

Meet Serial Killer Case as George Works on Podcast

George is a very minor true-crime podcaster, something of a nut-case himself.

Telling the story of a **serial poisoner**

NICKNAME THE KILLER = create his mythology

used a signature poison? They would have looked for sources/suppliers...maybe he made it himself...

A COLD CASE. Couldn't be caught because he picked victims TOTALLY AT RANDOM.

George, in podcast, promises NEW INFO which will ID the killer.

George Dies - POISONED!

Meet Madelyn working with Police At Crime Scene

we find out she is George's ex-wife - LONG divorced her SHOCK at finding out George made her next-of-kin - responsible/executor

30 years since they divorced - she was about 19 then and is 49 now

George's home is crowded with FILES: a MESS

-also haunted for Madelyn: her marriage, her past.

Meet Det. Elmes - who BLAMES George

Elmes is PISSED

Believes that the Serial Killer Killed George

Believes George essentially ATTRACTED the killer by making the podcast

(Instead of going to the police, he went on the internet and put himself in danger)

Hates amateur sleuths

Elmes is HOSTILE to Madelyn because he assumes she is like her Ex

This is Elmes only scene in this episode

There is a Crime Scene Unit working

All of George's stuff is POTENTIAL EVIDENCE!

but there's too much to deal with right now

After Police Leave: Madelyn Starts to COPE WITH George's Death - Zena calls asking for files - she says NO

decides to stay in dead George's home to deal with the estate (on leave from her job or doing remotely.)

What job? Something SAFE & BORING.

MEET Zena - Intercut it's a phone call

Madelyn is not thrilled with "crazies" being on the case also just in shock and not ready to make decisions

Meet Team on Zoom: Zena Proposes Taking Over

Podcast & Finding The Killer

MAKE UP CRIME SOLVING SITE NAME

*(Websleuths, CrimeSource CrimeClub (TAKEN!)
time for THESAURUS!!!*

REACTING to Death - **they believe it WAS the serial killer, NOT a copycat** - even though cops don't

Zena strategizing what to do since Madelyn refused to give over George's "case files"

Meet Norman in Team, objecting as Zena assigns (WHO?) to steal files from Madelyn

Planning to pretend to be cops? Or just BREAK IN AND TAKE THE STUFF

The person who agrees to do it is NEAREST - and the ONLY ONE WHO VOLUNTEERS

but aggressive and deranged

Lubezki Andrews

Elswit Khondji

like "Walter" in THE BIG LEBOWSKI - *"It's not that you're wrong, Walter - it's that you're an asshole."*

a meth dealer (and addict)

Why can't a meth dealer have a sense of justice?

A personal desire to bring killers to justice, a feeling for victims and the underdog.

Norman is “under cover”

WHERE DOES HE LIVE? NEAR George’s home

*a rural area - went to write his book? (cheaper?
inherited?) Or lonely-in-a-crowd in a city?*

**the trigger isn’t Madelyn - it’s the crazed nature of
the ROBBER!**

He just feels PROTECTIVE and MOVED

BUT unaware of some love - when he sees Zena’s
report on her refusal to turn over the files - sees
pictures, recorded Skypes?

*Would she skype, when she doesn’t really want to talk
at all??*

Norman tries to convince Zena NOT to rob her

Private talk AFTER meeting

(This will also establish Zena & Norman’s starting-point
relations: Norman is NOBODY to Zena, Zena is VERY
WRAPPED UP in his grand scheme)

Norman heads out to intercept - to PROTECT her

Madelyn, mourning alone, gets drunk/stoned

(Who) Tries To Get The Files - Norman shows up to

help - interferes with theft

HOW does Norman interfere? Interrupt? Pull the guy out before she knows about it? Fight?

The robber THINKS she went OUT but she comes back?

(Zena & Co reacting to Norman interfering - Zach heads for house?)

Norman Ends Up Staying The Night - In Bed Together - CHASTE

ROMAN HOLIDAY

Morning - they wake and make love

He ASKS if she is able to consent

AFTER Making Love - Mismatched Strangers With A Lot to Talk about

Madelyn Tells Norman about Marriage To George

She was young and free-spirited.

HOW OLD WAS SHE when she married - what world is she from?

Their marriage was a frightening disaster.

Why?

It scared her straight: she became REALLY CONVENTIONAL.

How?

Had NO contact with George - didn't even know he had become a podcaster.

Now: George's death and this whole plunge into his unstable world is making her REFLECT on her life.

Making her want to be free-spirited and brave again.

Has just decided (or is just deciding) to change her life and study to be an EMT or a THERAPIST

Norman Explains About His Book (& Life)

Now that she's able to hear it - we finally get the backstory on Norman in the group

For Norman, this community is just a single chapter in his major book surveying how wrong all of the 21st century is - how crowdsourcing ruins everything.

What are other chapters??

(Models for the book: Evil Geniuses, Anti-Social)

He has something of a "pitch" that he falls into when he talks about the book

We will NOT get WHOLE norman story (or whole Madelyn) here - it's just the FIRST STEP

Zena SHOWS UP

Upset about Norman interfering -
The Triangle begins with misunderstandings:
He feels he's "caught" them - this EXPOSES Norman

Madelyn lets Zena Look At The Files

Zena discovers George's Plan: LURE Killer with Fake claims

There IS NO NEW Evidence
George just figured he would PROVOKE the killer
story is a cascade of FUMBLES

Problem: time...George was a nutsy hoarder type, how is it that this bit of info is quickly available to Zena?

Killer Contacts Madelyn to say I DIDN'T DO IT, stop hunting me

model for relationship with killer here is INSOMNIA
- calm conversations with deep menace below

Okay: ideally at the end of these calls between the group and the killer:

they have agreed not to hunt/expose the killer and the killer has agreed not to kill them

...and BOTH SIDES privately realize they can't keep their word on that

The killer calls to say: I did NOT kill George. *That's the main, first, most important message - the ACTION of this contact..*

Killer Has To Prove They Are Real

in order to convince them of innocence re-George, the killer has to PROVE they ARE the killer.

Is that because they are SKEPTICAL? Seems like it would be!

The killer did not PREPARE proof, then.

WHAT IS THE PROOF that they are the killer?

Theoretically “things only the killer would know”

But then how could they know if it was TRUE?!

That's a great beat - when they realize/say that.

Deakins says: Let sleeping dogs lie OR I WILL HAVE TO KILL YOU

They tell him there never was any evidence

He needs them to stop saying he killed George **AND** to NOT pursue George's ID plan - to give over the DNA if they have it...

He KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THEM - so they are

vulnerable

We MEET Elmore Deakins (The Serial Killer)

INTERCUTTING - he is on a burner cell - and in a LOCATION where he can't be tracked (they can locate cell towers where calls came from) - public place NOT near his home

WHO IS ELMORE DEAKINS?

Where is he from, what is his job, his life?

WHY does he kill?

He killed To FEEL POWER

They tell him the truth: there IS no evidence - everyone is relieved and then they realize THIS CALL is evidence...

they tell him George was just baiting him - as a way of defusing the threat: hey you don't need to kill us!

- and he says...crap...now I've done this...now I have to kill you

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

This is going to be a SERIES of STEPS/REALIZATIONS - a SET PIECE - one long call (on speaker for them) - or maybe it's actually a series of calls? But why would he

call BACK to say I'm going to kill? It would have to SLIP OUT when he's realizing it...

Madelynn Norman & Zena Realize They're All In This Together Now...

BECAUSE they are ALL THREATENED

They can't CONVINCЕ the murderer they will keep his secret - he is after all, despite his apparent reason & humanity in the calls...a serial murderer, a monster.

Zena's view: go public, because then the killer has no reason to kill them (i.e. killing them won't keep the secret if they put it in a podcast.) Transparency & publicity are their insurance

But of course the killer might not be so logical - at that point he might just be out for revenge, or hoping to intimidate others from hunting

they ALL need to be in danger from the killer
the end of the pilot

SO FAR, SO GOOD

JOKE: Notion That DNA has “torpedoed the serial killer industry” (Jeff M in comments on live)

the idea that people are looking at a “list of careers” and not being serial killers because DNA has made it harder to get away with.

(ALSO NOTE: DNA isn't helping them - George was LYING about it - **THE MYTH OF DNA**)