

= Oliver Valentine =

Oliver " Ollie " Valentine is a fictional character from the BBC medical drama Holby City , played by actor James Anderson . He first appeared in the eleventh series episode " Proceed With Caution " , broadcast on 9 June 2009 . Oliver was introduced alongside his older sister , Penny ( Emma Catherwood ) , as a Foundation House Officer 1 ( F1 ) on rotation at Holby City Hospital . Series producer Diana Kyle intended their inclusion to have an " instant impact on the wards . " Anderson was selected to play Oliver ; he spent time with a real F1 doctor and trained with the programme 's medical advisors to prepare for the part . It took him around six months to ease into the role , and a further six to feel comfortable in it .

Oliver was initially portrayed as " the golden boy " compared to his sister . Boyishly charming and medically talented , he nonetheless lacked confidence in his ability . When Oliver reached his F2 training , the series formed an on @-@ screen duo by pairing him with registrar Greg Douglas ( Edward MacLiam ) . Oliver 's lack of competency was highlighted ? he endangered patients and landed his colleagues in trouble . In a prominent storyline , Oliver made a series of medical errors , which forced him to admit that he cheated on an exam at medical school . He began a downward spiral , and reached " rock bottom " when Penny was killed off . He was then central to a special flashback episode , which depicted his battle to cope with her death . Though he confessed to Director of Surgery Henrik Hanssen ( Guy Henry ) that he was not truly qualified , Hanssen allowed Oliver to continue practising medicine .

Branded a Lothario @-@ type character , Oliver has been involved in several romantic storylines during his tenure ; Anderson has called him " the hospital bike " . In a toy boy storyline with ward sister Chrissie Williams ( Tina Hobley ) , Oliver was seen to compromise his career . He went on to date ward sister Daisha Anderson ( Rebecca Grant ) , kiss registrar Jac Naylor ( Rosie Marcel ) , and earn the unreciprocated affection of ward sister Frieda Petrenko ( Olga Fedori ) , and marry F1 doctor Tara Lo ( Jing Lusi ) . Anderson decided to leave the series in 2012 and filmed his final scenes in March 2013 . Oliver departed in the episode " Mens Sana In Corpore Sano " , dated 9 July 2013 . He returned on 23 December 2014 , for one episode , before making a full time return on 5 May 2015 .

Responses to the character have generally been negative , with particular criticism for his poor treatment of Penny . Bree Treacy of RTÉ Ten disliked both Valentines , and Jim Shelley of the Daily Mail described him as a " weasel " . Many have questioned Oliver 's medical skills and labelled him an incompetent doctor ? as Daniel Maier of The Guardian put it , he is " a doctor with the blue eyes of Fonda and the medical competence of fondue " .

= = Storylines = =

Oliver arrives at Holby City Hospital as an F1 doctor , alongside his sister Penny ( Emma Catherwood ) . He acquires Penny 's preferred rotation on the Acute Assessment Unit ( AAU ) , where he develops a flirtatious relationship with ward sister Chrissie Williams ( Tina Hobley ) . Within weeks , their relationship becomes sexual . Chrissie becomes pregnant , but later miscarries . They break up , and Oliver moves on to date ward sister Daisha Anderson ( Rebecca Grant ) . A transfer to the cardiothoracic surgery ward has him working under registrar Jac Naylor ( Rosie Marcel ) . While Daisha spends Christmas with her family in the Philippines , Oliver kisses Jac . Upon her return , Daisha learns of the tryst . Soon thereafter , she is shot during a hostage situation and Oliver struggles to cope . Although she recovers , she opts to leave Holby and move back to the Philippines .

Oliver discovers that Penny has been having a relationship with a patient , Scott ( Joshua Bowman ) , endangering her career . She plans to move to Spain with him and abandon her training , but Oliver convinces Scott to leave without her . Keen to earn praise from his consultants , Connie Beauchamp ( Amanda Mealing ) and Elliot Hope ( Paul Bradley ) , Oliver claims Penny 's research as his own , and is awarded her place in an operation . He is promoted to F2 level , and betrays Penny further by revealing her affair with Scott , which results in her failing her cardiothoracic

rotation and being moved to the AAU . A rivalry develops between them , but they are forced to call a truce when a series of pranks endanger a patient .

Registrar Greg Douglas ( Edward MacLiam ) shirks his responsibilities by excessively delegating to Oliver ; to his dismay , Connie appoints him as Oliver 's mentor . Oliver pushes himself too far in an attempt to impress Greg , which earns the senior doctor a reprimand for leaving him unsupervised . Oliver tries to earn back Greg 's respect , but panics while attempting to insert a chest drain , and has to be rescued by ward sister Frieda Petrenko ( Olga Fedori ) . He invites her for a drink as thanks , but when Penny discovers that Frieda has romantic feelings for him , Oliver cancels as he does not reciprocate them . Oliver 's confidence is further damaged when he mishandles a case , which results in a mother leaving her son to die alone . He moves back to the AAU , where he is shaken by an encounter with the boy 's mother , which causes him to panic and embarrass himself in theatre . Penny 's career begins to improve , and Oliver resents her when she is given registrar duties for a shift . Having realised that he is close to failing his F2 year , Oliver implicates Penny in a serious surgical error of his own doing , but is caught by registrar Antoine Malick ( Jimmy Akingbola ) .

When a patient unexpectedly dies in his care , Oliver breaks down . He confesses to Penny that he cheated in medical school by swapping one of their exam papers , so he passed on her merit while she was forced to repeat a year . Furious , Penny tells Oliver that he must confess to Director of Surgery Henrik Hanssen ( Guy Henry ) . He writes a letter of resignation , but deletes it after a positive day working alongside Frieda , who encourages him to repeat his F2 year . After giving Oliver a final chance to confess , Penny is called away to the site of a train crash . Oliver is left alone on AAU , where he successfully performs a difficult procedure . Hopeful that Penny will forgive him , Oliver is devastated to learn that she has been killed in an accident at the crash site . Unable to cope in the aftermath of her death , Oliver turns to drugs and alcohol . He sends Hanssen a letter of resignation , which includes a full confession . His father Tony ( Simon Shepherd ) offers him money to choose a new career , and claims that Oliver always had more potential than Penny . This angers Oliver , who endangers his own life to save a patient and feels reinvigorated . Hanssen is impressed by Oliver 's patient treatment , and overlooks his cheating to allow him a fresh start .

Oliver continues and succeeds in his second F2 year under Elliot , who is his mentor . He begins a relationship with F1 Tara Lo ( Jing Lusi ) . He learns she has a brain tumor and becomes fixated on finding a cure . She learns to accept it . Oliver begins spending more time at Tara 's flat and later moves in . Oliver and Tara marry the day before she has a major operation . Oliver and Tara prepare for her operation , but there are complications in surgery and she dies .

= = Development = =

= = = Creation and characterisation = = =

The impending arrival of sibling trainee doctors Oliver and Penny was announced in May 2009 , by executive producer Tony McHale and series producer Diana Kyle . The latter described them both as " full of energy and enthusiasm " , and asserted that they would have an " instant impact on the wards at every level . " They were deemed talented physicians with the desire to achieve by McHale , who noted that " one is more naturally gifted than the other " , and suggested that their personal lives would cause conflict with their professional ones , as they attempted to progress at work .

Actor James Anderson was cast as Oliver . Before assuming the role , he shadowed a real F1 doctor on ward rounds ? an experience he found difficult . " We were approaching beds in which people were waking up from heart attacks and coming around quite distressed sometimes . It was really difficult to be there with a patient . It 's harder than you think and I got quite emotional . " Anderson underwent such extensive training with the programme 's medical advisors that he jested in June 2009 , " If I started medical training now , I could probably graduate as a doctor coming out of the show ! " The actor experienced " an extended period of anxiety " upon joining the series , and recalls : " It took me about six months to have any sense of what was going on and then the second

six months to feel comfortable [ ... ] but only because it 's such a well @-@ oiled machine . You 're coming in as a little cog , so you have to discover how to work in that and that takes a while . "

BBC Online described Oliver 's positive qualities as being his " boyishly charming " manner and his general determination . Jane Simon of the Daily Mirror deemed him a " soft touch " when he went to great lengths to help a young patient , and a Daily Mail review suggested that Oliver was " really quite sweet " , despite his apparent smugness . Oliver is flawed by a lack of confidence and his deceptive nature . He has a tendency to land his work colleagues in trouble , which has been conveyed through storylines with Daisha and Greg . What 's on TV highlighted Oliver 's " lack of competence " and called him petulant for betraying Penny after his promotion to F2 level . When his career began to deteriorate , the publication deemed him reckless , then found him hapless in the aftermath of her death , in reference to the way he " [ sank ] into despair , finding comfort in drink , drugs and his dead sister 's flatmate . " The Sunday Mirror 's Kevin O 'Sullivan reflected on Oliver 's development since his arrival , with the observation , " Once he was the strutting ladies ' man of the wards , a veritable medical Casanova who exuded confidence and charm . But time has taken its toll on Oliver Valentine ? and now he is just a shadow of his former self " ? a devastated and broken man , " tormented by the memory of his sibling and his guilty conscience . "

= = = Relationships = = =

Introduced as a Lothario @-@ type character , according to Anderson , Oliver " had a reputation for being the hospital bike . " His first relationship developed when he attracted the attention of ward sisters Chrissie Williams and Daisha Anderson . Daisha showed less interest in him than Chrissie , of whose attentiveness Anderson said , " I think any hot @-@ blooded male would find that attractive " . Oliver appeared to ruin his chances with Daisha when he encouraged a patient to complain about her diagnosis ? though Anderson noted , " he does apologise to Daisha , and sweetly gives her a cupcake " . This left Chrissie free to pursue Oliver . Before their relationship began , Anderson opined " She 's gorgeous , and Oliver would be a fool not to go out with her . " He thought that Oliver and Chrissie 's " unflappable " natures made them a good fit for one another , though wondered if they were too alike . As an older woman , their relationship was described as a " toyboy storyline " for Chrissie . Hobley admitted to having fun with the storyline due to the real age gap between herself and Anderson . She described Chrissie 's feelings for Oliver , stating : " Chrissie is having a lot of fun with him . But deep down she 's really hoping to find true love ? she 's been quite unlucky so far . She 's not getting any younger and she 's worried about missing out on kids . " Producers Kyle and McHale revealed that the pair could have been a " perfect match " , however said the romance would not run smoothly .

Anderson believed it was a bad idea for his character to get involved with a work colleague . Oliver began to doubt the relationship , and on Penny 's advice , convinced Chrissie to break up with him without ruining his career . Chrissie took the break up well , and Hobley told What 's on TV that her character did not mind , as " it was only a bit of fun . She never planned on settling down with him . " It was then announced Chrissie would become pregnant with Oliver 's child . Hobley assessed that Chrissie was surprised to learn that she was pregnant , but pleased , as she had lost a baby five years previously and did not think that she was capable of conceiving another . Oliver was displeased by the news , but Chrissie had no expectations that he should provide for her . Her father , nursing consultant Mark Williams ( Robert Powell ) , urged him to " stand up to the mark and be a proper man " . However , soon after , Chrissie miscarried their unborn baby .

Oliver went on to share a kiss with Jac , a photograph of which was spread around the hospital by Penny , prompting Oliver to try and hide it from Daisha . Ward sister Frieda Petrenko developed a crush on him , and was pleased when he invited her for a drink , however Oliver did not reciprocate her feelings and later cancelled . Fedori commented in January 2011 that she and Anderson had had little " juicy " material , more " little scenes here and there " . Asked about the future of Frieda and Oliver 's relationship , she was unwilling to divulge potential plots , but noted , " There 's been talk about things heading in all sorts of directions " .

Oliver initially had a " friendly rivalry " with sister Penny . Catherwood believes they always had " a

really good relationship " . She characterised the siblings ' relationship as " one of constant rivalry but ultimately unconditional support " , and noted , " Everything always comes more easily to Oliver than Penny ? she has spent her life playing catch up " . When Penny considered giving her career up over a patient she was romantically involved with , in order to protect her , Oliver ruined the romance . Their relationship remained unaffected by this : Catherwood revealed , " Well they are brother and sister , so you forgive your family for enormous amounts . So it doesn 't affect their relationship , if anything he is there as soon as she breaks down he 's there to catch her , full of apologies and support . " She said the situation would bring them closer together , because it is a typical scenario siblings go through . When Catherwood quit the series , Penny was killed whilst attempting to rescue a patient from a train crash . Her death was not shown on @-@ screen : a conscious decision made by the production team to fully focus on Oliver 's story . Series producer Myar Craig Brown revealed that the big focus would be on the effect it had on Oliver . Forced to come to terms with her death , he faced an " emotional rollercoaster of feeling that he was second best to her " .

= = = Career = = =

Having arrived at Holby as an F1 , Oliver quickly progressed onto his F2 training . This resulted in " professional jealousy " forming with Penny , and in retaliation to their disagreements , he put her career in jeopardy by revealing her affair . Registrar Greg Douglas was appointed as Oliver 's mentor . The fast @-@ paced storyline saw Greg initially " kick [ ing ] against his newfound responsibility " , before realising that Oliver could be beneficial to his own career , which resulted in an " unlikely friendship " forming between them . Though a " fairly light , buddy @-@ buddy " storyline to begin with , Anderson felt that filming their scenes was " intensive " . Speaking of their friendship , Anderson explained : " We start off on the wrong foot with each other and we 're competitive , which is unhelpful to the patients and ( initially ) we 're not out to help one another at all . But they have similarities ... in terms of dropping people in it . " The pace of the storyline had to be changed when Anderson injured his knee upon falling down a ten foot cellar . The pair clashed over conflicting medical opinions on patient care , and their friendship soon created a negative effect over Oliver 's work ethic . Greg 's jokes at his expense left Oliver unable to carry out simple procedures correctly .

Oliver 's career further deteriorated in early 2011 , when it transpired he was not a qualified doctor . A series of setbacks ? failing the exam to progress on to his F3 year , blaming a surgical error on Penny , and the death of a patient in his care ? prompted him to admit that he swapped his own exam paper with Penny 's in his final year of medical school . Anderson explained that Oliver could no longer cope with the mounting pressure , hence his confession . Contrasting the siblings , he assessed " [ Oliver ] was seen as the golden boy when he arrived at Holby ? but he was trading on his sister 's success . " Issued with the ultimatum of confessing to Director of Surgery Henrik Hanssen , Oliver realised that " he must take responsibility " , lest he " lose the one person who loves him unconditionally . "

Believing himself to be in a " impossible dilemma " , Anderson said that Oliver was trying to make good on what he had done by repeating his F2 exams . " By exposing the lie he 'll end his career , Oliver can 't understand why Penny won 't stand by him . " He added that since Oliver made a serious surgical error , his colleagues had lost trust in his medical capability . When a train crash occurred , he was forced to take control of AAU . Anderson explained : " He 's not fully qualified and that 's all he can think about . He 's struggling . " When he saved a patients life , Oliver thought he should keep his job . However , he was then told that Penny had died , news that would " change Oliver 's life forever . " Following Penny 's death , Craig @-@ Brown stated that " whether he 's good enough to stay in medicine will be [ Oliver 's ] big storyline . " The series explored how Oliver coped with her death through a flashback episode . Henry , who plays Hanssen , observed that Oliver 's return to work saw him make multiple mistakes and " hit rock bottom " . Oliver tried to resign from Holby , though before he left he responded to a dangerous RTA call and saved a patient 's life . When he was summoned by Hanssen about his resignation , he was given " fatherly advice " , and

the senior doctor " turned a blind eye " to Oliver 's confession . Henry explained that Hanssen " doesn't think a good doctor should lose his chance at a career in medicine " , after learning Oliver risked his own life on the job .

= = = Departure and return = = =

The character left the show in the episode titled " Mens Sana In Corpore Sano " , which aired on 9 July 2013 . Anderson told producers of his intention to leave one year prior to his departure . They wanted Oliver to leave the show on a positive note and began planning his final storyline . Anderson filmed his final scenes in March 2013 . Producers kept his departure a secret until transmission to surprise viewers . Anderson told Daniel Kilkelly from Digital Spy that Oliver survived the bereavement over the deaths of his sister and wife . Oliver was given redemption in his final scenes so that his fans could believe that he has a future . Oliver resigns and in his final scene tells Elliot that he will return to the hospital . Anderson was pleased that his character has the option of returning in the future .

On 30 October 2014 , it was announced that Anderson had reprised his role . Anderson expressed his pleasure at returning to Holby City saying he was " thrilled to be given the opportunity to bring Ollie back " . He said there would be " lots of surprises in store " for his character , who he dubbed " Oliver 2 @. @ 0 " due to him being older and wiser . Anderson had been approached to return numerous times but only agreed mid 2014 . Oliver 's return was planned to last one episode but Anderson was convinced to return permanently . The BBC later released a promotional video publicising the character 's return . Oliver 's return storyline will see him admitted to the hospital suffering from a serious heart condition . Anderson explained that in the fourteen months since his departure from Holby , Oliver has been working abroad in South America , drinking heavily and self @-@ medicating with several drugs . As he was not taking proper care of himself , he contracted a virus which has affected his heart . Ric Griffin ( Hugh Quarshie ) discovers a " bloodied and badly bruised " Oliver near the hospital entrance , and admits him immediately . When it emerges that Oliver 's condition is potentially fatal , he asks Elliot to fit him with his new surgical device . However , Jac refuses to let the surgery go ahead as the device is only in the experimental stage . Anderson said " Oliver knows that the operation shouldn't go ahead . It 's legally , ethically and morally not a procedure that he should have , but when Jac says no , he 's disappointed and angry . " However , Elliot refuses to give up on Oliver and makes sure the operation goes ahead .

= = Reception = =

Reviewer 's interpretations of Oliver have generally negative . Early in his tenure , he received positive commentary from Inside Soap , who said , " he may be a whizz @-@ kid trainee doctor , but new Holby recruit Oliver Valentine isn't all work and no play ! He 's certainly got an eye for the ladies . " Maeve Quigley , writing for the Daily Mirror , opined that Chrissie was more than a match for Oliver . She added that he soon learnt " you underestimate the female staff of Holby at your peril " , after he thought his flirting had Chrissie " wrapped around his little finger . "

Also writing for the Daily Mirror , Simon called Oliver and Penny a " medical tag @-@ team " . She found it odd they did not get along professionally because she thought " a brother @-@ sister relationship would be one of the least troublesome at Holby . " A Liverpool Daily Post review said that Oliver made Penny feel about " two inches tall " when he was promoted to F2 , and supported her question " Who needs enemies when I've got a brother like you ? " Bree Treacy of RTÉ Ten found both of the Valentines annoying . In June 2010 she preferred Penny , " with Oliver definitely getting the award for the most annoying sibling in the hospital " ; the following month she called them irritating and recommended they " get [ their ] acts together " . On the day Oliver admitted to stealing Penny 's exam paper , Daily Mail critic Jim Shelley featured him in his negative " Down " column and branded him a " weasel " .

Oliver 's lack of medical ability drew several negative reviews . Referring to his " cack @-@ handedness " , Simon described him as " screwing up just about everything he touches " upon his

return to the AAU , a sentiment she repeated after Penny 's death . Simon was left baffled when a professor of cardiology was offered the " very best care possible " ? which resulted in Oliver treating him . She concluded : " [ this ] begs the question , what 's he doing at Holby being looked after by an F2 ? " The Guardian 's Daniel Maier ridiculed Oliver 's supposed talents , and jested that he was " a doctor with the blue eyes of Fonda and the medical competence of fondue " . One Daily Record columnist said that Oliver " hoped to complete his training on the strength of his nice eyes and pretty " .

A special flashback episode , centered on Oliver dealing with the aftermath of Penny 's death , was selected as recommended viewing by What 's on TV , the Liverpool Daily Post , and the Daily Mirror . The Sunday Mirror 's O 'Sullivan called it poignant , and Rachel Mainwaring of the Western Mail wrote , " It 's easy viewing ( apart from the odd gooey scene ) and full of moral as well as medical issues that leaves you shouting at the screen , ' Do the right thing Oliver , tell them the truth . ' " .