

Turning Tides

Spec ½ hour soap

The friction between three siblings, their families and neighbours against a backdrop of immigration and racial tensions in a run-down Kent coast town.

After years away, **Lynn Chesley** is forced back to her home town of Whitecliffs to find the cloud she left under is still very much there.

Brother **Mo** is beset by money worries and an abusive daughter while their embittered younger sister **Becks**, now proud landlady of the Vera Lynn pub isn't prepared to go back into Lynn's shadow, especially now that their domineering mother has passed away.

On the edge of the country, with more than its fair share of crime, gossip, migrants and bigotry Whitecliffs is at tipping point. Lynn and her mixed-race daughter **Simone** will not find the warm welcome they hope for.

Storylines that begin in the opening episode:

Lynn defies her sister to attend their mother's funeral. More than that, she's back in Whitecliffs to stay, rekindling old sibling rivalries. But what will anger **Becks** more? Lynn's past affair with her husband **Eddie**. Or her new romance with local Polish businessman **Antoni**?

Lynn's daughter **Simone** joins her new school and befriends Sudanese next door neighbour **Hasan** until she falls for local bad boy **Anders** and apes his bigoted attitudes. Their relentless harassment of Hasan will ultimately uncover his secret, that he and his 'dad' **Akmed** are actually gay lovers fleeing a hostile regime.

Anders is also suspected of vandalising Antoni's new beauty salon but the culprit will actually turn out to be sexagenarian tea shop proprietor **Pearl**.

A breakout overnight in Dover sees a Syrian refugee flee towards Whitecliffs. Borderforce officials **Mo** and Eddie are under suspicion for taking bribes. And when **Maya** is discovered at the funeral she will threaten to blow things wide open.

But Maya's not the only stranger. Teens **Megan** and **Shaz** find desperate **Tarek** hiding in the pub cellar. Sadistic Megan is determined to use his situation to her advantage.

Meanwhile Mo's wife **Janey** is at breaking point. The corner shop is being sold from under them, she can't find the words to tell Mo and teenage tearaway Megan is becoming more abusive by the day.

When Megan disappears, the town launches a witch hunt. But Megan's abductor and would-be murderer is much closer to home.

Among the lies, scandal and, heartache, **Turning Tides** explores themes of inevitability of change and our readiness (or lack of) to adapt. Set beyond our accepting multicultural cities, it shines a spotlight on the day to day struggles of our outlying towns where foreign families are dumped to settle among people that don't understand them and where natives feel squeezed out and overlooked.

But amid the strife humanity will shine through.