

get dark, and as this episode, tantalisingly titled "The Lying Detective", unfolds, it's clear this is, without doubt, the most chilling and creepy Sherlock story so far. Central villain Culverton Smith - played in stunning style by the great Toby Jones - has echoes of a certain real-life serial offender: a famous and wealthy figure so powerful and seemingly unassailable, he even gets the keys to the hospitals he helps fund. And Sherlock knows he's hiding his evilness in plain sight. Less of a whodunit and more of a will-he-get-awaywith-it, this breathtakingly intense episode climaxes with a twist that truly pulls the rug from under us.

\*\*\*\* Boyd Hilton

