

## 'A documentary to pierce the heart'

**T**HE SUBTITLE OF the extraordinary documentary *Catching a Killer* (Monday Channel 4) could be Chronicle of a Death Foretold, because the victim, in minute and heartbreaking detail, recorded the long, slow and painful path to his murder.

Peter Farquhar, an academic, was a lonely man for most of his life until he found love with the attentive Benjamin Field. Eventually Peter (69) left his home to the much younger Field in his will after keeping a full account in his daily journals of the relationship.

What pierces most is Peter's great love for the man who would kill him, painfully and slowly, although Peter was spared the terrible knowledge that Field wanted him only for his money and was poisoning him to death.

And though it sometimes feels impertinent and an invasion of privacy to be privy to the secrets of a stranger's heart and his awful

confusion as the drugs Field administered did their dreadful work, there is the comfort that Peter's diaries would play a part in the downfall of the man he loved.

**T**HERE'S A STRONG showing for drama this week as ITV puts up the flags for the return of two old favourites – on Sunday, *Vera* (see our feature on page ten) and on Monday, *Cold Feet* (on page 14). BBC2, meanwhile, drags out Neil Gaiman's adaptation of Terry Pratchett's *Good*

*Omens*, with David Tennant and Michael Sheen, eight months after it appeared in its entirety on Amazon Prime. Hmm.

In *Vera*, DCI Stanhope (Brenda Blethyn) investigates the shooting dead of a shifty businessman in his own home. It turns out he's left behind a tangled web of professional and personal relationships.

*Cold Feet's* successful revival looks set to continue as the gang returns for a ninth series facing chaos and dramatic shifts in their friendships.

