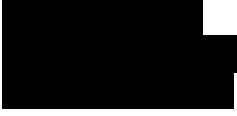


Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:



Title:

- *Honor Killings*
- A play on words in reference to the criminology term “honor killings”. The word “honor” in this context refers instead to the high academic honors the main character Derek Landon poses. Given his status as a preppy honors student/serial killer.

Genre:

- Dark Comedy
- The genre is chosen to show the dysfunctionality of college life with a social life. This often mundane struggle experienced by college students is the humorous bulk of the show, as the extra-curricular activity Derek is engaged in is that of a serial killer. Though the main aesthetic of the show will be much darker given the title of the show and Derek’s character.

Synopsis:

- College student Pete Reesman has the hectic and stressful life of any college student. His classes are stressful, his workload overwhelming, and his grades are just above the passing line. His life will soon take a drastic change when his childhood friend and top-tier honors student, Derek Landon, transfers to his university. Though the two haven’t spoken in years, they’re paths will cross unexpectedly when Pete discovers that Derek leads a second life as a notorious and psychotic serial killer, floating from college to college with his high academic record. Pete is then cornered by Derek, who threatens to blackmail him with problematic photos from a freshman college party, if he goes to the police. If he tries to dispute the blackmail, Derek will instead find and kill him. Having a past friendship with Derek and risking his academic and physical life, Pete becomes an unwilling accomplice to Derek, helping him commit crimes as well as with his assignments.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name: Derek Landon

Physical:

- Derek is a well-built and physically fit individual. He comes from an upper class background, thus dresses in very preppy and fancy clothing. He is a straight white male who flaunts his wealth in order to get into various colleges. He looks like any other stereotypical white collar honors student, though he has an alter ego to which he doesn't reveal publicly.

Personality:

- Derek has two separate personalities, not ones that are dissociative however. Derek by day is a womanizing and charming individual, who can be very ignorant and misogynistic at times. He exhibits the attitudes of stereotypical frat boys while he's with his friends and a professional business person when he's with the general public. His second personality by night is his serial killer personality. His serial killer personality is one that's rooted in narcissism and competition, one that those around him are unaware of or ignore altogether. While at this personality, Derek is at his most psychopathic and sinister. Derek is in a somewhat manageable control of these two personalities but sometimes the two conflict if someone or something sets his mind off.

Life Experiences:

- Event 1: Derek Landon was born into wealth and prestige, his father is a Wall Street executive and his mother is the head of a successful chain of fashion department stores across the Philadelphia tri-state area. Everything in his life was provided to him by the silver spoon his parents possessed. Though Derek was far from a slacking rich kid, he developed and possesses a very high IQ during his years at school. He was then admitted to the gifted program at his school which allowed him to skip the latter half of middle school and attend the prestigious Faber-Penn Preparatory High School with prestigious honors.
- Event 2: During his senior year at Faber-Penn, Derek became involved in a relationship with a fellow student, Monica Bookman. The two seemed happily in love to those who knew them but rumors of drama were always rampant. Monica had even reported to the administrators of the school that he was exhibiting concerning behavior, but the administrators and Landon's parents didn't believe such things as events like that don't simply occur at Penn-Faber. They met up, supposedly for a date, after Derek's rowing team practice late one Friday night. That night would be the sudden disappearance of Monica Bookman, whose body would be found in a field located miles off campus. An investigation was launched and Landon was brought in for questioning. On the conclusion that not enough evidence was presented to pin him for any wrongdoing, he was later released. Presumably with monetary assistance from his parents and the school.
- Event 3: Despite the unsolved grisly killing of his girlfriend looming over him, Derek eventually graduated top of his class with many honors including valedictorian and received a scholarship to Pelhton University in upstate New York, enrolling in business studies and management. During his first year at college, Derek lived a life of excess

filled with parties and drugs. Though, most notoriously during his time, a series of disappearances and murders were occurring in and around the Pelhton campus. At around the time an investigation was set to begin, Derek had left Pelhton claiming that he wanted to try his hand at another field of study at a different college. While his parents were annoyed, they provided the money necessary for Derek to transfer to another university.

Current Situation:

- The crimes that follow Derek from college to college across the country are of course not coincidental, they are all his doing. To evade the authorities, Derek puts on his spoiled rich kid persona to his parents and asks for more tuition funding to go to yet another college. This is where Derek is as the series begins, transferring to a city university in Philadelphia, where he will unexpectedly reunite with a childhood friend, Pete Reese. The two's paths will cross when Pete witnesses Derek in the midst of one of his murders, instead of retaliating violently against Pete, he opts to hire him as an associate to his crimes. With blackmail of some unfortunate photos of Pete at a party and the threat of being blatantly killed anyway, Pete agrees to help Derek in exchange for Derek assisting him on his overloading amounts of college assignments.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- **Don Draper - *Mad Men***
- A huge attribute of Derek's character comes from his high socio-economic placing. Don Draper was chosen for his high wealth and class status which is inspiration for the day time persona Derek exhibits when he's not on a killing spree. Like Don, Derek dresses fancily and is a womanizer in every sense of the word. He can come off as charming at times but can exhibit misogynistic traits due to his powerful standing. Derek also splurges the money he receives on fancy consumer goods in the same way Don does, again due to his socio-economic standing. Also similar to Don is a deep down desire to be a defined individual outside of his social standing. The difference being is that Don is out to be a more devoted family man while Derek is out to make a name for himself as a psychotic serial killer. Under his guise of being an advertising executive, Don Draper is living a secret life under a different identity following a casualty of a fellow soldier in the Korean War. Derek also lives a second life, but it's instead one that is based off of Don's lifestyle, its an identity based on personality as opposed to the actual one Don takes over in *Mad Men*.

Character Inspiration 2

- **Dennis Reynolds - *It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia***
- The character of Dennis Reynolds was chosen in part to his always developing psychopathic personality that's present in *It's Always Sunny In Philadelphia*. Dennis' personality lacks empathy for anyone but himself, a selfish personality similar to that of Derek's. But much like Derek, Dennis is mostly able to control his disturbing personality, though it can come out very blatantly whenever he's slightly agitated. As was the case in the episode viewed in class, "Psycho Pete Returns", where he threatens to skin Dee and turn her skin into a lampshade. Derek, being a man of high class, tends to blurt out such psychopathic rhetoric to people who he deems lower than him. Similar views emoted by Dennis are shared by Derek, such as his psychopathic misogyny. This is highlighted in the "implication" that Dennis tries to explain to Mac when they buy a boat, wherein he suggests possible rape and murder of a woman who refuses to sleep with him because of the "implication".

Character Inspiration 3

- **Rosa Diaz - *Brooklyn Nine-Nine***
- Rosa Diaz keeps her personal and public lives separate. At work, she doesn't share many personal details, keeps her home address secret, has a "second life" personally. Derek's "second life" is kept from his friends and the public. Rosa's coworkers know she's a little different, because she keeps her personal life so secretive, which leads them to start to ask personal questions. Derek's friend Pete gets curious and finds out about Derek's second life, just like Rosa's coworkers get curious about her personal life and find out she did ballet and is bisexual. Rosa has a dark imagination, with vulgar ideas of how to get back at people and is quick on her feet to want to torture someone until death. Derek takes those dark thoughts and puts them to action in real life. She has good relations with her coworkers, but has the "badass" front. Derek has known Pete since he was a child,

and is able to reconnect with him after years apart. His initial front is average college student. Rosa and Derek both have their secrets, keep parts of their life from their colleagues, and have dark thoughts; but Derek acts on those dark thoughts while Rosa just imagines them.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: A Series of Quick Cuts (4-46s)

- This technique emphasizes the split personalities Derek has. He's a student to the public, but he's also a serial killer. The quick cuts show him interacting with society like a normal person, but then transitions to more of him in the act of killing, his psycho side. The shots put emphasis on the gore and process of killing and disposing of the body. We chose these shots to be able to show different sides of Derek; from his "normal" side to his psycho side. It is important to notice how he's dressed, how he acts normally, and how he acts differently when he's killing. The clothes he's wearing change depending on what he's doing. It highlights the preppy side when he's meeting people but also his psycho side.

Technique 2: Deliberate Choice of Music (0-46s, 48s)

- The song "Stabbing in the Dark" by Ice Nine Kills is what first plays; it's the one that has the metronome/clock. The song emphasizes the scenes where Derek is sitting in the room. The metronome is the time ticking by while he's thinking/daydreaming of the quick cuts to meeting people and killing. The song is very ominous, with the steady chord in the background, and the metronome sounds, it's almost hypnotizing. There's a pitch upwards that builds suspense for the smirk, then plays the second song, "Psycho Killer" by the Talking Heads. The song plays just after the smirk, showing the quick cuts were really his own thoughts, remembering the last time he killed. It comes in at just the right time to see the smirk and leave the audience with the idea that he's going to go kill; that he's a psycho killer.

Technique 3: Extreme Close Up (0-46s)

- The close up technique emphasizes Derek's physical features. The physical features show his nice clothes, which emphasizes the preppy-ness. Him sitting in a room, alone, staring at the camera is aggressive. Combine that with the quick cuts to killing and it shows that he's a preppy student, but he's a different person when he's killing. The technique gets the audience to focus on the physical aspects of the character, instead of what he's doing. The smirk at the end implies he's done thinking, that he's going to kill now. The close ups between the quick cuts shows his two personalities; one personality is at school, the other personality is at home, when he's killing.