



Timothy Spall
and Anne Reid

Village of death

**Timothy Spall
and Anne
Reid** play the
victims of a
real-life killer



Eanna Hardwicke
as Ben Field

NEW DRAMA

The Sixth Commandment

Mon & Tue, 9pm, BBC1 (box set, iPlayer)

The chilling case of a murderer who preyed on two elderly neighbours is brought to life in a new four-part drama starring Timothy Spall and Anne Reid.

BBC1's true-crime drama *The Sixth Commandment* features Spall and Reid as victims Peter Farquhar and Ann Moore-Martin, who both lived in the village of Maids Moreton, Buckinghamshire, and were duped by killer Ben Field.

'Peter and Ann were two deeply intelligent and religious people who were hoodwinked by someone into what they believed were loving relationships,' says Spall.

MANIPULATED

The drama begins with Peter, a highly respected teacher, retiring from his job and taking a position as a guest lecturer at the University of Buckingham, where he met Field.

'Field was intelligent and mature and the two men began a relationship,' explains Spall, 66. 'Field offered Peter, who had been repressing his sexuality, an intimacy that he had craved his whole life.'

However, family members were

alarmed when Peter, who was sharing his home with Field, started to become very ill, unaware that Field was poisoning him in order to get his inheritance.

When Peter died suddenly in 2015, aged 69, it was initially believed the cause was alcohol intoxication. Meanwhile, Field moved on to his next victim, retired Ann.

'Field feigned a religious belief to gain Ann's confidence and lavished attention on her,' explains Reid, 88. 'He told her he'd fallen in love with her.'

But in 2017, Ann was admitted to hospital and her niece Anne-Marie learnt that her will had been changed in favour of Field, and she called the police. It was only after diaries of Peter's provided evidence that Field was arrested. In 2019, he was sentenced to a minimum of 36 years in prison.

Starring Eanna Hardwicke as Field, the drama was made with the backing of the victims' families.

'This drama is a tribute to Peter and Ann,' says Spall, 'and to the bravery of their families, who were determined to find justice.'