

Meet Serial Killer Case as George Works on Podcast

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

home is crowded with FILES: a MESS

How specifically is he a nutcase? How do we SEE it?

Telling the story of a **serial poisoner**. A COLD CASE. Couldn't be caught because he picked victims TOTALLY AT RANDOM.

NICKNAME THE KILLER = create his mythology

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

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

George Dies - POISONED!

he broadcasts out of a SHED, and that's where he died - so it seems like they only have to seal the shed?

And then it turns out Zena knows George has a whole HIDDEN basement storage/office under a trap door...

George: the rust belt - rural Ohio/Pennsylvania. Low mountains, run-down small town.

Madelyn: Corporate - maybe NYC? Jersey? East coast-ish.

Norman: Philadelphia. Has knocked-around from place to place.

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

Zena: west coast or southwest.

Meet Madelyn working with Det. Elmes At Crime Scene

George's ex-wife - IN SHOCK at murder AND at finding out George made her responsible/executor

30 years since they divorced - was 19 then/49 now

WHO WAS SHE THEN?

She has never been in this house, has not been in contact with George

SO FAR, SO GOOD

Is Elmes eager to take on serial killer - or knows/hopes it's going to move to FBI?

Elmes is PISSED: **BLAMES George**

Says it looks like the Serial Killer Killed George 0 Believes George ATTRACTED the killer by making the podcast (Instead of going to the police, he went on the internet and put himself in danger)

Elmes hates amateur sleuths

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

This is Elmes only scene in this episode

Elmes ends the scene with more empathy for her?

Who notified her of the murder/her new responsibility? Was it cops?

They'd want to ask her a lot - assuming she knows stuff.

Crime Scene Unit working: she house is such a packed hoarder-house, they can't pack up the evidence and take it away, so the whole house is evidence

Is it sealed? Seems like it would have to be.

So then she can't stay there.

What if there's a SECRET door (George was nuts) that means they can get in and out without breaking the door seals?

Does she just want to look at unexpected souvenirs she's rediscovered - and they won't let her - so she sneaks back in?

George was tinfoil-on-the-windows paranoid, so: once they sneak in no one would know they're in there

Is Zena calling, texting, emailing her DURING?

After Police Leave: Madelyn Starts to COPE WITH George's Death -

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

Talking to people at work.

(Establish a work-associate? PROBABLY NOT: give her ZENA to talk to instead!?)

Zena calls asking for files - she says NO

MEET Zena - Intercut it's a phone call

What was Zena's story with George BEFORE this?

Had she been a friend/confidante? A rival?

Madelyn would WANT to talk with Zena, because ZENA KNEW GEORGE

BEGIN to create Zena the **CONFIDANTE**

hapless, foolish, vulnerable

naive, idealistic

thinks in social media terms

throwing around buzzwords and big plans

Zena doesn't go right to the files - BUT when she does:

Madelyn CAN'T GIVE ACCESS - they're EVIDENCE - **wants Zena to RESPECT POLICE EFFORT**

Zoom: Zena reporting to team on Fail with Madelyn

MEET Norman - watching Zena propose the takeover

GEROGE'S HOUSE is REMOTE and Norman lives in an apartment in a city

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

Meet Khondji - the meth dealer

Establish that he's a meth dealer - and user

Meet The OTHERS

FIGURE OUT WHO THEY ARE!

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.

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

This is a MAJOR TURNING POINT

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?

HOW does she discover this? Did he write it down? Podcast-record it?

How does everyone react to this news about George?

Mad is pretty pissed at him - the cop was right: George GOT HIMSELF MURDERED

Some of the Sleuths might rather ADMIRE this move. He risked his life to lure the killer - and it worked! So to them: bravo george you are a hero.

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..*

When the killer calls the Sleuths are SKEPTICAL: demand that the killer PROVE he IS THE KILLER to make his denial believable.

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 CONVINCED 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

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**