

Home Front

Episode 2

5th August 1914 - Gabriel Graham

By KATIE HIMES

Cast

Gabriel	Michael Bertenshaw (RDC)
Hilary	Craig Els (RDC)
Sylvia	Deborah Findlay
Freddie	Freddie Fox
Dieter	Joe Sims

Directed by JESSICA ANDREWSON | Written by KATHY COOPER | Produced by JESSICA ANDREWSON

HILARY I don't think it was quite as bad as all that.

GABRIEL People sleeping on suitcases on the pavement.
Children. All night. British citizens - fleeing
Europe –

HILARY But we didn't know they were coming.

GABRIEL But we ought to have known. We ought to have
been ready.

HILARY Well we won't let it happen again.

GABRIEL And the very same day - fighting – practically a
riot - breaks out at the harbour.

HILARY Perhaps that was inevitable. In the circumstances.

GABRIEL The young German men ought never have been
kept waiting alongside British soldiers.

HILARY No Sir. That's true.

GABRIEL There were women present. Tourists for goodness
sake.

HILARY I know.

GABRIEL It's so

GABRIEL

This is the most crucial month in the calendar. We need to let the nation know that the water's warm,

HILARY I've erm I've no idea. I could try and find out.

GABRIEL Because it's behaviour of this nature that concerns me most.

HILARY Shall I find out if they were soldiers?

GABRIEL Tourists. Or prospective tourists. Must not for one moment imagine that Folkestone has become over run with marauding drunken soldiers. Who will even go so far as to break into your hotel room and steal your wife's bathing costume.

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HILARY Do you think that would be politic Sir?

GABRIEL It maybe be alot more politic than doing nothing.

HILARY But these men – they are about to leave to fight a war – to make the ultimate sacrifice –

GABRIEL Yes Hilary I am all too aware of this fact. Why my own son is heading to France very shortly –

HILARY Sorry Sir I –

GABRIEL But it’s about finding a balance between the needs of the town and the needs of the military.

HILARY It’s not as if the military is new to Folkestone.

GABRIEL Yes that’s true but something has changed. Something in the air. In the excitement of war there’s an attitude. A devil may care sort of feeling.

HILARY Which is understandable.

GABRIEL Of course it is. Of course. And no one is more proud of the King’s Army than I am but the relationship between the town and the military needs managing. Careful managing. We shall discuss it after lunch.

HILARY Yes Sir.

FX: THERE IS A BRISK KNOCK ON THE DOOR.

SYLVIA WALKS STRAIGHT IN.

SYLVIA Good Afternoon darling.

GABRIEL Sylvia.

SYLVIA Hello Hilary.

HILARY Good Afternoon Mrs Graham.

GABRIEL I thought we were meeting at the Hotel.

SYLVIA Well I fancied a little walk. What have you two
been up to this morning?

GABRIEL

HILARY HANDS OVER A PIECE OF PAPER.

GABRIEL 'Don't get in too big a quantity of provisions at once. Remember there are others who cannot afford to do so. Don't be selfish; help to keep down the prices. Britain is well stocked.'

HILARY What do you think?

GABRIEL I'd like to ponder it.

HILARY Of course.

GABRIEL I'll take it with me.

SYLVIA Have you ever eaten at the Grand Hilary?

HILARY No Madam.

SYLVIA Oh you must.

GABRIEL You absolutely must.

SYLVIA You're in for an absolute treat.

GABRIEL But have the steak rather than the duck.

SYLVIA The duck is very nice.

GABRIEL But the steak is superb. Best steak in all of Folkestone. Probably all of Kent. Do you like steak?

HILARY Erm actually I'm a vegetarian.

GABRIEL You're what?

HILARY I'm a vegetarian.

GABRIEL What do you mean?

HILARY I don't eat meat.

GABRIEL What not at all? Not ever?

HILARY No Sir not ever.

GABRIEL Good lord. Isn't that extraordinary?

SYLVIA It is unusual.

GABRIEL I've never heard anything like it in my life.

HILARY I just don't believe in killing animals so that we can eat them.

GABRIEL Isn't that extraordinary.

(MUSIC: HOME FRONT CLOSING SIG USED AS TRANSITION AT 5'13. TOTAL '10 SECS USED CARRIES ON UNDER BEGINNING OF SCENE)

SCENE 2 INT. THE GRAND HOTEL.

GABRIEL Freddie.

SYLVIA Darling.

FREDDIE Hello Mother. Father

HILARY Hello.

GABRIEL Dear Boy.

SYLVIA Kiss me.

FREDDIE GOES TO KISS HER. THEN SHE HUGS HIM.

FREDDIE Gently Mother. I've got a crashing hangover.

SYLVIA Have you been drinking?

FREDDIE No Mother it was vimto gave me this head.

SYLVIA What on earth is vimto?

GABRIEL It's a tonic drink I believe.

SYLVIA Could they spare you darling? At Shorncliffe.

FREDDIE Absolutely.

SYLVIA You aren't missing any You are You

GABRIEL Waiter!

DIETER APPROACHES

DIETER Yes Sir. Can I get you something to drink?

GABRIEL Something to drink. Yes. Will you have something
to drink Freddie?

FREDDIE Why not? Hair of the Dog and all that.

SYLVIA What is hair of the dog?

GABRIEL It's having a drink to dull the effects of the
previous drink. Am I right?

FREDDIE Something like that.

DIETER Should I come back in a moment?

GABRIEL

GABRIEL I envy you. I do.

FREDDIE Yes well it is pretty bloody marvellous. That it's actually happening. It's just the waiting around that's so damn difficult.

DIETER Do you need any help sir?

GABRIEL Help?

DIETER With the wine list, sir

GABRIEL I think I know my way around this wine list

DIETER I'm so sorry...

SYLVIA Darling ought we to drink champagne?

GABRIEL Champagne now there's an idea.

SYLVIA After all it is a rather special occasion.

GABRIEL It is indeed. Alright we'll have a bottle of moet.

DIETER A bottle of moet?

GABRIEL That's right.

DIETER Thank you Sir. I'll be back in a moment.

GABRIEL No wait. Why don't we order food as well? Are you ready darling?

SYLVIA I think so.

GABRIEL Freddie?

FREDDIE Absolutely.

DIETER What can I get you madam?

SYLVIA Oh no, Freddie you go first.

FREDDIE I should like the pigeon to begin. And then I'll have the steak.

GABRIEL Good man.

DIETER Pigeon. Steak. And you Sir?

GABRIEL I should like the foie gras followed by the steak.

DIETER The foie gras. And the steak. Very good Sir. And for you Madam?

SYLVIA Just a moment. I'm having second thoughts. Just a moment.

GABRIEL Do you know something rather extraordinary?

FREDDIE What's that?

GABRIEL My new secretary is a vegetarian. Have you ever heard of such a thing?

FREDDIE Well I've heard of it. I've never met one before.

GABRIEL He doesn't believe in killing animals in order that we can eat them.

FREDDIE Well I suppose if one really thinks about it. I should hate anyone to kill Nelson and have him for supper.

SYLVIA No one would want to eat Nelson darling.

GABRIEL The Frenchies might. They're very fond of horse meat. Better keep a good eye on him when you get to B.

SYLVIA What about the Germans?

FREDDIE What about them?

SYLVIA Do they eat horses?

DIETER Madam?

SYLVIA Yes?

DIETER What would you like to order?

GABRIEL Perhaps that's what they put in those sausages.
Those bratwurst things.

SYLVIA Oh I can't decide between the duck –

GABRIEL The steak is the best thing on the menu -

SYLVIA Or the lamb. Oh honestly. Which would you
recommend?

DIETER The lamb is very good today.

SYLVIA

DIETER Yes Madam.

SYLVIA My husband and I adore Geneva. Don't we darling?

GABRIEL Well you do. I prefer to stay at home. Enjoy the cricket.

FREDDIE Damn shame they cancelled cricket week at Hythe.

GABRIEL Damn shame.

DIETER Madam?

SYLVIA Yes.

DIETER You haven't ordered.

SYLVIA Oh goodness how right you are. I'll have the Duck.

DIETER The duck. Excellent. And to start?

SYLVIA The salad.

DIETER The salad very good Madam.

DIETER LEAVES.

SYLVIA Do you know I could have sworn that young man was German.

GABRIEL Really?

SYLVIA Could have sworn it.

FREDDIE Do you think the Regatta will go ahead?

GABRIEL I do hope so.

GABRIEL Actually Freddie I should like some advice from you.

FREDDIE Oh yes?

GABRIEL We're thinking about restricting access to the theatres and possibly the cinema. Not ban the military entirely. But simply to restrict when they might attend. Hilary thinks it might have too detrimental effect on morale. But I wondered what you thought.

FREDDIE Honestly Father? You honestly want to know what I think?

GABRIEL I do.

FREDDIE Well I think your vegetarian secretary is absolutely right.

GABRIEL Really?

FREDDIE Yes. In a few weeks some of these men will lay their lives down for this country.

SYLVIA Oh darling.

FREDDIE It's true Mother. You can't say it isn't because it is. And you know some of the officers drink just as much if not more than the men. You should hear the Brigadier raving about weak and dissolute leadership. So I don't you can place any further restrictions on the men. When they are placing no restrictions at all on what they give for the country.

SYLVIA Well said darling. Rather beautifully said in fact.

FREDDIE You might want to think about opening up the reading room at the library on Sundays. Just for the soldiers. At least it would give them an alternative to the public house.

GABRIEL But do they read these men?

FREDDIE Some of them read a great deal.

