

EXTENSION

Crime Drama | 4 x 60

As he oversees the construction of a large extension to his house, a crooked landlord falls victim to an ersatz kidnapping plot involving his daughter and two young apprentices working on site...

Welcome to Manchester, 2025. A city – like all cities – of Haves and Have-Nots...

The Haves: Meet the **Fairbrothers:**

Julian (48), **Claire** (46) and **Imogen** (17).

Julian's in real estate – and plenty of it: he owns/manages property all over town. His wife, a former model turned shapewear entrepreneur, is hotly tipped to be selected as their local Tory MP. His daughter is a straight-A student and cello prodigy (and an eager young Marxist to boot). With the proceeds of their buy-to-let empire, Julian's building his Xanadu: adding a vast, multi-million pound extension to their Wilmslow mansion, complete with an indoor pool, cinema room, and duck pond.

The Have-Nots: On-site, best friends

Ambrose Munro and **Johnny**

McGlothlin (both 17) are serving out their apprenticeships. Johnny's a former class clown; Ambrose his reluctant accomplice. Having left school with barely a GCSE between them, they're looking at a lifetime's worth of bricks and mortar piling up ahead of them. Which suits Johnny fine, but Ambrose dreams of more...having discovered a latent talent for ceramics, he's hoping to build up enough savings to start his own pottery business.

Turns out Julian's in a bit of trouble. With his tenants: a group of whom are staging a 'lock-in' to protest their impending evictions. With his mistress **Lorna Leigh** (32), who's seven months pregnant...and threatening to tell his wife. And if he isn't careful, with the police too. When a callout to one of his houses uncovers what looks like an illegal brothel, it threatens to expose his long-standing arrangement with local crime lord **Raymond Sinclair** (50), who's been paying him well over the odds to lease a string of his less-desirable properties – so long as he doesn't ask too many questions about what they're being used for...

But Julian's not too worried. He knows how to wriggle his way out of trouble – so long as you're prepared to bend the rules a little. That is, until he gets a late-night phone call. His daughter's been kidnapped...and unless he can come up with £3 million in cash in the next three days, he'll be receiving one of her fingers in the post...

...As it happens, the culprits may be closer to home than he suspects. Step forward: Ambrose, Johnny...and Imogen herself.

Having caught Ambrose's eye, she's entertained his attempts at flirtation – and given him her number. But when he finally musters the courage to ask her out on a date, he discovers she's not so keen on romance. She's more interested in being kidnapped.

Her plan? To stage an abduction, disappear for a few days...and collect a million-pound ransom. Her real motive isn't so much financial as personal. Wise to his infidelities, disgusted by his avarice, and racked with guilt about her own class privilege, she wants to cut her 'slumlord' father down to size – and bankrupt his empire...

If Ambrose and Johnny agree to act as intermediaries (providing the transport, making the phone calls, arranging the 'drop'), she'll split the ransom with them 50/50. Consider it an act of redistribution: funnelling the landlord's ill-gotten gains back to the exploited working class.

Ambrose has his doubts. But Johnny's all for it. It's the perfect opportunity to impress/get one over his ne'er-do-well older brother – and aspiring gangster – **Caleb McGlothlin** (23). He even has the perfect place to hide her: a disused storage unit owned by his uncle. Borrow the van, do some voice acting, play it cool for a few days...and the pair will walk away with £250,000 each. What could go wrong?

Well, quite a lot, as it happens...particularly when the enterprising Caleb gets wind of the scheme – and decides he ought to be running the show. He reckons the lads deserve a better split than 50-50, for starters...and if they're going to show the rich prick they mean business, any threats they make can't be idle. Pretty soon, Imogen will discover that her 'fake' kidnapping is rather more real than she bargained for...

Julian, meanwhile, doesn't want to risk going to the police – and exposing his less-than-legal practices in the process. He persuades Claire to keep quiet too: she has her political career to protect. Sounds like it's time to call in a favour from Raymond Sinclair, who has a host of hardened lackeys at his disposal...and who's prepared to use any means necessary to get the job done. Put it this way: there'll be more than a few dead bodies – and missing fingers – before the curtain falls...

Extension is a pitch black, bleakly comic, grand-meets-petty crime drama set among the *nouveau riche* and labouring poor of Manchester. A North West *Fargo*, crossed with an episode of *Grand Designs*. Within the bounds of a crime caper, it's a state-of-the-nation piece that asks: who are the real criminals? And how have we allowed them to prosper?