



**End of the road? Lancashire, Jacobi and Walker in the finale of 'Last Tango in Halifax'**

Thus the core characters from the original love story were all leaving. Was this the end? Then Gillian said, "I'll see you when you get back," and Caroline replied, "I expect you will." Sounds like series four may be on its way. Put your bets on someone getting buried under the patio or a plane crashing on Halifax.

For fans of both literature and scandal **The Secret World of Lewis Carroll** (BBC Two, Saturday) was an excellent programme. Before we got to the scandalous Lewis Carroll, the programme gave us the literary one: the imaginative but punctilious academic who, 150 years ago, created the classic *Alice in Wonderland*. He invented the story on a river trip with his 10-year-old friend Alice Liddell, a self-possessed little girl, we were told, with whom Carroll was entranced.

Presenter Martha Kearney gave us a wonderfully engaging portrait of Carroll and his world. "I'm such a big fan of his work that I am quite resistant to the idea of exploring any possible dark side," she said. But down that hole she went... Carroll's problem, in modern eyes, is his hobby of photographing children. This was a common Victorian pastime but Carroll seems unusual.

There was a photograph of Alice Liddell as a beggar maid, with her dress falling off her shoulder, exposing her

nipple. There was a picture featuring a fully naked young girl. "That is quite disturbing... that's a little girl in a very adult pose," conceded Kearney.

Classics and English expert Robert Douglas-Fairhurst admitted: "It is tempting, of course, to think of Carroll as a Victorian Jimmy Savile but, in fact, we have dozens and dozens of records from girls who he befriended who made it clear that there was a kind of ritual to their friendship. It involved kissing them chastely and that was it."

The programme located a previously unseen photograph almost certainly taken by Carroll. It showed a girl stripped off, revealing her developed, adolescent body. And it seems she was Lorina, Alice's older sister by three years.

Many people believe Carroll was an innocent who simply enjoyed the company of children and there is no evidence of misbehaviour. Kearney tried to end on a positive note: "Perhaps we'll never find out the truth about Lewis Carroll no matter how much we delve." But, after her programme, many viewers are likely to have decided that they know precisely what the damning truth is. It must have been tough to do that to her hero.

**Last Tango in Halifax ★★★★★**

**The Secret World of Lewis Carroll ★★★★★**