# Channel 5’s The Feud blends absurd domestic drama with thriller ambitions amid mixed reviews



All you wanted was a kitchen extension, but instead, you find yourself embroiled in a planning permission dispute that threatens the sanctity of your quiet street. This premise serves as the backdrop for *The Feud*, a six-part series that recently aired on Channel 5, starring Jill Halfpenny. The narrative, laden with absurdity, includes a slew of familiar British actors, unexpected twists, and a plot that oscillates between the prosaic and the outrageous. As you navigate through these trials, you quickly learn that your husband may be cheating with your best friend, who also happens to be your next-door neighbour, while a builder with a vaguely familiar face adds to the chaos with his own agenda.

*The Feud* exemplifies a peculiar blend of domestic drama and thriller that has become a new hallmark for Channel 5. Traditionally seen as a channel that churned out factual programming, it has gradually pivoted towards more scripted content that captivates audiences—albeit with a mixed reception. The shift began in earnest around 2020 with the success of *All Creatures Great and Small*, followed by various detective series and a pipeline of unhinged domestic thrillers. This evolution has seenChannel 5 emerge as a surprising contender in the realm of British drama, aiming to fill the void left by a struggling television industry, which struggles to balance more thoughtful programming with viewers’ cravings for escapism.

Viewers’ responses to *The Feud* have been decidedly mixed. While some praise the show’s engaging premise and the charisma of its cast, others have been less forgiving, citing wooden performances and distracting soundscapes. Complaints about the intrusive soundtrack have surfaced, with many describing it as "loud" and "annoying." This dichotomy underscores the broader appeal of such dramas; they invite audiences into a world that is as enthralling as it is ludicrous. Critics have pointed to the numerous plot holes and over-the-top clichés, suggesting that it sometimes veers into parody rather than genuine thrilling drama. Yet, even with its faults, the series has captured a dedicated viewer base, resonating with those who enjoy a blend of melodrama and suspense.

Channel 5's foray into this dramatic territory isn’t merely an exploration of new genres; it’s also a strategic move in a challenging broadcasting environment. UK television faces mounting pressure from streaming giants offering unlimited budgets. Traditional formats are faltering, with even established soaps such as *Holby City* facing cuts. In an effort to rejuvenate British storytelling, Channel 5 has recently announced a *Drama of the Week* strand, showcasing new programming designed to retain viewers while also nurturing emerging talent in the industry. This initiative is both a response to the need for original content and an attempt to strengthen the hand of British narratives in global storytelling.

In the end, amid the chaos of *The Feud*—where understanding and trust between neighbours teeter precariously on the brink—audiences find a peculiar comfort. The absurdity of the drama, combined with moments of relatable humanity, creates an unmissable spectacle. Whether it’s the dread of relationship breakdowns, the comedy of mistakes, or the thrill of unexpected family secrets, these tropes resonate, providing a much-needed escape from reality. So, as the end credits roll, viewers are left contemplating their next binge-worthy series, perhaps with a glass of red wine in hand, ready to immerse themselves into yet another layer of thrilling absurdity.

## Reference Map:

* Paragraph 1 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/channel-5-drama-netflix-love-rat-the-feud-b2760681.html), [[7]](https://www.yours.co.uk/leisure/celebrity-tv/the-feud-channel-5/)
* Paragraph 2 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/channel-5-drama-netflix-love-rat-the-feud-b2760681.html), [[2]](https://www.gbnews.com/celebrity/channel-5-the-feud-switch-off-bad-acting), [[4]](https://www.tvguide.co.uk/streaming-guide/the-feud-channel-5-unforgivable-clangers-mistakes-plot-holes-flaws-viewers-jill-halfpenny-thriller), [[5]](https://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/opinion/columnists/the-feud-review-this-silly-tale-of-warring-neighbours-and-planning-applications-verges-on-parody-5090127)
* Paragraph 3 – [[3]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/827956/the-feud-viewers-same-complaint-annoying-aspect-channel-5-thriller/), [[6]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/826455/the-feud-viewers-saying-same-thing-thriller-series/)
* Paragraph 4 – [[1]](https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/channel-5-drama-netflix-love-rat-the-feud-b2760681.html), [[6]](https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/826455/the-feud-viewers-saying-same-thing-thriller-series/)

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## Bibliography

1. <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/tv/features/channel-5-drama-netflix-love-rat-the-feud-b2760681.html> - Please view link - unable to able to access data
2. <https://www.gbnews.com/celebrity/channel-5-the-feud-switch-off-bad-acting> - An article discussing viewers' reactions to Channel 5's 'The Feud', highlighting complaints about perceived underwhelming acting and an intrusive soundtrack. Some viewers expressed disappointment, stating that the acting felt 'wooden' and the background music was 'annoying'. Despite these critiques, others found the debut episode engaging, praising the cast and the show's pace. The article provides insights into the audience's mixed responses to the series.
3. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/827956/the-feud-viewers-same-complaint-annoying-aspect-channel-5-thriller/> - This piece reports on viewers' feedback regarding Channel 5's 'The Feud', focusing on complaints about the 'loud' background music. While some viewers were captivated by the plot and cast, others found the soundtrack distracting, with comments highlighting its volume and repetitiveness. The article also provides a brief overview of the series' premise and cast, offering context to the audience's reactions.
4. <https://www.tvguide.co.uk/streaming-guide/the-feud-channel-5-unforgivable-clangers-mistakes-plot-holes-flaws-viewers-jill-halfpenny-thriller> - An analysis of 'The Feud' on Channel 5, highlighting perceived plot holes and flaws identified by viewers. The article discusses issues such as the rapid progression of events, character inconsistencies, and clichés. It also touches upon critiques of the portrayal of certain characters and the believability of the storyline. The piece offers a critical perspective on the series' narrative and character development.
5. <https://www.shieldsgazette.com/news/opinion/columnists/the-feud-review-this-silly-tale-of-warring-neighbours-and-planning-applications-verges-on-parody-5090127> - A review of 'The Feud' on Channel 5, describing it as a blend of domestic thriller and planning application drama. The article critiques the series for its implausible plot developments and character dynamics, suggesting it verges on parody. It provides a critical perspective on the show's execution and narrative choices, highlighting areas where it falls short in delivering a compelling story.
6. <https://www.hellomagazine.com/film/826455/the-feud-viewers-saying-same-thing-thriller-series/> - This article reports on viewers' reactions to the premiere of 'The Feud' on Channel 5, noting that many viewers praised the opening episode for its compelling story and strong cast. The piece provides a brief overview of the series' premise and introduces the main cast members, offering context to the audience's positive feedback.
7. <https://www.yours.co.uk/leisure/celebrity-tv/the-feud-channel-5/> - An article highlighting 'The Feud', a new domestic thriller on Channel 5 starring Jill Halfpenny and Rupert Penry-Jones. The piece discusses the series' premise, focusing on the tension between neighbours over a kitchen extension, and describes it as a gripping drama full of paranoia. It provides insights into the show's themes and character dynamics, offering a perspective on its appeal.