonders of modern technology – and by that, I mean a TV and a Chromecast – I can show you all the extent of this monster's crimes. Geraint, if you wouldn't mind doing the honours... Here's what I found when investigating Linda's computer – a list of murders and missing persons dating back to the 80s. What I didn't understand at first was what the place names in this column meant... I naturally assumed it was where they found the body, but that's certainly a lot of theatres, working men's clubs and caravan parks. It wasn't until Amelia gave me the password to Dan's computer that I realised that these weren't places where the bodies were found at all, but nearby venues where Rich Pickings, and laterly, just Jimmy Rich, himself, were playing...

JIMMY: That's it boyo? That's all you got? Circumstantial at best...

JACK: Indeed, circumstantial. As I'm sure it's purely co-incidental that the two people to work this out are now also dead.

JIMMY: Rubbish! Prove it...

JACK: Well thanks to Dan's hard work - I think his files make a pretty compelling case of tying you to these crimes... As for Linda and Dan's deaths, I'm coming to that.

MR HAMPSON: Come on then, if you know how this man killed Dan and Linda, tell us!

JACK: Well, My suspicions were first aroused after Linda told us that she thought she saw Jimmy go into his flat at the time Dan was murdered.

JIMMY: I wasn't even there!

JACK: That is true. We found pictures of you performing on stage at the time Dan was killed. But, nevertheless, I further noticed that from the side window in Reeshi and Linda's lounge, they could see right into your flat, right into your bedroom.

JIMMY: So?

JACK: So... What exactly happened between Linda believing that she saw you when Dan died and her own death? When I visited Reeshi, I noticed Linda had moved her writing desk away from the window. I believe she did this because she had seen something through the window, something that potentially incriminated you in the death of Dan Harris. She thought that she could watch you without being seen, until she was sure of her suspicions. But you could see, couldn't you? And when you realised she was watching, you killed her!

JIMMY: No! That's not true!

JACK: Again, you tell the truth... Because you didn't kill them. Did you Jimmy?

JIMMY: That's what I'm saying, mun!

JACK: No, because you're not a small or fit man, are you Jimmy? There's no way you could have stabbed Dan, climbed up through the inspection hatch in the lift, crawled through the ceiling until you got back to your flat without being seen. And, in no way are you the athletic man we chased across the car park after Linda was killed.

JIMMY: Then what the heck are you talking about? This really isn't funny, Jack...

JACK: No, it's not. And neither are you!

KARA (VO): oooh, burn!

JACK: I watched your VHS, Jimmy... And that's where I worked out that your partner, Jimmy Pickings, is not only athletic but also does an uncanny impersonation of you. Suddenly, it's possible for you two to be in two places at once – if you need to – and athletic enough to escape in a hurry.

JIMMY: That doesn't even make sense... Why would he need to dress up as me?

JACK: Now that was a puzzler... you are correct. He could just as easily have killed Dan as himself and escaped through the ceiling space and into your apartment. After all, it would be much easier than trying to escape while lugging around an extra 50 pound fat suit – especially when he's no spring chicken anymore! I tried myself to climb up through that maintenance hatch and, while it is indeed possible to crawl through the ceiling space down the corridor, you can't enter the flats that way. You both knew that to escape back to your flat, you would at some point have to enter the corridor. If someone saw a mysterious man in the corridor near the crime scene, he would be immediately suspected and sought out. If they saw amiable and friendly Jimmy Rich, however, it would be less likely to cause suspicion.

In the event that it went wrong and you were spotted, you could claim that your gig had been cancelled and not upload the images to your website - which provided your alibi - and no one would have been any the wiser.

But this is where you both got sloppy, you didn't realise that Linda had seen 'you.' And by you I mean not you, I mean Jimmy... and not the 'you Jimmy', the other Jimmy... Is everyone following?

[The crowd make affirmative grunts and a few yesses]

JACK: You also got sloppy by giving me a VHS that had an advert for all your show's on – I was able to quickly cross-reference the dates on the show with dates from the list I'd saved from Linda's computer.

JIMMY: That's ridiculous! You're a mad man! Why would we want to kill them? You said yourself – motive! What is my motive...

JACK: Well, actually that one is far more simple... Dan had made a link between you and Jimmy Pickings and his string of unsolved murders. Dan had been trying to prove this since he was on the force, but even there, he couldn't get other forces to buy into it and investigate.

After leaving the police force, he moved to Prosperity Heights to be near to you and try and put it all together himself. Finally, 5 days ago, he works it out and confronts you, he tells you he plans to expose you... as soon as the sorry excuse for a police force actually bother to follow up on his tip-off...

Kara said that Dan looked haunted and distracted right before his death. You know that you can't let Dan expose what you and your partner have been up to all these years, so plan the murder.

You leave to do your gig on the border, while your partner in crime kills Dan. Unknown to you, or Jimmy P, Dan had been filling Linda in on what he knew... Everyone kept telling us what a gentleman and professional Dan was– which meant that even if he was 99% sure he was right, that 1% of doubt would have stopped him telling Linda. Particularly given Linda's reputation for gossiping – sorry Reesh.

REESHI: No, it's fair.

JACK: Dan, couldn't risk an investigation that had taken two years to solve being ruined by gossip. But, after his murder and with a large piece of the puzzle already in her mind, she sees you, Jimmy P and the fat suit from her lounge window. Over the next day, she watches you from her window, slowly putting the final pieces of the puzzle together. But, Linda didn't realise that you were also watching... watching her.

But, before you did kill her, you had to make sure she knew. After-all, no point putting yourselves at more risk by carrying out another murder so close to home. James told us that he'd seen you visit Linda on the day of her murder, he described it as 'the briefest of visits on your way out'... Which, if true, why not kill her right there and then? No. That would be too easy... and having been seen entering her flat you risked coming under suspicion. When Linda acted strangely and made excuses for you to leave, you knew you were right – Linda knew the truth. Therefore, Linda would have to die...

JIMMY: No, that didn't happen!

JACK: By this time, searches for a mysterious stranger hiding in the flats were underway. No need for the fat suit this time – It would be advantageous if the suspect that was seen fleeing the scene looked nothing like any of the residents. That way, when you put the idea in Giles Hampson's head that someone was hiding in the pool area, people would be more likely to believe the random stranger theory. Giles, was it not Jimmy that put the idea in your head about someone in the pool area?

MR HAMPSON: Well, yes. He mentioned to Jillian that he'd heard strange noises during his early morning swim and felt like someone was 'watching' him.

JACK: Yet, the CCTV showed no one we didn't know enter or leave the complex – but Mr Khan told everyone on this very stage that the CCTV by the pool area was broken. You snuck the gentleman into the pool area, armed with this knowledge. But, again, you got sloppy in an effort to cover your tracks. You picked a homeless immigrant off the streets and offered him a warm place to stay. You smuggled him into the complex in your car and straight into the pool building. But, you didn't account for the fact that Reeshi and Mr Khan had already thoroughly searched that area multiple times or that the police would actually do their job for once and find an interpreter to talk to the poor guy you framed. You'll be glad to know that he picked you out from a bunch of our pictures we sent to the police this morning...

JIMMY: This is slander! I won't stand for it... everyone? Surely you must see how ridiculous it is? You are a madman, Jack. Where is your evidence? I'm not staying here for a minute longer to hear you slander my good name! I am still a free man.

JACK: Jimmy Rich, I accuse you and your partner Jimmy Pickings of the murders of multiple individuals dating back to the early 1980s, including our very own Dan Harris and Linda Patel-Smith. And, talking about evidence... the reason why I've been keeping you here so long while I ran through each suspect in turn is to give MR Hampson the time to search your flat... and here he is now, right on cue

KARA (VO): Mr Khan's arrived. He's carrying what looks like a melted version of Jimmy Rich and a knife in a bag.

MR KHAN: Sorry, I'm late everyone. I trust Jack has done a good job filling in in my absence. If I were you, Jimmy, I'd sit right back down. The police have been called and are on their way.

JACK: So, here we have 'the evidence'...

MR KHAN: One fat suit, one latex mask that bears a striking resemblance to Mr Rich...

VERONIKA: Oooh, how scooby-doo!

MR KHAN: And one 6-inch long knife, which I'm sure the police will be able to match with the wounds on Mr Harris' and Mrs Patel-Smith's bodies.

JIMMY: (roars)

[we hear the noise of chairs being flung over and all the residents start shouting]

KARA (VO): Oh, there he goes!

JACK: Quick, he's making a break for the doors!

JIMMY: (snarling) Get out of my way!

KARA (VO): Wow, he's just body checked Giles Hampson completely off his feet!

MR KHAN: I've got him, quick. Sit on him.

GETHIN: I'll grab his legs.

JAMES: I've got his arms.

MRS HAMPSON: Give him a little kick, that will help calm the bugger down!

JACK: Ah, Mrs Hampson, there's the spirit!

[we hear the clamour from the assembled crowd fade out while Jimmy curses and swears vengeance]

SCENE 7: EXT – The Car park – Day 6

KARA (VO): The police are loading Jimmy into their van... The residents are still all milling around, excitedly. Even Giles Freaking Hampson is smiling. Nothing like capturing a serial murderer to bring people together!

GERAINT: Well, who'd have thought it? Jimmy Rich – A Serial Killer!

KARA: Jack did, apparently!

KARA (VO): Jack's stood over to one side, leaning against a car surveying the scene. He looks... content... or it may be wind. It's hard to tell with Jack.

GERAINT: Let's go see what Cardiff's Greatest Consulting Detective has to say for himself.

[They walk over to JACK]

KARA: Well, we did it!

JACK: (measured) We did rather, didn't we?

GERAINT: So, how does it feel to have solved the case, Miss Marple?

JACK: Tiring! I think I'd like to go to bed now, please. That's enough excitement for one apocalypse!

[MR KHAN comes over to the gang]

MR KHAN: (bouncing) You did it, Jacky-boy! The police think they have enough to convict him. They have a couple of cars out looking for Jimmy Pickings, too. With a bit of luck, they should have them both in irons by the morning!

GERAINT: That's good news, Mr K. How did you find the evidence?

MR KHAN: Well, like I told Kara, if she needs to break into a flat again, maybe she'd be better coming to me next time...

ALEX: What was that about breaking into flats?

KARA: Nothing! Nobody has broken into anything over here... Please go about your business in a normal fashion...

MR KHAN: You guys look tired. Maybe you should go get some sleep. I'll handle things with the police from here.

KARA: Thanks, Mr K.

SCENE 8: INT – JACK AND KARA's FLAT – Day 7

It's the next day. Kara is returning home from work carrying shopping, as always.

KARA: (shouting into the lounge while opening the door) Jack, I'm home!

JACK: In here!

KARA: It's ok, I don't need any help with my bags, or anything. I'll just struggle with them to the kitchen.

JACK: OK, if you insist...

KARA: (sighs) You know, now you've remembered where you keep your pants, maybe you could do the shopping every once in a while? (grunts as she heaves the shopping bags onto the kitchen side)

JACK: You never know, stranger things have happened!

KARA: (entering the lounge) I just passed Will and James on the stairs, they said that Jimmy Pickings was caught this morning... Guess where?

JACK: Hmm? What? Oh, where?

KARA: (annoyed) Can you at least put down your PlayStation controller while I tell you... this was your big case after all. Aren't you more interested?

JACK: Yeah.. and shows what you know... It's a switch controller...It's just. I'm done with all that now. It was fun being a detective for a while. But honestly, I missed the quietness. I missed that feeling where your heart isn't constantly feeling like it's trying to escape your body... So, I'm giving up the detective life to focus on what's important...

KARA: Friends and family?

JACK: (yawns and stretches) Nope, sticking it to the man and beating my score on Mario Kart. Here. Grab a controller, you can run interference for me on this track I'm stuck on...

[We hear keys turning in the lock. GERAINT enters]

GERAINT: Only me.

KARA: We're in the lounge. Good timing, you can take over from me! I've got better things to be doing than playing games all evening...

JACK: Like what?

KARA: Oh, I dunno. Like cleaning or making sure we don't starve... you know, the basics.

JACK: Meh, the mess will still be there tomorrow. You never know. Maybe I'll even do a bit. To help out.

KARA: (shocked) What? Really?

JACK: Don't make a big deal out of it! Or I won't!

GERAINT: What're we playing? Oooh, Mario Kart – prepare to have your ass kicked! [We hear them taunting each other in the background]

KARA (VO): (contented sigh) Everything's back to normal. Well, as normal as things get around here...

[her phone starts to ring]

KARA (VO): Veronika? I thought she was working lates today...

KARA: Hey V. (we hear one side of the conversation)... What? How? Yeah, of course. Just give us a few minutes...

GERAINT: What's up? You look like you've seen a ghost?

KARA: That was Veronika. She's still in the office.

JACK: And... that's bad because...?

KARA: It looks like you won't be hanging up your Hawaiian shirt just yet – There's been a murder at work...they want us to come at once...

—— End ——