

# *Love is* MURDER

Based on the book by C.H. LYN and TRACEY BARSKI

Genre: Crime Mystery/Rom Com

Format: 8 x 44 minute episodes

Tone: Only Murders in the Building meets YOU, with the emotional gut-punch of Fleabag and the female-forward thrill of Killing Eve.

## LOGLINE

When a string of her exes wind up dead, Karrie teams up with true crime podcaster Zack to clear her name, only to discover the prime suspect might be the one person she trusts most, her best friend Zoe.

## SYNOPSIS

Zoe and Karrie are inseparable best friends trying to build a new life in a different city, although a parade of douchebags keep ghosting them in the most literal way possible.

The film opens with Zoe, who sees herself as the Marie Kondo of murder. She is probably the only person who can justify her “work” as tidying up the dating pool for her best friend Karrie, doing a little spring cleaning one terrible man at a time. She spots her victim, a trust fund swaggerer who walks like his spine is made of entitlement, and gives him an abrupt, knife-based career change. The thrill, she claims, is not in the act itself but in the satisfaction of knowing that this walking piece of trash will never litter anyone else’s day again. She seals the body in a scented pink rubbish bag, wipes the blood off her lucky sweater, and heads home to her dedicated dental routine, disappearing into the dark.

Karrie, hopeful but unlucky in love, bounces between terrible dates only to learn that one of her recent matches, Derek Waters, has not only ghosted her but has literally gone missing and is revealed to be tied to some serious allegations. As the news spreads, Karrie spirals, convinced she is cursed.

A true crime podcaster, Zack, also known as the Armchair Detective, approaches Karrie as his first suspect. Several of her exes have not only vanished but have turned up dead, and everything is pointing directly to her. Determined to clear her name, Karrie teams up with Zack, dragging an extremely cynical Zoe along for

the ride. As they sift through case files, crime scenes, and versions of the past that Karrie would rather forget, she and Zack build a fragile spark between them that neither one quite knows how to hold. Zoe quietly screens him from the sidelines, certain that no one can be trusted when it comes to the safety of her ride or die.

The deeper they dig, the more the truth refuses to stay buried. New evidence forces Karrie to face what she has been avoiding. Zoe has been killing the abusive men in her life for years, not only Derek but so many awful ones in between, all in the name of keeping Karrie safe. The revelation nearly destroys them, but they hold on just long enough for something worse to surface. A copycat killer has been targeting Karrie's genuinely good dates all along. When her newest love interest, Connor, is murdered, the trio becomes both suspects and targets.

Someone has been watching not only Karrie for years but Zoe as well, and now he is escalating. They trace the stalker to a dingy apartment plastered floor to ceiling with obsessive surveillance of Karrie.

Everything points to Reggie Stevens, a forgettable dating detour from her teenage years who clearly never forgot her. Before they can act, he abducts Zack. With police swarming and time evaporating, Karrie and Zoe follow hidden clues and gut instinct into the woods, arriving at a secluded cabin in the middle of nowhere. Inside, Zack is bound and brutalised. Karrie distracts Reggie while Zoe attempts a rescue, and the confrontation turns violent fast. In the chaos, Karrie kills Reggie, finally severing the grip he has had on her life.

Police arrive at a scene framed as self-defence, and the trio are officially cleared. In the glow of ambulance lights and fading sirens, Karrie and Zack finally admit their feelings, while Zoe quietly comes to terms with the possibility that she no longer needs to carry the weight of protecting her best friend in the same way she once did. Still, the familiar adrenaline hums beneath her skin. Deep down, she knows she might never be ready to let go.

## BESTIES, LOYALTY & LOVE.

Love Is Murder is a story about friendship. Our two leads, Zoe and Karrie, share an unbreakable bond, one forged in loyalty, humour, and the kind of trust that can survive anything. Their friendship drives the story, showing how far someone will go to protect the people they love, and highlighting the unspoken resilience found in female friendships.

Loyalty threads through every twist and turn often tested by moral ambiguity and impossible choices. The series asks what justice really looks like when the system fails those most vulnerable and who you can trust when the world constantly misjudges you. It celebrates the clever, messy, and sometimes deadly ways women support each other, even when doing so puts them in the line of fire.

Love, in all its messy, complicated forms, adds both tension and heart. The series exposes the absurdities of modern dating, the dangers of toxic patterns and ghosting culture, and the hidden darkness lurking beneath the facade of prince charming.

Humour and suspense are entwined with tenderness, letting the audience laugh, cringe, and root for women who refuse to play by anyone else's rules. Ultimately, Love Is Murder is a darkly comedic celebration of friendship, loyalty, and the courage to take agency over your own life.

## THE SETTING

Love Is Murder takes place in a world with lantern-lit streets, quirky cafés, hidden libraries and apartments that feel lived-in yet cinematic. Karrie and Zoe's life unfolds against a backdrop of cosy colours where playful details such as a carefully arranged bookshelf, friendship bracelets or a hint of over-organised pink stationery act as subtle nods to the bookish fan culture of the story's readers. Crime and mystery shift the visual language into slick, neo-noir territory with deep shadows and reflective surfaces, reminding the audience that not everything is as charming as it seems. The city itself mirrors the girls' lives, warm and inviting on the surface, always teetering on the edge of danger and full of hidden surprises for those paying attention. From Karrie's awkward meet cutes in smoothie shops to late-night surveillance through misty alleyways, the setting functions as a character in its own right, intriguing and never entirely predictable.

## VISUAL STYLE

The visual style blends cotton candy rom-com confidence with a subtle noir pulse humming underneath. Everyday moments sparkle with that glossy, feel-good charm, but there is always a sense that something is simmering just outside the frame. It is warm, bright, and a little mischievous, like the film knows it is inviting you into something fun before pulling the rug out just enough to keep you alert. When the story shifts into darker territory, the aesthetic sharpens and deepens, letting the contrast speak without losing the playful edge. This balance creates a world that feels heightened, inviting, and just dangerous enough to be irresistible.

## PALETTE

Mirroring the polarity of Zoe and Karrie, the palette splits the film into two distinct worlds. The everyday shines a little too safe in soft pinks and warm pastels, creating a cozy glow reminiscent of nostalgic rom-coms like *Legally Blonde* and *Bridget Jones's Diary*. Flipping the narrative, flickering neon lights and pockets of darkness introduce a neo-noir edge that reveals the truths the rom-com gloss tries to hide. The shadows and underlying grit are always there, hidden beneath the surface in a manner similar to the *Black Mirror* episode "San Junipero," suggesting that nothing is quite as it seems. It is a visual tug-of-war where the secrets we keep constantly threaten to bleed through our perfectly manicured world.

## TONE

The film balances mystery and dark comedy, capturing the "amateur sleuth" charm of "Only Murders in the Building" but curdling it with the voyeuristic, dark-pop intensity of "YOU". While the surface offers bucketloads of witty banter, our leads' internal journey mirrors the messy, vulnerable, intimacy of "Fleabag", ensuring comedic beats are laced with a genuine emotional gut-punch. This is a female-forward series in the vein of "Killing Eve", where the hunt is as much about self-discovery as it is about danger. The audience is invited to laugh at the relatability between our two best friends, only to be left breathless by the visceral consequences of their actions.

## EPISODE BREAKDOWN

### EPISODE 1 — *"Spring Cleaning"*

Zoe and Karrie arrive in their new city ready for a fresh start, although danger, romance, and a string of terrible men seem determined to follow them. Zoe opens the series with her secret hobby, swiftly "tidying up" a trust fund swaggerer in a scented pink rubbish bag. Meanwhile, Karrie tries (and fails) to get her dating life together. When Derek Waters, one of her recent matches, mysteriously disappears, Karrie shrugs it off as bad luck, until the police get involved.

News breaks that Derek is not just missing but linked to serious allegations, pushing Karrie into the spotlight for all the wrong reasons.

## EPISODE 2 — *“The Armchair Detective”*

True crime podcaster Zack, also known as the Armchair Detective, arrives in Karrie’s life with a shocking accusation: several of her exes have gone missing, and she is the common denominator. Karrie spirals, convinced she is cursed. Zoe hovers protectively, sizing Zack up with the enthusiasm of a cat preparing to shred a sofa.

Zack shares evidence that Karrie’s exes have not only vanished, some have turned up dead.

## EPISODE 3 — *“Three’s a Crowd”*

Karrie teams up with Zack to clear her name, dragging an unwilling Zoe into the investigation. The trio begins sifting through case files and crime scenes, building out the mystery of Karrie’s dating past. Karrie and Zack spark romance despite themselves. Zoe hates every second and quietly watches Zack as if he is one wrong move away from being compost.

New clues suggest something darker is hiding in Karrie’s past.

## EPISODE 4 — *“Lucky Sweater”*

The investigation unearths moments from Karrie’s past she has worked hard to forget. Flashbacks, old messages, and timelines start adding up. Zoe grows increasingly tense. Karrie senses her pulling away. As the pressure builds, Zoe’s perfect façade begins to crack.

Karrie realises the truth about her best friend.

## EPISODE 5 — *“Better the devil you know”*

Karrie reels from the truth. Zoe admits everything: Vincent, Derek, the men in between—all in the name of protection. Their friendship ruptures. Zack pushes Karrie to come clean to the police about her past, while Zoe insists that outsiders cannot be trusted. As Karrie struggles with who Zoe really is, the investigation blows open once more.

A new murder. Connor, one of Karrie’s genuinely good dates, is found dead and Zoe didn’t do it.

## EPISODE 6 — *“Copy, write, check.”*

The trio realises a copycat killer has been targeting Karrie, using her relationships as a blueprint. Someone has been watching her for years. Someone who also knows Zoe’s patterns. Karrie and Zack grow closer as the stakes rise. For the first time in her life Zoe’s nerves fray as she loses control of the situation.

The killer moves in closer. Zack disappears.

## EPISODE 7 — *“bffl”*

Zack’s abduction brings Karrie and Zoe back together. Uneasy allies again, they follow a trail of clues to a dingy apartment plastered with surveillance photos of Karrie...every wall, every corner, every angle. The obsession points to Reggie Stevens, a forgettable teenage fling who has clearly never forgotten her.

A hidden message leads them to a cabin, deep in the woods, completely isolated and the perfect place to bury a body.

## EPISODE 8 — *“Anything you can do...”*

They infiltrate the cabin and find Zack bound and brutalised. Karrie distracts Reggie while Zoe makes a move, and the struggle turns violent. In the chaos, Karrie kills Reggie, finally severing the hold he has had on her life.

Police arrive and accept the scene as self-defence. Zack and Karrie finally stop pretending their feelings are not real. Zoe stands in the glow of ambulance lights and faces the truth that she no longer needs to protect her best friend the way she once did. Yet the familiar hum of adrenaline still flickers beneath her skin. Some habits are harder to kill than others.

## CHARACTERS

### *Karrie*

Karrie is the everywoman who always somehow ends up dating the worst men alive and occasionally dead. Warm, loyal and quietly resilient, she is the kind of person who still believes in soulmates even when her

own dating history reads like a cautionary poster outside a nightclub bathroom. She blames herself when things go wrong, convinced she has a cosmic target on her back. Karrie desperately wants to believe that love can still be good for her, even when it keeps killing her chances or, in some cases, the men she goes out with. She is hopeful to a fault, but that hope is the thing that keeps her going, even when everything around her turns dangerous.

## *Zoe*

Zoe is fiercely protective, the kind of friend who will ruin a man's life for hurting you and still make it home in time for her skincare routine. She is a chaotic genius in pink, hiding her wounds behind control and sarcastic wit. No one, not even Karrie, knows exactly where Zoe draws the line or whether that line still exists. Her love is unwavering, complicated and lethal when pushed.

## *Zack*

Zack is a passionate but socially awkward true crime podcaster who treats every unsolved case like a puzzle designed specifically for him. He is earnest, analytical and always one coffee away from a breakthrough.

When he meets Karrie, his dedication to uncovering the truth collides with feelings he was not prepared to have. He approaches the investigation with unrivaled focus, but his fascination with the case quickly becomes tangled with a growing tenderness toward the girl at the centre of it.

Torn between solving the mystery and protecting someone he is starting to genuinely care about, Zack becomes an unlikely partner and an uneasy romantic tangle in a world where love and danger are already far too intertwined.

## AUDIENCE & MARKET POTENTIAL

Love Is Murder already has a devoted book fandom eager to see this world come to life on screen. Through its original novel release, Amazon's episodic platform, special editions, and in-person events, the story has built a loyal readership that keeps returning for more chaos, romance and killer wit.

The target audience for the series aligns directly with this established fanbase, drawing in readers and viewers who love true crime, mystery and the ride-or-die best friend dynamic that anchors the narrative.

This demographic lives at the heart of the online book community. They crave stories that reflect their values: female-led storytelling, fierce loyalty, the emotional whiplash of being a romantic

romantic in the age of ghosting, and the cathartic satisfaction of discovering your terrible date is exactly the piece of trash you suspected.

They are already the audience powering the success of shows like “Only Murders in the Building”, “Dexter”, “YOU”, and “Veronica Mars”. Stories that blend mystery, romance and dark comedy with a distinct, character-driven voice. This audience is active, vocal and ready to champion the next “Thelma and Louise”. Love Is Murder is perfectly positioned to meet this demand and grow beyond its literary fanbase into a breakout streaming obsession.

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

Lyn and Barski drafted Love is Murder chapter by chapter, tossing scenes back and forth. They describe it as the fastest book they have ever written, fueled by how naturally the dialogue flowed. The lead characters feel real because their conversations were crafted between friends riffing together, building comedic bits the same way we have in-jokes with those we’ve known since childhood.

Their shared love of female-led storytelling shaped a book that is bold, darkly funny, and grounded in friendship. Readers connect to their voice because it feels relatable and unapologetic, like confiding in the one friend who has seen you at your worst.

The book has built real traction, with the series moving 800+ physical copies to date. Love Is Murder alone has sold 454 paperback copies across formats, including 105 through Kindle Direct Publishing and 100 through Ingram. The title has achieved massive digital engagement with 11K combined digital reads (5,792 Kindle page reads and 5,874 Kindle Vella episode reads). Event sales have been a cornerstone of its success, with 250 copies sold through conventions, meet-ups, and signings. A 200-copy special edition combining both books into one volume has performed exceptionally well and remains in high demand.

C.H. Lyn debuted in April 2023 and has since published 13 unique titles, selling a total of 4,278 copies. Her work has achieved a massive digital footprint with over 73,000 total reads (35,000 Amazon page reads and 38,194 Vella episode reads). She is the founder of Springs Book Bash, a Colorado literary festival that hosted 72 authors and 1,100 attendees in 2025, and maintains an engaged community of over 14,000 followers across Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Threads.

Tracey Barski brings an unapologetically strong, female voice rooted in truth. With a combined social reach of over 5,200 followers, her appearances and signings have been a primary driver for the Love Is Murder series and its high-performing special editions.

## SEQUEL POTENTIAL

The world of Love Is Murder was never meant to end there. Before publishing the first book, C. H. Lyn and Tracey Barski had already begun writing the sequel, Kiss or Kill. The next chapter in the lives of Zoe, Karrie, and Zack was published in March 2025 and has seen fans return in full force, ready to dive back into the chaos.

*“When Tracey and I wrote Love is Murder we knew it would be hilarious. Hell, we were cracking up the entire time we planned the thing. What we didn't know was how loved this silly, dark, and bloody story would be. Maybe we should have expected it: a book about two best friends willing to do anything for each other. But it surprised us, and surprises us still every time someone asks when the next installment is coming out.” - C.H. LYN*

## CREATORS STATEMENT

Love Is Murder is a love story between two best friends.

It's for anyone who has ever had a messy date, a broken heart or a best friend who would burn the world down for them. It's a valentine to fierce loyalty, to surviving situationships and to the people who show up when things get dark.

We live in a culture obsessed with true crime, yet the women at the center of dating disasters are still the ones who get blamed.

Let's flip that trope on its head.

Reclaim agency, humor and power for the women who have had enough.

Audiences are hungry for female-led stories that bite back, and Love Is Murder is unapologetic about doing exactly that.