

What's On
TV

TV week



NEW

Crime busters...
DC Anna Travis
and DCI Langton

**PRIME
SUSPECT
meets
MESSIAH**

What's On
TV

Rough guide to

ABOVE SUSPICION ITV1

Meet feisty female cop Anna Travis in Lynda La Plante's new thriller...

Why watch it?

Prime Suspect author Linda La Plante wrote the screenplay for this two-parter. But will new police hero DC Anna Travis prove as successful as legendary detective Jane Tennison, played by Helen Mirren?

'Anna Travis is a bit like Jane Tennison's upstart cousin,' says Kelly Reilly, 31, who plays her. 'Anna is just starting – she hasn't got her layers of skin yet!'

Who's in it?

Kelly Reilly, who was Caroline Bingley in the big screen version of *Pride and Prejudice* (2005). Claran Hinds (Julius Caesar in *Rome*) is her boss, DCI Langton, and Jason Durr, former star of *Heartbeat*, is the prime suspect in a murder investigation. Shaun Dingwall (*Soldier Soldier* and *Touching Evil*) is one of the murder squad detectives.



Murder squad...
DCI Langton
(front) leads the
four-strong team

What's it about?

DC Travis joins the squad just as the seventh body in a series of gruesome killings is discovered. It's her first murder case and Anna's stomach isn't as strong as she thinks! But she's determined to earn the respect of her boss, who only hired her because her late father was his mentor. Can she live up to her dad's reputation and become one of the boys? ■

ABOVE SUSPICION
Sunday, Monday
9.00pm, ITV1, Drama

New'tec on the block

TV's toughest new female cop comes courtesy of the creator of *Prime Suspect*. We talk to Kelly Reilly, who plays her

Kelly Reilly insists that Anna Travis isn't the new Jane Tennison, but it's hard not to draw comparisons between the two Lynda La Plante creations. Like Helen Mirren's Tennison, DC Travis is an independent, intuitive female with striking looks who doesn't take any nonsense from the men she meets either on duty, or off.

'Anna Travis is a bit like Jane Tennison's upstart cousin,' concedes Kelly, who starred in last year's ITV drama *He Kills Coppers*. 'They are from the same world, but they are very different women from very different backgrounds.'

'For Anna, the challenge isn't so much that she is a female in a man's world; that's an old story. It's 2009 after all,' says the 31-year-old actress. 'Her challenge is that she's a rookie being fast-tracked through the ranks and her father was a well-respected copper, too. She's got a lot to prove.'

Coincidentally, one of Kelly's first acting jobs was in an episode of *Prime Suspect* when she was 17. 'I knew nothing, so I asked Helen Mirren's advice about going to drama

school. She told me it was the worst idea I could have! She said I should go travelling or to uni and experience life first.'

Not going to drama school hasn't harmed Kelly's career. Two-part drama *Above Suspicion* is just the latest in a long list of theatre, film and TV credits. The first part sees Anna assigned to a murder squad headed by DCI Langton (Ciaran Hinds), an old-school copper who was mentored by her late father.

Her first case is a series of killings in which the victims, all drug-users and prostitutes, have been raped and strangled. But the seventh body is that of a young student.

Anna is determined to find a link between the murders, but is it really possible that popular actor Alan Daniels (ex-*Heartbeat* star Jason Durr) is the killer?

Kelly's own father was a policeman, a PC who worked in the London borough of Lambeth for 25 years.

'My dad is very excited about *Above Suspicion*, but he's also my harshest critic so I'll make sure he has a drink or two before he watches!'

'Anna has a lot to prove as her dad was a cop too'



NEW

ABOVE SUSPICION HD
ITV1 (HD) • SUNDAY & MONI

LA PLANTE'S FEISTY FEMALE

Over the years, award-winning writer Lynda la Plante has brought us some of the toughest women on TV

				
Dolly Rawlins (Ann Mitchell)	Jane Tennison (Helen Mirren)	Helen Hewitt (Janet McTeer)	Commander Clare Blake (Amanda Burton)	DI Roisin Conroy (Victoria Smurfit)
The leader of a gang of female armed robbers in <i>Widows</i> (1983).	The no-nonsense female detective in <i>Prime Suspect</i> (from 1991).	A woman in charge of a tough men's prison in <i>The Governor</i> (1995).	A police officer who'd made it to the top in <i>The Commander</i> (from 2003).	More than a match for her male colleague in <i>Trial & Retribution</i> (from 1995).

DC Anna Travis (Kelly Reilly) is out to prove she's as good as her male colleagues

'Travis is like Jane Tennison's upstart cousin'



SERIES PREVIEW

WHO'S WHO

DC Anna Travis
Kelly Reilly
Travis is the daughter of a respected police officer, and this is her first murder inquiry.



DCI James Langton
Ciarán Hinds
The volatile Langton does rookie Travis no special favours when she joins his team.



Alan Daniels
Jason Durr
Suave actor Daniels is about to get his big break when he becomes a murder suspect.



DI Mike Lewis
Shaun Dingwall
A cop since he was a teenager, Lewis is highly competent and works well with Langton.



DS Paul Barolli
Daniel Caltagirone
Barolli is ambitious, aggressive and a workaholic. He's also instinctive, bright and cocky.



Meet the new Jane Tennison

Lynda La Plante, the creator of *Prime Suspect*, unveils a new female detective

NEW CRIME DRAMA

Above Suspicion

Sunday & Monday, ITV1, 9pm

From *Prime Suspect* to *Trial & Retribution* and *The Commander*, crime writer Lynda La Plante has been responsible for some of TV's best police dramas of the past few years. Now a new programme is joining that list in the shape of the ITV1 thriller *Above Suspicion*.

Based on La Plante's best-selling novel of the same name, the two-part drama introduces DC Anna Travis, an enthusiastic young

officer who has been assigned to her first murder case.

When the body of a student is found, the killer's distinctive methods match those used in the murders of six prostitutes, and police must discover the link that will lead them to the culprit before he strikes again.

Travis, played by Kelly Reilly, is determined to impress her boss DCI Langton, and works overtime to find any clue that may have been missed. After chasing a lead from a boozy ex-cop, she names her prime suspect as Alan Daniels, an actor who is willing to help the police.

The charming Daniels is so convincing Travis finds herself questioning whether he could be capable of such crimes. If he's found innocent, her reputation will be destroyed. 'Travis is like Jane Tennison's upstart cousin,' says Reilly, seen recently in the ITV1 drama *He Kills Coppers*, 'but they are different women from different backgrounds. Travis is bright, young and unsure, and who knows what sort of detective she could turn out to be? It's fascinating, because anything could happen.'

By coincidence, Reilly made her TV acting debut in *Prime Suspect*. 'I was inspired by Helen Mirren, by her brilliant energy,' she recalls. 'Here I am, 14 years later, and now I'm the police officer.'