

# DURHAM COUNTY

## Synopsis

On a quiet evening, an attractive man has lured two teenage girls to a secluded area in the woods for a fatal picnic, while a second man lurks in the trees, secretly watching.

In another part of town, Police Detective Mike Sweeney is moving his family to the quiet neighborhood of his youth 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 family must deal with palpable tensions of its own. Mike’s wife Audrey has just returned from the hospital after undergoing a mastectomy. While Mike loves his family, he is unable to forget Nathalie Lacroix, the woman he fell in love with while his wife was thought to be dying of cancer. Nathalie is also Ray Prager Jr.’s teacher and when she confronts the elder Ray and asks him to support his son for a scholarship, Ray murders her.

When Mike arrives at Nathalie’s apartment and discovers that she has been murdered, he is overwhelmed 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 family has its own problems: Sadie, his eldest, struggles with being nearly raped by a group of boys from school, starting a romantic relationship with Ray, Jr. and knowing her new beau’s father is lying to the police about his whereabouts on the night of Nathalie’s murder; Madie, the younger daughter, becomes fascinated with the man who committed suicide in her room, and is determined to rid the room of his presence; and Audrey, his wife, discovers that the man she married, and thought she knew, has been telling her lies about the macabre history of their new home, his past with Ray and his complicated relationship with Nathalie.

Across the street, the Prager’s toxic marriage finally explodes, forcing Traci to leave Ray and start a new life, penniless. With his wife gone, Ray turns his attention to his son, Ray Jr., only to find he’s “too soft” to be like his old man. Needing solace, Ray visits his favorite bar and sees the man who murdered of the teenage girls. Fascinated by the stranger, he follows him and Sally Morgan, the latest “victim,” to an abandoned farm hoping to watch another murder. Unexpectedly, the stranger leaves Sally unharmed so Ray becomes compelled to finish the job, and does.

With his life spiraling out of control, Ray frames Mike for the murder of Nathalie by planting evidence in Mike’s home. When Nathalie’s bloody scarf is found in Mike’s jacket at his home, he is brought downtown for questioning. Confident that nothing can link the murders back to him, Ray discovers from Jake, his friend on the police force, there’s another piece of incriminating evidence that Jake is bringing to an outside lab for identification. Resolute not to be found guilty, Ray is forced to kill Jake and destroy the evidence.

After unsuccessfully trying to convince Ray Jr. to go to the police with information convicting his father of murder, Sadie sneaks into the Prager’s home to find evidence to clear her father. During the search, Ray returns home, catches Sadie and takes her to the old farm. When Ray Jr. tells the police about his father’s false alibi, Mike is released from jail. When he returns home, however, he realizes Ray has kidnapped Sadie. At the farm, Sadie convinces Ray to undo the plastic ties on her wrists and manages to get hold of the gun. After she refuses to kill him, Ray taunts Sadie then heads for the barn to find Mike. Catching Mike off guard, 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.