

dangerous davies the last detective

****Dangerous Davies The Last Detective: A Classic British Crime Drama****

dangerous davies the last detective is a beloved British television series that has captured the hearts of crime drama enthusiasts with its unique blend of humor, mystery, and character-driven storytelling. Based on the novels by Leslie Thomas, the series introduces viewers to the somewhat hapless yet endearing detective Dangerous Davies, whose unorthodox methods and dogged determination set him apart from the typical crime-solving archetype. This article dives deep into the world of Dangerous Davies, exploring its origins, characters, and what makes it a standout in the crowded genre of detective dramas.

The Origins of Dangerous Davies The Last Detective

The character of Dangerous Davies was created by British author Leslie Thomas, first appearing in a series of novels starting in the 1970s. The novels cleverly combined elements of mystery with wry humor, painting a portrait of a detective who is far from perfect but has an innate sense of justice. The television adaptation brought these stories to life, allowing audiences to experience Davies' quirky personality and the often unpredictable cases he worked on.

From Page to Screen

The transition from novel to television was handled with care, preserving the tone and spirit of the original works. The TV series starred Peter Davison as Dangerous Davies, whose portrayal brought warmth and relatability to the character. Unlike the stereotypical hard-boiled detective, Davies is portrayed as a slightly down-on-his-luck officer, assigned to less glamorous cases and often underestimated by his colleagues.

The series aired in the late 1980s and early 1990s, carving out a niche for itself by focusing on character development and subtle storytelling rather than high-octane action. This approach made it popular among viewers who appreciated a more thoughtful take on the detective genre.

Who is Dangerous Davies? A Character Study

Dangerous Davies is far from your typical detective hero. His nickname, "Dangerous," is actually an ironic moniker, as he is known more for his gentle demeanor and persistence than for any dangerous exploits. This contrast adds a layer of charm and humor to the show.

The Underdog Detective

One of the most compelling aspects of Dangerous Davies is his status as the underdog. He is often

assigned cold cases or low-profile investigations, which others dismiss as unimportant. However, Davies approaches every case with dedication and an eye for detail, showing that success in detective work often comes down to patience and intuition rather than brute force.

This portrayal resonates with many viewers who appreciate stories about the overlooked heroes who quietly make a difference. Davies' humility and resilience make him a character that audiences root for, even when the odds are stacked against him.

Supporting Characters and Their Roles

The show also features a memorable cast of supporting characters who help bring the world of Dangerous Davies to life. These include his colleagues in the police force, local community members, and various suspects that populate the cases he investigates. The interactions between Davies and these characters add depth and humor to the series, highlighting the social dynamics within the police department and the community.

Plot and Themes Explored in Dangerous Davies The Last Detective

Unlike many crime dramas that focus on high-stakes thrills and intense action sequences, Dangerous Davies takes a more grounded approach. The plots often revolve around seemingly minor or forgotten cases that Davies painstakingly unravels.

The Art of the Cold Case

One of the recurring themes in Dangerous Davies is the challenge of solving cold cases—crimes that have gone unsolved for years, sometimes decades. These cases are often overlooked by other detectives but become Davies' passion projects. The show emphasizes the idea that no case is too small to deserve attention and that justice can be served long after the fact.

The slow unraveling of these mysteries allows the narrative to explore character motivations, social issues, and the impact of crime on victims and communities. It also gives Davies an opportunity to showcase his keen observational skills and empathy.

Humor and Humanity in Crime Drama

Another distinctive feature of Dangerous Davies is its use of humor. The show balances the seriousness of crime investigation with moments of lightheartedness and wit. This approach makes the characters more relatable and the stories more engaging. It's a reminder that even in the darkest situations, human connection and resilience shine through.

Why Dangerous Davies The Last Detective Still Matters Today

In a television landscape filled with gritty, fast-paced crime procedurals, Dangerous Davies The Last Detective stands out as a refreshing alternative. Its focus on character development, subtle humor, and thoughtful storytelling offers a different kind of entertainment—one that appeals to those who enjoy mysteries with a human touch.

Lessons from Dangerous Davies

For viewers and aspiring writers alike, Dangerous Davies offers valuable lessons:

- **The power of persistence:** Davies' success comes from never giving up, even when others have lost hope.
- **Empathy matters:** Understanding people's stories is key to solving mysteries and connecting with others.
- **Not all heroes are flashy:** Sometimes, quiet determination makes the biggest difference.

Influence on British Crime Drama

Dangerous Davies helped pave the way for more character-driven detective stories on British television. Its influence can be seen in later series that blend humor and humanity with crime-solving, such as "Morse," "Lewis," and "Endeavour." The show reminds us that a great detective story doesn't have to rely on high-tech gadgets or explosive action—it can succeed through compelling characters and well-crafted narratives.

Where to Watch Dangerous Davies The Last Detective

For those interested in exploring the series, Dangerous Davies The Last Detective can sometimes be found on classic British TV streaming platforms or DVD collections. Checking with specialty streaming services that focus on vintage or British television is a good start.

Additionally, the original novels by Leslie Thomas remain in print and offer a rich, immersive experience for fans who want to dive deeper into the character and his adventures.

Dangerous Davies The Last Detective remains a testament to the enduring appeal of well-told stories centered around flawed but determined characters. Its blend of mystery, humor, and heart continues

to resonate with audiences, making it a must-watch for anyone interested in British crime drama with a difference.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is 'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' about?

'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' is a British television series that follows the character Dangerous Davies, a down-on-his-luck and somewhat inept detective who is assigned to a quiet seaside town, where he tries to solve crimes despite being underestimated by his colleagues.

Who stars as Dangerous Davies in 'The Last Detective'?

Peter Davison stars as Dangerous Davies in 'The Last Detective,' bringing a mix of charm and subtle humor to the role of the titular detective.

Is 'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' based on a book or original screenplay?

The series is based on a series of novels by Leslie Thomas, which follow the adventures and cases of the detective Dangerous Davies.

How many episodes or seasons does 'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' have?

'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' aired from 1981 to 1999 in various adaptations, including TV films and a series; the most notable TV series ran for several episodes but was relatively short-lived compared to other detective shows.

Where was 'Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective' filmed?

The series was primarily filmed in various locations in the UK, with many scenes shot in seaside towns to reflect the setting of Dangerous Davies' investigations.

Additional Resources

Dangerous Davies The Last Detective: A Closer Look at the Beloved British Crime Drama

dangerous daves the last detective is a distinctive British television series that has captured the attention of crime drama enthusiasts with its unique blend of humor, charm, and classic detective storytelling. Based on the novels by Leslie Thomas, the show follows the titular character, Detective Dangerous Davies, a down-on-his-luck police officer whose underestimated persona belies his sharp investigative skills. This article delves into the nuances of the series, examining its characters, narrative style, and its place within the broader landscape of British detective dramas.

The Genesis of Dangerous Davies The Last Detective

Emerging in the late 1980s and early 1990s, the character of Dangerous Davies was introduced to audiences through a series of novels before making the transition to screen adaptations. The television series, starring Peter Davison as the titular detective, gained a cult following for its refreshing take on the traditional detective archetype. Unlike the often gritty and intense crime dramas of its time, Dangerous Davies the last detective presented a more humanized, relatable protagonist whose flaws and perseverance resonated with viewers.

The series is set against the backdrop of a typical British town, providing a grounded and authentic environment for the unfolding mysteries. This setting plays a crucial role in establishing the show's tone, balancing everyday life with intriguing criminal investigations.

Character Study: Dangerous Davies

The Everyman Detective

One of the defining features of Dangerous Davies the last detective is the characterization of its lead. Dangerous Davies is not the conventional, hard-boiled detective; instead, he is portrayed as somewhat inept in the eyes of his peers, often sidelined and underestimated within the police force. However, this apparent incompetence masks a dogged determination and an intuitive grasp of human nature that ultimately leads to the resolution of complex cases.

This character dynamic sets the series apart from other detective shows that typically showcase protagonists with near-superhuman analytical abilities. Davies' relatability and understated heroism provide a refreshing counterpoint to the genre's usual tropes.

Supporting Cast and Their Roles

The supporting characters in Dangerous Davies the last detective contribute significantly to the narrative depth and emotional resonance of the series. Colleagues, informants, and family members each add layers to Davies' world, highlighting different aspects of his personality and professional challenges. The interactions between Davies and his superiors often underscore themes of institutional skepticism and the struggle for recognition within hierarchical structures.

Narrative Style and Thematic Elements

Balancing Humor and Mystery

A distinctive hallmark of Dangerous Davies the last detective is its seamless integration of humor

within the crime drama framework. Unlike many contemporaneous detective series that lean heavily into suspense and tension, this show incorporates lighthearted moments and witty dialogue that humanize the characters and provide relief from the darker elements of the plot.

This balance of tones not only broadens the series' appeal but also allows for a more nuanced exploration of crime and justice. It avoids glamorizing violence, focusing instead on character-driven storytelling and the moral complexities faced by the detective.

Thematic Exploration of Underestimation and Redemption

At its core, *Dangerous Davies the last detective* explores themes of underestimation, perseverance, and redemption. Davies' journey is emblematic of the overlooked individual who, despite systemic obstacles and personal setbacks, manages to make a meaningful impact. This theme resonates beyond the confines of the narrative, reflecting broader societal issues related to recognition and self-worth.

Comparative Analysis: Dangerous Davies and Other British Detective Dramas

When positioned alongside other British detective series such as "Midsomer Murders," "Inspector Morse," and "Poirot," *Dangerous Davies the last detective* occupies a unique niche. While the latter shows often emphasize intellectual puzzles, picturesque settings, and charismatic leads, *Dangerous Davies* focuses on the underdog narrative and the everyday challenges of police work.

Strengths

- **Character Depth:** The protagonist's vulnerability and relatability set the series apart.
- **Humor Integration:** Skillful blending of comedic elements with crime drama.
- **Authentic Setting:** Realistic depiction of police procedures and community life.

Limitations

- **Pacing:** Some viewers may find the pacing slower compared to more action-driven detective series.
- **Production Values:** As a series from the late 20th century, certain production aspects may feel dated.

Impact and Legacy

Dangerous Davies the last detective has maintained a loyal fanbase and continues to be appreciated for its distinct approach to the detective genre. Its influence can be seen in subsequent British crime shows that emphasize character-driven narratives and blend humor with mystery. The series also contributes to the cultural tapestry of British television by portraying a more grounded and humane vision of detective work.

Streaming platforms and DVD releases have introduced Dangerous Davies to newer audiences, ensuring that the series remains accessible and relevant. Its adaptation from literature to screen exemplifies the successful translation of complex characters and themes across different media.

The Future of Dangerous Davies in Contemporary Media

In an era dominated by high-budget crime dramas and serialized storytelling, Dangerous Davies the last detective offers a refreshing reminder of the power of understated narratives. There is potential for revival or reimagining of the character to align with modern sensibilities while preserving the core elements that made the original series compelling.

As audiences increasingly seek diverse and authentic storytelling, revisiting characters like Dangerous Davies can provide valuable insights into alternative narrative structures and character archetypes within the detective genre.

Through its nuanced portrayal of an underestimated detective navigating the challenges of his profession and personal life, Dangerous Davies the last detective continues to hold an important place in British crime drama history. Its blend of humor, humanity, and mystery ensures that it remains a noteworthy study for enthusiasts and scholars of the genre alike.

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dangerous daves the last detective: *Dangerous Davies* Leslie Thomas, 2011-01-18 As plain-clothes men go, Dangerous Davies looks like a non-starter. The small fry of petty larceny and minor disturbances in the backwaters of north-west London are his daily round. His philosophising Welsh drinking companion Mod, his outsized and unruly dog Kitty, his quarrels with his landlady

Mrs Fulljames - none of these bodes well for the efficient solving of crimes and the outwitting of villainy. But Davies is encouraged by his beautiful friend Jemma, and every so often he stumbles upon something really big.

dangerous daves the last detective: Dangerous Davies Leslie Thomas, 1997 In the seedier sprawl of London's northwest frontier, he's the copper who gets all the scruffy jobs and manages to make them scruffier. He's Dangerous Davies, the Last Detective. When Dangerous is allocated a murder case, it proves to be a twenty-five year old sex crime. His witnesses range from a veteran of the Zulu Wars to a bloke who thinks he's Peter the Great... and the mightily endowed Ena Lind, cat-suit wearer and creme-de-menthe drinker. Exhibit A is the pair of green knickers that the victim wasn't wearing...

dangerous daves the last detective: The Last Detective Leslie Thomas, 2013-05-15 A northwest London detective tackles a twenty-five-year-old missing persons case in this comic crime novel. Dangerous Davies, you understand, earned his nickname in the same way that fat men nicknamed "Tiny" earn theirs. But while he may not inspire dread in the hearts of London's bad guys, he is nevertheless on the side of right and good, and has a copper's badge to prove it. True, he is known as the "last detective" —not because there are no others like him, but because he is, in nearly every instance, the last boy picked for the team (although his dog does like him). With little actual work to do, Dangerous has plenty of time to pick through the cases that everybody else has forgotten. And when he stumbles across a real piece of ancient history, it looks like the perfect way to keep him out of trouble and out of the real coppers' way. Originally published in 1976, this is the first novel in the Dangerous Davies series, which was subsequently adapted for television in the UK; it was also made into a movie in 1981. "Recommended to anyone who enjoys a good detective yarn with plenty of laughs." —Daily Express (UK) "Splendid comic writing." —Daily Mail (UK)

dangerous daves the last detective: Dangerous Davies and the Lonely Heart Leslie Thomas, 2001-09-15 Davies has retired from the Met and set up an office in north London to carry on as a private eye. The murder of a woman who answers lonely hearts advertisements and the disappearance of a young girl student bring him as much work as he can handle.

dangerous daves the last detective: The Doctors Who's Who - The Story Behind Every Face of the Iconic Time Lord: Celebrating its 50th Year Craig Cabell, 2011-11-27 Doctor Who is the world's longest-running science fiction television series, and has had children hiding behind sofa's since it was first broadcast in 1963. Eleven actors have played the famous Time Lord, starting with William Hartnell, and it has been a career landmark for all of them. Indeed, no other role in television history is as iconic, demanding, or as anticipated by its legions of fans as that of the famous time traveller with two hearts. Find out: * Who was a bouncer for The Rolling Stones before taking control of the Tardis. * Who was nearly blown up in the Second World War aboard HMS Hood. * Who had a fondness for woolly hats and had a grandson who would become Harry Potter's nemesis. * Who played a transvestite barmaid before becoming a Doctor Who heart-throb. Go back in time and read the human story behind a TV legend.

dangerous daves the last detective: A Hobby of Murder E. X. Ferrars, 2023-09-12 In this classic cozy mystery, a retired botany professor visits an English country manor house where a dinner party turns into a hunt for a killer. The irresistible Andrew Basnett series may have been written in the 1980s and '90s, but its soul lies with the classic crime fiction of the 1930s. Here, for example, is *A Hobby of Murder*, with its setting at—wait for it—a classic country-house party, that staple of the Golden Age. Rounding out the guest list are, among others, a mystery writer, a lawyer with a reason to dislike him, a doctor, a retired teacher with a passion for photography, and the lord of the local manor, keen amateur chef Sam Waldron—so keen that he has recreated an 18th-century dinner. His skills may not match his ambition, but he didn't mean to poison the coffee. Oh, no? The local police inspector isn't so sure, but in the finest Golden Age tradition he's rather an idiot, so when the bodies start piling up, it's a good thing that Basnett is on hand to sort things out!

dangerous daves the last detective: A Death for a Dilettante • A Death for a Dietitian E.X. Giroux, 2025-04-27 Robert Forsythe, London's favorite gentleman sleuth, is called to determine

which of 87 suspects is taking potshots at a rich old coot, and Forsythe's intrepid assistant finds herself in the middle of a locked-room murder mystery! You thought the quest for eternal life was a new preoccupation, the preserve of tech bros with too much money? Not so. It's the 1980s, and rich old dilettante Winslow Maxwell Penndragon is shooting for a century or more...but somebody else is shooting, and they're aiming at Penndragon. With heirs aplenty, Winslow P. calls in Robert Forsythe, a London barrister with a nose for trouble and a reputation for discretion, to figure out who's got murder on the mind. Forsythe loves a good puzzle, but he does not love Winslow P.—and it would appear he's got company. As assistant to Forsythe and witness to his exploits, Sandy Sanderson surely knows that when you bring a group of celebrity strangers to a snowbound, isolated hotel, it rarely ends well. But Christmas in the countryside sounded so appealing! So when one of the guests fails to turn up for breakfast, it's terrible, of course, but for Sandy it's also ever-so-slightly familiar. She knows her Agatha Christie. And this is not her first rodeo.

dangerous davies the last detective: I Met Murder E.X. Ferrars, 2023-09-26 Murder and Felix have the habit of turning up—and turning up together—in Virginia Freer's life, like some macabre set of twinned bad pennies. This time around, a broken leg and the resulting need for soothing ministrations have led Felix to take up residence in Virginia's spare bedroom, giving him a front-row seat to the dramatic doings in the neighborhood. These mostly involve Virginia's friend Ann Brightwell, who has simultaneously come into a legacy and offered a home to a suddenly orphaned young cousin. The excitement only ratchets up when the cousin disappears and a ransom is demanded. Ann is prepared to sell her newly valuable goodies if it will bring her back, but Felix, cynic that he is, isn't sure that's the wisest course of action. He points out, among other things, that the cousin has a history with the police, and that a local mystery writer seems to be taking a curiously keen interest in the whereabouts of this...quite nubile young woman he's only barely met.

dangerous davies the last detective: The Crime and the Crystal E. X. Ferrars, 2021-04-19 A retired professor finds that an amateur sleuth's work is never done, even on an Australian holiday in this cozy mystery with “a dandy plot” (Publishers Weekly). Andrew Basnett takes a break from his little English village to spend Christmas in the small Australia city of Adelaide. Visiting Tony, an old colleague with a newish wife, Basnett soon learns that a cloud hangs over the marriage. Jan, Tony's bride, is widely believed to have murdered her first husband—a fact that is giving Tony second thoughts. Things don't get any more comfortable when, at a family dinner, one of the guests is killed with a chunk of the same crystal that had been Jan's alleged murder weapon. And Jan herself has disappeared. Now it's up to Professor Basnett to make the truth crystal clear.

dangerous davies the last detective: Smoke Without Fire E.X. Ferrars, 2022-07-18 A retired professor spends Christmas in a not-so-peaceful English village in this wryly witty mystery with “a surprising and satisfying conclusion” (Publishers Weekly). Andrew Basnett does not have very good luck with Christmas. Most recently, while visiting friends in Australia for the festive season, he wound up with a front-row seat to some rather extraordinary family strife. And this time around, his plans for a peaceful English-village holiday get blown up when. . . well, when his hosts' neighbor, Sir Lucas Dearden, gets blown up. This is England in the 1980s; everyone shudders, blames the IRA, and moves on. Except, of course, for Andrew Basnett. Who knew, he wonders, about Sir Lucas's last-minute change of plans? Why had Sir Lucas meticulously removed one page of the (rather stunningly dull) memoir he was writing? And could the bomb possibly have been intended for someone else? “Ferrars has published more than sixty books and the craftsmanship of this one shows why her popularity endures.” —Publishers Weekly “There are few detective-story writers so consistently good.” —Sunday Times

dangerous davies the last detective: The Illustrated Guide to Film Directors David Quinlan, 1983-01-01 To find more information about Rowman and Littlefield titles, please visit www.rowmanlittlefield.com.

dangerous davies the last detective: Jolly Good Detecting Bruce Shaw, 2013-12-31 This book is an appreciation of selected authors who make extensive use of humor in English detective/crime fiction. Works using humor as an amelioration of the serious have their heyday in the Golden Age of

crime writing but they belong also to a long tradition. There is an identifiable lineage of humorous writing in crime fiction that ranges from mild wit to outright farce, burlesque, even slapstick. A mix of entertainment with instruction is a tradition in English letters. English crime fiction writers of the era circa 1913 to 1940 were raised in the mainstream literary tradition but turned their skills to detective fiction. And they are the humorists of the genre. This book is not an exhaustive study but an introduction into the best produced by the most capable and enjoyable authors. What the humorists seek is to surprise the reader by overturning their expectations using a repertoire of stylistic conceits and motifs (recurring incidents, devices, references). Humor has a liberating effect but is concerned too with comic contrast through ugliness and caricature. In crime fiction one effect is intellectual pleasure at solving (or attempting to solve) a puzzle. Another is entertainment but with serious undertones.

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dangerous daves the last detective: In My Wildest Dreams Leslie Thomas, 2008-09-04 From Barnardo boy to original virgin soldier; from apprentice journalist in London's Fleet Street to famous novelist... At times funny, at times sad, but always honest and utterly compulsive, Leslie Thomas's story is straight out of fiction. As an orphan, he picked his way through the rubble of post-war Britain and was sent on national service to the Far East. Later he became a Fleet Street reporter, with hilarious experiences to relate, and then became the bestselling author of *The Virgin Soldiers* - the novel that, although scandalous in its day, is now recognised as a classic of its kind. He is also the creator of *Dangerous Davies: The Last Detective*, which has been adapted into a popular television series. In 2005, Leslie Thomas was awarded an OBE for services to literature. With a new introduction for this edition, this is an amazing story, and Leslie Thomas's magic touch brings it crackling to life with warmth, wit and humour.

dangerous daves the last detective: *The Other Devil's Name* E. X. Ferrars, 2021-05-24 When an old colleague complains of disappearing neighbors, a retired professor of botany starts digging for clues in this delightful cozy mystery. Andrew Basnett may be retired from academia, but that doesn't seem to have stopped his former colleagues from dumping problems in his lap. This time around it's peppery Constance Camm, whose neighbors keep disappearing. Miss Camm and her sister, Mollie, would probably shrug it off if not for a frightening letter that reads "I know where you buried the body." But . . . to which disappeared neighbor does the letter refer? And why was it sent to Mollie, who hasn't buried anything? Spurred by a desire to help a friend, Professor Basnett starts poking around. But his efforts uncover more than one village skeleton, and they may call up more than anyone has bargained for.

dangerous daves the last detective: *Film Talk* Wheeler Winston Dixon, 2007-07-11 What 1970s Hollywood filmmaker influenced Quentin Tarantino? How have contemporary Japanese horror films inspired Takashi Shimizu, director of the huge box office hit *The Grudge*? What is it like to be an African American director in the twenty-first century? The answers to these questions, along with many more little-known facts and insights, can be found in *Film Talk*, an in-depth, behind-the-scenes look at filmmaking from the 1940s to the present. In eleven intimate and revealing interviews, contemporary film directors speak frankly about their work-their successes and their disappointments, their personal aspirations, struggles, relationships, and the politics that affect the industry. A medley of directors including those working in pop culture and documentary, as well as feminist filmmakers, social satirists, and Hollywood mavericks recount stories that have never before been published. Among them are Monte Hellman, the auteur of the minimalist masterpiece *Two-Lane Blacktop*; Albert Maysles, who with his late brother David, created some of the most important documentaries of the 1960s, including *Salesman* and *The Beatles: What's Happening?*; Robert Downey Sr., whose social satires *Putney Swope* and *Greaser's Palace* paved the way for a generation of filmmakers; Bennett Miller, whose film *Capote* won an Academy Award in 2005; and

Jamie Babbit, a lesbian crossover director whose low-budget film *But I'm a Cheerleader!* became a mainstream hit. The candid conversations, complimented by more than fifty photographs, including many that are rare, make this book essential reading for aspiring moviemakers, film scholars, and everyone interested in the how movies are made and who the fascinating individuals are who make them.

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dangerous daves the last detective: *International Handbook of Criminology* Shlomo Giora Shoham, Paul Knepper, Martin Kett, 2010-02-23 The second handbook in the Shoham trilogy, which includes the esteemed *International Handbook of Penology and Criminal Justice* and the upcoming *International Handbook of Victimology*, this volume is a comprehensive treatment of criminology theory. This text contains contributions from 25 of the top international scholars in the field across a wide range of disciplines. Topics include social deviance, research methods, biological and physiological explanations, personality types, and family socialization processes. The book also explores ecological and economic factors, differential association and situational crime prevention, cultural conflicts and immigration, as well as stigmas, group delinquency and juvenile delinquency.

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