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B B C Worldwide

MONARCH

SERIES FOUR

OF THE GLEN

A new dawn at Glenbogle

"Sharper and funnier than it has ever been" *Mail*

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



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SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

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Introduction

Beware of what you wish for...you may get it! It is dream come true time at Glenbogle as a new era is ushered in and the rags-to-riches story of Lexie looks set to end in happy ever after. Or does it?

For Lexie, played by Dawn Steele, the changes are unsettling and scary. From a feisty, confident cook-cum-housekeeper, she has to face the daunting prospect of being the Laird's lady – taking Molly's place as the mistress of Glenbogle.

"There has always been an 'upstairs downstairs' feel about the family - and the extended family, the staff," says Executive Producer Victoria Evans. "Now there is an opportunity to understand the world through Lexie's eyes as she prepares to come 'upstairs' in her new role.

"It really is a Cinderella story for her," she continues. "This is a young girl's dream. She's met her Prince Charming in Archie and could now live the life of a fairytale Princess. Obviously it's not all plain sailing for her by any means, but she really is living the dream."

But Lexie's dreams are becoming a nightmare of uncertainty as she foresees her future as the new First Lady of this loch-side Lairdom. You can take the girl out of the kitchen; but can you take the kitchen out of the girl?

"She has a foot in two camps," explains producer Stephen Garwood. "She feels dispossessed by the appointment of a new cook, even though Archie has done it as a favour to her. Her nose is out of joint."

Victoria agrees, "It's not easy for her to leave her co-workers behind. Archie relies on her to keep him straight about how he is dealing with the others. He is the 'people person' in the relationship.

"Now Lexie has effectively become part of the management and she's got mixed feelings about that. Although she wants to support Archie and to do everything she can to make Glenbogle work - she's never going to forget what it feels like to be one of the workers."

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The passionate roller coaster that has been Lexie and Archie's relationship should be turning into a romantic ride into the Tunnel of Love. But just as Archie has finally declared himself, Lexie is getting cold feet.

"Archie was always the one who was wavering about who he really wanted to be with," explains Stephen. "Now he has made a firm commitment – he wants Lexie in his life and whatever he has to do to get that, he will do.

"But we also have to face the fact that our audience has been waiting for three series to see this romance pay off. You can't keep people on that 'will-they, won't-they' seesaw for too long. I just hope that viewers will feel we've been as romantic and unpredictable as they've come to expect of the series..." he adds tantalisingly.

With the tragic death of Hector, it is not just Lexie who has to cope with a new order. The estate is facing crippling death duties, a dwindling income, family upheaval and grief.

But there is still magic and inspiration in this special place.

"There is no doubt that the spirit of Hector casts a long shadow," says Stephen. "But, now that he has gone, it allows all sorts of possibilities for other characters to develop. My brief was to freshen the mix, but without alienating our audience. The irony is that they want the same characters taken to new places – but not too new.

"If I made Monarch look like NYPD Blue, threw the camera around, or had bodies being fished from the loch, the audience would soon turn off in short order. What I need to do is to keep them laughing, or crying – and not knowing what we are going to show them at any given moment."

The new series sees Molly returning after an adventurous sojourn in Africa, Archie launching the Glenbogle Wildlife Centre and Golly and Duncan facing the daunting and exciting prospects of romance and re-organisation.

One wonderfully out-of-left-field idea to help boost the precarious Glenbogle coffers is the introduction of wild wolves to the estate. Obviously a sure-fire tourist attraction? Well, maybe the wolves and the staff have other ideas...

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Certainly Golly, Glenbogle's fiercely loyal, old-style ghillie, is not going to take the changes on the estate lying down. He sees Archie's new-fangled ideas as a betrayal of the traditions he holds dear.

"Golly has divided loyalties," says Stephen. "He was very much Hector's man and is against the wolf pack. He feels disenfranchised by the new regime. But the story of the wolves is a wonderful one and they add a truly magical dimension to the show."

"They are the first brown wolves to be back in the Highlands since the last one was killed in the middle of the 18th century and, the week before they arrived, it snowed on the hillsides – that made them look so beautiful in that context."

But the lupine lovelies brought their own set of problems. "They are classed as dangerous animals, the same as lions and tigers," Stephen explains. "They may sometimes look like large dogs, but we were very soon aware that they're not; they are uncontrollable and very much fiercer."

"Their biting pressure is three, or four times that of a Doberman - so we had to be very careful with the cast and crew!"

In fact most scenes that required a wolf in shot used husky 'doubles', with wolf footage shot separately. "The wolves do have a magnificent presence," enthuses Stephen. "They fit perfectly with the Glenbogle eccentricity - there is a weird, magical quality about this place."

Perhaps the repository of that eccentric spirit is Hector's widow, the almost merry Molly. She returns to the family pile having done most of her grieving beneath scorching, African skies.

"There are two ways that a recently-bereaved lady of her age can go," argues Stephen. "Either to become introverted and closed off, or the opposite. Molly turns to backpacking, embraces dangerous sports and does things that are very life affirming."

"She is a very attractive woman and she is now 'available', so there is no shortage of potential suitors. Not only is there Kilwillie, who has always had a crush on Molly, but also a rather louche, old, pre-Hector admirer played by Leslie Phillips."

"So, how does Archie take to his mother throwing caution to the winds? It is a chance for them to grow closer and to clear away the past, not just Hector, but also Jamie – Archie's dead older brother."

"There has been a passage of time and there is renewal ... change is inevitable."

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Cast

Molly **Susan Hampshire** (*Barchester Chronicles, Nancherrow, The Pallisers*)
Archie **Alastair Mackenzie** (*Strange, Psychos*)
Lexie **Dawn Steele** (*Tinsel Town, Split Second*)
Duncan **Hamish Clark** (*Sentimental Education, Martha meet...*)
Golly **Alexander Morton** (*Croupier, Looking after Jolo*)
Kilwillie **Julian Fellowes** (*Gosford Park - Oscar-winning screenwriter, Aristocrats*)
Irene **Rebecca Lacey** (*Murder in Mind, Badger*)

Guest Stars

Episode Two
Isobel Hogg **Phyllida Law** (*Stig of the Dump, Table 12, Saving Grace, Emma*)
Esme **Katrina Rose Smith**
Gavin **Andrew Loudon**

Episode Three
Katrina **Lorraine Pilkington**
Louis **Leslie Phillips** (*Outside the Rules, Saving Grace, Take a Girl Like You*)

Episode Four
David **Charles Edwards** (*Bertie and Elizabeth, An Ideal Husband*)
Jonathan **Adam Barker**

Episode Six
Martin Carter **Martin Ledwith** (*The Whistle Blower, Holby City, Heartbeat, The Crow Road*)

Episode Seven
Greg **Hugh Ross** (*Invasion Earth, Wyatt Earp*)
Morag **Anne Lacey** (*This Year's Love, Hamish Macbeth*)

Episodes Seven and Eight
Auntie Liz **Jenny Lee**
Andrew **Paul Freeman** (*Fields of Gold, ER*)

Episode Nine and Ten
Paul **Lloyd Owen** (*Young Indiana Jones*)
Marilyn **Hannah Gordon** (*The Elephant Man, Taggart, Upstairs Downstairs*)
Zara **Georgina Sowerby** (*Poirot*)

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Production Credits

Produced by **Stephen Garwood**

Executive Producers: **Douglas Rae** (*Charlotte Gray, Mrs Brown*), **Victoria Evans**

Monarch of the Glen is an **Ecosse Films** production for BBC Scotland



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Susan Hampshire plays Molly

White water rafting, elephant tracking, driving a Jeep across the Sahara, drug smuggling, plane crashing and air-sea rescue by helicopter – the latest plot for a James Bond film? No, just the eccentric adventures of newly-widowed Molly, Glenbogle's mourning matriarch.

"You could say that Molly has finally done her 'gap year'," laughs Susan Hampshire. "After Hector died so suddenly, she has had the chance to do the adventurous things she never had the opportunity to do before – because she married so young.

"Part of her feels guilty for going off and leaving the family to spend time with her brother Jolyon in Kenya. But actually it has given everyone time to re-adjust to their new positions and come to terms with their grief.

"Molly has 'moved down' a place, leaving way for her son Archie and Lexie his fiancée. After all those years as Hector's staunchest friend and partner, she is probably glad not to have to organise everyone.

"But," adds Susan with a Molly twinkle, "her experience is still there if anyone wants to ask her!"

However, the question that may be hovering over Molly is one that comes not from her family, but is trembling on the lips of Hector's best friend – Kilwillie. The would-be suitor is desperately in love.

"Molly now has to see herself as a single woman who may have suitors. She is no longer 'invisible'; she has to learn to be an individual and not hide her light under a bushel," reasons Susan.

"But I don't think the audience is ready to see Molly set up a nest with someone else."

Susan is very conscious that Molly is something of a role model for older women and she is eager to play her as truthfully as possible. "What has happened to Molly is relevant to the lives of lots of people," she argues. "They may be in a situation where they have to see themselves in a different light. They are no longer part of a team.

"I know that people did find the last episode very upsetting and shed a tear at Hector's death. But I have also had a lot of women over 45 asking if Molly is going to get a better part now," she laughs. "They want her to break out.

"In a way, she has been rather invisible and I think that's why many people have been drawn to her and identify with her. She has huge skills in dealing with people."

There is even a new look to Molly – "She comes back from Africa wearing much more daring clothes; I don't think we've seen her in anything but beige and black up until this point," says Susan wryly.

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Susan Hampshire plays Molly

"But then she settles down a bit, after all there is the small question of £200,000 of death duties to consider - so topping up her wardrobe is the last thing on Molly's mind!"

If Molly's time has been packed with life-changing adventure, Susan's has been equally full – with work. The in-demand actress has barely had chance to draw breath between series, thanks to a hectic schedule of theatre work.

"Each year on Monarch I finish up in Scotland one day and start the next day on something else," she says happily. "This time I went on a tour of Noel Coward's Relative Values and it was a phenomenal success."

"We were packed out every night and had to put on extra matinees to cope with the demand for tickets. Then, it finished on a Saturday night and I was up at the crack of dawn on the Sunday to travel back to Scotland for this series – and I was in every scene for two weeks!"

The punishing schedule would tax the stamina of someone 20 years younger than Susan. But the energetic actress – who was 60 in May – takes it all in her stride.

"I am a health-conscious person. I'm very keen on organic food and I drink a lot of water – neither the body, nor the brain works as well if you don't," she explains. "You are what you eat and we should all be responsible for ourselves."

"I also exercise by doing Pilates when I am back in London and tap dancing twice a week when I'm on Monarch."

Now Susan is planning an even bigger challenge to her energy levels – converting a derelict barn in the Chilterns with her husband, chairman of the Ambassador's Theatre Group, Sir Eddie Kulukundis.

"It is just walls and a roof, with no water and no electricity," she reveals. "There are nettles and brambles crawling all over it – it's just a shell. But once we've got planning permission we can work through the autumn and winter to re-build it."

"Then comes the exciting bit," she says excitedly. "I will be planning a garden from scratch and that is going to be so stimulating and satisfying. I get up in the night and do another drawing of everything!"

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Alastair Mackenzie plays Archie

His father may have tragically died leaving death duties of £200,000, but there is at last the beginning of a smile on the handsome, young face of the Laird of Glenbogle. Archie's love life seems to be on the right track.

"I think he was in danger of becoming a bit of a philanderer," laughs Alastair Mackenzie. "He couldn't seem to make his mind up where his heart lay. But now the fog has cleared, he has found what he has been looking for – and that's a beautiful thing.

"Archie and Lexie at last seem to get it together and his indecision is over, he has made up his mind that he will do anything to win her over, although he is not so convinced Lexie is as certain."

"Life can never be too smooth for Archie!"

Life for Alastair however is looking positively blooming. Last year's heart-tugging separation from his family –partner, actress Susan Vidler and two-year-old daughter Martha - is a thing of the past. "They have been up in Scotland with me this time," he says happily.

"It has been such a great change. We have rented a beautiful farmhouse and live in pastoral bliss, whereas last year I spent ages just working out the logistics of how I could get home every weekend. I really couldn't have gone through that again.

"The only problem has been the weather – it's been the worst on record. I bought Martha a trampoline for the garden and there hasn't been a day since that it hasn't rained! But we have managed to go on lots of walks and live a more normal life. We really feel as though we are members of the community."

Alastair has also been getting up close and friendly with Glenbogle's newest members of the community – a pack of wolves. "Archie is horribly in debt and comes up with the idea of a Wild Animal Park. It's not as far fetched as it may sound," he insists.

"Just the other day I read about a Scottish landowner who was going to introduce wolves onto his estate. But I confess I didn't realise just how different wolves are from the huskies we got in to double for them in close-ups!

"When the real thing arrived they were much more primal and intelligent; there was a really different vibe from them. I had one scene where I had to do a bit of 'wolf acting'," he laughs. "I had to do various exercises to get them to trust me, I had to allow them to sniff me and move in a very gentle way, only touching them in certain places.

"I thought, 'Oh, it's just a wolf', so initially I wasn't nervous at all. But then I learned that I should have been! They were magnificent animals and I had enormous respect for them and their handlers."

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Alastair Mackenzie plays Archie

Alastair has been living dangerously in his acting career away from Monarch as well. He bravely took on a total image change when he was cast in Strange. "You could say it was totally the opposite of Archie," he laughs. "I was asked, 'Would you like to play Beelzebub?' – and the answer was a resounding 'yes, please!'"

"But for me it was a one off. Quite what I will do after Monarch I'm not sure. The next thing is the hardest thing and I will have to be very careful and very vigilant. But I can protect myself to some degree because I have a production company and can develop stuff for myself."

"Otherwise there is a danger that you get offered only the kind of roles that you've done before. That was why it was great playing the devil!"

Another path Alastair wants to explore is the stage. "I would love to go back to the theatre," he reveals. "I've not done any for four years and so that particular muscle is slightly relaxed at the moment - I'm sure I would be terrified. But it would be a good thing to do."

Meanwhile Alastair is excited about a film project, which he and his film director, older brother David have made. The Last Great Wilderness was initially getting only a limited, art house screening. But is now set to be on general release next year.

"It is an audacious project, out of left field and it breaks all the usual Scottish film clichés," he says proudly. "It should make people look at me in a different way..."

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Dawn Steele plays Lexie

The class struggle is raging at Glenbogle, but it is not an Upstairs, Downstairs battle for the moral high ground – it is a dilemma deep in Lexie's heart.

"Hector is dead, Archie has asked her to marry him and Lexie should be looking forward to taking her place as the Laird's wife," explains Dawn Steele. "But she doesn't want to be a traitor to Golly and Duncan. She feels her place is still with them.

"She is also very territorial about her kitchen and when someone else moves in, she is not a happy bunny!"

Dawn confesses that, after three years as queen of all she surveyed in Glenbogle's ancient galley - sailing close to the wind between financial ruin and heartbreak – she had her own moments of nostalgia.

"It was really weird seeing Irene (Rebecca Lacey) in the kitchen. The whole room had changed; it wasn't Lexie's any more. All her pictures had been taken down and there was a whole lot of new, ultra-modern stuff, a new blender, kettle and some proper chef's knives.

"Lexie never bothered about anything like that, she was just happy to go along with all the old things that had been there forever," laughs Dawn. "Now, it's gone all high-tech and it's Irene's.

"I miss having all those props and I'm a bit sad that wee Lexie has begun to really grow up. It all shows how much the series has moved on."

Moving on is something that Lexie is having trouble with as the series begins. Molly has returned and is bending over backwards to make sure that Lexie can take up her rightful place at Archie's side. But this outspoken, feisty lass is torn between two different worlds.

"When Archie comes up with the idea of the Glenbogle Wildlife Centre, with the wolves, she is really struggling to be supportive because she knows it will help to pay off the death duty debts. But she has trouble squaring that with the fact that Golly is opposed to the idea. It is very difficult for her and there is a lot of conflict in the house."

But the lupine interlopers also provide the series with some comic moments – including a brief escape into the land of bedtime stories. "There is a lovely sequence where one of the wolves escapes and finds Lexie hanging up the washing – wearing a little red, hooded top!

"It is a wonderful Glenbogle moment – very surreal."

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Dawn Steele plays Lexie

In fact the snarling, dangerous wolf was actually played by a Husky 'double' and Dawn found all her acting skills were needed to try and be terrified of this fur-covered favourite. "It was gorgeous," she enthuses.

"I had to pretend to be really scared, but she just jumped up, put her paws on me and licked my face!"

There have been changes off camera as well as on in the fourth series of Monarch, with the cast no longer living together in one, big house. "I think we all needed a change," says Dawn. "So now we are all living in different places – yet we probably socialise much more than we did before.

"I haven't cooked for them all yet and I am worried about what I could make that would suit everyone because there are vegetarians and people with allergies. So maybe I'll just have them all round for cocktails and nibbles – that should be easy."

Dawn has also taken the plunge and decided to learn to drive while filming the series. "It is quite a big thing for me and will give me a lot more freedom while I'm here," she explains. "I have already passed the theory test – now it's just the practical..."

In between series this busy actress has also co-starred in Snoddy for BBC Scotland, with Gregor Fisher. "I play a really dippy, dizzy lawyer called Laura Bonney," she reveals. "It was great to play someone so different from the street-wise parts I've had in Monarch and Tinsel Town.

Working back in Glasgow also meant that Dawn was able to spend some time at the new flat she bought last year. "It is my home, but not really," she admits. "I have spent so much more time in the house I've now got for Monarch.

"It is surrounded by trees and hills and is so quiet. At night, when you turn out the lights you literally can't see your hand in front of your face. Whereas in Glasgow, I'm up on the fifth floor and it's always bathed in orange light.

"But then it does have great views over the city and there are times I can't wait to get back to city life."

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Rebecca Lacey plays Irene Stuart

It could come to meat cleavers at dawn when a new cook arrives at Glenbogle and dares to venture into Lexie's lair – the kitchen. But no-nonsense Irene Stuart is not going to be put off by her new boss's bluster.

"Irene is a tough cookie at first," jokes Rebecca Lacey. "But, although she is quite mysterious and very good at deflecting questions about her past, Irene is not as austere as she first appears. I play her with a twinkle!"

Which took all Casualty star Rebecca's acting skills when she first arrived on set – thanks to a mystery of her own. "I was feeling quite ill," she explains. "I felt so tired it was as if someone had pulled my spine out and I kept feeling queasy."

"But, because it was in the evenings, not the mornings, I had no idea that I might be pregnant. I just thought it was the change of environment, being so far away from home and a bit homesick. When I realised what was really wrong, it was a bit of a shock," she confesses. "But a really, really happy piece of news!"

Rebecca and her partner, TV director Paul Harrison, expect their first child in late autumn and can hardly wait for the big day. "We had been thinking of starting a family, but not until after this series," she grins.

"But I love children – I've got three nephews aged six and under and several Godchildren, so I've had a bit of practice. I'm not planning to have any maternity leave as such, I fully intend to keep on working."

"That's one of the good things about being an actor, I don't have to make the decisions that some of my friends do. If the work comes along and I can fit it in with the baby – then that's great. Having said that," adds Rebecca candidly, "I know I can't really make that decision until I've got the little thing in my hands!"

Another new skill that Rebecca's hands have had to turn to is wielding the super-sharp chef's knives in the Glenbogle kitchen. "I've had to learn to do that fast chopping action," she says with pride. "It looks quite good."

"I didn't used to cook at all, but recently I've been 'Nigella'd' and I'm now quite confident – especially when it comes to puddings and cakes. But in the early days of being pregnant, I went off all kinds of things, like eggs, tea and coffee and alcohol."

Rebecca also decided that she had to discover whether she could stand the heat – if she was being cast in the kitchen. "I was able to go to a friend's restaurant in London. And it was a real eye-opener, I just hadn't realised how incredibly hot it gets," she admits.

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Rebecca Lacey plays Irene Stuart

"There is so much pressure and organisation; I was very impressed. The chef didn't shout at everyone, but there was no mistaking that he was in total control."

The research was needed because Irene claims to have come to the estate from The Grand Lothian hotel, where she cooked for the great and the good – including ex-President Bill Clinton. But Lexie thinks she can pull one over on the newcomer when she challenges her to a 'cook off'.

"The dish they have to cook is Cullen Skink," laughs Rebecca. "It's a traditional Scottish haddock dish and they have very different ideas about how it should be prepared. Irene's style is very nouvelle cuisine, while Lexie likes things big and hearty."

"As for me – I'd probably cook it Lexie's way – but then I wouldn't be able to eat it all!"

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Hamish Clark plays Duncan

There could be a few broken hearts among Monarch of the Glen fans – wee Duncan has finally found love.

“It’s about time,” laughs Hamish Clark. “There have been girls in the past who have come to Glenbogle and fallen for Duncan – but he always ends up alone. This time he manages to have a real romance.

“It is gentle and nice and it proves that Duncan can be a viable boyfriend. I wouldn’t go so far as to say that he is maturing – I don’t think he will ever grow up; he’s Just William in a kilt – but we are at last seeing that there is more to him than just being ‘cute’!

“He’s not an idiot, he just falls apart a bit when he is under scrutiny. But there is still a lot of fun to be had in other areas of his life – especially with the wolves.”

Duncan, like everyone else on the Glenbogle estate, has to cope with change. For him it means the chance of promotion – if only he can conquer his fear of the wolf pack he is supposed to be in charge of handling.

“He is absolutely terrified of them!” laughs Hamish. “He has this mantra that he keeps repeating to himself – ‘They are more afraid of me than I am of them’ – but he never quite believes it.”

Hamish reveals that there was one scene where being scared of the wolves required no acting skills at all. “I was huddled in a sleeping bag with my back to the wolf pen and I saw frowns on the faces of the crew gradually getting deeper. But I was in shot so I couldn’t move.

“Then I heard this spitting, snarling and growling and realised that someone had put meat out on my side of the fence – and the wolves were just a foot behind my head, desperate to get at it! But they are beautiful animals.”

Away from Monarch, Hamish has continued to spend much of his free time involved in the local community. So much so that the tourist board asked him to open the recently completed £5 million Urquhart Castle Visitor Centre on the shores of Loch Ness.

“It is a massive deal for Scotland and it’s going to be a great asset for the area,” he says. “From my point of view it is great to feel that I can put something back. I spend months working up here and I can’t just put my life on hold, so it’s great to feel really part of the community.”

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Sandy Morton plays Golly

Ruggedly handsome and as much a part of the Glenbogle scenery as the whispering pine trees, Golly, the estate ghillie has never been known for his sartorial elegance. But all that is about to go out of the window – when love comes knocking at the door.

The strong, silent type he may be, but when Golly claps eyes on new cook and housekeeper Irene, he falls as completely and heavily as one of those pines, felled by an axe. "He is more than slightly besotted," grins Sandy Morton.

"So, when he overhears her calling him 'tweedy', he decides that he has got to do something about the way he looks. But the make-over is total – not just his clothes. He also gets himself this great open-top MG sports car complete with wire wheels and a Triumph Bonneville motorbike, which is a real cracker."

Sandy is as much in love with Golly's new toys as his character – even though he doesn't drive. "They are fabulous-looking vehicles," he says admiringly. I do envy people who can drive, but as far as the scenes go it doesn't matter – they wouldn't have let me drive them anyway. There is always someone who does it for you!"

It was back in 1968 that Sandy had a clutch of driving lessons. He loved it – until it came to what he dubs 'the technical bits'. "I was OK steaming along country roads in this Ford Anglia at 30-bob a lesson," he recalls. "But when it came to stuff like reversing ... Then I moved down to London and I was skint and driving lessons just weren't on my agenda and time has just gone on since then. Now I would like someone to just wave a magic wand, without me having to go through all the lessons!"

That magic wand seems to have been used to create Golly's new look. "He really does sharpen himself up," says Sandy. "He has very tight, boot-cut trousers, little collarless tops and jackets with stand-up collars. Personally, I was delighted to get back into my jeans and tee-shirts!" he confesses. "But I did take a shine to the trousers because they reminded me of when I was a wee boy and saw men wearing them in Westerns. So I've ordered a couple of pairs for myself."

Apart from the thrill of romance, Golly's life has also been turned upside down by the changes at Glenbogle; changes that he is far from happy about. "There is a new regime and he is having a tough time coming to terms with the changes since Hector's death," explains Sandy.

"He feels Archie is forgetting the past and that he has to be the custodian of older values. He's not a forelock-tugger and that was what was beautiful about his relationship with Hector – it was based on mutual respect, not just employer/employee. I feel very responsible for Golly I know the character almost better than the writers do. He is a truly thinking person, left of centre and very much his own man. He has a difficult journey to make."

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Julian Fellowes plays Kilwillie

A newcomer on the Monarch of the Glen set soon had cast and crew buzzing with excitement. Everyone wanted to be near this world-famous figure and even the stars of the series were keen to have their photos taken next to him.

Yet he was just 13 1/2 inches tall and weighed a mere 8 1/2 pounds. His name? – Oscar!

The legendary statuette was won by Julian Fellowes, for his award-winning script Gosford Park and the actor, who plays Kilwillie, generously shared his good fortune.

"They've all had to put up with two years of me writing this, so I'm sure they were all sick to the back teeth with it," he laughs. "So I felt they deserved their time with the Oscar at the end. They were all photographed with it – it was the most over-used prop for the day!"

Now the gold-plated Oscar is safely back in Julian's London home. "It's in my little library," he reveals. "I don't believe in that thing of saying, 'Oh, it's in the loo' That always seems rather ungrateful and churlish to me. I was jolly glad to get it and extremely grateful to the Americans for giving it to me.

The amorous Kilwillie has decided that he might stand more of a chance in gaining the affections of newly-widowed Molly if he streamlined his abundant girth just a little. Never one to do things by half, he employs a personal trainer.

"I have to go on this terrible exercise machine," Julian groans. "It was like being in the grip of some automatic wrestler. It shook me around, up and down, this way and that. How I didn't have a coronary I'll never know. I was passing out on the bed between takes!

"Just as I suspected, at the end of a whole day of exercise I felt infinitely worse than I had at the beginning of it. All these people who say it makes you feel so much better are telling porkies as far as I'm concerned."

So it is not a regime that Julian is likely to follow. "I can't get into all that," he admits. "Every now and then, in terms of fatness, I feel I've gone over the Maginot line and have to get back behind it. So I try and lay off a bit.

"But I am this funny, bald, fat little man and that's the space I occupy on this earth," he says candidly. "All the dieting and exercise in the world is not going to turn me into Tom Cruise worse luck. I feel there's a measure of acceptance in these things."

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Julian Fellowes plays Kilwillie

Acceptance is not on Kilwillie's agenda though. He is convinced that, with the right tactics, he can win the marvellous Mollie.

"He has always been very keen on Molly and envious of Hector's happiness with her," Julian explains. "He's always thought she was the perfect woman. So this year, with Hector dead, he gets his nerve up a bit more and there has been a decent interval of time elapsed.

"But poor Kilwillie is the kind of person you might love, but you couldn't possibly be in love with! He appears to be cheerfully unaware of this, although I'm not so sure that he is. I always feel he's rather a sad fellow underneath. He's very lonely and yearns for company – and Molly's company in particular."

It was stellar company that Julian found himself mingling with on that extraordinary Oscar night. "My peak moment was waiting in a room, watching the monitor waiting for a break to go back to my seat," he recalls.

"There were two other people with me and we were chatting about who was making a speech and I suddenly looked up from the monitor and I realised that I was standing with Barbra Streisand and Robert Redford and holding an Oscar in my hand.

"It was genuinely surreal - I felt as if I'd walked through the Looking Glass at that moment. It could hardly get better than that."

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode One

Molly returns from an extended holiday, determined to put the memory of Hector's untimely demise behind her and to look to the future. She discovers that Archie has a new vision for returning Glenbogle to its former glory – wolves. Having plunged all of his funds into his new attraction, all he needs is the all-clear from the zoo inspector and he can open it to the public. However, Golly is uncomfortable with this new direction and is appalled to learn that Archie plans to phase out the estate's traditional sports.

Golly isn't the only one having trouble coping with change – Lexie is finding it difficult to come to terms with her new role as the laird's future wife. Archie tries to make the transition smoother for her by appointing a new housekeeper, Irene, as a surprise – but Lexie is furious. Archie simply cannot understand her desire to hang on to her old job and their engagement seems to be in jeopardy. Lexie does her best to make Irene unwelcome at Glenbogle; with the two women at each others' throats, Archie suggests that they pit their culinary skills against each other and announces a "cook-off" to decide who will be housekeeper. He also delivers Lexie an ultimatum: she must decide what she wants.

With no support from Golly and an impending visit from the zoo inspector, Archie has no choice but to appoint Duncan as head keeper. Duncan has very little experience of animals and, besides, he's scared stiff of wolves. His attempts to organise food for the pack appear to result in the alpha female being poisoned. But, with Archie seconds away from losing the licence, Golly intervenes and announces that the "sick" animal is actually pregnant. His natural ability with animals is enough to convince the inspector and Archie gets the all-clear.

At the "cook-off", Irene's dish is a success but the family wait for Lexie's offering before making their decision. As Lexie prepares to serve her dish, a disappointed Archie believes that he already has Lexie's answer: she would rather be his housekeeper than his wife.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Two

There are obstacles at every turn for Archie as he tries to open his Wildlife Centre in this week's episode of the popular drama set on a Scottish estate.

Irene is having trouble coping with all the cooking and cleaning at Glenbogle, so when Scottish teenager Esme turns up looking for some casual work, it seems to good to be true. Archie is slightly distrustful of her but she is a good worker and Lexie is glad she hired her. Archie is too preoccupied with organising the grand opening of the Glenbogle Wildlife Centre to pay much attention to the new appointment. The opening has to be a success - if it isn't, Archie fears that the estate will be unable to pay off the death duties they incurred after Hector's demise. He has applied for a grant from a wildlife charity and doesn't know whether to laugh or cry when the charity's representative turns up - none other than Professor Isobel Hogg, a wildlife expert and adventurer. She's also Archie's godmother and a sworn enemy of Molly's.

Molly decides the safest thing to do is to stay out of Isobel's way and seeks refuge at Kilwillie Castle where she finds Kilwillie has a houseguest - Gavin, a personal trainer whom Kilwillie has hired to help him shed a few pounds and make him appear more attractive to Molly. Not wanting to reveal the real reason behind his get fit campaign, Kilwillie conceals Gavin's true identity which leads Molly to the assumption that Gavin is Kilwillie's boyfriend.

Archie becomes suspicious when it seems plans are afoot to sabotage the opening of the Wildlife Centre. He suspects first Esme, then Golly. Molly, for her part, suspects Isobel, who blames Molly for the break-up of her relationship with Hector many years ago. When Molly publicly accuses a bemused Isobel, it seems as though Archie's chances of a grant are receding by the minute...

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Three

There are a few hiccups and one major blow that leave Lexie reeling as she prepares for her big day with Archie.

Preparations for the wedding hit a snag when Lexie realises that Archie has his mind set on a full Highland bash. Lexie reminds him about their desire to have it "small and special", but as laird, Archie feels only a big day will do. He leaves Lexie to digest his new feelings while he goes to interview candidates for the teaching post at the local school. Archie is utterly gobsmacked when the first candidate is Katrina returning to take up her old post - or so she leads him to believe. He is delighted to see her and invites her to dinner at Glenbogle, but fails to tell Lexie.

Another face from the past makes an appearance at Glenbogle and sets about to woo Molly. The oleaginous Louis, despised by Hector but an old friend of Molly's, returns with designs on marrying her and becoming the new Laird of Glenbogle.

Meanwhile, Golly overhears Irene describe him as "tweedy" and decides to revamp his image. A new haircut, some sharp clothes and a brand-new car are enough to secure a date with Irene. At dinner, Archie tries to reassure Lexie that Katrina's return won't come between them, but Lexie remains unsure of Katrina's motives. Lexie's suspicions are confirmed when Katrina informs Archie that he is the main reason for her return - and is more than a little surprised at Archie's determination to marry Lexie.

Determined to win Archie back, Katrina begins to notice Lexie's obvious vulnerabilities. If Archie won't break, Katrina is prepared to play on Lexie's doubts in order to get what she wants.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Four

Archie is visited by people from his past, and Molly's conversations with Hector are a cause of concern for the rest of the family.

David Fraser, an old friend of the Macdonald family, arrives with his friend Jonathan. Archie can't see that David has changed a great deal since they were boys and instantly reverts to their highly competitive games, which Archie usually loses. Lexie, however, is more perspective and can see that things aren't all they appear on the surface. She is particularly worried about David's drinking and is suspicious when he asks Archie to invest money in his nickel business. Keen to impress David, Archie entertains the idea, much to Lexie's bemusement.

Archie also arranges for Jonathan and David to take part in the "grand Macdonald" competition, in which they compete in three outdoor events. When Archie isn't watching, David makes a pass at Lexie, and his excessive drinking forces Golly to abandon the competition. Archie is angry with Golly and Lexie for treating his friend so badly but, when Lexie informs him about David's pass, he confronts him, with disastrous results.

Meanwhile, Molly is appalled to learn that the wolf pack will soon kill the runt of the litter. She secretly liberates the cub and christens him Hector, hiding him in the tower so he isn't discovered. But her strange requests and erratic behaviour cause the family to fear for her sanity.

Kilwillie, convinced that Molly is indeed going batty, blunders into the tower and inadvertently lets Hector escape. Molly is doubly annoyed that Kilwillie would think she is losing her marbles and that he's let the cub out of the tower. With no chance of wooing Molly, he agrees to help her track down Hector instead.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Five

Duncan has booked a camping party into the campsite at Glenbogle. All seems well, until he realises that the campers are not naturalists, as he had first thought – but naturists. Terrified of how Archie will react, he keeps his mistake quiet and hopes that it will go unnoticed.

However, the naked truth soon emerges when Carlin, the wolf, escapes from his pen and heads straight for the campsite. Golly is blamed for Carlin's disappearance and, as the hunt for the animal begins, he, Archie, Duncan and a terrified Kilwillie split up to cover more ground.

Golly's day takes another turn for the worse when he stumbles across Irene and Duncan in a passionate embrace. He had been unaware of their relationship and had been building up the courage to tell Irene how he felt about her.

When Carlin is spotted at the campsite, Duncan is first on the scene. He fires his tranquilliser dart, misses his target and hits Kilwillie who, believing himself to be "slipping away", declares his undying love for Molly.

Meanwhile, back at the house, Lexie has found Carlin and coaxed him into the estate office with some food. Archie is relieved but tells Golly that he will have to brush up on his basic skills. Golly takes the news badly; he packs his bags and announces that he is leaving Glenbogle.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Six

Archie is adjusting to life around the estate without Golly, and Lexie is troubled when she discovers that the late Hector had been making monthly payments to a woman named Grace.

Archie can't believe that Golly has finally left but life at Glenbogle must go on. There is a party of school children visiting the wildlife park, Lexie is up to her eyes in the accounts, Molly has an art dealer coming up from Glasgow to look at her paintings, and not even his guilty conscience can stop Duncan from enjoying Irene's company.

As Lexie battles her way through the accounts, she finds a final tax demand due the next day. Feeling unable to tell Archie, she tries to find a solution herself. But as she trawls through Glenbogle's muddled finances, Lexie discovers a mysterious monthly payment to a woman named Grace. She begins to suspect that Hector may have had a mistress ...

Meanwhile, when a young boy from the school party visiting the wildlife park goes missing, he is escorted back safely by a "mystery man of the woods". Archie begins to suspect that Golly may not be as far away as they first thought.

Archie and Duncan finally locate Golly and try to persuade him to come home. But Golly is still concerned about his eyesight and his ability to do his job properly. Meanwhile, Lexie, having discovered the truth about "Grace", seems to have a solution to the problem.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Seven

Drastic measures are needed to help Archie pay off Hector's death duties, Kilwillie makes Molly an offer she finds hard to refuse and Irene's secret past threatens to destroy her relationship with Duncan.

Archie is desperate to settle Hector's death duties and avoid the crippling interest charges but, with no other funds available, he hopes to sell part of the estate to Kilwillie. But Archie's plans are scuppered when his surveyor, Greg Macdonald, invokes a two-hundred-year-old treaty that states that any Macdonald attempting to sell land must forfeit his estate. Without Kilwillie's money, Archie cannot afford to maintain the estate, nor is he able to fight a long and costly court battle with Greg. With Archie over a barrel, Greg offers to buy the estate and save him from ruin.

When Molly tells Kilwillie of Greg's plan, Kilwillie believes he has the answer and makes Molly an offer she finds hard to refuse – under the circumstances. Just as all seems lost, a lone but affluent traveller named Andrew offers Archie an unexpected way out of his predicament.

Unfortunately, things are not going as well for Duncan and Irene. Angry at Auntie Liz's attempts to marry them off, Irene finally reveals why she has been distracted and how she ended up at Glenbogle, leaving Duncan to ponder their future.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Eight

Convinced there is a ghostly presence in the house, Lexie begins to fear for Archie's life. Duncan decides to take control of his relationship with Irene and Molly is less than impressed by Glenbogle's new neighbour.

For once the estate seems to be running smoothly. So much so that Archie has decided to take a few days off and turn his hand to decorating. When he announces his plan to turn Jamie's room into a nursery, Lexie is most amused and soon begins to tease him for "getting all broody".

Meanwhile, Hamish's Auntie Liz has arranged a seance for Molly in an attempt to receive an anniversary message from Hector. Lexie is sceptical, especially when Hector's spectre doesn't respond, however she is soon convinced when she sees a ghostly figure at the window...

When Golly informs Irene that a suspicious man has been wandering the estate asking for her, she suspects that her baby's father, Iain, is trying to track her down. She announces her intention to leave and Duncan is devastated. He proposes that Irene stay and that he will be the baby's father. Irene is touched but non-committal, which Duncan interprets as a yes.

Meanwhile, Molly visits her new neighbour, Andrew, but when she arrives at the croft and is greeted by a scantily clad "model", she makes her excuses and leaves. Her second attempt is no better as Andrew mistakes her for a cleaner and asks her to start work on his bathroom. Despite her bemusement, Molly is intrigued by the charismatic stranger.

Elsewhere, Duncan has been making arrangements for Irene and the baby, despite the fact that she hasn't agreed to his proposal. Her mind is, however, made up when she receives a letter from Iain and she has a tough decision to make – either stay at Glenbogle with Duncan or return to Iain.

As the day comes to an emotional close, Molly potters around the garden – it looks as though Hector has remembered their anniversary after all...

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Nine

Lexie's preparations for the Ghillies' Ball don't run according to plan and the arrival of young man searching for his past rocks the future of Glenbogle for ever.

It's the end of the hunting season and the day of the Ghillies' Ball. As the new Lady of Glenbogle, Lexie is determined that the ball will be a success.

Up on the hills, Golly and Duncan have spotted a fatally injured Big Eric – the Monarch of the Glen and the beast that eluded Hector for so long. They realise that he will have to be put of his misery and begin to stalk him. Archie joins them and is just about to take a shot when Golly stops him – he has spotted a young man walking towards them.

Meanwhile, back at the house, Molly is concerned that Lexie is taking on too much and, in a bid to alleviate the pressure, decides to help out in the kitchen. However, her efforts end in disaster and, just as Lexie thinks things can't get any worse, two old friends of the family turn up.

Irrepressible widow Marilyn has arrived early with her daughter, Zara, in a bid to snare an eligible man. But their presence only makes matters worse and Lexie's dream of a traditional Highland event is soon in tatters. Eventually, refusing to be beaten, Lexie decides to do away with tradition and organise an event in her own, unique style.

Back on the hillside, the young man, Paul, introduces himself and reveals that his mother died recently and that he is trying to discover the truth about his past. He is in Glenbogle looking for answers and produces a photograph of a young Golly with his mother ...

Paul announces that Golly is his father and Archie is surprised when Golly evades his questions. But all becomes clear when Golly finally tells the truth – a truth that leaves Archie reeling. Only one thing is certain: his life at Glenbogle will never be the same again.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Episode Synopses

Episode Ten

The family secret threatens to destroy Archie and change Molly's life for ever ...

It's the morning after the Ghillie's Ball and a troubled Archie has made his decision. Fearing that Paul's revelation that he is Hector's son would devastate Molly, Archie refuses to let him stay. But ultimately Archie is unable to protect Molly from the truth, leaving her to decide whether or not her future lies at Glenbogle.

Lexie knows that Archie and Molly will have to accept the situation sooner or later and, unbeknownst to Archie, persuades Paul to stay for a few days while the dust settles. Molly, however, announces that she cannot cope with the truth and is leaving Glenbogle with Andrew as company. Kilwillie is shocked when Archie tells him Paul's identity and further devastated to learn that Molly is leaving. However, like a true gentleman, he offers round-the-world tickets that were originally meant for Archie and Lexie's honeymoon to Andrew on condition he take care of Molly.

Archie is furious with Lexie for persuading Paul to stay but, when Molly concedes that Paul has a right to remain at Glenbogle, Archie realises he is the only one with a problem. Attempting peace, Archie shares some memories of Hector with Paul but the mention of Jamie, Archie's dead brother, causes Archie to withdraw.

Molly, Golly and Archie eventually confront each other over Hector's affair and the consequences of it, leaving them all with something to think about. Lost in thought, Archie watches as Paul is dragged under by the current on the river bank after trying to save Useless, a stranded dog, forcing him to face the memory of Jamie's drowning and the possibility of losing another brother.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Ratings

Episode	UK Tx	Time	Audience	Share
One	01.09.02	20:00	7.7 million	35.7%
Two	08.09.02	20:00	7.5 million	31.1%
Three	15.09.02	20:00	6.3 million	27.1%
Four	22.09.02	20:00	6.2 million	26.2%
Five	29.09.02	20:00	8.6 million	36.4%
Six	06.10.02	20:00	6.7 million	26.9%
Seven	13.10.02	20:00	6.9 million	23%
Eight	20.10.02	20:00	7.1 million	27.5%
Nine	27.10.02	20:00	7.6 million	28.9%
Ten	03.11.02	20:00	7.5 million	28.2%

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

What the Papers Say

"Excellent." *Observer*

"Far from falling to pieces with the departure of Richard Briers, Monarch Of The Glen returned last night both sharper and funnier than it has ever been. The vacancy left by the accidental death of the toothy Laird of Glenbogle is amply filled by Julian Fellowes as Highland neighbour, Kilwillie, eagerly paying court to Susan Hampshire's merry widow, Molly. And the reluctance of housekeeper Lexie (Dawn Steele), fiancée of the new Laird Archie Macdonald (Alastair Mackenzie), to exchange her downstairs role for the delights of Glenbogle's drawing room has echoes of *The Taming of The Shrew*." *Mail*

Drama

10 x 60 minutes



MONARCH

SERIES FOUR OF THE GLEN

Press Feature - Irish Times

Before he won the lead role in this popular drama, very few people knew who Alastair Mackenzie was - unless they had watched the mini-series *Psychos* or the obscure short film, *California Sunshine*. With the latest run of this show now well under way, it seems as if his future is just about assured. For those who haven't seen the programme before, it's another in the long line of Scottish dramas that have become so popular over the years.

Monarch Of The Glen focuses on Mackenzie's character Archie MacDonald, a high-flying restaurateur. He returns home after spending several years in London to take over as laird of the family estate from his ageing and increasingly eccentric father, Hector. The family patriarch was played by Richard Briers, who left the show during its last series. Some fans say the show hasn't been the same since he quit, but it has given other cast members the chance to shine.

Mackenzie is keen to stress that despite being the object of many a female fan's affections, he only has eyes for one girl - his little daughter. "I'm infatuated with my daughter Martha and it has been tough being away from her so much during the summer while I have been filming," he says. "People always say this, but I had no idea what kind of impact she was going to have on me. I didn't know that I could love something so much." Mackenzie was born just 30 miles from where the series is filmed, but is now based in London. Luckily, his partner, Trainspotting actress Susan Vidler and Martha travel to see him whenever possible. Their visits make being away from home much easier for him.

Monarch Of The Glen is making him a bankable name and he has no plans to leave - especially as he's beginning to get more involved in the production side. "I had some input in the storylines for this series which was great because, as an actor in a longrunning series, you become the guardian of your own character," he explains. Now Mackenzie is enjoying a break before the BBC decides whether there will be another series.

Drama

10 x 60 minutes