

Where's the last place on earth you'd expect to find a new family?

HIGHLIFERS by Ruaraidh Murray

TV Drama 10 x 45'

A footballer's wife becomes head of a team of janitors on a notorious north Edinburgh housing scheme.

Janny: Scottish slang for janitor

"Best job I've ever had, Ruaraidh. Totally mental. We've even just had a murder!" So my school pal Scarpy works in a team of unruly jannies on a notorious housing scheme in north Edinburgh. Interviewing Scarpy, I was excited about material for a TV drama. But I needed to upset the status quo of my gang of unruly men. I needed a cat amongst the pigeons. Could this be my protagonist?

My best friend, Val, was a footballer's girlfriend, who was dumped, left destitute and homeless, until the black belt in judo turned her life around.

Lastly, I needed a quest for my protagonist, someone from her past to search for. My childhood pal Mikey, a total original, was a gangster who got into heroin in prison, got clean living in Mallorca but tragically relapsed and died.

What if these real people's worlds collided? What if my protagonist, Monica, starts working on Hillhouse housing scheme not just because she's destitute but because of a deeper reason - this is where her recently deceased dad grew up. Monica then discovers a half-brother, her only family left, lives on the estate as a junkie.

Bet Monica never thought she'd be living the highlife one moment and scoring crack from a high-rise for her brother the next.

A highly realistic, totally unvarnished, at times, darkly comedic drama, *Highlifers*, follows Monica, already at rock-bottom, delving into her dad's suspicious death, seeking revenge after being brutally betrayed by her husband and his nutter of a brother, trying to save her own nutter of a brother and unexpectedly discovering she's pregnant to her husband and having to decide whether to start a family on her own.

On top of all this, Monica has to face the day-to-day dealings with her new family, the rebellious Hillhouse jannies, who right now hate her guts, as they hit the highs and lows of what's happening today on Scotland's frontline.

Welcome to Hillhouse, Monica. Welcome to **Highlifers**.