

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!

=====

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

Elmes is driving the scene - a cop who DOES NOT WANT an interesting case, pissed at amateur online detectives

Mad is on the defensive

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

This is pretty good just make it better

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

This is pretty good just make it better

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

This sequence is complicated but basically right

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

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

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

Be sure Zena SHARES Mad's info with the group

High School Student

Supportive? Idealizes/idolizes?

What would Zena NEED from someone else?

A conspiracy theorist = NOT HELPFUL

Zena is constantly ANNOYED by this person

Dundoski Does VIOLENCE then Leaves On Mission

we need to FEAR, as he goes to "convince" Madelyn.

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.

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 GRIEVE

SO anger = NEED TO GO HOME ASAP - 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

determination to stay OUT: SAFE Mad, CALM

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

- Talking to the office

commitment to fast return, rejecting feeling

Transition out: hanging up - means short call

Delivery guy sells her drugs

an UNEXPECTED FALL from her plan

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!

Just make it work better.

Norman and Mad MEET

pretty good - tighten and polish

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

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

Make it better, but it's right

Zena heads out to PA

The point is: show her leaving.

talking to the High School Student

They are HELPING? coordinating something?

Near dawn - they wake and make love

Nice. Polish, tighten.

SO FAR, SO GOOD

WebSleuths SEQUENCE

the same MORNING Madelyn & Norman Sleep after love

keep SHORT and INTERCUT!

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

TOO MANY BEATS - give each person ONE!

WEAVE TOGETHER with CRIME-SOLVING ELEMENT:

ALL listening to podcasts? Or CHECKING Dr Sleuth Site?

Find a STORY point to weave this around? Zena's travels?

What is SET UP IN here that will pay off IN LATER EPISODES

Dundoski gets home, learns a rival is cutting into his territory

Do we need this? MAKING TOO MUCH of a nonexistent subplot...we want to see him GETTING HOME though...

HOW DOES THIS RELATE TO FIRST Violence scene?! Should PLAY OFF that

debates justice with Marcus before beating crap out of rival

where? HOW exactly does it go?

set-up for later is: his violence and clarity

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

SetUp For Later is: lonely OUTCAST (?)

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

Setup For Later: REGRETTING being out

ADD TWO CHARACTERS: Conspiracist & Teen

Norman wakes/finds Mad / she offers to make breakfast

just polish

They do NOT want to PART.

AS SHE preps breakfast - they talk a bit

trying to connect, to communicate

even though EVERYTHING in this strange awkward

situation is trying to push them apart
needs some work but on the right track.

(Norman's Romantic Past)

stories of EPICALLY bad relationships (BECAUSE he
CHOOSES women who are CLEARLY DISASTERS

Madelyn and Norman Get Closer Over Diner Meal

This scene and the next are a MESS: FIGURE OUT!

**Figure out EXACTLY WHEN she tells her back story: ONE
place for each step of it**

NOT much backstory here: HOOK for later episodes

The USE of George is to tell us about MADELYN!

left him TO SAVE HERSELF

Interesting stuff about George's good and bad qualities

*NO: Norman wants to join crimestopper club and solve it
what world is she from?*

WHERE DO THESE PARTS GO:

Norman's reason for being in the group / his book

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

What are other chapters??

NEITHER one wants to hunt a serial killer

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

Outsider Diner: They don't split up

SEE NOTES ABOVE

We are going BACK here to how he's writing a book?!

The point about how neither wants to hunt serial killers is GOOD. How we are getting there is awful.

The stuff about Mad feeling disoriented is new and good

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

George's "hidden room" - WHY? In theory he has everything in the garage, WHY would he have another room?

And it's all digital, so why would he have a lot of stuff anyway?

Maybe it's not a whole room: maybe it's a box or something hidden in the floor or a secret wall compartment...

I like the idea of her narrating/recording **USE that better**

FIGURE OUT MECHANICS OF THE REVEAL: what is the

cleanest way for us to get it? Think more about George's decision: make it clean to hear, not a lot of steps.

Make this the missing piece of the set-up in the first few scenes! NOT a whole new story

and THEN THEY GET HOME

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

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!

This is the right rough shape - needs polishing

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

Norman & Mad LEAVING - Deakins calls to say I DIDN'T DO IT

a SET PIECE: SERIES of STEPS/REALIZATIONS

by the end of it...TWIST: Killer Is ON THEIR TEAM -

trying to find out who killed George

This is mostly on the right track
but it gets very muddy and ornate sometimes

We MEET Elmore Deakins

a “retired monster” - being dragged back into his darkness

We need to unexpectedly feel: gosh, this intelligent, reasonable retired killer has been unfairly dragged back into the spotlight by George’s murderer

ASKING them to BACK OFF hunting him?

has alibi - but telling what it is would expose his new life

Why did he stop? (which is also: why did he do it?)

These questions ARISE here - but are NOT answered.

Zena puts him on speaker - then he needs them to explain who they are

(a group devoted to HUNTING HIM!)

HE’S TRYING TO KEEP UP - realizing (pointing out) how INCOMPETENT they are

Deakins Has To Prove He is Real - tells them his truth

They Believe Him - NOW WHAT?

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

**AFTER - INTERCUT THEM WITH HIM in this store:
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

the end of the pilot

SPARE PARTS

**SHOW PEOPLE LISTENING TO OLD EPISODES
OF GEORGE'S PODCAST!!! (Including cops at crime
scene and Mad later...)**

Killer lets loose: what is wrong with you people? Who made
YOU the sword of justice?! SELF APPOINTED AMATEURS?!
(Norman's point)

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

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