

Untitled Podcaster-Killer Story

a thriller SERIES

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

Madelyn is more central in the MURDER PLOT
but in the RELATIONSHIP PLOT they are equal.
And the HEART is THE RELATIONSHIP...

Madelyn & Norman

- Madelyn needs to change and grow
- Norman needs to let go of the past and his ego

Their EMOTIONAL SECRETS: the troubles
underlying who they are
and the OBSTACLES to love:

She FEARS that others will ENDANGER her
has not had a serious relationship since her divorce
20 years ago

content with her solitary safe life
(not repressed or frustrated)

He FEARS CRITICISM
so he finds fault with others

each helps/provokes the other to do the thing they
need

(Madelyn SEES THROUGH Norman and POKES
HOLES in his ego)

(Norman comes to BELIEVE in Madelyn and
SUPPORT her a new role for him)

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

The central action is
SOLVING:
- investigating
- puzzling

- reasoning

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

story is a cascade of FUMBLES

the characters are all MAKING MISTAKES
(based in their needs)
that force them into CONFLICT

STRUCTURE

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

Models

Fargo

Midnight Run

Charade

North By Northwest

Slither

Black Monday

CHARACTERS

Norman Murch

A pissed-off journalist in his 50s.

working through his resentment at being forcibly-retired from the changing journalism-industry (and world) by writing a book analyzing what's gone wrong with the world since crowdsourcing was invented.

Dealing with the fact that he couldn't adapt to changing times by writing a book **CRITIQUING** changing times.

Norman wants to To FIX The Past

make it NOT HIS FAULT

to get the world to agree he was not wrong

(He THINKS he's SAVING the FUTURE by

EXPLAINING how others were WRONG IN THE PAST)

his STORY IS ABOUT

learning to LET GO of undoing the past

and

DOING BETTER IN THE PRESENT

Madelyn Morrison

Dead George's Ex

a data-analysis supervisor for a giant financial services company

(having her have to explain it to people will be fun)

practical and optimistic and engaged
never give up - keep trying

Madelyn wants to change her life - to grow and be better

NOT to stay stuck and decaying
Has just decided to study to be EMT or
THERAPIST

Zena Morano

Zoomer - 20 years old, born in 2001

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

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

SAYS trying to MAKE A DIFFERENCE - to
do Something GOOD for the world
but

his secret motive is ANGER
“You (older) people fucked up the world and
we are going to take over and fix it!”

Pre-Post-Apocalyptic

ALL ABOUT ATTENTION

*knows THE MURDER will make George interesting
to the public! (like a dead painter)*

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

Zena 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?

George Roizman

Dead podcaster
a sad desperate nut

Elmore Deakins

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

Elswit Khondji

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

Lubezki Andrews

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.

The Major Moves

Episode 1

George Is Killed (Madelyn's Ex)

Meet Norman, lurking in the Group to critique

Meet the Killer/Cold Case

Zena 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) - Zena
killed George, to advance career by creating a buzz
for podcast

Confrontation with the killer & Zena

George's House

almost all of the story takes place there.

slowly over episodes more & more of the group
decide to GO there, meeting for the first time.

kind of a fun concept, this gradually-filling house,
full of junk (George was nuts)
but also full of data about the killer

so in the last couple of episodes they have to go
on the run, a road trip is a big deal, some fresh air.

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