

SLOW POISON

An Espionage Drama Serial

(4 x 60 min episodes)

CARL's job is boring him to death. Being an MI5 Surveillance Officer is not as exciting as it sounds. Most of the time he feels more like a security guard than James Bond. The surveillance targets he is assigned usually turn out to be dead ends. Which is why, after weeks of monotony, he has slipped into having an affair with the wife of the man he is currently supposed to be watching.

ANNA has her secrets. Like the affair she is having with mysterious new neighbour, Carl. It's the most excitement she's had in decades, given that she lives in a soporific English village surrounded by pensioners. She imagines it's her last chance at getting something like the life she wanted rather than the one she's settled for.

BEN, Anna's husband, is not as beige as he seems. Yes, he's the local village handyman, not the most exciting job in the world. And yes, he and Anna haven't had sex in months. But not even Anna knows that Ben is also a sleeper agent, recruited by Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service in the 90's. He thought they'd discarded him - but now, over 20 years later, Russia's Illegals Program is kicking up a gear in a new Cold War and Ben's been activated for the first time.

His task? To track down a Russian dissident (given asylum by the UK and residence in a nearby town) and quietly kill him with a dose of polonium. Refusing to obey could mean death for Ben and his family. But following orders is also terrifying.

Carl is frantic when his surveillance finally reveals that Ben is the real deal. He's in too deep with Anna to simply turn Ben over to the authorities. If the affair gets out, an affair that has compromised the investigation into Ben, he'll lose his job and could even face jail time. So Carl decides to go it alone without telling HQ – try to stop Ben himself and find a way to cover the tracks of his messy affair.

As Anna finds out what both the men in her life actually are, she must choose whether to side with one of them or flee with her children. When all three options prove too dangerous, she takes a desperate bet on her intuition and tries to get to the target before Ben does. If she can save the target's life, the target might just save her.

And so... three people, all struggling with the slow poison of approaching middle-age, are hit, out of the blue, by a mid-life crisis they could never have imagined. Cornered by their own secrets and lies, they are locked into an endgame that will force each of them to kill or be killed.