

Title - How Not to Get Away with Murder: Turning Reality into Fiction

Program of Study - Film Production and Content Development

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Abstract:

During the writing process of the senior thesis script *The Suicide Suspect*, one significant and crucial detail was missing from the plot: what makes the lead detective suspicious of a grieving man whose fiancée just committed suicide? This paper examines the numerous ways that murderers have been caught by the police, and more specifically, how they nearly evaded capture all together. It analyzes a variety of different true crime podcasts and television show episodes, such as *Forensic Files*, that deal with themes related to *The Suicide Suspect*, including staged suicides, culprit misdirection, and accidental evidence. Throughout weeks of research and dozens of episodes, a misplaced coat at the crime scene triumphed over all other researched methods of capture. This real crime scene mishap created just enough suspicion from the police to investigate a supposedly grieving husband, which emulates the plot of *The Suicide Suspect* profoundly. Experienced killers' greatest downfalls come from their pride, which is what leads experienced detectives straight to their deductions. Placing a coat far from the body of a loved one implies that the person who discovered the body had time to wander the room before notifying the authorities, which suggests a lack of concern for the deceased, and therefore an

excess of guilt. These findings provide sufficient data to include in other detective related projects, as there is an abundance of ways to almost get away with murder.