

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

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

A limited hour-long series

(potential for sequels/other seasons)

**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

She FEARS others will ENDANGER her
has not had a serious relationship since her divorce
content with her solitary safe life
(not repressed or frustrated)

He FEARS CRITICISM
so he finds fault with others
and has a LOT of relationships (none serious)

**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)

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

Models
(Things This Is Ideally Gonna Be LIKE)

Fargo (series)
Midnight Run
Charade
North By Northwest
Slither (1970s)

CHARACTERS

Norman Murch

A pissed-off journalist in his mid-50s.
from Akron Ohio

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.

Has knocked-around from place to place.

Norman wants 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 starting to work on
DOING BETTER IN THE PRESENT**

Madelyn Morrison

a data-analysis supervisor for a giant financial services company, in her late
40s
from Fort Lee New Jersey

practical and optimistic and engaged

***The events of this story MAKE Madelyn
want to change her life
- to grow and be better
NOT to stay stuck and decaying
DECIDES to study to be EMT or THERAPIST***

Born 1972
Married 1991 at 19

Zena Morano

full time influencer, websleuth, podcaster
from Orange County CA

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

20 years old, born in 2001
lives with her wealthy parents

FULL TIME on the podcast and the case

Zoomer -

it is not her first media project -
was an influencer for a while

Maybe also into prank and outrage?

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

she does not do violence out of ANGER or emotion - it's a calculated
career movie. (Sociopath much?) So when things go wrong she is
NOT violent

ideally let a TINY CLUE of Zena's murderousness show here!

: coldness MEANNESS (kind of like an algorithm REROUTING the
GPS)

she's like HAL in 2001 BUT THIS IS BURIED - it is her DEEP DARK
SECRET SELF

ALL ABOUT ATTENTION

knows THE MURDER will make George interesting (like a dead painter)

saw an opportunity and took it:

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

her secret motive is ANGER:

"You (older) people fucked up the world and now all we can do is
scramble for ourselves!"

Pre-Post-Apocalyptic

BUT ALSO: ROMCOM SIDEKICK for BOTH Madelyn & Norman

loveable because she TELLS THE TRUTH - insightful

George Roizman

Dead podcaster

from western Pennsylvania. Low mountains, run-down small town.

a sad desperate nut
just wanted to do something good

Elmore Deakins

retired serial killer

who was FRAMED for George's murder

an old man
- changes of age
- question of justice carried over decades
- "execution of nature" as not enough

Carl Dundoski

a meth dealer and addict

But also a Crime Victim

OUT FOR JUSTICE

believe that good people getting together can stop bad people.

run-down but a small city not rural. Waterfront warehouse.

Arvin McLean

wall st conspiracy theorist

a genuine paranoid

hyped and busy - needs group and online theories

to help with the stress of high-demand (low in company) financial-industry
job

turns out to be a good person, though

Nurse Shrimpton

Sleuthing to **distract** from personal unhappiness
because in real life bad stuff often has NO supervillain

Pilot: The Major Moves

G Podcast-Hunting - says new evidence /Killed

Meet Mad & Cops/Zena Trying To Get Files

Meet Norman, in Zoom Group - Zena steers them to rob Madelyn for Ex's
Files

Norman intervenes to protect Madelyn

Madelyn & Norman Night Together - make love

Mad & Norm next day: Getting To Know You

Zena Shows Up - Gets Access To Files

Discovery: George Was Lying

Killer Calls

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

not fun and games for those who loved the victims.
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
Norman is critical (but doesn't know what intimacy is)
Zena speaks for it?

dishwasher safe

Madelyn has lived her life wanting to be THAT safe

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