

Untitled Podcaster-Killer Story

a romantic-comedy-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

Models

(Things This Is Ideally Gonna Be LIKE)

Fargo (series)

Midnight Run

Charade

North By Northwest

Slither (1970s)

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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

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

We Love Serial Killers: WHY?

CONFRONTING this awful thing that we think is entertaining
They're uniquely evil: a human monster.
They're UNLIKELY to be our real problem.
They're a story.

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.

(dishwasher safe)

Madelyn has lived her life wanting to be THAT safe

online intimacy

reaching-out-of-strangers

Norman is critical (but doesn't know what intimacy is)

Zena speaks for it?

Crowdsourcing

ordinary people wanting to DO something

in a world gone crazy

the power of coming-together

(but the loss of individual power...)

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TITLE WORKSPACE!

IN OVER THEIR HEADS

George's Evidence

Websleuths

The Hunters

The Crimehunters

Framed

The Chemistry Set Killer

The Crime Club

The Killer Hunter Club

Digging Deep

The IN OVER THEIR HEADS

Cold Case

Buried

Hidden

Connections
Outsiders
Innocents
The Tuesday Night Crime Club
Detectives
Crackers
(the podcast title) (podcrime?)
Hunting
Seeking
Sleuthing

Crumbs

The Tuesday Night Crumb Club
The Dark Forest Club
The Gravediggers Club
Unburied

Shred of Evidence

Circumstantial
Dante's Forest
Crowdsourcing
Crowd

The Crime Crowd

Society

The Crime Society
Crowdsolving

The Crowdsolving Society

Puzzle
Reconstruction
Shadow

The Shadow Readers

Murder of Crows

Community Watchdog
Watchdog Society
The Shadow Society

The Zoom Crows

The Zoom Crew
The Collectors
The Zoom Collectors
the Collecting Collective
Follow the Trail
Pull The Thread
Dante's Thread
Orpheus
Theseus
Circles of Hell
Lost

Lost Souls
Lost And Found Souls Society
Found Souls Society
Unearthed
Lost Evidence
Hot Cold Cases
Cold Justice
The Keyboard Warrior Society
The Keyboard Detective Society
Coppers
Afterdark Society
Dark
Pursuit
Pursuers

(late entries:

The Kitchen Crime-Fighters
The cold web killer
The crime cast
Crime club
Broadcast Sleuths
Network Savants
Cold Case Broadcast
Web catchers
Crime Work .Net
The .Net files
The .Net Society
The mp3 killer
The Killer Broadcast
Web Watchers
The Crime Domain
Cold Case Anonymous
Cyber Sleuths
iCrime
The Crime Time Podcast