

JMG Stories

# D A R K T R A I L S

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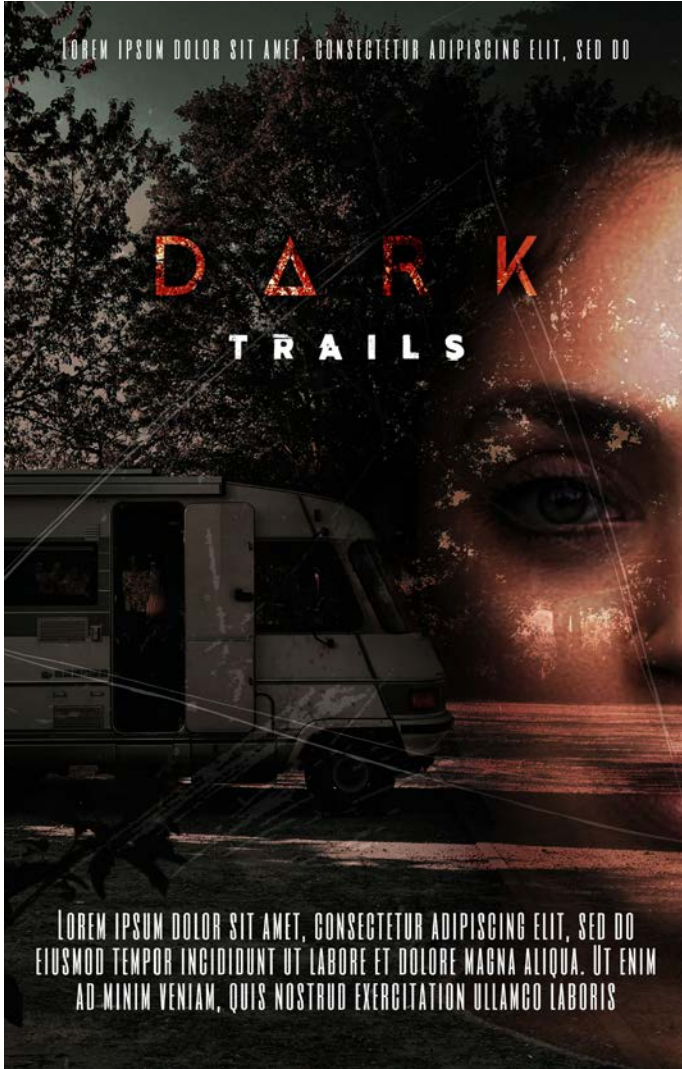
Written by: Laine Slater



# DARK TRAILS

— *Some things should not be allowed to stay in the dark* —

Created by: **JMG Stories** | Written by: **Laine Slater**



— ” —

*...finally we catch a break that can lead us to the sick bastards behind these horrific sites, and you say I should sit back and watch, as some Welsh smalltown policemen squander the opportunity? Fuck that! I'm going to Wales...*

*Catherine «Tina» West  
Dark Web specialist, UK Police,  
London*

**Genre:** *Crime/Drama*

**Format:** *4 ep of 60 mins each*

**Targetgroup:** *Fans of Scandinavian Crime series*

**Potential buyers:** *Viaplay (Nent Group), Netflix, BBC, NRK, SVT, DR and more*

**At Pitch-level end Q2 2021**

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*Dark Trails is a cat and mouse story that spans the distance of Wales, to South East England, to France. A race to save a kidnapped child and attempt to put a stop to a shady human trafficking ring.*

*An hour long, four-episode miniseries for crime show lovers, which will keep you looking over your shoulder after watching.*

**L**ast year, approximately 7,000 children were reported missing in the UK. Around 6,500 of these were thought to be related to sexual exploitation. These are only the ones that actually get reported...

The UK has a history of missing child cases. Most are found. But the ones that aren't, are lost on the dark trail...

Tina West is an IT-specialist in a UK police task force focused on the ever-increasing number of sites offering content for paedophiles on the dark web. Their job is to uncover child trafficking customers, suppliers and dark web users.

Tina is growing increasingly frustrated and despaired by seeing helpless children being victims of human trafficking and abuse, as they are being auctioned out on various dark web services.

Despite their hard work, they can never seem to find the source. And due to the low statistic of children that are taken, it goes largely unnoticed. When the body of a little boy washes up ashore in Wales, Tina recognizes him from one of the

websites she is investigating. This means the kidnapping happened very recently and very close to her London branch. Much to the refusal of her superiors, Tina decides it is time to get out from behind the computer screen and get involved.

She enlists the help of Greg Kilnn, who's in charge of the investigation of the child. Tina becomes a catalyst in waking a slumbering need to make a difference in the previously disillusioned police-officer. Their investigation leads them both directly to one of the biggest human trafficking rings in Europe. And their associates.

Tina is now looking for Ralph, a low-level child trafficker, and just one of the smallest cogs in this sick machine that traffics children from all over western England into Europe through the use of specially altered mobile homes.

This means any camping site, any caravan park, anywhere, could house a predator...

When Ralph kidnaps the child of an up-and-coming politician, in order to replace the dead child, Britain is put on high alert. Now the child has to be taken to Europe, fast.

Together, Tina and Greg have to track down Ralph, and the child he has in his grasp.

But the organization knows of Tina's plans, and they don't like loose ends, even if that means killing Tina, Greg, or one of their own.

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– *Dark Trails* –  
CHARACTER BIOS

## DARK TRAILS

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### *Catherine “Tina” West*

*Age:* 26

*Role:* IT Specialist

#### *Personal*

Catherine “Tina” West was born to Mary and Dylan West. Dylan Leonard West was a lecturer at the University of Kent, where he met Mary.

5 years after Catherine was born, Dylan left England and travelled back to America. Mary and Catherine never heard from him again. All that is left of her father’s legacy is Catherine’s nickname, Tina. Dylan was apparently a big Tina Turner fan.

Mary West worked as a policewoman for 24 years before retiring. Growing up seeing this work ethic inspired Tina to do the same. She went to the same university where her parents met and achieved a degree in Professional Policing. Tina then went on to work for a special branch in London focusing on catching and monitoring paedophiles on the dark web. Tina was always interested in action in the police force, but like a lot of people, she eventually fell into a job she is not as passionate about, the role of an IT-Specialist.

The fact that Tina is mixed race has had no effect on her career, in fact, it has made her even tougher. Tina is a local champion in kick boxing, something that will help her throughout this story.

#### *Relationships*

Tina has a natural distrust of men, due to her father. This makes things hard for her to make and maintain relationships with the opposite sex. Despite this, Tina has a boyfriend, Mark, but she is far more interested in her job than starting a family with him. How could I bring a child into this world when it’s filled with such evil? Tina is unable to trust Mark in this story, not just because of his constant worrying, but because he doesn’t even believe that she can make a difference in this case. Tina is not a child, and Mark can either accept that, or he can find someone else.

When Tina meets Greg, she cannot help but feel a father-daughter relationship between them. He is of the age of her father, and after discovering the people he had lost in his past, a bond is formed between them.

Tina is a great partner to Greg. She has the drive, he has the connections, she has the knowledge, he has the validity, she knows the path, and Greg holds the key. Tina learns that she can teach an old dog new tricks, and Greg learns that wisdom doesn’t necessarily come with age.

## DARK TRAILS

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### *Greg Bevan*

*Age:* 52

*Role:* Police Detective

#### *Personal*

Greg is a large, but not unhealthy, man. Years of pottering around, finding lost animals and giving out speeding tickets, has extinguished the once burning passion he has for protecting his town. Greg originally worked in Cardiff, where he led a fast-paced police career, but after meeting Marie, Greg moved into a small holiday town. Greg was happy with the chance of a break, at least for a while. But this changed when Greg's wife and daughter died. A car crash into a river, they both died of drowning. It was never confirmed whether it was an accident or a suicide attempt. No matter how boring his new life was, he knew he could come home to his family, but now, without Marie and Scarlett, he is stumbling in the dark.

In the present day, Greg is burnt out and counting down the days towards retirement. The word of a child drowning in his town gave Greg something to concentrate on, but as he picked at this thread, it unravels, and now he has a case, a real case with real consequences. With the help of Tina, Greg can relight the spark that he once had. And possibly save some lives in the process. Greg is old school. He is sceptical to new digital

advances and appreciates rank and rules. But behind his stagnation and scepticism, we sense the contours of a great policeman. He appears sympathetic, someone you want to help get back on the horse. A task Tina, unknowingly, takes on.

#### *Relationships*

Tina is around the age Greg's deceased daughter would have been if she had been around today. This is something Greg holds onto when working with Tina. This reenforces the father-daughter relationship that develops between them. Tina is passionate about helping people, something Greg once had. They are a great team, the old-fashioned shoot first asks questions later side of Greg, coupled with the efficient researching and clue hunting side of Tina, plus the biting way of speaking of Tina, along with Greg's soft but stern Welsh accent will reenforce their odd, but effective, match up.

Despite originally clashing, when working together, Greg and Tina become very tight friends. And they will need this in years to come when they start working together on more and more cases.

– *Character Bios* –

## DARK TRAILS

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### *Ralph*

*Age:* 62

*Role:* Human Trafficker

#### *Personal*

Ralph is one of the many degenerates that plague this world. After being blackmailed into kidnapping children, which eventually became a paid job, Ralph has been stalking the popular holidaying areas and deprived areas of England, looking for children.

It's a sickening job, even for the vilest of people, which is why Ralph turns to drinking. Maybe this is why he accidentally overdosed the first child? Either way, this was a better way out than what was in store for him.

What's in store for Ralph is death unless he can get his payload into the right hands before he's caught. Ralph is desperate, alone, and has nothing else to lose, and there's nothing more dangerous than a man like that.

#### *Relationships*

Ralph has none, nor does he deserve one.

## DARK TRAILS

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### *Mark*

Mark has been with Tina for 4 years. Since then, he has come to terms with how Tina is, her busy work schedule, her stand offish attitude when it comes to making a family, and her family problems. But when Tina decides to leave for a dangerous case, this puts stress on their relationship unlike any kind. It will take a lot of work from both Tina and Mark to set this right. Question is: Will Tina put in that work?

### *Stacy*

Stacy is Tina's work colleague and the only person in the office that actually gets on with her, not because Tina is a pain, just because Stacy knows that Tina could do a lot better. Stacy is going to be key in helping Tina play double life in Wales while keeping their bosses off their backs.

### *Haya*

Haya is the mother of the child that was found washed up on the beach. Unlike many other desperate people before, Haya spoke up and reported their child going missing. It is thanks to Haya that Greg was able to confirm the child's death was related to the human trafficking operation going on in the United Kingdom.

### *Yara Ali*

Yara is a new up and coming politician. Syrian born, she has become quite a target for hate groups, especially due to her attempts to help the refugees of war that are making lives for themselves here in Wales. Maybe this is why her child was kidnapped? Or maybe it was a much simpler reason, which raises even more questions...

### *Brian Togg*

Brian Togg is well known in Parliament. He seems to have taken a liking to Yara and her family, and always enjoys spending time together with them. Possibly for the public eye, possibly to help further each other's careers, they are politicians after all. But Brian has a secret, and he is happy to have people killed in order to keep it.



– *Dark Trails* –  
EPISODE OUTLINES

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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### *Episode 1*

#### *Wales, UK*

We open on a dank, dark, and almost derelict camping spot. The only thing of note that sits here is a large mobile home, and inside, Ralph. Ralph looks to be in a bad spot, drinking from his cheap bottle of whiskey, chain smoking cheap European cigarettes, he's waiting for someone. That's when there's a knock at his door.

Outside, watching an unidentified car drive away, is a little boy. He can't be more than 8 years old. He seems to be of Middle-Eastern descent, which is confirmed when he speaks in Farsi.

*Where is my mummy?*

Ralph opens the door, and the little boy walks inside. We see that Ralph has a very strange symbol tattooed on his ankle.

#### *London, UK*

Tina West is an IT-specialist in a UK police task force focused on the ever-increasing number of sites offering content for paedophiles on the dark web. Their job is to uncover child trafficking customers, suppliers and dark web users. These websites are extremely well protected, and while users are occasionally caught, the organizations that run the services are rarely uncovered.

Tina is at work in the London-office. She accesses a website that seems to be auctioning children, for abuse to be livestreamed online. As Tina scours the site, she comes across a picture that had recently been uploaded. We close on this picture as there a FLASH-

-and we're back with Ralph, who's taking pictures of

the little boy, who seems to be in a deep sleep. He's been drugged.

In another area of Wales, we see a frightened Syrian mother, who's arguing with her husband. Their other children weep softly in front of them. Their child is missing, but if they go to the police, they will very probably be deported, losing all hope of finding him. While arguing, a local politician is talking on the television. This woman will be come into our story soon.

Ralph is on the road; we see him pass through several towns. He makes a stop, and does his routine check on his cargo. But that's when he realizes... The little boy has died. Ralph has dosed him way too high and the poor child has slipped away. Ralph has messed up big time, and in the heat of the moment, Ralph panics. He takes the body and throws him off a pier, climbs back into his motorhome, then he drives like hell.

4 days pass, and a passing dog walker sees something washed up on the coast, a few miles away from where Ralph was. It's the body of a little boy.

Welsh police officer, Greg Bevan, wakes up to his alarm. As he gets ready, he calls his wife and gets the answer phone. He tells her about his day before, and his plans.

*Greg taps on "Marie Mobile" and puts it on speakerphone. He places the phone down as he makes his toast. It automatically goes to an answer phone message.*

*MARIE: (through phone) Hi it's Marie, I'm busy right now so please leave a message and I'll get back to you as soon as I can. Bye, bye, bye!*

*BEEP*

*GREG: Hi sweetheart, just wanted to let you know what I've been up to. Had the day off yesterday so went*

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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*and played some golf with Barry. You can imagine how that went. (he chuckles) I'm getting better though I swear, though I reckon I might need some new golf clubs. Um... on duty today, but I'm free Saturday, so I'll swing over and visit you and Scarlett in the morning. Okay, I'll speak to you later. Love you, and give my love to Scarlett. Okay. Bye.*

*Greg hangs up and starts buttering his toast. He takes a bite out of it and chews thoughtfully. The phone rings. Greg glances at the screen and holds it to his ear.*

*GREG: Hello? Alright Howard, how's things? (pause) A what? (pause) Jesus Christ. Yeah, I'll be right there.*

Greg makes his way down to the beach, where a police investigation is being set up. He meets with Officer Howard, who catches him up on what they know. An unidentified child, possibly of Middle Eastern decent was found by a dog walker early this morning. Judging by the state of the body, it has been in the waters for a few days at least. It seems to have been an accidental drowning, as many holiday makers have been swimming the past few weeks. But why has no one reported it?

The case makes headlines. A child found washed up on a beach, no idea who he is or where his family is. Tina sees the media coverage, and mentions it to her colleague Stacy.

*TINA: Stace, you see this?*

*STACY: Yeah. Poor lil thing.*

*TINA: But look at the clothes.*

*Tina pulls up a picture, the same one she was looking at the week before. The distinctive orange top matches up with the grainy picture of the child's body on the beach.*

*STACY: Oh shit. (a pause) Oh shit!*

*TINA: That's him, isn't it? It's the same child?*

*Stacy looks at Tina, and her eyes says it all. This is one of*

*the children that was taken by human traffickers.*

Tina speaks to her superiors, and tells them about her suspicions that the child from the website is the same child that has washed up in Wales. She wants to go to Wales, to try and help. Her superiors believe there is no other evidence of this, than Tina thinking the clothes look the same. They tell her that the local police should handle the matter. It is most likely just another accident. Tina is used to being shot down by her superiors, and she's had enough.

*MR COX: This is not our business, and that means it isn't yours either. Get back to work.*

*Tina looks like she's about to respond, likely angrily. But she doesn't. She turns around and walks out of the office. Her eyes narrow and her face looks fierce and-*

*INT. - KICKBOXING TRAINING ROOM - NIGHT*

*-Tina is smacking a punching bag around. She's alone, and dressed in shorts and a loose top, red gloves strapped to her hands. She moves like a dancer, but her hits on the bag are making it swing about madly.*

*PUNCH PUNCH KICK*

*The bag swings back and back towards her. She dodges it easily and- KICK*

*-kicks it from behind, making it swing up the other way. As it comes down- PUNCH PUNCH*

*-slows its descent. A few more jabs and suddenly she turns around and takes a breather. She still looks angry, but the punching bag got the most of the fury. Tina takes a swig of a water bottle, and walks off to the showers.*

Tina is frustrated. She's unable to really and truly make a difference, and it's starting to open old wounds with her boyfriend, Mark. She comes home from kickboxing. Mark's made dinner, but she's not

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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hungry. He asks her what the problem is, but she's not budging. This is a regular occurrence in this house, and it is starting to wear them both down.

Tina researches the case of the washed-up child. She finds the name of the detective in charge. Greg Bevan. This old coot is in charge of the case? Tina has to do something. At least tell this Bevan bloke what she knows...

In this episode we see a lot of comparisons of Tina and Greg, and how similar they are when it comes to their restlessness with their jobs, their struggles with keeping relationships, and their loss of their mother/daughter.

Ralph is holding up in his motorhome, somewhere in Wales. He receives another text.

***FIND A REPLACEMENT. TAKE IT TO THESE COORDINATES IN 4 DAYS TIME. DO NOT FUCK UP AGAIN.***

Ralph is tired. Still shaken from his monumental screw up. After reading the text, he removes any traces of the child from his mobile home and burns them outside in an old rusty barrel. He has another swig of his bottle, then gets in his motorhome, and starts driving.

Ralph drives through the night. By morning time, he pulls up in a quite bustling caravan park. He makes his way through to a more secluded area, and sets up camp. He takes a shower, shaves, and puts on some more respectable clothes. This is a regular thing for him. Ralph takes a walk.

An arcade. Ralph takes a walk through. He comes across a young, possibly Middle-Eastern boy, playing on a motorbike game. Ralph catches his eye, and the boy smiles and waves at him. Ralph smiles and waves back. Perfect.

### *Episode 2*

We open on Ralph again. He's watching out the window of his motorhome. This vehicle is sleek and shiny on the outside, but inside, it's a state. Old food, empty bottle of all manner of booze. A literal pit. Ralph watches a group of young kids run past his window. We see the windows are blacked out, no one can see inside. Ralph eats some stale pizza crusts and washes it down with some brandy. He stands up and stretches. Showtime.

Greg is at the office, calls from all over are coming in about the kid's death. Eyewitness accounts of kids swimming too far out to sea with no parental supervision, people complaining that Syrian refugees are coming to Wales by the boat load. Greg isn't swayed by them. But then he gets another call. From a woman in London.

***HOWARD: Another one for you, boss.***

***GREG: Ugh, do I have to?***

***HOWARD: This is from someone in London, the UKPPS.***

*Greg gives Howard a look.*

***GREG: The what?***

*He shrugs in return. Greg takes the phone.*

***GREG: Detective Bevan. Who's speaking?***

***INT. TINA'S FLAT – LIVING ROOM –  
CONTINUOUS***

*Tina stands up from her sofa.*

***TINA: Detective Bevan! Hello, this is Tina West, from the UK Protected Persons Service. I have some information on the case of the child you have there, I think you might be interested.***

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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*GREG: Um, yeah, go for it.*

*TINA: Okay, so my job is to monitor and archive all material that we find on dark web websites that have connections to human trafficking of children in the UK.*

*GREG: Right.*

*TINA: And I've found a picture on the website that's dressed in the same clothes that the child was wearing when you found him. The picture looks like it was taken inside a small area with a pull-out bed–*

*GREG: Sorry wait, hang on. You think the kid was kidnapped? TINA: Uh, yeah, yes.*

*GREG: I mean...*

*Greg blow air out through his teeth.*

*GREG: It doesn't seem likely that this may be the case. We have never had any reporting's of kidnapping or human trafficking here, ever. Thank you for your call, but this is just an accidental death.*

*TINA: Then where are his parents? Why haven't they come forward?*

*GREG: I honestly don't know. But the fact of the matter is, this isn't a big conspiracy. This was most likely an accident. Thanks for calling.*

*TINA: Wait–*

*It's too late. He hung up. Tina throws the phone on the bed and sits, fuming. Greg on the other hand, leans back in his chair, and thinks.*

Unable to get Tina's theory out of his head, Greg speaks to the coroner about the child and arrange an autopsy.

*CORONER: Here he is.*

*Greg looks down at this frail little boy. Slightly blue, naked, apart from a thin white sheet covering him from*

*the waist down. Greg takes a moment to feel absolutely horrible. This poor, poor child.*

*GREG: So. A drowning? CORONER: No.*

*Greg looks up.*

*GREG: No?*

*The Coroner shakes her head. She picks up a clipboard and refers to it.*

*CORONER: There was no water in the boy's lungs. Whatever killed him, it was before he ended up in the sea.*

*GREG: So, what killed him? The Coroner shrugs.*

*CORONER: No injuries on the body, not any from after death anyway. The sea can really cause a lot of damage to the body. But as for cause of death. I don't know. Maybe poisoning, suffocation, drug overdose. Until the blood reports come back, we can't know.*

*GREG: You think it could be a drug overdose?*

*CORONER: It's a possibility. If we knew where he came from, that could shed some light on things.*

The police get a call, it's from the boy's parents. They have sacrificed them and their other kid's freedom in order to try and help with the case. Greg speaks to them. They tell him he was taken while they were being smuggled into the country.

The coroner calls again. The blood report is back, he had large traces of drugs in his system. Clearly this was not an accident. This means the child was destined to be taken somewhere. Tina was right. This was a victim of human trafficking.

Ralph is panicked, stressed, and desperate. He continues to stalk the child, and plans his next moves. He stakes out the site, learns the exits, where the staff go, and pin points all the cameras.

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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Greg calls Tina, and tells her he also now thinks that this was a kidnapping gone wrong. He asks her for help. Tina makes a decision.

Tina speaks to her boss, and books several days off for mental health reasons. She's given the time off, but she speaks to Stacy, and informs her of her plans. Stacy promises to keep her secret and help her where she can.

Tina then lies to her Mark, telling him she is going to visit her mother. Mark is worried about Tina, and they discuss the fact that they were going to start trying for a baby. They have a heart to heart, and Tina tells him the reasons why she wouldn't want to have kids. She sees so much horrible stuff that happens to kids, how could she bring another life into a world like this?

Tina packs up and travels to Wales. Tina and Greg meet.

*Tina stands face to face with Greg. Greg passes her height by a clear foot. They shake hands, and Greg's large hand envelopes Tina's small one like it would a child.*

*GREG: Pleasure, Ms. West. TINA: Likewise, Mr. Bevan. Greg looks up to the station. GREG: Shall we go in?*

*TINA: I'm actually starving hungry. You know somewhere we can eat? Greg smiles.*

*GREG: I know the perfect place.*

They start working on possible routes for traffickers to take children to Europe. Tina knows from her research that the organizations behind this are likely based in central Europe. Consequently, the children that are taken need to be transported to the European mainland somehow, and they start looking into likely routes and means, that will go via Wales. They list a number of potential options; private cars, private boats, trucks carrying goods to and from the continent and so on.

They visit the site where the first child was taken.

*Tina stops, then suddenly spins around.*

*TINA: Wait.*

*Tina runs up to a large mobile home. She skirts around it, looking at the vehicle up and down.*

*TINA: How much room do you think these things have?*

*GREG: Well. They have to have room for a about 20–40 gallons of water. Plus, more room for electrics, fuel, all sorts.*

*TINA: And if that was repurposed?*

*GREG: Well, it could carry. (pause) A person. A child. Christ, even several.*

*TINA: That's how they're doing it. They're hiding them in the motorhomes. If they drugged him so they didn't make a noise, police, border patrol, anyone could search through one of these and come up with nothing.*

*GREG: So, they're using motorhomes to traffic them into Europe. But that means, anyone could be doing it. How many motorhomes cross the border every day? Couple hundred?*

*TINA: At least. Greg rubs his chin. GREG: Bloody hell.*

Tina goes to study the photos of a number of children from the dark web site, and discovers several of them appear to be lying on furniture that could well be inside caravans and motorhomes. The theory holds water. This means that in one of the biggest caravanning countries in Europe, anyone of them could be a kidnapper.

Greg calls Tina's superiors, (as Tina will undoubtedly lose her job if they knew where she was and what she's doing) and tell them "his" theory. It's not enough to put out a national alert. They need more proof.



– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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We follow the holidays of a well-known up and coming local Syrian-Welsh politician, Yara Ali and her family. She is on a break from campaigning for more rights for immigrants. She, her husband, and two children, two boys, and another family, the father, Brian Togg, another high positioned politician, spend time camping and enjoying the scenery. The youngest boy wants to go to the arcade. He does.

So does Ralph.

Tina calls her boyfriend, and she has to continue lying to him about her location. He is getting suspicious, even more so when he hears Greg's voice.

*Little Tommy enters the caravan, out of breath and flustered.*

**TOMMY:** *Mum, I can't find Scott.*

*Yara stands. It's like she has been prepared for this, as all mothers are at the first sign of the worst.*

**YARA:** *Where did you see him last?*

**TOMMY:** *(ranting) He was on the motorbike game but I can't find him mum, I'm sorry he just disappeared, I was meant to look after him and now he's disappeared, I'm sorry mum, I'm sorry.*

*Tommy's father comforts him as Yara launches herself out of the caravan and runs towards the arcade.*

**INT. ARCADE – CONTINUOUS**

*Yara runs through the arcade, kids running around and past her. She's desperate, looking all around, panicked. She reaches the motorbike games. Kids are on them, unaware of the terrified mother behind them.*

**YARA:** *Scotty! Scotty!*

*Yara spins around, no sign of Scott. Then a flash of baby blue. His hat. Yara runs over to it. A small baby blue hat sits on the ground. Yara picks it up. It's undoubtedly*

*Scott's. Yara screams. That's when people notice her. Yara screams and screams.*

**INT. RALPH'S MOTORHOME – CONTINUOUS**

*Even Ralph can hear the screams, as he drives out of the caravan park, and off down the road towards England.*

### *Episode 3*

The news coverage of the kidnapping is immense. It's all over papers, all over the TV. Everyone is looking out for the missing child. And Ralph's employers know this. Ralph receives a text.

**BOY IS TOO DANGEROUS TO KEEP HOLD OF. KILL HIM.**

Ralph cannot kill another child. He is becoming more unstable, and it seems like the sender behind the phone can tell this. If Ralph messes up again, it may lead them to the organization.

Another text.

**GET HIM TO THE DROP OFF POINT IN 48 HOURS OR GET RID OF HIM.**

Ralph is desperate. He needs to get to Dover, the drop off point, as soon as possible. He starts driving, fast.

Tina and Greg get on the case of researching the areas where missing children were reported, they then cross reference that with the pictures seen on human trafficking websites. No results.

Gregg brings up his talk with the parents of the dead boy, and them being illegal immigrants. They then realize that the children trafficked through Britain, aren't reported missing because they target children that belong to illegal immigrants, where they are either ignored or not reported due to their lack of civilian status.

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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But this time there's been a mistake, they took someone that people will notice. The country noticed.

Tina's boyfriend sees the news about the kidnapping, and puts together where Tina actually is. He calls her and they argue. He gives Tina an ultimatum. But Tina can't stop now. She has to find the child.

Tina tells Greg how she does not want a child. And Greg reveals that he lost his wife and daughter. This brings them closer together and solidifies their relationship as partners.

Ralph drugs the child, and takes pictures of the child for the website. He receives a text.

***WE CAN'T POST THE PICTURES. EVERYONE IS LOOKING FOR HIM. GET RID OF HIM.***

Ralph knows this is bad news for him. Two children dead because of him?

Ralph texts them that he can get the child there on time. He just needs another chance. One more text.

***GET TO THE FERRY IN 24 HOURS. DO NOT GET CAUGHT.***

Tina scours the traffic cameras along the points leading south. She finds several number plates from motorhomes that could have been altered to keep children in, and then Greg runs them through the known points of oversea travelling to Europe.

Several have been going back and forth to Europe more than once the last few months. They discover one of these was reported stolen, and they deduce that this is the car that has the child in it. Tina also finds a picture from security cameras on board one of the ferries, and registration of someone called Ralph from the ticket purchase.

This ferry is not the most commonly known ferry in Dover. The security is a lot laxer because of this. The

numberplate on Ralph's motorhome is registered on more than just this one ferry, and even pops up in data from the Tunnel. It is clear he is not using one defined route and they have to search all the possible ways to cross to Europe to save the child.

Yara Ali and her family sit in the police station, with her friend and fellow politician Brian Togg. Brian comes outside the station, and gives an emotional and heartfelt speech, that's broadcast to the country.

Ralph is a couple of hours away from the Ferry now. He texts his employer.

***I AM A FEW HOURS AWAY FROM THE FERRY.***

A text back.

***WILL POST THE PICTURES ON SITE NOW. PRICE OF THE CHILD HAS BECOME VERY HIGH. MAKE SURE YOU GET ON THE FERRY.***

Tina and Greg are on the road. Tina is called by Stacy, at work. A picture of the kidnapped boy has been posted on the website. Tina speaks to her superiors and they seem more concerned that she has broken protocol and gotten involved in such a case.

They tell her to stand down and to let the police do their job. Tina is told they are searching for Ralph in Portsmouth and Poole, as these are the closest ports to Wales that lead into France, but Greg and Tina think he will be escaping through Dover in order to get to France quicker.

The police release pictures of Ralph and now everyone is looking out for him. Tina and Greg head for Dover.

***EXT. PETROL STATION - PUMPS - EARLY MORNING***

*Ralph parks up and climbs out. He hasn't slept in over 24 hours. He gruffly plugs the petrol pump into the motorhome and looks around. Early morning mist lays*

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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*thick around the country side in*

*Kent. The area is deserted. He fills it about halfway and returns the pump. Ralph walks into the petrol station.*

**INT. PETROL STATION – INSIDE –  
CONTINUOUS**

*Ralph pulls out a grubby wallet as he approaches the counter. A YOUNG GIRL stands behind it, reading a paper.*

**RALPH:** Pump 4.

**YOUNG GIRL:** No worries.

*The Young Girl looks up and freezes. Ralph looks at her. A very long silence follows, thick as the mist outside.*

*Ralph looks down. His face stares up at him. On every newspaper. Ralph looks at the girl. She bolts for the staff room to the far right of the building. Ralph is too quick for her. He grabs at her wrists and it's a difficult struggle before she can get free of him.*

*She gets so close to the staff room, she almost made it. But Ralph wraps his arms around her chest and neck. She yells out, those yells become screams, then become muffled as his dirty hands get around her mouth.*

**INT. RALPH'S MOTORHOME – CONTINUOUS**

*We watch from the side window of the motorhome and through the windows of the petrol station as Ralph and the Young Girl grapple and fight. They fall out of sight, and more an unbearable 20 seconds we see nothing. Then Ralph stands back up. He looks down at his feet. Then, he walks back out. He climbs back into the motorhome. He drives.*

### Episode 4

The police rush to the petrol station, but Ralph is long gone. News of the murder travels fast. A murder.

Ralph is seen on the cameras. Ralph gets another text.

**GET ON FERRY NOW.**

**GO TO BOOTH 9.**

**USE THE CALLING CARD.**

**ONCE ON FERRY KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN.**

Ralph pulls up his car to Dover port. Almost there.

Tina and Greg keep driving to the ferry. Tina gets another call from Stacy. She has seen Ralph's motorhome in line to dock a certain ferry. They know where to go. Greg calls the police to inform them. Let's hope they get here on time.

**TINA:** Come on!

**GREG:** Listen, he can't get onto the ferry without going through security. His face is plastered on every newspaper, on every television! He's going to be stopped at the security. I know it.

**EXT. DOVER PORT – SECURITY BOOTHS –  
MOMENTS LATER**

*Ralph pulls up at booth 9. A LAZY SECURITY GUARD slides the door open and braces at the cold of the outside. Ralph winds down his window. At first the security guard gapes at Ralph. He clearly recognizes him. Ralph hastily hands him a black business card. The guard looks at it.*

*It's sleek with a matte finish. The writing on it is in a shiny silver detail. It reads a 6-digit number. The guard flips it, and on the back has a distinct symbol. We recognize this symbol from the tattoo that Ralph has on his ankle. The guard nods, suddenly scared and a little ashamed. He waves him through without a word. Ralph drives on.*

This goes a lot deeper than previously thought.

Ralph parks up the motor home on the ferry. Tina

– Episode Outlines –

## DARK TRAILS

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and Greg arrive at the port.

They tell the security the ferry needs to stop, but to no avail. The ferry sets off. In a moment of madness, Tina makes a big risk...

*TINA: (shouting) NO! No, we have to get on there!*

*STAFF: It's leaving, the ramp is going up!*

*He was right, the ramp was slowly, but very surely, rising. Tina stops fighting, and the staff let her go. She watches it as the ramp rises and the ferry starts to chug away. Tina makes a decision. She runs. She forces past the staff, and runs for the ramp.*

*GREG: (shouting) Tina are you mad?!*

*Tina jumps. She's not going to make it. She can't.*

*She lands on the ramp.*

*STAFF: She's going to get herself killed! Call the captain, stop this ferry! Tina takes one look back at Greg, before disappearing into the cargo deck.*

Tina makes her way to the top of the ferry. That is where she finds Ralph, hiding out. Ralph bolts, and Tina knows where he's going. He's been caught. That means the child has to die.

Tina follows him down into the cargo decks. Tina starts looking for the motorhome.

Tina and Ralph play a cat and mouse game through the trucks and cars that are parked up in the underneath of the ferry.

Tina finds the motorhome, and breaks into it. But where is the boy? That is when Ralph turns up in the door of the motorhome. And he has a knife.

The boat stops and starts to turn back around. Tina has to keep Ralph busy until the police can get on board...

Tina and Ralph fight. Tina's kickboxing training pulls off in this climactic moment. Ralph is weak and tired, and Tina is able to get the knife off him. Tina tries to convince Ralph to turn himself in. This is where we really start to understand who Ralph is, he's been doing this for years, he's at the end of his line. He just wants to stop.

Tina keeps him talking, until they start to turn the ferry around. That's when we see the police. Greg finally got them to listen. Ralph sees the police and runs to stand up on the side of the ferry. He threatens to jump. Tina tries to talk him down.

Just as Ralph is about to step off, bam. Ralph is shot in the head. Where did the shooter go? Are they on the boat, or on the mainland? Was it the police?

The ferry redocks and police come aboard and comes to Tina's aid. Tina is frantic, because she has not found the missing child. She is tearing the inside of motorhome apart but cannot find any trace of him. She stops to think a second and runs outside and opens the motorhome's trunk. It is empty and she is frozen, standing there staring into the empty space, thinking the child is gone.

That is when she sees some screw marks on the railings that are used to fit some storage-containers into the back of the trunk. She jumps into the trunk and starts pulling at the rails, and suddenly they come lose and reveal a specially made room with a little bed, and on it is the little boy.

Back in England, we see on the news that there are calls for more communication between countries where there is evidence of oversea human trafficking. Tina and Greg meet again in Wales. Tina tells him that her boyfriend broke up with her, but she saved a child's life, so she thinks it's a pretty good trade. Also, Stacy has dug up something we may find interesting, and apparently, it's a doozy.

– *Episode Outlines* –

## DARK TRAILS

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Greg tells her that despite him about to retire, he wants to get into human trafficking prevention. Tina says she was fired, but she's been offered a job on a project, something called Dark Trails. Maybe Greg can get a job there too.

Brian Togg is in his office, he's just got off the phone with Yara, congratulating her on getting her son back. He gets another call. We hear him discuss how Ralph could have mistakenly taken a child that has now put him in the limelight. Brian cannot be connected to any of this. He tells the person on the phone that they need to find a new trafficker. Also, someone called Stacy seems to be asking a lot of worrying questions. Make sure she is taken care of. Brian hangs up.

Unknown, France

A man is sent an email. Attached are several pictures he has downloaded from the dark web.

***WE KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE. WE KNOW  
WHAT YOU HAVE ON YOUR COMPUTER. YOU  
WILL BE DELIVERED A PACKAGE. YOU'RE  
ONE OF US NOW. GET TO WORK.***

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