

This Thing of Darkness, Episode 7

This Thing of Darkness

A psychological drama exploring the impact of murder on families and perpetrators alike. Our starting point was our series consultant, the inspiring forensic psychiatrist Dr Gwen Adshead. She spoke to us about her work with murderers in prison settings, exploring one key question 'what happens in the aftermath of a disaster when you yourself are the disaster?'

In seven episodes, each lasting 45 minutes, there are three strands:

The story of a bereaved family. David, the father is being held on the charge of murdering his son, our psychiatrist carries out his pre-trial assessments to establish his state of mind the day of the murder. Across the first six weeks of imprisonment, we hear David in his assessment interviews, but we also eavesdrop on the impact of the murder and the murder charge on his wife and daughter. Across the series, the women move from the belief that David is innocent to realising he is a controlling and coercive man. But David remains impassive and denies murder. A prison therapy group for those who have committed murder. Through this we watch the therapeutic process inmates experience as our forensic psychiatrist helps each man journey through their lives and to a place of understanding.

Monologues from the forensic psychiatrist. Our voice of compassion and knowledge, Dr Alex Bridges explains her work, analyses the characters' actions and language and leads her patients towards some sort of uneasy truce with themselves.

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