

From: Reviews and Criticism of Vietnam War Theatrical and Television Dramas
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**S3748 SILENT WITNESS (GREAT BRITAIN, 2/21/1996-9/27/2004)
[TV SERIES]**

Series summary: Detective/mystery series set in contemporary Great Britain. Professor Sam Ryan (Burton) is a clever, highly-intelligent and sometimes intimidating coroner and professor at London University. Her professional qualifications set her apart from other coroners in the area, and so she is regularly called upon to assist the police at homicide crime scenes and in subsequent autopsies.

Sins of the fathers (3/27-28/96; first aired in the U.S. 10/22/96)

Credits: director, Ben Bolt ; writer, Kevin Hood.

Cast: Amanda Burton, Matthew Steer, Teo Wa.

Summary: Tran (Ma) and her father are Vietnamese boat people who have settled in Cambridge. Tran is a medical student of pathologist Samantha Ryan (Burton). Her father runs a small restaurant called the Saigon Palace. To meet his traditional obligation to his daughter, Tran's father attempts to arrange a marriage for her with a rich Vietnamese widower named Binh (Kwan). When Tran is introduced to Binh she tells him that she is not a virgin (having been raped by pirates while her family was escaping from Vietnam). He reacts violently, striking her, calling her a whore and causing a public scene. That night, Binh comes to the Saigon Palace to continue his assault on Tran and her father. In the struggle, Tran stabs Binh and kills him. Tran and her father attempt to cover up the crime by setting Binh and their restaurant on fire. Tran's father goes into hiding. The police at first think Tran's father is the victim, but eventually learn about Binh. For having twice failed in his duty to Tran, her father takes responsibility for the murder and sets himself on fire as the police close in. A subplot involves Sam's sister Wyn (McCabe) who has held Sam responsible for many years for the death of their father in an IRA bombing.

O'Connor, John J. "Television review: Of murder, memory and a body with a story"
New York times (Oct 22, 1996), p. C20.