

= Thou Shalt Not Kill ( Spooks ) =

" Thou Shalt Not Kill " is the premiere episode of the British television series Spooks . It first aired on BBC One in the United Kingdom on 13 May 2002 . The episode was written by series creator David Wolstencroft and directed by Bharat Nalluri . " Thou Shalt Not Kill " focuses on MI5 's activities in stopping a pro @-@ life movement who have smuggled 20 explosive devices to be used against family planning doctors . The episode title is a reference to the sixth Commandment .

The pilot went through 30 rewrites and four separate story changes before the BBC were satisfied with the plot . It would be rewritten again following the September 11 attacks , with the purpose of acknowledging the series premise as battling terrorism . Filming took place mostly in London , England using a long lens camera . The idea of using split screen , regularly used by the series , came from Nalluri after filming wrapped up for the episode , and was not inspired by the American television series 24 .

Following its broadcast , the pilot was seen by over nine million viewers , easily winning its time slot , having nearly doubled viewership from ITV1 at the same time ; the ratings went beyond the producers ' expectations . However , critics gave varied responses towards the episode .

= = Plot = =

When a car bomb detonates in Liverpool , killing family planning doctor Karen Lynott ( Karen Westwood ) and severely injuring her young daughter Sarah , Section D of MI5 is on the case . Danny Hunter ( David Oyelowo ) learns from one of his assets , " Osprey " ( Kelly Rolfe ) , that the group responsible have smuggled 20 bombs into the country . After following her , the team learn that the terrorist responsible for smuggling the bombs and killing Lynott is Mary Kane ( Lisa Eichhorn ) , an American pro @-@ life extremist ; she smuggled herself into the country under an assumed name and has been setting up cells across the UK . Section D also learn that Kane may be setting up the attacks in tribute of her husband , who is on death row in Florida following a series of attacks in abortion clinics . Upon tracking the movements of one cell , the Central Intelligence Agency pressure MI5 to extradite Kane back to the United States ; such an action will seriously hinder their efforts to find the cells and a put a stop to them . By the time Harry Pearce ( Peter Firth ) signs the extradition forms , Kane evades MI5 .

In the meantime , Zoe Reynolds ( Keeley Hawes ) goes undercover to pose as a sympathizer to the cell . She lures a member , Rachel ( Rachel Power ) to the same hospital Sarah Lynott is being treated ; Sarah would later die from the extent of her injuries . Senior case officer and team leader Tom Quinn ( Matthew Macfadyen ) attempts to persuade her to stop Kane , believing she has little regard for any life . Rachel leaves in haste , but unbeknownst to her , MI5 bug her mobile phone , and record a phone conversation she makes to the cell regarding their next target , Diane Sullivan , a doctor living in London . Tom 's team are able to take Sullivan to safety whilst Zoe poses as the target . The team see Kane deliver a bomb to Zoe 's car , and prepares to detonate it via mobile phone . To counter the attack , a Bomb Squad jams the signal long enough for Tom to arrest her . During the interrogation , Tom promises to send her to a state in the US where the death penalty does not apply in exchange for the locations of every cell she runs in the UK . After she cooperates , Tom goes back on the deal and delivers Kane to CIA liaison Christine Dale ( Megan Dodds ) , who returns her to Florida to be executed .

Meanwhile , over the course of the episode , Tom enters a relationship with civilian Ellie Simm ( Esther Hall ) following an unrelated operation before the events of the episode , going by the pseudonym of civil servant in IT " Matthew Archer " .

= = Production = =

The script for the episode went through 30 drafts , and four separate stories before the BBC were satisfied and ordered the series . Writing the pilot was completed before the September 11 terrorist attacks ; after the attacks took place , the producers decided to add mention of the events into the

episode in order to acknowledge the fact that the series is about fighting terrorism .

Writer David Wolstencroft decided that Tom Quinn would use IT as his cover story for Ellie Simm , because IT has , according to Wolstencroft , " something that has an enormous amount of thought and technical fact behind it that nobody would really understand , " and according to series producer Jane Featherstone , has people reluctant to be asking questions about . A scene where a cat escaped during Zoe 's operation to bug Kane 's cottage , and the ensuing search in the rain mirrored an experience during Wolstencroft 's early career . It was also intended that the episode established that although spies plan heavily before operations , things can go wrong . Among the main cast , Peter Firth was attracted to appearing on Spooks after hearing of Howard Brenton 's involvement in the series . The cast were advised by ex @-@ MI5 officers in order to help give insight into how the characters operate in the spy world and how their personal lives would be affected by it . The character Maisie Simm ( Heather Cave ) , Ellie 's daughter , was created because Featherstone believed that " children are the best spies of all " ; Maisie is often seen " spying " on Tom throughout the episode and first series . Megan Dodds guest starred as Christine Dale ; the producers were sufficiently impressed with her performance that she would later return as Dale in the second series .

Principal photography took place in November and December 2001 . The majority of filming was done with a long lens , which proved difficult as many filming location were short on space . 40 to 50 cuts were made in the first 10 minutes of the episode to quickly introduce the main characters . Filming took part almost entirely in London ; some London locations doubled as Liverpool locations , including the hospital , which was filmed in Covent Garden . The hospital scenes were first in the episode to be shot . The scenes set in a cottage in The Wirral were filmed in Surrey ; the cottage was dubbed the " cottage from hell " according to director Bharat Nalluri because of its small size . The Freemasons ' Hall in London served as the filming location for Thames House , the headquarters for MI5 . The Hall was chosen as the producers felt that both buildings were similar in architecture . The Grid set was filmed in a Kensington medical school . Borough Market was located to film the scenes where Kane is arrested ; filming proved to be difficult as they had to reset the scene several times .

The idea for split screening came to Nalluri after visiting a pub one night after filming wrapped up . In the audio commentary for the episode , Nalluri stated he was not inspired by the American series 24 , which also uses split screen , as he was not yet aware of the show . The news report covering Mary and Paul Kane 's past activities were snippets of real @-@ life news from the United States , which were edited together . The music was composed by Jennie Muskett , who spent just two to three hours putting several pieces of background music together . One part of the episode centred on Zoe posing as target Diane Sullivan . Some publicity shots of Keeley Hawes in the series were shots of her with long brunette hair , though in fact she has short blonde hair .

= = Broadcast and reception = =

The pilot was first broadcast on Monday 13 May 2002 , during the 9 to 10 pm time slot . The Spooks producers were hoping the ratings for the pilot would achieve at least six million viewers , with a 30 per cent audience share ; at the time this would be considered acceptable ratings by the BBC , as it would allow them to further consider Spooks ' future . The episode ended up with an overnight rating of 9 @. @ 2 million viewers , with a 41 per cent audience share , easily winning its time slot , and nearly doubling the numbers of ITV1 's Helen West , which was viewed by 4 @. @ 8 million with 22 per cent share in the same slot . The final numbers posted on the Broadcasters ' Audience Research Board website was up slightly to 9 @. @ 6 million viewers , making the Spooks pilot the seventh most viewed BBC One broadcast , and the tenth most viewed broadcast in total the week it aired .

Nancy Banks @-@ Smith of The Guardian called it " one of those shiny and insubstantial series , " adding that " all that leaping out of bed at dawn on the pretext that you have to go and sell a house tends to wear thin . " Banks @-@ Smith also called the story " slightly unexpected . " She also stated " Spooks appears to plume itself on its authenticity , and there are moments , well one

moment , so stupid it has to be true . " Thomas Sudcliff of The Independent felt it was a " different kind of spy drama " with " a literal description , derived from the sort of rueful story you could imagine being told at an MI5 staff social , " and " a lot of bullshit too , naturally . This is one of those dramas where colleagues never make small talk but instead launch straight into an urgent purposive shorthand . " Joe Joseph of The Times stated that it " bears a closer resemblance [ ... ] 24 , " which " shaded the pleasure of this opening episode , " but felt that by the end of the episode , Spooks had " established a voice of its own . " Gerard O 'Donovan of The Telegraph thought that the episode " proved thoroughly entertaining , " and praised Wolstencroft 's writing , which O 'Donovan felt was " confident enough to be playful with its subject - especially regarding Britain 's poor @-@ relation relationship with America . " Alison Graham of the Radio Times said that after the episode , the series " looks like it 's going to be great fun , " but " it 's presumably not meant to be taken too seriously , because surely life in MI5 can 't be this exciting ? "