

= Rainie Cross =

Lorraine " Rainie " Cross is a fictional character from the BBC One soap opera EastEnders , played by Tanya Franks . Introduced as the drug @-@ addicted sister of Tanya Branning (Jo Joyner) , Franks has had three separate guest stints in 2007 (two episodes) , 2008 (four episodes) and 2010 (seven episodes) and between 12 April and 8 December 2011 . Rainie returned on 16 June 2014 , when she was revealed as Ian Beale 's (Adam Woodyatt) mystery phone contact , having been with Ian on Good Friday , the night of Lucy Beale 's murder .

Described as " the slightly broken sister who 's one step away from a vodka bottle " , Rainie 's storylines have often centred on her addictions to drugs and alcohol . During her seven episode guest stint in 2010 , Rainie was involved in a highly criticised crack cocaine storyline with Phil Mitchell (Steve McFadden) . It was branded " inappropriate " and " horrid " by the Daily Record . EastEnders star Natalie Cassidy (who plays Sonia Fowler) also criticised the storyline , saying she was " shocked " , but Franks defended the storyline , though she herself was not surprised that viewers had complained .

In January 2015 , it was confirmed that Rainie would return for the conclusion of the Lucy Beale murder storyline .

= = Storylines = =

= = = 2007 ? 08 = = =

Rainie first appears at Tanya 's house claiming that she is no longer using drugs but Tanya catches her attempting to inject heroin and gives her a choice ? take £ 500 and never see Tanya or her children again , or stay the night and get help with her problems . Rainie leaves with the money without Tanya noticing but ignores the ultimatum , returning the following year . Tanya is in an emotional state , having recently split from her husband Max Branning (Jake Wood) . Rainie returns the money to Tanya and says she is not using drugs , so Tanya allows her to stay but she tests positive for cannabis so Tanya asks her to leave .

= = = 2010 ? 11 = = =

Rainie returns to Walford in 2010 and tells Max she is clean and sober , and asks Max for Tanya 's phone number . Tanya 's daughter , Abi Branning (Lorna Fitzgerald) , wants Rainie to stay and Max agrees . She steals money out of Max 's sister Carol Jackson 's (Lindsey Coulson) purse , which she uses to buy crack cocaine . Max catches her with the drugs and throws her out . She starts looking for her drugs where a drunken Phil Mitchell (Steve McFadden) approaches , finds Rainie 's crack cocaine and is tempted to try some after she says it helps her block out her memories . Phil and Rainie get high at Phil 's home . Rainie goes to get more drugs when Phil steals money from The Queen Victoria public house , but is mugged by a drug dealer . Phil 's girlfriend Shirley Carter (Linda Henry) offers to help him get clean but throws Rainie out of the house , calling her pathetic .

In 2011 , Rainie returns to Tanya 's house as their mother , Cora Cross (Ann Mitchell) , is visiting . Rainie says she is now completely clean and is staying with Cora because her counsellor wants her to reconnect with her family . When Tanya and Greg Jessop (Stefan Booth) go on their honeymoon , Rainie looks after their house and meets Phil at R & R. They talk about their past but he tells her that he does not want to associate with her and leaves . She and Jack Branning (Scott Maslen) then get drunk together and later go to his flat and have sex . Jack rejects Rainie the following morning . Tanya and Greg return and see how much trouble Rainie has caused . She also causes trouble with Shirley so Tanya asks her to leave but Rainie persuades Tanya to let her stay , much to Greg 's disappointment . Rainie visits Jack 's wife Ronnie Branning (Samantha Womack) to find the knickers she supposedly left behind and taunts Ronnie , asking her to tell Jack to phone her ,

leading to her being kicked out again . She joins a support group to help her stay off drugs and alcohol which Phil also attends . Rainie struggles and calls her drug dealer but Phil catches Rainie with drugs and takes them from her , destroying them . She gets drunk and goes to Tanya 's salon , where Tanya takes her home . Greg throws her out after Tanya lies that Rainie tried to stab her . A few days later , Phil finds Rainie in the pub and Shirley catches them talking and wrongly assumes they are romantically involved but finds out that Phil has been sponsoring Rainie . Shirley almost gives Rainie a job in the café but changes her mind .

Rainie leaves Walford again but insists on her return that she is still not taking drugs . However , she faces several temptations by people offering her drugs , eventually buying some from Ryan Malloy (Neil McDermott) . When Phil finds out , he asks Ryan to not sell to Rainie again . Dot Branning (June Brown) takes pity on Rainie and helps her to clean herself up , telling her about drug addict Donna Ludlow (Matilda Ziegler) and giving her a Bible , which makes Rainie decide to change as she finds religion . Rainie apologises to Tanya for being rude to her earlier in the week , and Tanya agrees to let her stay with her and Greg . Rainie and Cora confide in one another when Rainie says Tanya treats her like a child . When it is revealed that Tanya had an affair with Max , Rainie nearly turns to drink , but stops herself . She gets a job at the R & R club , unaware that she only got it because her boss , Janine Butcher (Charlie Brooks) wanted to irritate Phil . The next week , Phil demands Janine sack Rainie and she agrees but Rainie later applies for a job as an office worker with Janine 's new property management business but Janine makes her a cleaner . When Phil is sent photos relating to an incident from his past , Rainie stops him turning to drink . Phil tells her about the incident and they start to kiss , but are interrupted by Pat Evans (Pam St Clement) . Rainie mentions the photos to Shirley , making Shirley think Rainie is sending them so she threatens Rainie , telling her to stop .

Rainie later discovers that Tanya has cervical cancer . Max returns with his brother , Derek (Jamie Foreman) , and Derek recognises Rainie from Max and Tanya 's wedding and is attracted to her , later mentioning that they had sex . Rainie demands to know why Tanya stopped her treatment and she explains that it did not work for their father and admits she helped him die , shattering Rainie and Cora . Though Tanya and Cora reconcile , Rainie is still angry , telling Tanya she hopes the cancer kills her . She sleeps rough , but then meets Derek and starts a sexual relationship him . When Rainie asks Tanya to apologise over their father but she refuses , as she does not regret it . Cora backs Tanya up and tells Rainie she is ashamed to be her mother so Rainie decides to leave for Tanya 's sake , though she apologises for her comments . She breaks up with Derek and leaves .

In October 2012 , Tanya and Max decide to remarry . Tanya wants Rainie to attend the wedding but doesn 't know where she is and asks Cora to track her down . With help from Jack , Cora manages to get in touch with Rainie and arranges to meet her at a pub , but upon arriving , Rainie has sent her sponsor Olivia (Samantha Best) , to the pub with a letter . Olivia explains that Rainie has been sober for 41 days and has a boyfriend . Rainie is pleased to have been invited to the wedding but declines to attend , stating that Cora is the reason for her alcohol and drug addictions , requesting that she will leave her alone from now on .

= = = 2014 ? 15 = = =

For several weeks following the death of his daughter Lucy Beale (Hetti Bywater) , Ian Beale (Adam Woodyatt) receives texts and calls from " R " , all of which he ignores . After texting her to leave him alone , " R " comes to Walford and is revealed to be Rainie . She blackmails Ian , threatening to tell his fiancée Denise Fox (Diane Parish) and son Peter Beale (Ben Hardy) that he was seeing her as a prostitute on Good Friday , the night of Lucy 's death . When Patrick Trueman (Rudolph Walker) sees Rainie , she reveals what Ian has done , but he is unable to tell Denise when he suffers a stroke . Ian meets Rainie to tell her that he will not pay her anymore , but Mick Carter (Danny Dyer) catches Ian and pulls up behind him . Ian drives away so Rainie approaches Mick , thinking he is a customer . He rejects her but the police arrest him for soliciting a prostitute . To protect Ian , Mick pleads guilty . Rainie and Cora meet at the court , as Cora has come to support

Linda Carter (Kellie Bright) . Cora confronts Rainie , and realises that she is the prostitute involved , and sees how low she has fallen and gives her money to fund her addiction so she can stop her prostitution . Ian tells Phil what has happened , so Phil pays Rainie , telling her to stop blackmailing Ian . Phil finds a flat for Rainie in Walford but she is thrown out by her landlord because of her prostitution . Phil takes Rainie to Cora to deal with her , so Cora lets Rainie live with her . Rainie tries to blackmail Mick into giving her more money but he insults and humiliates her . She then tells Denise about her night with Ian . Cora promises to help her get clean , but when she goes out , she returns to find Rainie gone and that she has stolen all her money . A flashback later reveals what happened between Rainie and Ian on the day Lucy died .

= = Development = =

= = Introduction and characterisation = = =

The character originally appeared for two episodes on 2 and 3 August 2007 , and then returned for four episodes between 7 and 11 January 2008 . Franks was asked to return again later in 2008 but could not make it , so Franks thought Rainie would not be seen again . She returned for the longer stint in 2010 , starting on 3 August . Franks did not expect to be asked to return in 2010 , and said the call came as a surprise . She said it was " ideal " because it fitted in with another acting job she was undertaking at the time . She commented that Rainie would be " unlikely to return without stirring up a bit of trouble " . Rainie returned again on 12 April 2011 as a regular character , for Tanya 's wedding to Greg Jessop , along with Tanya and Rainie 's mother Cora , where Cora tries to build bridges between the sisters .

In April 2011 it was reported by The Sun that Rainie would have a one @-@ night stand with Jack Branning on 6 May 2011 after he discovers his son is dead and she comforts him . In May 2011 , it was announced that Cora would return to the series , and executive producer Bryan Kirkwood said he was " keen to establish the Cross women ? Rainie completes the mix as the slightly broken sister who 's one step away from a vodka bottle . " Rainie has been described as " troublesome " and " troubled " . On her official BBC character profile she is described as sly , manipulative and ruthless , and that she " spells trouble with a capital T ! " . It finishes saying , " But behind the wild partying , Rainie is a lost soul with a soft , vulnerable side that yearns to get her life back on track and impress her older sister Tanya . "

= = = Notable relationships = = =

= = = = Phil Mitchell = = = =

Rainie 's relationship with Phil Mitchell (McFadden) was first explored during her stint in 2010 . Rainie and Phil were to be involved in a storyline involving the taking of crack cocaine . Discussing her return in 2010 , she said she was pleased to be working closely with McFadden as they had not worked together . Franks explained that after being thrown out of the house by Tanya 's ex @-@ husband Max , and moving in with Phil that , " it gets quite dark and dirty , really . Phil and Rainie are two people who meet at a point in their lives where they both see something equivalent in each other . He offers her something that she wants , and that is a place to be , while she has something that he wants , and that 's drugs ? so it 's a match at that time . " Franks was given advice from the charity DrugScope on how to act the part and also undertook some of her own research , and she said she believed the scenes to be very realistic . She wanted the drugs storyline to help people , saying , " If there are people who have a drugs problem , or an addiction problem of any kind really , they might watch something like this and it could trigger something in their mind that is relevant to them , or someone that they know . Hopefully it could make people think twice about carrying on with that , and perhaps look into getting some help . The organisation that we worked with ,

DrugScope , gives a lot of help and advice for people with drug addictions . I think it can be hugely helpful when a show as popular as EastEnders does something like this . " She also stated that if EastEnders " has saved one life by putting this story out it 's been worth it . The whole point of soaps is to reflect a certain amount of everyday life . Some of it is going to be light entertainment , some isn 't . "

= = = = Tanya Branning = = = =

Rainie 's relationship with Tanya has always been fractured , though Rainie tries to resolve the tension with Tanya during her return in 2011 . When Rainie was first announced on 13 July 2007 , it was said Rainie was said to " [drag] up a past which Tanya would rather forget " . Rainie persuades Tanya to let her stay and forgive her and then going back on the promise , which leads Rainie to be kicked out . When Franks returned in 2010 she said " she was disappointed not to be working with Joyner this time . " On her return to for Tanya 's wedding , a spokesperson said , ? Tanya soon softens towards Rainie and her mother but will the harmony last between all three women or will past problems cause the women to Cross swords once again ? ? . Franks has commented that she is excited about exploring the family dynamic between the Cross ladies in upcoming storylines and her future in EastEnders . Joyner said that Tanya would forgive Rainie for her past actions . In an interview with Digital Spy , Kirkwood said that he was ' delighted ' at the expansion of Tanya 's family and that " The new characters are excellent additions to a cast that 's already very strong . "

= = = 2014 return = = =

Tanya Franks returned to the role of Rainie Cross for a stint on 16 June 2014 . Her return was kept a secret by the cast and crew of EastEnders , and followed the surprise returns of Laurie Brett , Nicholas Bailey and Emma Barton as Jane Beale , Anthony Trueman and Honey Mitchell respectively . All of these returns were under new executive producer Dominic Treadwell @-@ Collins .

Rainie was reintroduced as part of the ' Who Killed Lucy Beale ? ' storyline , a story that began in April 2014 when Lucy Beale (Hetti Bywater) was murdered , and climaxed as part of the 30th anniversary celebrations of EastEnders in February 2015 . Lucy 's father Ian Beale 's (Adam Woodyatt) alibi was revealed as fake soon after Lucy 's death , and on 16 June 2014 it was revealed that he was seeing Rainie , who had become a prostitute to fund her drug addiction , on the night Lucy died . Rainie then began blackmailing Ian for more money in return for keeping his actions secret from the police and his fiance Denise Fox (Diane Parish) .

Her appearances became more regular from July 2014 onwards , with her stepping up her blackmail and revealing Ian 's actions to Denise 's protective father figure , Patrick Trueman (Rudolph Walker) . In August 2014 , Ian 's friend Mick Carter , played by Danny Dyer , pulled over behind Ian and Rainie when he spotted them talking . Ian drove off and Rainie approaches Mick , believing him to be a customer of her prostitute services . The police then pulled up behind Mick , and arrested him for soliciting . When Ian explained Rainie 's blackmail , Mick agreed to cover for him , to ensure the safety of his fake alibi . As a result of this , Rainie was reconciled with her mother , Cora Cross (Ann Mitchell) , as Cora supported Mick 's wife Linda Carter (Kellie Bright) in court before bumping into her daughter . Rainie wants nothing to do with Cora , and pretends the allegations against Mick are true .

The storyline also saw Franks film scenes alongside Steve McFadden , who plays Phil Mitchell , for the first time since their controversial drugs storyline in 2010 . Ian told Phil about Rainie 's blackmail , and Phil took Rainie to the allotments to ' deal with her ' . He later told Ian that she would not be a ' problem ' any longer , leaving Ian fearful of what lengths Phil had gone to . Phil was later revealed to have set Rainie up in a flat , but when his fiance Sharon Rickman (Letitia Dean) discovered what he was doing she ordered him to let Rainie go as she was not his problem . As a result , he abandoned Rainie on Cora 's doorstep , where Rainie promises to get clean with Cora 's help . Ian 's

actions were revealed when Rainie , depressed after a confrontation with Mick Carter and his family , told Denise about their night together . Cora and Rainie have a heart to heart , but when Cora heads out for a short time , she returns and find Rainie gone along with her purse .

= = Reception = =

Franks said that after her stint in 2008 , many people recognised her in the street and asked if she would return . Scenes showing Phil and Rainie taking the drug crack cocaine in 2010 prompted over 200 complaints from viewers who felt the scenes were inappropriate . The BBC responded by saying " EastEnders in no way ? and at no point ? glamorises or condones the use of drugs , and furthermore we took great care to avoid any demonstration on how to prepare or take drugs . [...] We took care to signal the nature of the episode 's content to viewers in advance through programme publicity and billings , and the BBC Action Line was trailed following the episode for anyone affected by the issue . In addition to this , our website includes links to organisations who can offer help and advice on this issue . [...] We worked closely with drug and alcohol charities , including Addaction and DrugScope , throughout the editorial process to ensure that we handled the storyline accurately and sensitively . " The Daily Mail asked some viewers about the scenes , including one who said , " I was shocked at the content of the episode . The graphic detail of the drug use with Phil and his friend was terrible and in view of the time that the episode was aired , entirely inappropriate . Viewers do not need to see this kind of storyline . Please , BBC , no more of these horrid storylines . " Other viewers said , " They look like they 're having a good time . They 're in danger of making it look appealing . " Finally , " It was a bit much . I 've found EastEnders distressing over the last month . " The Daily Record described the scenes as ' disturbing ' .

EastEnders star , Natalie Cassidy also criticised the scenes , saying , " You can 't swear or show two people making love before the watershed , yet you can show people smoking class A drugs ? I was really shocked . " Franks was not surprised that people complained , but defended the storyline , saying that " the good that comes from storylines like this far outweighs whatever concerns people might have " .