

DURHAM COUNTY

Episodic Descriptions

Episode 101 – What Lies Beneath

An attractive man has lured two teenage girls to a secluded wood for a fatal picnic and a second man lurks in the trees, secretly watching the deadly seduction. Meanwhile, Police Detective Mike Sweeney is moving his family to Durham County to escape the violence of the big city after his partner is shot. Unknowingly, he and his family move across the street from Ray Prager – a nemesis from Mike’s teenage past and the second man in the woods. But before Mike can come to terms with Ray and his past, his own family must deal with palpable tensions of their own. Mike’s wife Audrey has just returned from the hospital after undergoing a mastectomy and Sadie, his teenage daughter, suffers from teenage angst. She channels this into a morbid fascination with crime, and a bristling resentment of her mother. Their younger daughter, Maddie, becomes fascinated with the man who committed suicide in her room, and is determined to rid the room of his presence. While Mike loves his family and struggles to make it all work, he is unable to forget Nathalie Lacroix, the woman he fell in love with while his wife was deemed to die of cancer. Meanwhile, Ray tries to pump up his self esteem using new age panaceas, but is resentful of the attention Traci, his wife, shows their son Ray Jr. When Ray is confronted by Nathalie, Ray Jr.’s teacher, and asked to support his son for a scholarship, Ray murders her. With his family safely in bed, Mike goes to Natalie’s apartment to talk to her one last time. What he doesn’t realize is that it’s too late.

Episode 102 – The Lady of the Lake

Mike discovers that Nathalie Lacroix, the woman he fell in love with when his wife almost died, has been murdered. Blindsided by guilt and grief, he sets out to investigate Nathalie’s murder, while at the same time trying to cover any traces of them ever being together. Meanwhile, Mike’s daughter, Sadie, struggles to deal with the duplicity of a popular boy at school that she thought liked her, after a run in with a gang of his friends at an abandoned farmhouse outside of town.

As Mike tries to put the pieces of Nathalie’s murder together, Ray Prager’s dark side grows. While his wife, Traci, is pushed to her limits by Ray’s refusal to pay for Ray Jr.’s writing scholarship and her husband’s increasing hostility, she decides to leave him. Ray retaliates by cancelling all her credit cards, leaving Traci penniless. He then turns his attention and charm to Audrey, Mike’s wife, completely fooling her into thinking he’s caring and sympathetic. Later, Ray starts to prod Mike about Nathalie’s murder, saying he heard she had a boyfriend, but knowing quite well it was Mike from the notebook he found in Nathalie’s purse after he killed her. Conflicted and torn, Mike returns to Natalie’s apartment to retrieve his mother’s ring he gave her. Trying to bury his betrayal, he gives the ring back to Audrey, who is overwhelmed by its return.

Episode 103 – Divide and Conquer

Haunted by Nathalie's death, Mike secretly grieves and is more committed than ever to tracking down her killer while simultaneously trying to cover-up his past relationship with her. When it's discovered during Nathalie's autopsy that she was still a virgin, there's more interest than ever from the other detectives in finding her boyfriend. Ray, meanwhile, wallows in self-pity after Traci leaves him. Exacting revenge, he harasses Traci publicly until she loses her new job as a chambermaid and is forced to take a bookkeeping job at a massage parlor, which she must hide from their son. Ray soon takes refuge in his local strip bar and crosses paths with the tall, dapper, and deadly stranger that he'd witnessed kill the teenage girls. He sees the stranger pick up local real estate agent Sally Morgan and tails them to his old abandoned family farmland that she now has up for sale. When the stranger abandons Sally, who proves to be a less than willing victim, Ray offers her help and consolation before killing her himself.

Mike, trying to put the pieces together around Nathalie's murder, can't stop seeing and feeling her presence. With the discovery of the bodies of the Travis girls, Mike begins to suspect a connection between their deaths and Nathalie's murder. Circumstantial evidence starts to mount that links Ray with Nathalie and her murder. To avoid being taken off the case, Mike finally confesses to his partner Tom, that he knew Nathalie and that they were good friends. And, to try and come to terms with Nathalie's death, Mike returns to her apartment. Meanwhile, his family is having dinner with Ray. While Sadie and Ray Jr. eat outside and cement their friendship, inside Audrey dines by candlelight, alone with Ray. He purposely lets slip Mike was the one who ran him down and ended his professional hockey career when they were teenagers. He says Mike was enraged because the woman he loved, Claire, couldn't resist Ray's charms. This news, and the idea that Mike would hide such a thing from her, only further manages to push Audrey away from Mike.

Episode 104 – Guys and Dolls

Real estate agent Sally Morgan who was last seen with Ray is discovered dead. Like the other women, her hair's been cut and, inside her bra, Mike finds Ray's business card. Mike's almost certain there is a connection with Ray but, with no real proof, decides to question him anyway.

At home, Audrey discovers their new house was a bargain because the previous owner had committed suicide in Maddie's room; one more thing that Mike has hidden from her. On a 'chance' encounter with Ray, he draws Audrey into his confidence and gives her a set of expensive lingerie on the pretext that Traci wouldn't accept it as a gift. As Ray's leaving Mike's house, Mike and his partner Tom pull up. Mike, set on establishing a connection between Ray, Nathalie and Sally, starts questioning Ray but Ray Jr. covers for his dad's whereabouts on the night of Nathalie's murder. To throw them off, Ray mentions he saw Sally chatting to a big, well-dressed man at the local strip bar. When Mike brings Ray in for further questioning, he turns the tables on Mike and the whole precinct learns that it was Mike who ran Ray down and ended his pro-hockey career. Mike's told by his supervisor to back down on Ray.

Not wanting to give up on Ray as a suspect, Mike visits his teenage sweetheart Claire, who was at the heart of the drama between Ray and himself. He wants to know if she thinks Ray is capable of violence - her silence says it all. Mike's suspicions are further confirmed when his daughter Sadie tells him Ray Prager wasn't home on the night Nathalie was murdered since she witnessed him returning home at 2 am. Later on, at a hockey game with the guys, Ray makes Mike the butt of a joke in the locker room when he insinuates that he was with Mike's wife - and she was wearing purple lingerie. Ray and Mike have it out on the ice. After the game, Ray finds out that his friend, Jake, one of the police detectives, has to drive into the city with DNA evidence that could establish Nathalie's murderer. Having no alternative, Ray murders Jake, and destroys the evidence that proves he murdered Nathalie. Trying to put it all together and not wanting to let Nathalie go, Mike

once again revisits Nathalie's apartment and startles her sister, Simone, who is staying there. Returning home, he confronts Ray and tells Ray that no matter what, he's going to get him.

Episode 105 – The Dark Man

Mike and Tom investigate Jake's death and discover that the evidence that could have determined Nathalie's killer was incinerated with Jake. Back at the precinct, Claire unexpectedly arrives to talk to Mike about Ray. She tells him Ray raped her when they were teenagers and this causes Mike to feel guilty for ever believing Claire had had an affair with Ray. She discloses to Mike and Tom that the manslaughter charges brought against Mike for running down Ray were only dropped in exchange for her dropping the rape charges. Tom questions whether Mike should even be working on the investigation because of his relationship with Nathalie.

Sadie confronts Ray Jr. about his father coming home late on the night of Nathalie's murder. Ray Jr. denies this and continues to defend his father, but Sadie's comments throw him off and he begins to wonder if his father is capable of murder. After Nathalie's burial, Simone, Ray and Ray Jr. perform a private ritual for Nathalie by the lakeshore. During the ceremony, Ray tries to draw his son closer to him by saying they are more alike than Ray Jr. believes. Ray Jr. refuses to believe this and pushes his father away. Realizing he's losing his grip on his family, Ray decides to incriminate Mike in Nathalie's murder. While installing new toilets at Mike's house, at Audrey's request, Ray plants Nathalie's bloody scarf in Mike's jacket. When Mike finds out Ray was in his house, he's furious and confronts Audrey. She defends Ray at the same time asking Mike what else he's hiding.

Ray, with murder on his mind, waits outside the massage parlor where Traci now works as a bookkeeper. To his surprise, he sees the serial killer going into the massage parlor. The killer tries to attack Traci but is interrupted by Ray's insistent ringing of the front doorbell. Ray approaches the serial killer as he leaves, letting him know that he knows who he is, and what he's done. The serial killer viciously threatens Ray who backs off. Sadie and Ray Jr. make love then she grills him about his father and Nathalie's murder. Mike confronts Ray about Nathalie's homicide, but Ray has already prepared for Mike to take the fall.

Episode 106 – Life in the Doll House

Mike wakes up from a nightmare only to realize he's in police custody charged with murder. At the precinct, Audrey confronts him about his affair with Nathalie and bursts into an angry rage when he admits to his relationship with Nathalie. When she leaves, Mike starts to figure out that there were two killers and tries to convince Tom of his innocence. Meanwhile, Sadie confronts Ray Jr. and forces him to face the fact that his father murdered Nathalie because he was jealous that she supported and believed in him. Refusing to believe her, Ray Jr. checks out his father's alibi and realizes Sadie is right.

Ray walks a tightrope between violent rage and tight control. He turns his rage on Traci when he confronts her at work and she refuses to come back to him. When he finally leaves, Traci calls the police to report the assault. While Ray's away, Sadie sneaks into the Prager's house to look for evidence. Ray returns and catches Sadie then kidnaps her and takes her up to the old farm. Ray tells Sadie about watching the serial killer murder the teenage girls. At the precinct, Ray Jr. tells the police about his father's false alibi and Mike is released. Mike returns home from jail and realizes that Ray has abducted Sadie and taken her to the old farm. At the farm, Sadie convinces Ray to undo the plastic ties on her wrists and she manages to get hold of the gun. Refusing to kill him, Ray taunts her then heads for the barn to find Mike. Catching Mike by surprise, Ray cuts him with a knife and the two men struggle until Sadie, now with Audrey, intervene. In the ensuing emotional meltdown, Sadie shoots Ray. As the police take Ray away in an ambulance, Mike, Audrey and Sadie must now re-connect as a family.