

TO CATCH A MONSTER YOU MUST GET INSIDE HIS HEAD

CATCH ME A KILLER

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CATCH ME A KILLER

BASED ON THE BOOK OF THE SAME NAME, CATCH ME A KILLER TELLS THE HARROWING TRUE STORY OF FORMER JOURNALIST-TURNED-PSYCHOLOGICAL PROFILER MICKI PISTORIUS (CHARLOTTE HOPE - THE SPANISH PRINCESS, GAME OF THRONES), SOUTH AFRICA'S FIRST SERIAL KILLER PROFILER.

In 1994, against the backdrop of a country getting used to democracy, Micki joins a police task team on the hunt for a notorious serial killer the Station Strangler; a serial murderer who has left a trail of 22 dead boys in his wake. While finding her feet in a male-dominated arena, Micki battles with her status as an outsider in the police force and in the community she serves. In each episode of this brooding dramatic thriller, Micki deals with the looming spectre of her personal life and confronts increasing darkness in her quest to entrap and understand some of South Africa's most infamous serial killers.

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THE STATION STRANGLER PT. 1

EPISODE 1

The first moments of our pilot episode introduce us to two young boys, ELROY VAN ROOY and his cousin RYNO, who we leave with growing dread as the former disappears with a faceless man onto a train - a man we come to know as the STATION STRANGLER.

Cut to MICKI PISTORIUS. We follow Micki to her job as a junior lecturer at the University of Pretoria, where she is convinced by mentor Professor Erasmus to take on the role of the Police Force's first forensic profiler, as part of the Station Strangler task team. It's a big, challenging opportunity, way out of Micki's depth, but she ultimately decides to jump in the deep end and accept the post. She packs up her life in Pretoria, leaves behind a home haunted by a failing marriage, and is thrust into an active investigation.

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THE STATION STRANGLER PT. 1 CONTINUED...

EPISODE 1

In Cape Town, Micki meets the hodgepodge task force and its key players - LIEUTENANT JOHAN KOTZE (42), COLONEL LEONARD KNIPE (43), CAPTAIN SAREL STEYN (40) and PHILIP "FLIPPY" NEL (39) - and learns the details of the case. Micki finds herself out of place in a man's world, the only woman on the task team, viewed with suspicion by her colleagues. But after she passes her initiation – interviewing potential suspect WILLIE - she bonds with her new colleagues and wins their grudging respect. As she puts her head down and begins her profiling, Micki becomes increasingly absorbed in the 'Abyss' – haunted by nightmares and flashes of a boy in a blue t-shirt. Despite the pushback from her Colonel, Micki makes a friend and ally in her colleague Johan and develops a cautious tenacity and self-belief.

A stranger in a strange land, Micki uses this to her advantage as she completes her first profile on the killer. Doubting her own instincts, with the failure or success of the case hanging over her head, Micki's profile is released to an already rabid community. The profile leads to an anonymous tip-off that finally gives the detectives a name – and a potential breakthrough – cementing Micki's place on the task team. However, against this slight relief and birthday celebrations for Micki, the episode ends with the discovery of the mutilated body of Elroy van Rooy – strangled with his own blue t-shirt – in the dunes of Mitchells Plain.

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THE STATION STRANGLER PT. 2

EPISODE 2

The Station Strangler investigation ramps up as Micki and the detectives work against the clock to catch the killer before another body is found. Morale drops amongst the team until they receive intel on a potential suspect – with the help of a nurse and witnesses to Elroy's abduction.

The team tracks down the killer, but Micki finds herself increasingly excluded from the team and is frustrated when the detectives leave her out of the arrest, however, her disappointment is relieved slightly when Micki unexpectedly meets the killer face to face.

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CLEVELAND & WITBANK

EPISODE 3

Micki, unsure of whether to continue her work as a profiler, is assigned to a new case in Cleveland by BRIGADIER BRINK to draw up a profile on an active serial killer who is targeting young women. Additionally, she is supposed to testify to the mental state of a suspect, NOLAN EDWARDS, in several rape and murder cases in Witbank. Feeling the pressure, she asks for more support which is granted in the person of ERIKA, a young police officer.

The team in Cleveland are under immense pressure from the Minister to close the case as quickly as possible and Micki is forced into making decisions about the potential suspect before she is ready. Although Micki continues to prove her skills as a profiler, she still finds herself working within a team of detectives who are still skeptical of her methods.



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CLEVELAND & WITBANK CONTINUED...

EPISODE 3

While the investigation in Cleveland is ongoing, Micki interviews Nolan Edwards to find out more about his mental state. Her testimonial about him suffering from a personality disorder will determine the outcome of the trial against him. Micki needs to make a difficult decision.

The Cleveland killer, DAVID SELEPE, is caught despite Micki being unsure if they have the right man. She is furious when she discovers that he was killed by an officer before she had the opportunity to interview him. Episode Three leaves Micki with the relief that the Strangler case is over, but with a suspicion that the Cleveland case may come back to haunt her.

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THE ABC KILLER

EPISODE 4

Micki joins forces with VINOL VILJOEN to help with the investigation into an active serial killer in Atteridgeville, with a body count that surpasses everyone's worst nightmares. When Nelson Mandela gets wind of the severity of the situation he pledges to help the team, and makes a televised appeal to the nation for help. Micki notices that the murders reveal similarities between this killer and Cleveland suspect David Selepe and the question over whether or not they shot the right man hangs over her head. The relentlessness of the press and the international attention focused on the case piles extra pressure on Micki, Erika and the team, but through Micki's astute insight into the killer's mind she is able to make some integral deductions in the investigation which help the team to lure in the killer.

When the team track down suspect MOSES SITHOLE, it becomes clear that Micki's profiles for Cleveland and Atteridgeville were similar because they were both operating in the same area over a similar time and not because they were connected. Micki's skill and her profile within the force are growing. She also tries to build a better relationship with Erika who shows her talent as a profiler. Through a chance encounter at her Dad's BBQ, Micki meets MARK, a handsome wine merchant - could Micki's love life finally be on the up?

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DONNYBROOK

EPISODE 5

Picturesque KwaZulu-Natal is the backdrop to the brutal crimes of CHRISTOPHER ZIKODE, a young man who forces Micki to question how much empathy she can allow herself to feel for a killer.

Micki interviews the suspect, knowing that the clock is ticking for her to extract a confession from him. Micki must find a way to connect with him, knowing the only way to do that is to fully let go of herself, and dive into the abyss with him.

During her time in Donnybrook she forms bonds with detectives THEO and DIONNE, and witnesses the struggle of a mother who has unwittingly nurtured a serial killer. But just as the case looks like it's closed, Zikode escapes from his cell - can Micki and the detectives capture him before he kills again? And can Micki fully let go of the serial killer in her head?

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THE CAPE TOWN PROSTITUTE KILLER

EPISODE 6

Micki and Erika return to Cape Town to work with SERGEANT RIKUS VISSER on an investigation into a serial killer targeting prostitutes. In an attempt to throw the detectives off track, the killer begins to 'stage' his victims to look like they had also been raped; but with more experience under her belt, Micki is able to see through what the killer is doing. Micki meets EVA, a prostitute who is eager to help them with their investigation and who provides vital information in helping to track down the killer. After their suspect is caught, Micki is tasked with interviewing the killer and extracting a confession, but the killer enjoys the gameplay with Micki and he is ultimately released.

Micki and Rikus manage to bring the suspect in again when he is caught putting up defamatory posters about the police. The cat and mouse chase between the killer and the detectives culminates in an anonymous call and the killer is sent to prison awaiting trial. But, after a year of waiting to go on trial, the killer is set free due to insufficient evidence. Alongside the case, Micki's feelings for Mark continue to grow and it appears to be mutual.

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STEWART WILKEN

EPISODE 7

Micki and Erika are swamped with work; cases are piling up alongside preparing to testify in the high-profile case of STEWART WILKEN, aka Boetie Boer. As the trial begins, we feel the pain of the victims' families and the disbelief of Wilken's wife, and begin to understand the horrific reality of Wilken's crimes and character.

Micki's relationship with Mark develops well and she opens up more and more to him. But she also realizes that her work might be a bigger obstacle than expected.

Having initially refused to speak to Micki, Wilken finally agrees to give her an interview after he is sentenced. This is a significant moment for Micki, and she allows herself to empathise with a killer more than she has ever dared to before. Prison sentence aside, it's the last glimpse of Wilken that shows his true punishment - trapped in his cell, haunted by his victims.

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THE PHOENIX STRANGLER PT. 1

EPIISODE 8

The pressure of the job takes its toll on Micki when she joins an investigation in the sugar cane fields of Phoenix. She's overworked, understaffed and suffering dangerous levels of stress. Erika is supporting wherever she can, but the cases keep piling up.

After visiting the crime scenes Micki finds herself immediately connected to the killer, so much so that she almost writes his profile in the first person. With the killer firmly in her mind and her work haunting her nightmares, Micki knows she needs an escape and finds herself on the doorstep of Mark's family retreat in the Knysna forests.

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A man with curly brown hair and a light blue t-shirt is embracing a woman with long reddish-brown hair. They are standing in front of a dark, leafy background. The man is looking down at the woman, and she is looking up at him. The lighting is soft and warm, suggesting a sunset or sunrise.

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DONNYBROOK
EPISODE 5

THE PHOENIX STRANGLER
PT. 2
EPISODE 9

While Micki is enjoying the down time with Mark, Erika is covering for her and trying to find her after another body was found, and DNA from the killer. Micki returns to the office and to a team ready to arrest a suspect. Micki joins them, and after a tense wait for detectives ALAN and PHILIP to take down the killer, we are rewarded with a moment of surreal relief as the key players celebrate their victory.

Micki is tasked with getting a confession. She knows the killer so well and is able to tell his own life story back to him before he admits his guilt. Relief and celebration that the case is over is tarnished by the reality of the crimes, and Micki's personal life seems to be falling down around her.

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THE SALOON KILLER

EPISODE 10

Back in Pretoria, Micki bumps into Mark in a local bar, but things quickly turn sour when Micki discovers she's not the only woman that Mark has been seeing.

Micki is called to Piet Retief to help catch the person dubbed THE SALOON KILLER who has been shooting both men and women with military precision. Micki meets a young girl whose mother was shot by the killer, and she helps with their investigation through re-enacting the events of the fateful night. Micki's detective training course is approved, and whilst this means much more work, she is thrilled that she can finally start to train and expand her team.

When the detectives receive a phone call that the shooter is active in a local bar, Micki and the team race to the scene, hoping that they might catch the killer in the act. But by the time they arrive, the killer is long gone, and all that's left is that tragic sight of dead bodies on the floor.

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THE SALOON KILLER CONTINUED...

EPISODE 1 1

Micki's personality changes as the killer occupies her mind and she is engulfed by the Abyss which pushes her to breaking point. With the sheer amount of work on her plate and her personal life in disarray Micki finally breaks; in mourning for the victims, the life she could've had, and the fact that she knows she has to let go of her work, but can't bring herself to do it.

At the site of a crime scene where decomposing bodies have been found, Micki is showered by maggots from an overhead helicopter. Micki disappears into the forest where she is confronted by Velaphi - the killer himself. With a shotgun pointed directly at her, Micki tries to connect with the killer, pleading for him to put the gun down. As Micki draws her own gun, shots ring out and we cut to black.

We see Micki one month later, alive but bearing the scar of the shootout with Velaphi. She enters the bath, chocolate pudding in hand and a floor scattered with maggots. A premonition suggests that her next case is just around the corner.

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MICKI - CHARLOTTE HOPE

Micki has always been an outsider. Raised in a divorced family, Micki's early life was nomadic, fuelled by her own imagination. She became comfortable with loneliness, with the feeling of being isolated and always slightly on the outside. A loner by nature, Micki adapts easily to new circumstances and situations – she's resilient. Possessing a sharp intelligence, keenly aware of what makes people tick and able to see beyond what's on the surface, Micki has honed a sixth sense in recognising that things – and people – are not always as they appear. In her private life she's guarded, slightly more reserved, with a sharp and unexpected sense of humour.

Although she's by no means naïve, we meet Micki as a rookie psychologist and cop and follow her on a journey that brings her face to face with some of South Africa's most gruesome crimes. As she moves deeper into The 'Abyss' – a bleak, disturbing psychological space occupied by her serial killer subjects – Micki will also be forced to deal with the fragments of herself she finds in there.

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MARK - STEVEN JOHN WARD

Mark is a wine expert with a warm smile, an easy laugh, and a grounded presence that feels like sunlight after a long storm. He lives in the moment — not because life has always been kind to him, but because he's learned, the hard way, how fleeting it can be. After losing his wife a few years ago, Mark made a conscious choice: to savor life, to find joy in the small things, and to stay open — emotionally, socially, and romantically.

In many ways, Mark is the complete opposite of Micki. Where she lives in her head, burdened by her work and haunted by what she sees, Mark is fully present — not blind to the darkness, but unwilling to let it define him. He's emotionally available, effortlessly charming, and has a way of making even heavy moments feel light. But behind that ease is someone who understands pain deeply — which is why he sees the cracks in Micki before she admits they're there.

He wants to be her anchor, someone who helps her remember there's more to life than case files and trauma. He coaxes her to let go, to laugh, to breathe. But Mark also knows you can't pull someone out of the abyss if they're not ready to leave it. His patience is real, but not infinite. He wants to be with Micki — fully — but he can't do it alone. She has to meet him halfway, and until she does, he stands at the edge, waiting, hoping.

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ERIKA

- DONNA CORMACK-THOMSON

Erika is a young, ambitious police officer with a sharp mind and a deep-seated drive to prove herself. Still early in her career, she compensates for her lack of experience with quick wit, strong instincts, and an unshakable determination to grow. She's deeply impressed by Micki's skill as a forensic profiler and psychologist, and while she looks up to her, Erika never loses her sense of self. She brings her own strength to the partnership — loyal, emotionally perceptive, and fiercely grounded.

Navigating the challenges of a male-dominated force, Erika walks a fine line between toughness and vulnerability. She works hard to keep her personal life separate from her job, but the strain is growing. A recent breakup with her fiancé and the painful loss of her mother — who had been battling dementia and no longer recognized her by the end — have shaken her. Despite this, Erika remains composed at work, channeling her grief into purpose.

Over time, Erika becomes more than just a colleague to Micki — she becomes a confidante, and a source of quiet strength when the world gets too heavy. In many ways, she is still finding her footing, but there's no mistaking her resilience.

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CATCH ME A KILLER

GENRE

Crime, Thriller, Drama

LENGTH

11 x 50 min

BROADCASTER

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