

Untitled Podcaster-Killer Story

a romantic comedy/thriller
about a couple who fall in love when
they get involved with an online
amateur crime-solving community
whose hunt for a serial killer
provokes the killer to come after them

**They want to solve mystery/find the killer
BECAUSE the killer is after THEM!**

The action is SOLVING:

- investigating
- puzzling
- reasoning

What is the romantic comedy STORY??

Work through an obstacle to find love

WHAT IS THE OBSTACLE TO LOVE?!

What do Norman and madelyn want?

What is the magic they give each other?

*What do they have in common that they don't
find in others?*

What do they NEED from each other?

I still don't know that essential need in either of them...

**this romance ENDS with a BEGINNING:
they get to the point where they want to try -
To go out on a date, or something**

STRUCTURE

A limited hour-long series
(potential for sequels/other seasons...?)

Models

Fargo

Midnight Run

Charade

North By Northwest

Slither

Black Monday

The Major Moves

Episode 1

George Is Killed (Madelyn's Ex)
Meet Norman, lurking in the Group to critique
Meet the Killer/Cold Case
Zack steers Group to rob Madelyn for Ex's Files
Norman Falls for Madolyn from a distance
Norman intervenes to protect Madelyn
Madelyn gets on the case, despite disliking Group
Norman gets on the case to be with Madelyn
End with Killer Coming After Them

Episode 2

Episode 3

Episode 4

Episode 5

Episode 6

N&M split up - emotionally/bad choice strategically
making them vulnerable to the killer.

Episode 7

Reveal: serial killer is innocent (of THIS) - Zack
killed George, to advance career by creating a buzz
for podcast
Confrontation with the killer & Zack

CHARACTERS

Norman Murch

a bitter forcibly-retired journalist..
in his 50s.
out of touch with the changed reality

Madelyn

Dead George's Ex Wife
Hates The Group but then gets ON the case

Zack

Zoomer
Takes over the podcast
hypes the investigation
turns out to be the killer

saw an opportunity and took it, selfishly.
Out of DESPAIR:
The world is a mess, and I want for me.

ALL ABOUT ATTENTION

it is in fact THE MURDER that makes George interesting to the public! (like a dead painter)

ALSO ROMCOM SIDEKICK
for BOTH Madelyn & Norman
loveable because HE TELLS THE TRUTH -
insightful

Zack is the only one who is FULL TIME into the
podcast and the case.
He has bet everything on it

But it is not his first media project - so his past
should be revealing of his nature
He was an influencer for a while
Maybe also into prank and outrage?

DISCOVERY of his past online identities is a turning point? Or it is known from the start and helps make him seem ridiculous and HARMLESS?

*trying DESPERATELY to MAKE A
DIFFERENCE - to do Something GOOD for
the world? Or a selfish careerist?*

*how is murder doing something good for
the world?*

*But it feels weak to just tar a zoomer with
boomer careerism...*

*Is the rationale that George wasn't good
enough and Zack felt he could do better?
(But then why not just start his own?)*

*Is his secret motive ANGER?
"You (older) people fucked up the world and
we are going to take over and fix it!"*

Or that

Pre-Post-Apocalyptic

George
Dead podcaster
a sad desperate nut

Serial Killer

Actual retired serial killer
who is being FRAMED for the George's murder

And the new interest stirred up by this frame
threatens to identify him
So he is trying to scare them
threaten them
and when that doesn't work he has to KILL THEM

The Group

WHY are these people hunting killers?

It's a club

It's a hobby

*Is one of them a crime VICTIM? so trying to TAKE
BACK their confidence? That might be too
powerful a story to make a secondary character...*

DETECTIVE 3 - LOON

a conspiracy theorist
they turn out to be a good person, though

DETECTIVE 4

Sleuthing to **distract** from personal unhappiness
because in life there is something bad that has NO
supervillain

? disease? Or is caring for someone?

*Or it's the JOB: is a nurse? Team Member: Crime
Victim*

DETECTIVE 5

someone who is OUT FOR JUSTICE

believe that good people getting together can stop
bad people.

THEMES

**CONFRONTING this awful thing that we
think is entertaining**

We Love Serial Killers: WHY the fuck?

They're uniquely evil: a human monster.

They're a story.

They're UNLIKELY to be our real problem.

Respecting Victims

The difference between spectators and people
involved: not fun and games for those who loved
the victims.

The new layer of true-crime recently has been
reckoning with this.

I can live with that

the acceptance and goal - living, faulty and failed
but alive and able to start their life together.

online intimacy

reaching-out-of-strangers

dishwasher safe

a character wants to be THAT safe or realizes they
do - Madelyn?

Crowdsourcing

ordinary people wanting to DO something
in a world gone crazy
the power of coming-together
(but the loss of individual power...)

Questions & Things To Work On

PODCASTING & TRUE CRIME FORMAT

Writing Notes

This is a COMEDY. Even though it's an hour-long.
Make sure it's funny