

The Office Administrator

Treatment written by
K&M Dean
TheDeans2

Format Description: A limited serial drama of 6 episodes, *"The Office Administrator"* is a tense, cat & mouse style thriller set in the present day with most of the action taking place within a 10-mile radius of a large town/city.

Logline: When a murder investigation reaches a dead end, the Major Incident Room (MIR) Office Administrator battles to ensure the case doesn't go cold, not realizing that the protagonist has been under his nose the whole time.

Setting: Modern day with multiple urban locations internal and external.

Premise: A murder investigation through the eyes of the Office Administrator. A killer is on the loose, taking people out of their beds, killing them only to return their frozen bodies 2 days later to the exact spot from which they were taken. The killings are not random and the killer is forensic in their methods and clean up.

An MIR doesn't appear miraculously or as if by magic. There is a process, a procedure. A core of highly trained and organized people pull the necessary resources together to aid the detectives in solving the crime. They are the administrators. At the head of this crack team, is the Office Administrator, Owain, a man at the top of his profession. Quirky, yet thorough, Owain is tolerated by senior police officers who begrudgingly admit his worth despite being a right royal pain.

As the case progresses, Owain, ensures he and his team keep the case on track coordinating forensics with door-to-door discovery information. Each evening before going home, Owain and the team run through the Murder Board, getting it ready for the next morning. The team can't help but have theories and opinions on who, what, why and how. Owain has to maintain their neutrality. It is not for them to direct the case, just tell it as it is.

Another murder takes place, same pattern, same MO. Owain begins to become suspicious of one individual – he will wish he hadn't.

Main Characters:

Owain: Open, honest but set in his ways, known affectionately as the "Paperclip", Owain is hardworking, rule driven to the point of obsession and often has to be reminded to pull back and read the room. He is highly thought of amongst his peers who deem it an honour when asked to be part of his team. He will change the team based on the type of case they work on as the specialist requirements can differ. Outside of work, Owain decompresses with good food, wine and entertaining. He likes nothing better than spending hours in the kitchen whipping up food for his friends. He has been married to Paul for 7 years. They met on holiday and stayed together ever since. Married 3 years ago, they both feel ready to add to their family and are in the process of adoption.

Jim: Middle aged, work driven and a divorcee of 3 wives, Jim is on the verge of retirement. A highly regarded psychologist who, for the last 20 years of his working career, has

specialised in criminal profiling, supporting Owain and the police on multiple occasions. He is calm, gracious and always trying to understand differing points of view. He is approachable, often helping when police colleagues are in a period of distress, by providing an ear. Jim is having trouble accepting his age, the need to retire, the feeling of irrelevance. The past 12 months have seen him secretly battle depressive thoughts.

Ashish (SIO): Ashish has recently been appointed to the role, having fast tracked through the ranks. As a consequence, although highly intuitive, he is chaotic and doesn't follow procedures well. This is his first murder case and outside of work, expresses his feeling about being out of his depth to his wife. He is a family man with 2 small children and doesn't see why the world of work should impinge on that. Family first. To his colleagues, this attitude comes across as lazy and shirking of his responsibilities. Who is right?

Jordie (Deputy SIO): The complete opposite to Ashish, Jordie is driven by work and is a stickler for following procedure. Work is a place for them to hide from the day-to-day struggles of their life. Surprisingly, Jordie is not frustrated by Ashish, in fact quite the contrary. They are supportive and protective of Ashish and his family. A combination that works well and has a great friends-based chemistry. Where Ashish is brash, Jordie smooths the waters.

Joan (Owain's Deputy): Loyal, feisty, Joan has been Owain's deputy for over a decade. Capable of running her own unit, she decided that she is happy where she is. All the fun without the pressure. She is a widow of 8 years, with 2 sons, one at university and the other drifting from one barista job to another having left university 3 years ago. An only child, Joan thinks of Owen as the younger brother she never had.

Paul (Owain's husband): Paul is a lecturer in physics at the local college. He is quiet, sensitive, a little paranoid but with a dry sense of humour and a strong moral outlook on life. Married for 3 years now, Paul is desperate to complete their family with children. He has persuaded Owain to go for adoption. Owain needs to continually reassure Paul of his want and commitment to adopt. It is putting tension into their relationship.

Synopsis:

Episode 1 - Owain, our Office Administrator, is in the midst of wrapping up a large fraud case for the National Crime Agency (NCA). He is in a rush as he has an important meeting at home. He and his husband are in the process of adoption and are scheduled to meet their social worker that evening. He cannot be late.

Across town, in a pub, a retirement party is in full swing. A highly regarded profiler, Jim, is retiring after many years, many crimes. The alcohol is flowing, and some young police colleagues are taking the mickey out of him. Mimicking his delivery of a criminal's profile. He nods and smiles, but underneath is seething.

Jim goes home and in a fit of temper, smashes everything in his home. He has snapped. Eventually calming, he begins to plan the perfect murder. He'll show them.

Some weeks later, a woman, Angela, in deep distress, enters a police station to report her husband is missing. They both went to bed the night before, but he wasn't there when she awoke and all the doors were locked from the inside. She tells the person on the reception

desk that she feels groggy and out of sorts. Angela is told she must wait, that her husband may have gone out without her knowing, got lost. Was he unwell? They ask. No, he was not. Angela leaves, frustrated at the lack of help and support.

48 hours later, the police are outside a 3-bed semidetached house at the end of a quiet cul de sac which is cordoned off. Activity is high with forensics everywhere. We go into the house and hear a woman crying, bereft. It is Angela. Going upstairs to the main bedroom, the medical examiner is checking over a body in the bed. It is Angela's missing husband. Dead and icily cold like he has been kept in a freezer.

Owain is in the middle of a meeting with a social worker when his phone goes which he has to answer, much to Paul's frustration. As he leaves the room, the social worker asks questions about Owain's line of work. Caught off guard, Paul reveals more than he should without the proper context around it. The social worker makes notes. Owain is instructed to set up an MIR Office asap. He gives his apologies and as he heads to the car, he quickly calls a team together.

The team arrive at the appointed office and begin setting up for business which is coming in thick and fast. Door to door statements, updates from forensics, photos of the crime scene and so on. A white board stands in the corner with the progress of the investigation and key tasks written on it. One of the team is populating the murder board. Ashish blusters in and speaks down to Owain and his team. This does not go down well.

Episode 2

The investigation continues. It is late afternoon; the main investigation room is empty. In the corner Owain and his team are going through the day and setting up the board and meeting area for the next morning. Theories abound. Owain controls the theories by telling the team to focus on the evidence no matter where it takes us.

Angela has been brought in for questioning. No one can work out how anyone else could get her husband's body back in the bedroom and put him back in bed whilst Angela remained asleep other than Angela herself. Suspensions abound when the police discover that Angela's husband had an allotment and in the shed was a large chest freezer. Forensic evidence puts Angela's husband's body in that freezer.

Jim "pops" into the office. He and Owain go back a long way. Owain introduces him to Ashish who promptly insults Jim. Owain complains to Jim saying how he is frustrated about Ashish's lack of focus and attention to detail and how this is causing him no end of stress. Ashish is not one for sticking to the plan laid out for him. Owain likes Jordie and recognises that they do their best to smooth things over.

Jim asks to watch Angela being interviewed. He enjoys this.

Episode 3

Owain has missed 2 appointments with the social worker and Paul is worried that things are not going well. Owain believes that now the investigation has gotten over the initial period, things are settling down into a much more predictable pace and so he should be fine for the next one. Paul is not convinced.

The investigation is slowing. The focus of the evidence is on Angela who has been released on bail. The office is quiet.

Jim, angry that things are slowing, strikes again. We see him plan and execute the next murder. In the exactly the same way as Angela's husband. Only this time it is the wife who is missing. A deliberate act of changing MO to fool any "amateur" profiling police detective.

Episode 4

A husband wakes up to find his wife missing. He reports it to the police. This time, they take it seriously. They can't afford not to.

A major police hunt is underway for the missing wife.

The police inform Angela of the development and interview her again but with a different slant.

The office team are re-energised and go through the evidence for the first case to identify any potential commonalities.

Jim is in a garage lock up. The missing wife is restrained and heavily sedated. He is pondering what to do with her next.

Owain and Paul receive a letter from social services denying them the opportunity to adopt. Paul is bereft. In an attempt to cheer him up, Owain suggests inviting a few friends around for dinner that evening. Jim, an old friend and one of their references for adoption, is to be one of the guests.

Episode 5

It is the evening of the dinner. Paul is devastated and not in the mood. Owain has not been able to be there for him since the second victim went missing and Paul's resentment is thick. The atmosphere is tense.

Guests start to arrive; the wine starts to flow.

Jim is late and breathless. Owain asks did he drive? No, he took a taxi.

As the evening progresses, conversation turns to the case. Owain maintains his position of not being able to say anything but Jim, softened by wine and good food jokes that now he is retired, he can. The other guests ask Jim who could possibly do such a thing. Jim obliges.

As Jim outlines the how, the who of the crime, he lets slip a couple of details that he shouldn't know. Owain notices, becomes suspicious and sobers up.

Episode 6

The body of the wife is found. Not in the bed this time as there was too much police presence.

Owain and his team are working above and beyond to support the investigation. Fielding calls, chasing results. Owain asks the team to help him work through his suspicions about Jim before reporting it to the SIO.

Jim rings Owain to apologise about his behaviour at dinner. Owain is cold and Jim realises that Owain is on to him. Owain becomes Jim's next target with his husband Paul in mortal danger...