

DVD

PRIME SUSPECT 1 and 2 Helen Mirren (1992 and 1998, Anchor Bay, unrated, \$29.99 each) Nearly four hours each and never less than brilliant, these gripping British crime dramas are even better than their stellar reputation. Helen Mirren's star-making turn as the prickly Det. Chief Inspector Jane Tennison is still a marvel, with Tennison's razor-sharp professionalism contrasting wonderfully with the shambles of her personal life—somehow, she's never more appealing than when she's being rude to a superior or snapping at a loved one—and the intriguing murder cases she must solve. In an error rare to the format, our copy of *Suspect 2* froze on side 1

and proved difficult to get started again, though a second copy we tested worked without a glitch. And while the no-frills packaging

philosophically fits the no-nonsense Tennison, the dearth of extras—where's the commentary from Mirren or *Suspect* creator Lynda La Plante?—hardly befits these landmark moments in TV movies. *Prime Suspect 1*: **A** *Prime Suspect 2*: **A+** Presentation: **C-** —Michael Giltz