

WAY too long!

Watch out for characters dumping info - no matter how nicely-done - that isn't a dramatic action in the scene

Find A Title!

Choose final NAMES for the Group, The Site, etc!

=====

Meet George, Working on a Podcast

a fakeout: he seems COOL until we reveal garage studio

KEEP SIMPLE

NOT FIRST VICTIM (dummy!) - the LAST!!) = Start with the poisoning, very dramatic then tell us who and how stop-and-start, rewriting, thinking, recording.

REORGANIZE and SIMPLIFY his aria/monologue

He set a COUNTDOWN - three more episodes until I reveal the new evidence!

No glasses

George smokes

DEFINE GEORGE:

He LIVES for the KICK; podcasting true crime is a kick

THIS IS NOT HIS FIRST OR ONLY PODCAST!!! (Have him refer/offer the others!)

the step-by-step tale of HOW George ended up as a

podcaster, etc IS NOT IMPORTANT!

FAILURE as a rocker made him a DJ - and the death of radio sent him into podcasting - the new rock-n-roll

part of the online community (has to TALK ABOUT IT)

When he's explaining his connection end with: 1st serial killer set his life on rebel teen rocker path, because life is fragile

p5 - reveal of garage: nice! **EMPHASIZE SHABBY**

WOVEN-INTO this "meet George" scene:

Meet The Chemistry Set Killer - CSK - In The Podcast

Create a "super-stalker" IMAGE that will be OVERTURNED by meeting Deakins

George Dies - POISONED!

His home is not PATHETIC - but it is:

- a) a bit grounded in the PAST
- b) financially not well off
- c) but happy and doing his thing - fun, independent minded

LISTENING to his work-so-far, playback? IF SO: has to be on earbuds or something... so he doesn't have to go back and listens to the exact thing he's experiencing?!

- Make list of symptoms VERY SPECIFIC (blurred vision, paralysis, etc.)

- Don't let the scene run SO LONG that we forget it!

Meet Madelyn - At Work Turning Down A Promotion

she is content, happy in her small, SAFE life.

more of this dialogue in LOBBY so this isn't the world's longest elevator ride

Not a bad scene, though!

Madelyn arrives and meets Det. Elmes At Crime Scene

Mad's IN THE DEEP END And WANTS TO GET BACK HOME to SAFETY

NOT LETTING IT IN

Mad is on the defensive?

First bit of backstory: George was a long time ago: IT JUST DOESN'T HAVE TO DO WITH ME NOW

She has INHERITED EVERYTHING because even though they got divorced - he NEVER CHANGED HIS WILL

Make MORE from Elmes about how George had a WHOLE LIFE here and was OKAY

Elmes is LISTENING TO OLD EPISODES OF GEORGE'S PODCAST?

put a LOCAL NEWS VAN outside the crime scene - so we understand how the news gets to Deakins later

Elmes = a cop who DOES NOT WANT an interesting case, pissed at amateur online detectives

Don't start with Madelyn arriving by cab = start on Elmes and have Mad WALK INTO it

Simplify executor: George simply never changed his will after the divorce

ESTABLISH a REALLY BIG SCREEN TV and sound system

How was the body found: Didn't show up to work (Bartender)
caller ID Zena = something more branded to reject

After Police: Madelyn has to COPE WITH George's Death

The FIRST BEAT of her ALONE...make more of her complete unpreparedness for ANY of this

Zena calls back - asking to come visit - Mad says NO

Mad Grateful for a sympathetic ear - but then: all too much
SEE Zoom Mtg Below: What EXACTLY is Zena trying to get and how

Meet Norman At Typewriter Repair Store

LESS IS MORE: establish BOOK and journalism AND THAT'S IT!

YOUNG hipster shop owner: also repair vinyl record players and stuff.

they romanticize the past and he doesn't (he was there)
- they insist on doing everything by hand...and it's annoying (check or cash only...handwritten receipt with carbon paper...)

Cut "don't make them" joke

Zoom call: simplify - Norman uses earbuds

he doesn't get an alert: **coming in LATE** - telling time by a CLOCK (They do CLOCK repair) and it's WRONG?

Zoom: Zena Proposes Taking Over Podcast & Finding CSK

key ACTION: Dundoski taking on the mission - and Norman reacting to it but failing to make any impact

they FILL Norman IN because he's late - catching up on George's murder, on the DECISION to take over the podcast

This all has to be A BIG DEAL: not business as usual!

Zena SHARES Mad's info with group (Info-sharing is COMMON) as part of explaining the PROBLEM

THEY NEED George's EVIDENCE

He knew he might be killed - TOLD HER where to look IF

Zena HAS BEEN TOLD BY GEORGE that in case of his death, there is a recording with the secrets he was planning to reveal.

He has HIDDEN IT in his house.

Attic! Pull-down stepladder in the HALLWAY.

So she is purely concealing evidence for gain:

but can't be HONEST about that here, because Norman or Shrimpton might tell police

ADD: High School Student: idolizes Zena

Non-binary - Cameron

keeps OFFERING to help Zena

ALWAYS SCARED - ADMIRES how Zena seems to be fearless

(We can only establish a BIT of them in the pilot!)

ADD: A conspiracy theorist = NOT HELPFUL

Zena is ANNOYED by this person

start this small - he's just a BIT here

Dundoski Does VIOLENCE then Leaves On Mission

we need to FEAR, as he goes to “convince” Madelyn.

VERY VIOLENT scene!

Punishes someone who DID WRONG

He does it CALMLY but BRUTALLY

Home - Norman tries to reach Mad but fails

Mad Ignores Norman’s Call

Be more definitive about her feelings.

Still - sorry: all too much

Norman searches for Mad, Goes To Find Her

WAY OVER DESCRIBED!

the point: he’s old and oldfashioned - but COMPETENT

Cut the “search” -- it’s all about NOT GETTING THROUGH

Zena shared Madelyn’s contact info with the group

Show him CALLING 911 but then hanging up.

- Madelyn wandering alone

DOES NOT WANT TO LET IN FEELINGS

strangeness - no emotion (burying)

make clear George was NOT PINING for her - he had moved on, he had a full life: he just never changed his will

Among the stuff she finds: NICORETTE PATCHES and how-to-stop-smoking books or programs - and other self-help-y things he DIDN’T QUITE MANAGE TO DO

- monologue to George (outburst)

doesn't ALLOW herself to FEEL - to GRIEVE

SO becomes a burst of **ANGER** = (I want to go home NOW)
BACK TO SAFETY

Dundoski doorbell interrupts - pulls her out of emotion

Dundoski: Reconnaissance - door encounter

RETHINK entirely! (more shape, more back-and-forth)

Make Dundoski SMARTER

NEW LAYER OF DEEP NUTSINESS provokes
determination to stay OUT: SAFE Mad, CALM

call comes in WHILE Dundoski's at door-wipes away puzzle

- Talking to the office

BURYING IT ALL: commitment to fast return, rejecting
feeling

Transition out: hanging up - means short call

Delivery guy sells her drugs

an UNEXPECTED FALL from her plan

Not intending to INDULGE FEELING...just needing a
BREAK, a good feeling

Dundoski waits outside. She doesn't leave. He goes in.

(she's smashed and in for the night.)

Norman interrupts D's Break-in - Fight!

CHAOS - things coming together

Norman and Mad MEET: she's high, he's injured

recognizing a fellow-outsider - **LIKES** him

Norman cares about Mad - and she **GETS** that

She tries to put the knife back but it was Dundoski's knife:
either make her fail to accomplish this or don't do

THIS IS WHERE Norman LETS LOOSE on BOOK

Norman's reason for being in the group / book

group is just a chapter in his book surveying how wrong the
21st century is - how crowdsourcing ruins everything. He has a
"pitch" that he falls into

What are other chapters??

Norman puts Mad to bed - and has to stay (CHASTE)

feeling a **CONNECTION** and **TRUST**

Zena heads out to PA

Zena is leaving for the airport in a hurry - talking to Cameron
Zena was going to Attend her parent anniversary brunch, and
is asking Cameron to go in her place. And sing a song,
because she's a shy singer. It'll be good for her. (Zena can't
appear clueless - not even ruthless - instead it's almost like
she's **TEAMING UP**, becoming **HELPING BUDDIES**.)

Near dawn - they wake and make love

connection + trust + feelings = love

WebSleuths SEQUENCE - that morning

keep **SHORT** and **INTERCUT!**

why Sleuthing/teaming up is what they NEED in each life

Dundoski gets home, talks with Marcus - the victim of his violence when leaving: now bandaged

Dundoski explains: it was justice. Sorry.

clarity who he is: **all justice, all the time - even when it's violent & scary**

He gets a notification that a NEW episode has dropped: Zena TAKING OVER George's PODCAST - explaining what happened and where she is going with it

Come in on McLean Listening to THE SAME PODCAST - make the flow of it the transition

McLean failing at a meet cute because can't help being GREAT at detecting - going to work, alone.

End with him putting podcast back on: Transition out...**HARD CUT to it NOT being listened to by Shrimpton**

Setup For Later: lonely brilliant detective

Shrimpton at Work, criticized for sleuthing - trying to occupy herself: WITHDRAWAL:

End on her seeing the notification of the podcast and struggling NOT to listen

Setup For Later: REGRETTING being out

ADD Conspiracy Theorist

Cameron uncomfortably singing a song for Zena's parents at some very upscale restaurant

Zena getting off the plane (watching via Facetime?)

Norman wakes/finds Mad / she offers to make breakfast

EVERYTHING in this strange awkward situation is trying to push them apart - BUT They do NOT want to PART.

AS SHE preps breakfast - they talk a bit

trying to connect, to communicate

- 1: she's making breakfast so he goes along: forced "normal"
 - 2: he asks about her feelings - she confesses shame
 - 3: to console her, he confesses LIFE shame
 - 4: he tells about bad loves - she is now UNEASY
 - 5: food is served, helps cover awkward - then PANIC = poison!
- ONLY lay in the FIRST STAGE of Norman's stories of bad relationships - where he doesn't admit his fault in it at all NOT A LOT OF STORIES MORE AN ATTITUDE

Madelyn and Norman Get Closer Over Diner Meal

The shape of this scene: she moves from the COMFORT of a DATE to the AWARENESS of the MURDER

- 1: a COMFORTABLE beat to open: Talking about their lives: She's describing HERS (since except for the office we don't SEE it yet) She dated for a while but of late...nope (not anti sex - anti dating) Tim Gunn and proud solitary life Norman is ACCEPTING her
 - 2: this is nice, I forgot trauma (THIS is the FIRST REAL MOMENT when she is REALLY LETTING GEORGE BACK IN HER FEELINGS)
- (3?: he empathizes re: feelings - she gets defensive on feelings)

4: THE PAST - George was cool but dangerous - she left to save herself but IMPORTANT move: allowing herself to remember she DID LOVE George

Interesting stuff about George's good and bad qualities left him TO SAVE / bury HERSELF

NOT much backstory here: HOOK for later episodes

The USE of George is to tell us about MADELYN!

5: **Add a beat**: is it possible this is NOT a serial killer? Bring back...This IS a MYSTERY. Norman: Sure -It could be a copycat. but no matter what it IS a murder.

the MURDER beat is what makes her stand up and walk out, APOLOGIZING - she's feeling like she wants to flee - GOES OUT

Outsider Diner: They don't split up

Upset because she DOES NOT want to hunt a serial killer - and he is SUPPORTIVE of that: neither do I -

NEITHER one wants to hunt a serial killer

he says: so go home

leads to:

Madelyn's REVELATION: realizes she can't go back... can't go back in her shell - so maybe wants to change fearful life

The stuff about Mad feeling disoriented is new and good

Madelyn's REVELATION: wants to change fearful life

George's death and this plunge into his unstable world is making her REFLECT on her life. *People die all of a sudden. Life is short. I need to live.* Realizing her marriage scared her

straight: she became REALLY CONVENTIONAL. But maybe that was not the real her. REALIZING she feels liberated by this catastrophic event and **unusually defiant of convention**. Making her want to be free-spirited and brave again.

he says maybe it's George - his spirit - she says don't do that he says yeah even as I said it I knew

LAST beat is: she is DECIDING AT THIS MOMENT to stay and deal with George's stuff: SHE has INHERITED

I don't know what I want to do but I am taking vacation days and maybe more - might as well think HERE...

want to stick around with me?

Zena's INSIDE looking For The Evidence - discovers George's Plan: FREAKS

Zena HAS BEEN TOLD BY GEORGE that in case of his death, there is a recording with the secrets he was planning to reveal.

He has HIDDEN IT in his house.

Attic! Pull-down stepladder in the HALLWAY.

It's NOT a drive - it's OLD TECH MiniDV microcassette she has to play on HIS EQUIPMENT

So she is PLAYING it

USE her narrating/recording **more & better**

and THEN THEY GET HOME

great idea for a turning point, just need to get the details right

This is fine as is: a shock

Zena, Norman and Madelyn COPE WITH the news George LIED about having EVIDENCE

Zena says George Gave Her Keys? (or she knew where he HID them?) She broke in because it's IMPORTANT

she “reads the room” and realizes there is a romance blossoming between these two OBSTACLES to her mission - so she ASSUMES THE ROLE of “RomCom Friend” and confidante!

Mad is shaken/flattered by being BUSTED re Norman

Then a TURN: SHE IS THE GROWN UP

Mad is SMART and SEES it When Zena USES her new-made intimacy to CHANGE the subject and TAKE OVER the narrative...it is a clever move but Mad STOPS it

Enough is enough - she's calling the game now

Zena gathers the Group Online to help convince Mad & Norman to let them keep trying George's plan

What we have to accomplish: set us up for the call:

Transition INTO this is unclear

go a little longer, into Zena's PLAN before they get interrupted

SO FAR, SO GOOD

Mad confronts Zena - Deakins calls to say I DIDN'T DO IT

We MEET Elmore Deakins

Everyone reacts - meanwhile Mad works with him: he explains why he's calling (just heard, was upset...)

make clear HOW Deakins found out

***Am I clinging to the idea
Deakins has NO IDEA who the
Group or George is?***

Mad Won't let Zena talk - Zena puts him on speaker

**Norman interrupts: how do we know you are real?
Deakins freaks that others are on the call**

Zena introduces herself - he needs them to explain who they are

Zena puts the Zoom on George's big TV screensharing

she is involved emotionally with what is happening in the room with Madelyn & Deakins on the phone

but she has her zoom group "in her hand" - so in order to go hands-free AND to share with them - she screenshares AND sets the phone somewhere it can take in the entire room

Zena screenshares the zoom WITH a "keep quiet" gesture:

I will let you be a part of this only if you don't interrupt”
and then later they can't hold their tongues and start to
talk

Return to Deakins Has To Prove He is Real - He DOES

Is the psychological insight ENOUGH?

They Believe Him - NOW WHAT?

They tell him there IS no evidence, George was just baiting
him

CALL ENDS

AFTER - INTERCUT THEM WITH HIM: everyone relieved
- but then they realize THIS CALL is evidence...

CLEANER - CLEARER

more dramatic, less exploring a list of ideas

too much DEBATE and random stating of notions

*They can't CONVINCe the murderer they will keep his
secret - he is after all, despite his apparent reason &
humanity in the calls...a serial murderer, a monster.*

they ALL need to be in danger from the killer

**by the end of it...TWIST: Killer Is ON THEIR TEAM -
trying to find out who killed George**

the end of the pilot

The Deakins Outline

Deakins calls - hesitates then tells Mad I DIDN'T DO IT

he is reaching out, NERVOUSLY

this is an IMPULSIVE ACT

(but he had to buy a burner phone...so think about that)

**Mad pushes him to actually admit his identity; he does -
which makes him explain WHY he's calling**

TURNING POINT - until now deakins has been UNCERTAIN
that he wanted to **actually CONNECT**

but now he DOES:

deakins OPENS UP a bit, CONFESSING a bit

(just heard, was upset...)

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SPARE PARTS

Zena Upset about Norman interfering - tries to talk to Norman
PRIVATELY?)

GET THIS LINE INTO THE SCRIPT!!!

Norman: we were a bunch of people who talked about serial killers like people talk about sports. And then all of a sudden - the ball is in our court, and it's bouncing around - and it kills people.