

## Meet George, Working on a Podcast

a fakeout where he seems COOL until the reveal of his garage studio

BUT - I also want to break this up with bits of HIS LIFE so maybe he does MORE THAN ONE BIT?

**NOT BE ABOUT THE FIRST VICTIM (dummy!) It should be about the LAST!!)**

RESEARCH: 9.21.21 article “Social Media Detectives” re: podcasts/ websleuths!

The Process: stop-and-start, he’s not doing a live show, so we see his life while he is rewriting, thinking, recording.

(Then - How does he make a living??)

We also see it in the hoarder-density of his work space, a mess of file cabinets, shelves crammed with file boxes, etc.

He tells us HOW he got into it:

What Brought This memory back to trigger the hunt?

Something CHANCE and TRIVIAL!

(George was born in 1972.)

WOVEN-INTO this “meet George” scene:

## Meet The Chemistry Set Killer - CSK - In The Podcast

George Promises Reveal - then Dies - POISONED!

## Meet Madelyn - At Work Turning Down A Promotion

see what will get DISRUPTED:

**she is content, happy in her small, SAFE life.**

## Madelyn arrives and meets Det. Elmes At Crime Scene

**The POINT: Mad's been THROWN IN THE DEEP END**

**And she WANTS TO GET BACK HOME to SAFETY**

Elmes is driving the scene - Mad is on the defensive  
(is it legally possible to make someone the executor of your estate without their knowledge?) (If not: how did that work?)

**How was the body found?**

somewhere in here: **ESTABLISH** that **George has a REALLY BIG SCREEN TV**

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

**Zena calls back - asking to come visit - Mad says NO**

**Meet Norman Murch**

Shop Scene / Reminder / Zoom starts there

A pissed-off journalist in his mid-50s.

Lives in Akron, Ohio (site of his last job)

Lives in a one-bedroom apartment: sleeps in the living room (fold-out sofa), uses the bedroom as an office

He IS writing a LOT on his book

- broke? What does he do for money? Severance?  
Unemployment?

Does he drink a lot? Cliche of newspaper reporter - which

might be attractive to him. Functional but drunk?

but he has messed up his schedule and so he does it by phone while leaving the shop and driving home

## **THAT EVENING: CrimeCrowd Zoom: Zena Proposes Taking Over Podcast & Finding CSK**

Beat: BEAT: George only had 4 subscribers - when Zena says it, people in the group give their excuses (No time/He tells us everything personally/I was going to...) Which means none of them were among the 4

### **Meet Carl Dundoski - the meth dealer**

Zena on Dundoski - she is very flattering to Dundoski because she thinks he is an idiot - but also he is scary a meth dealer (and addict) with a personal desire to bring killers to justice, a feeling for victims and the underdog. "Why can't a meth dealer have a sense of justice?"

### **Meet Arvin McLean - wall st conspiracy nut**

a genuine conspiracy nut  
hyped and busy - needs group to help with the stress of high-demand (low in company) financial-industry job

### **Meet Nurse Shrimpton: she's out**

only in this to relax and forget her troubles

### **Norman tries to convince Zena NOT to rob Madelyn**

### **Norman heads out to intercept - to PROTECT her**

later - Madelyn, mourning alone, gets drunk/stoned

**She DOES NOT WANT TO LET IN FEELINGS**

doesn't ALLOW herself to GRIEVE or even really THINK  
(about George - safety - her narrow life )

**INERCUT! Dundoski Tries To Get Files - STEP I:  
Reconnaissance.**

**Dundoski waits outside. She doesn't leave. He goes in.**  
(she's smashed and in for the night.)

**Norman interrupts D's Breakin - Fight!**

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

**Zena heads out to PA, leaving parents baffled**

**Near dawn - they wake and make love**

**INTERCUT SEQUENCE of the OTHER WebSleuths**  
see in each life why Sleuthing/teaming up is something  
they NEED

it all happens in the same MORNING that Madelyn &  
Norman are Sleeping In after making love

**Figure out things SET UP IN THIS**

## **SEQUENCE that will pay off IN LATER EPISODES**

Dundoski gets home, learns a rival is cutting into his territory

Dundoski Part 2 - He debates justice with Marcus before beating the crap out of Big Leon

**Figure out this scene!! where does it happen, what exactly happens? Nice IDEA for a scene - but MAKE A DAMN CHOICE!**

The set-up for later is: he KNOWS and CARES about Justice even when his life requires him NOT to do it

McLean Part 1 - failing at a meet cute because he's took detect-y

McLean Part 2 - See him ALONE a lot, as he works. Listening to true crime.

SetUp For Later is: he's lonely and unappreciated an OUTCAST here (later will shine a la CM Smith in the Untouchables)

Shrimpton Part 1 - at Work, gets criticized for her sleuthing

## Part 2 - Shrimpton try to occupy herself: WITHDRAWAL

The Setup For Later: REGRETTING being out

### Norman & Madelyn: Mismatched Strangers With A Lot to Talk about

THEY LIKE EACH OTHER. They do NOT want to PART.

**trying to connect, to communicate**

even though EVERYTHING in this strange awkward situation is trying to push them apart

Norman comes out naked/she washed his clothes

she offers to make him breakfast

AS SHE preps breakfast - they talk a bit

### Norman's Romantic Past

Has many stories of EPICALLY bad relationships

(BECAUSE he CHOOSES women who are CLEARLY DISASTERS

Breakfast is ready - Realizes: wait! food is not safe - they go OUT to a diner??

### Madelyn Tells Norman about Marriage To George

what world is she from?

**NOT much backstory here: HOOK for later episodes**

The USE of George is to tell us about MADELYN!

## **Madelyn left him TO SAVE HERSELF**

Theme of FEAR = relating to Madelyn, especially

### **His reason for being in the hunting group / his book**

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??

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

### **At diner: they deal with how NEITHER one wants to hunt the serial killer**

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 her feelings of wanting to change her life /

She is REALIZING that she feels liberated, changed by this catastrophic event (George’s death) and so she is **unusually defiant of convention.**

People die all of a sudden. Life is short. I need to live.

Realizing her marriage scared her straight: she became REALLY CONVENTIONAL. But maybe that was not the real her.

### **Outsider Diner: They don’t split up**

Mad talking about WHAT'S COME OVER HER - he says maybe it's George - his spirit - she says don't do that he says yeah even as I said it I knew

**Zena's INSIDE and already looking For The Evidence - discovers George's Plan: LURE Killer with Fake claims**

She FREAKS

**and THEN THEY GET HOME**

**Zena, Norman and Madelyn COPE WITH the news George LIED about having EVIDENCE**

Zena says George Gave Her The Keys (or she knew where he HID them) She broke in because it's IMPORTANT

HER ACTION is to GET INVOLVED IN THE LOVE STORY!  
she "reads the room" and realizes that there is a romance blossoming between these two OBSTACLES to her mission - so she ASSUMES THE ROLE of "RomCom Friend" and confidante!

**Zena gathers the Group Online to help convince Mad & Norman to let them keep trying George's plan**

What we have to accomplish: set us up for the call:

**Norman & Mad LEAVING - Deakins calls to say I DIDN'T DO IT**

**a SET PIECE long call: a SERIES of STEPS/  
REALIZATIONS**



**by the end of it...TWIST: Killer Is ON THEIR TEAM -  
trying to find out who killed George**

## **We MEET Elmore Deakins (The Serial Killer)**

ASKING them to BACK OFF hunting him

even has alibi - but telling them what it is would expose his new life

Why did he stop? (which is also: why did he do it?)

can't resolve this character's story in his first scene: These questions ARISE here - but are NOT answered.

**a “retired monster” - being dragged back into his  
darkness**

We need to unexpectedly feel: gosh, this intelligent, reasonable retired killer has been unfairly dragged back into the spotlight by George's murderer

# SO FAR, SO GOOD

**Zena puts him on speaker - then he needs them to explain who they are**

(a group devoted to HUNTING HIM!)

HE'S TRYING TO KEEP UP - realizing (pointing out) how INCOMPETENT they are

## Deakins Has To Prove He is Real

to convince them of innocence re-George, the killer has to PROVE he IS the killer.

He's startled: did not PREPARE proof.

Theoretically: "things only the killer would know"

*What things, exactly?? TINY DETAILS:*

*some of them are things ONLY HE would know (not even the police) - like HOW he CHOSE them or THINGS HE LEARNED/ DID while planning*

*He CHOSE ENTIRELY AT RANDOM - he would choose someone and then wait until the third next person came past...*

*He did NOT stalk them - everyone ASSUMES he did*

*He had to wrestle with EMPATHY while stalking - so he did something to dehumanize? he would just GO IN as fast as possible and leave the poison and try NOT to learn anything about them*

*and he LIVED a disconnected entirely random LIFE*

*maybe it was a twisted act of despair in a meaningless universe*

*and then he FELL IN LOVE*

But then how could they know if it was TRUE?! (That's a great beat - when they realize/say that.)

**Realization: He didn't even KNOW about George, the group - so he had NO MOTIVE!**

*who speaks this?*

**They Believe Him - NOW WHAT?**

**They say they'll tell the cops? He says no don't do that...**

**They tell him there IS no evidence, George was just baiting him**

**WHEN does this come up? BEFORE the crucial realization? He wants to know what the evidence is?**

**Or AFTER - as the thing he fears most: he says we can't clear my name of this - but at least tell me what it is.**

**Yes: that...**

**It SEEMS like this is at least good news: the cops can't use this to come after him**

**So they all agree to just WALK AWAY...**

**AFTER - INTERCUT THEM WITH HIM in this store: everyone relieved - but then they realize THIS CALL is evidence...**

He is an artisinal-soap maker Listens to "Americana" and folk music.

They realize: holy shit, he confessed to the ORIGINAL string while DENYING he did this one!

**I think this is McLEAN**

**He HAS to come after us now...and therefore WE HAVE TO go after him**

He doesn't say he's got to kill them: THEY say it to each other "we are now IN OVER OUR HEADS - the only way OUT now is catch this killer

**...AND whoever killed George??**

## 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.

they ALL need to be in danger from the killer

**the end of the pilot**

now we need to get to - the end of episode:

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 TRUST the other keep their word

## SPARE PARTS

SHOW PEOPLE IN THE STORY LISTENING TO OLD EPISODES OF GEORGE'S PODCAST!~!!  
(Including cops at crime scene and Mad later...)

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

## **SPARE PARTS:**

Zena Upset about Norman interfering - tries to talk to Norman PRIVATELY?)

Norman - we were a bunch of people who talked about serial killers like people talk about sports. And the all of a sudden - the ball is in OUR room, it's bouncing around - and it kills people.

George's STORY: after his rock and roll 20s -

He went from musician to DJ - late night DJ, one of those who talked all night at an FM college station - and thats how he transitioned into podcasting!

INT. GEORGE'S HOUSE - BEDROOM -  
MADELYN

What are you saying: you want to help them?

NORMAN

No. I just don't want us to go back to our old lives.