

Synopsis for 'Patent Pending' by Mark Allen

Logline:

Keith Twamley is an unremarkable man, but he has remarkable ideas. The Rotherham-based inventor, who has previously pioneered such ideas as Fizzy Milk, the Cat-a-pelt™ and the Shampoo Pillow, is the subject of a new documentary series by the 'Patent Pending' team as he struggles to become a recognised inventor.

Series Outline:

The documentary crew arrive at Keith's house as he receives a rejection from the Institute of Patents for his latest invention. Keith immediately calls the Institute and promises to have his revenge on Henry Ross, the person responsible for the rejection.

Keith decides to sell his invention himself, and enrolls for an inventor's exhibition in London, where he will have the opportunity to sell his ideas. He packs his invention into his car, drives to London for the exhibition with the documentary crew in tow and checks into a hotel next to the exhibition venue.

We follow Keith for the next four days, as he sets up for the exhibition and tries desperately to rouse interest in his invention, though he refuses to let anybody see it (especially the documentary crew) until they have signed a 38 page disclosure agreement.

Unsurprisingly, Keith is unsuccessful even though he enlists the help of his emotionally unstable best friend from Rotherham, Tony Crudge and despite his bizarre publicity stunts and attempts to sabotage Henry Ross's stand (which happens to be next to his own).

On top of all this, Keith massively overspends his meticulously planned budget, offends everyone he comes into contact with (including the documentary crew and the other inventors who are staying in the same hotel as him), and incurs the wrath of the ex-military exhibition organiser, who constantly has his eye on Keith.

Sporadically throughout the exhibition, Keith insists that the documentary crew stop filming him, so they are reduced to interview other exhibitors, including the bitter Shakespearian actor that dresses up as bear to earn money, the busty models who have no clue about the product they are promoting, and the suicidal salesman, who is forced to deliver his presentations though there is only one person in the audience.

By the end of the exhibition, penniless, exhausted and downtrodden, Keith abandons his invention, renounces his life as an inventor and returns to Rotherham to rethink his life plan. Only then, when the documentary crew look under the blanket that has covered Keith's invention during the series, do we see what all the fuss has been about.

Character Outlines:

Keith Twamley is an unwittingly eccentric man rapidly approaching his fifties. He is determined to be successful in life somehow, and his latest scheme is to become an inventor. Despite several unsuccessful attempts to patent previous ideas, he is convinced he can make it and spends most of his time locked in his shed on his own, trying to come up with the idea that will make his fortune. His obvious mistrust for humanity translates into an irrational paranoia that people will steal his invention and take all the credit for his work.

Veronica Twamley is the long-suffering wife of Keith. Bored, and with the task of looking after their two children, the cripplingly shy **Troy** and the teenage tearaway **Rowena**, Veronica looks elsewhere for excitement. Although she never speaks to Keith about what she gets up to, it is always implied that her life outside the family home consists of illicit affairs and petty theft. Keith is in denial however, and pays no attention to Veronica's wandering eye.

Tony Crudge is Keith's socially awkward best friend. He is in his early twenties and spends most of his time in the local pub. Because Tony is a bit simple, he has trouble holding down a job, and regularly reports back on his latest disastrous employment. Keith met Tony in the pub and befriended him partly out of pity and partly because he can get Tony to work for him for free.

Henry Ross is Keith's sworn enemy, though in truth, he hasn't really done anything to deserve it. He works for a Patent and Trademark company that rejected Keith's patent application on the grounds that it was badly presented and confusing. Although he wants to avoid confrontation with Keith, he can't help being wound up by the constant provocation.

Saskia is the director of the documentary, who is charged with the task of interviewing Keith, her relationship with whom is tempestuous due to Keith's suspicious nature and unwittingly offensive sexist comments. Saskia mostly grins and bears this throughout the series, but occasionally shows her contempt for Keith when he's not around.

The documentary crew follow Keith on his journey to become an inventor. Although they are rarely seen, we occasionally hear comments from **Tim**, the cameraman, and **Dave**, the sound operator, who openly mock Keith. They just want to finish the documentary and move onto the next job.