



THE
SECRET

GENEVIEVE
O'REILLY

JAMES
NESBITT

JASON
WATKINS

a true story

THE SECRET

a true story

The location: a picturesque seaside town in 1991. The scene: two bodies in a carbon monoxide filled car. Nurse, Lesley Howell, and police officer, Trevor Buchanan, have apparently taken their own lives...

This is the true story of a Sunday school teacher and a respectable dentist and pillar of the community, who formed a murderous partnership.

Hazel Buchanan and Colin Howell meet at their local Baptist Church in Coleraine, Northern Ireland and embark upon a passionate and destructive affair, which climaxes in an elaborate plot to commit the "perfect murder" to kill both their partners, Lesley and Trevor and make it look like a suicide pact.

The killers fool the police and get away with murder, but their relationship soon sours and they separate in acrimony and bitterness - a betrayal Howell will not forget. They rebuild their lives, -remarrying and prospering, but can never fully escape what they did. As a series of disasters befalls Howell, believing that he is being punished by God, he unravels in a self-destructive frenzy, finally confessing his crimes to the horrified elders of his church.

Convicted of murder, Howell implicates Hazel in the killing, who pleads not guilty, claiming she was coerced in the murders. In a climactic murder trial Howell attempts to finally destroy his former lover.

Starring:

James Nesbitt

(The Missing, Cold Feet)

Genevieve O'Reilly

(Episodes, The Honourable Woman)

Jason Watkins

(W1A, The Lost Honour of Christopher Jeffries)





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“*The Secret* is a truly original drama, in that it tells the story of a real life murder entirely from the perspective of the killers. This is the story of an audacious and wicked crime, which was almost the “perfect murder” and tells us something very surprising and revealing about what happens to the killers both before and after a murder has been committed. What is striking and insightful about the story of these real events is that despite ‘getting away with it’ the perpetrators do not escape the consequences of their actions. Through Colin Howell and Hazel Buchanan *The Secret* explores the darkest side of human nature, revealed in these tragic and unusual events, and seeks to make sense of it.”

Mark Redhead, Executive Producer

Writer: **Stuart Urban**
Based on the book by **Deric Henderson**
Director: **Nick Murphy**
Producer: **Jonathan Curling**
Executive Producer: **Mark Redhead**

Drama: HD 4 x 1 hour for ITV

Produced by Hat Trick Productions in association with Northern Ireland Screen

