



MILKMAN

a limited series

Adapted from the novel by Anna Burns

Bing Image Generator



SlidesGo



01 Premise

Images: 1) "American Horror Story: 1984" shows nostalgia for the 80s serial killer days. 2) Street Violence in Belfast demonstrates the civilian nature of the conflict. 3) Who could be driving this mysterious van?
The Harvard Crimson, History.com, Oddimotive



Scene Snapshot: Going out on the other side of town helps Middle Sister avoid her mother's neighborhood spies, but Milkman's reach is harder to escape. *Bing Image Generator*

safe haven from her - safe from

LOGLINE

When Middle-Sister's boyfriend is falsely targeted for sympathizing with the English, she must outrun both her stalker and the rumors that threaten her life.

she's from the same house

she's from the same house

Witty - Unsettling - Historical

**“YOU”
meets
“Peaky Blinders”
meets
“Derry Girls”**



The powerful women of *Peaky Blinders* form a network of resistance all their own.

Medium.com

Audience

The newest target audience for Netflix is originals are fans of the “**Netflix Dark Family Telefantasy**,” a microgenre coined in response to the success of “Stranger Things” (Baker et al.). The genre is popular because it spans 3 generations. *Milkman* appeals to this same audience, with a particular international twist.

1) Gen X Parents and Millennials seeking an end-of workday escape:

- Ideally: Educated, Middle Class (Jacobsen)
- In favor of: Second/Third wave feminism
- Based in: Europe and the US

2) Their Gen Z children:

- In need of: Intergenerational viewing in households
- Preference for: Horror/Suspense (Shaffer)
- Parent Bonus: No sexually explicit content

me fun about
 love every fear
 in a go
 everything so
 about me

02

Characters



Inspiration Images: 1. Youthful passionate Marianne in BBC's adaptation of *Normal People* grounds the world. 2. Sarcastic and sometimes delusional *Fleabag* endears the audience to her bad decisions through narration. 3. The ties of family run deep in *Young Royals*, and advice trickles down from older brother Erik. [Extra.ie](#), [FIUFilm](#), [DailyExpress](#).

soft power from him - soft power

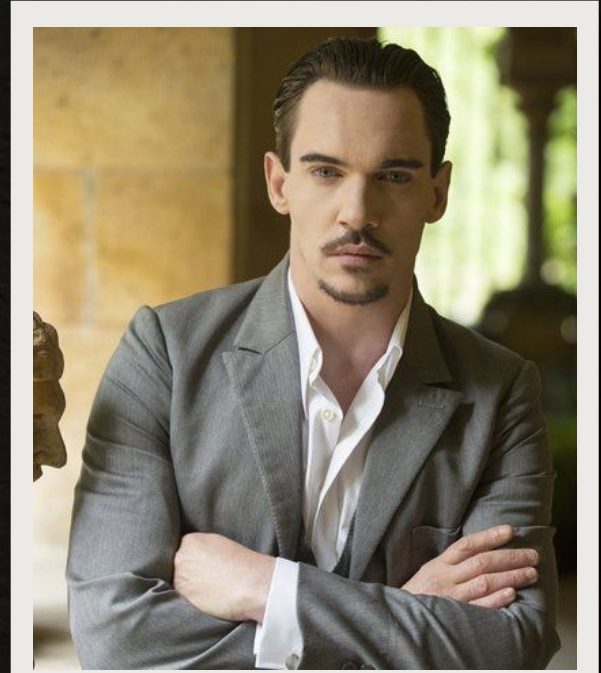
MILKMAN

JONATHAN RYHS-MEYERS

42 years old, the leader of the Belfast IRA.

Generally feared, sometimes admired. He takes note of MS's routines and offers her rides. He implies that her boyfriend might have an unfortunate accident with a car bomb if she does not join him.

Myers in "Dracula." *IMDb*



soft power from him

soft power from him

soft power from him

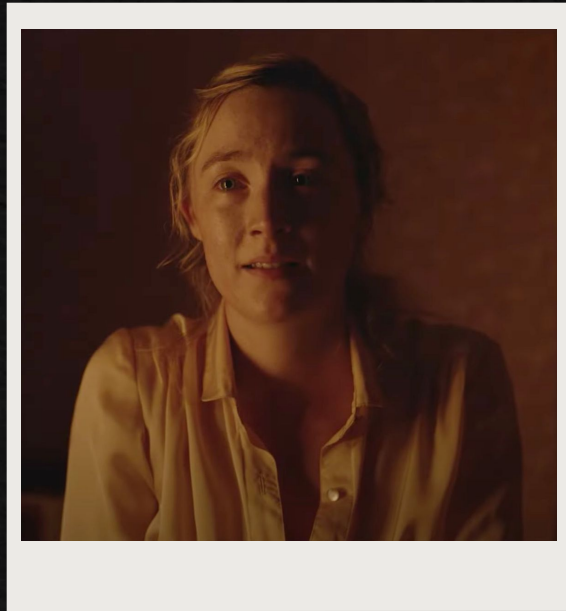
MIDDLE-SISTER

SAOIRSE RONAN

18 years old, living part-time with her “maybe-boyfriend” and part time with her mother and three younger siblings.

Often found with her face in a book, she is a chronic eavesdropper, misguided and out of touch. Her winding narration slowly realises how dark her world is. All she wants is to be ignored, until it becomes dangerous to be alone.

Ronan in “FOE,” *GeekTyrant*.



LONGEST FRIEND | MAYBE-BOYFRIEND



Katie McGrath (*Jurassic World*) as the practical but rumor-oriented childhood friend. She believes her friend is in need of an intervention. *ScreenRant*



Paul Mescal (*Normal People*,) as the happy-go-lucky, car-obsessed orphan. He has an unusually close relationship with his “roommate.” *The Hollywood Reporter*



Tablets Girl

Mentally ill teen who frequently poisons members of the community for seemingly no reason. Amybeth McNulty in *Stranger Things*.

TrevorDeckerNews



3rd Brother-In-Law

A rare ally to women, he encourages Middle Sister to take up running, but to stay out of trouble. Allen Leech in *Bohemian Rhapsody*, *Queerty*



Somebody McSomebody

Neighbor Kid whose brother and mother died in tragic accidents. Jealous and easy to anger, but loyal to his community. James Martin in *An Irish Goodbye* (2022) *IMDb*

un-bruce
yefr fave
- eye
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un love

Nora*

Her ex bf was murdered, she remarried an asshole, then she left him. Moonlights as a feminist.

3rd Sister

An alcoholic with too many kids, married to a good man.

Wee Sisters

8 year old triplet geniuses who look up to Middle Sister

Da

Deceased before the show begins, a flashback to his death gives insight into the Church community.

Real Milkman

Secretly in love with Ma, one of the few local pacifists.

Nuclear Boy

McSomebody's Brother. Obsessed with atomic disasters.

3rd Brother

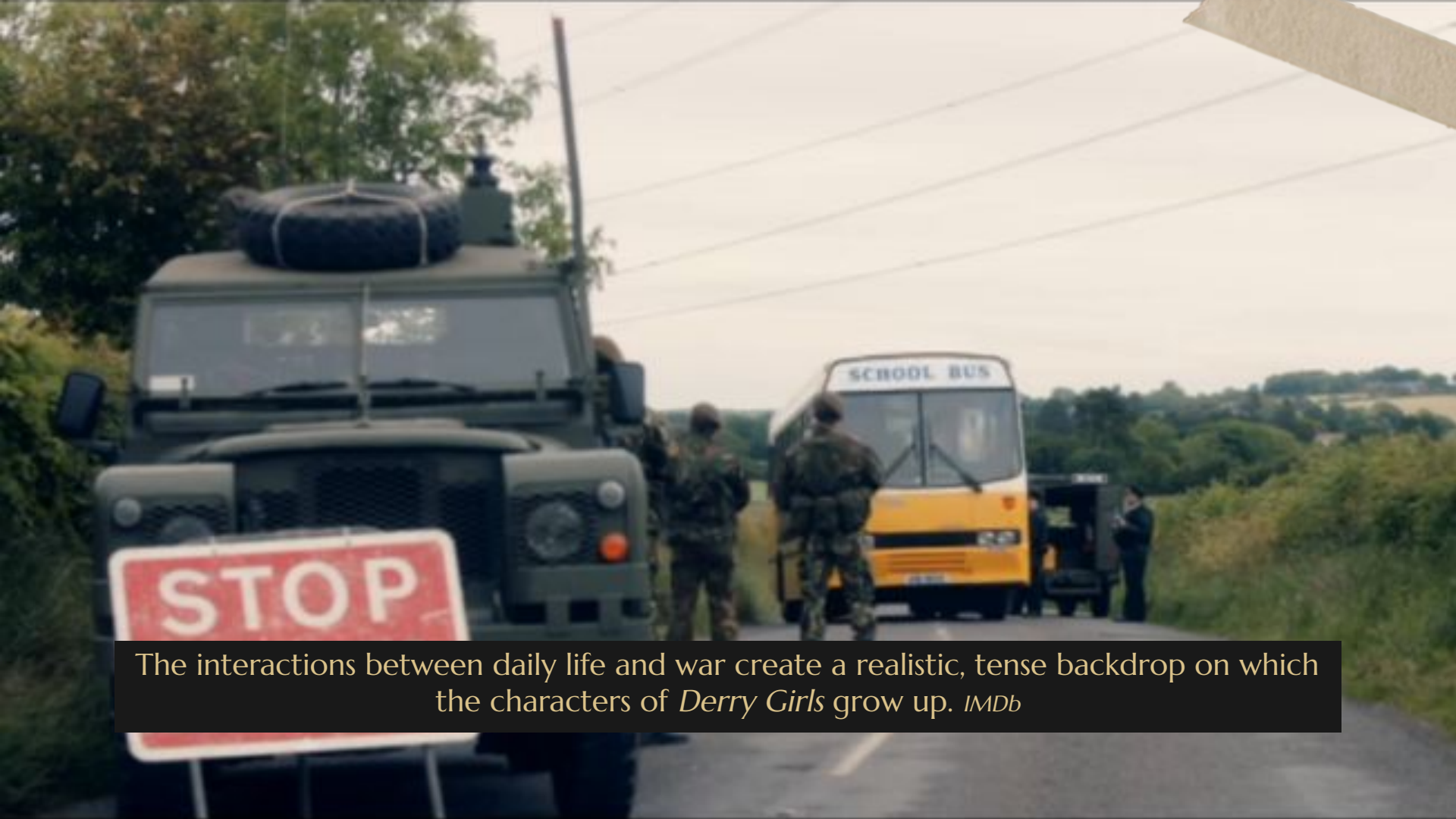
Middle Sister's brother who in love with Tablets-Girl's sister.

Bridget*

One of Ma's pious friends. The guardian of the banned names.

Chef

Roommate of Maybe-Boyfriend who likes to cook just a little too much.



The interactions between daily life and war create a realistic, tense backdrop on which the characters of *Derry Girls* grow up. *IMDb*

03 Story



Inspiration Images: 1) Lovable misfit Orla in *Derry Girls* roams the streets of her town with perhaps unwise confidence. 2) The car that started it all, complete with gaudy union jack decal 3) Women form a line of peaceful resistance in Ireland.

IwalesOnline, BingImageGenerator, Getty Images



The mothers in *Derry Girls* demonstrate the power of a tight-knit female community, like *Middle-Sister's*. BuzzFeed

“What if one person happened to be sane, against a whole background that wasn't sane, viewed by the mass consciousness as mad – but would that person be mad?”

—*Milkman*, Burns 86

*from above
soft flavor
reflexive s
above me
soft flavor
in eye
reflexive*

*in above from in me from above
soft flavor from the soft flavor
- go summer*

Ep 1: God Save The King

Cold Open: Middle Sister is held at gunpoint in the bar bathroom by McSomebody. She quips at the audience about how ridiculous he is, especially now that Milkman is dead. She is saved by the other women in the bathroom.

3 months earlier: Middle Sister dodges questions about relationships from her mother and sisters. She leaves, taking the audience on a tour of town as she reads a novel. We see (but she doesn't) citizen-soldiers, diners in a hushed local restaurant staring. She visits Maybe-Boyfriend's home. His roommate Chef is making breakfast and rehashing last night's party.

Flashback: Maybe-Boyfriend scraps an old car with a union jack on it for parts. The whole town comes out to watch, and he almost gets into a fight about it.

Meanwhile: the IRA is out recruiting.



In Maybe-Boyfriend's bachelor pad, local mechanics definitely do not start fights or talk politics. BingImageGenerator

Season 1

02

Vive La Rev

She attends French Class.
She meets Milkman a
graveyard.

03

Run.

She goes jogging. She is
photographed and
reported on.

04

Detox

She gets lunch with a
friend. She get poisoned,
and saved.



Violent and powerful, Tommy Shelby in *Peaky Blinders* demands loyalty from every person in his UK slum. *TheIndependent*

Season 1



Have you ever begged Beck to “just look up” while watching Netflix’s *YOU?* *Milkman* is a reimagining, where we can see right inside her head. *Cosmopolitan*.

04

Dissent

She breaks up and learns sordid family history. She makes an unlikely feminist ally.

05

Love and War

She meets her mother’s ex-boyfriend, and visits her ex-boyfriend.

06

Our Day

She eats some chips, it all ends.

Format and Engine

A Netflix Original Series

Netflix is the place for shorter book inspired series. "YOU," "All the Light We Cannot See," and "The Queen's Gambit" is another. Episodes are 50 minutes in length, each with a 4-act structure.

Room to grow?

There is room for expansion - the plot could be stretched to cover two seasons, with deeper exploration of the characters and world in each episode. Growing the world à la *White Lotus* or *American Horror Story* is also possible, where different settings host similar stories and characters, with a few familiar faces. Different settings offer opportunities for representation and theme diversity. A similar story could unfold in the 1791 Haitian revolution, 1936 Great Palestinian Revolt, 1952 Egyptian Revolution, or any other place in the world with "Troubles."



All the Light We Cannot See flashes between 2 perspectives and across 2 periods. Using 4 1-hour segments, it adapts a complex novel into a consumable nuggets.



Pretty Little Liars builds tension through words and subtle actions. [TheReadHeadsDiaries](#)

“These were paranoid times. These were knife-edge times, primal times, with everybody suspicious of everybody..”

—*Milkman*, Burns 1

from above
- soft fear
- eyes
- above the
- above the
- eyes

from above
- soft fear
- eyes
- above the
- above the
- eyes

Themes & Setting

This is not a romance. This is a coming-of-age story that asks: How does someone slip through the cracks, and go unnoticed by their community? Surveillance, community gun violence, gender inequality, and the effects of divisive politics are issues important to viewers today. By flashing back to 1978, *Milkman* drags these issues out into the public eye.



Scene Snapshot: Middle sister attends community french class when outrage about what color the sky really is breaks out. In a fantasy-like moment, she gains clarity about the pettiness of arguments. *Bing Image Generator*

Tone and Style

Narrative Voice

Like *YOU* and *Fleabag*, this show heavily relies on hearing inside the mind of Middle Sister. What she thinks often doesn't exactly match what she sees.

The first lines of the book, and of the show, reveal that Milkman dies. In fact, he dies in the second-to-last episode. What's important is the journey to his death.

Postmodernism

Flashbacks are significant in this series - whole episodes take place in the past, with only the beginning and end of the episode reminding us where we are.

Excluding the names of most characters implies anyone, anywhere, anytime could fall victim to the faults of our characters. Direct references to the IRA and other institutions by name are avoided to preserve an "unreal" setting.


- about
use flavor
or as
while as
since me
flavor has
me near a
verifier

- about
flavor in me from about





as me for if we about me


Bonus Content:

SPOTIFY PLAYLIST



Milkman Vibes
Julia

-  De Selby (Part 2)
Hozier
-  I Don't Want To Set The World On Fire
The Ink Spots
-  Me and the Devil
Soap & Skin
-  Who Are You
The Who



Works Cited

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- Shafer, Seth. "Comedies, Dramas, Documentaries Top Entertainment Genres with US Consumers." *S&P Market Intelligence*, 19 April 2022. <https://www.spglobal.com/marketintelligence/en/news-insights/research/comedies-dramas-documentaries-top-entertainment-genres-with-us-consumers>. Accessed 11 Dec. 2023.

Poster Image from :
Bing Image Generator

SAOIRSE RONAN

MILKMAN

Whispers echo louder than screams



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Poster Image from :
Bing Image Generator

JONATHAN RHYS-MEYERS is

MILKMAN

Our day will come.

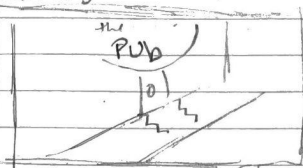


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the sa... never... familiar... to... me... for... of... an... advice... me

MILKMAN - cold open ep 1

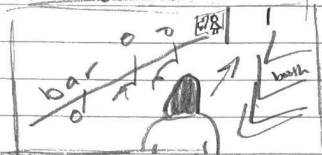
Ext Night



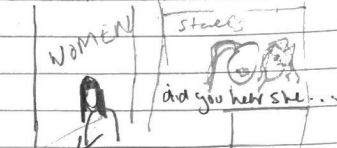
[Masked Man enters]



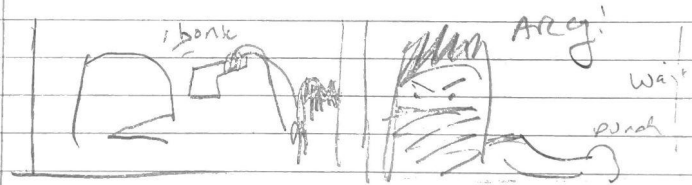
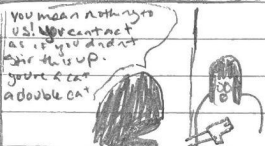
Int Night



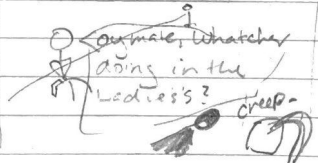
[Mrs exits restroom]



[Mrs will break]



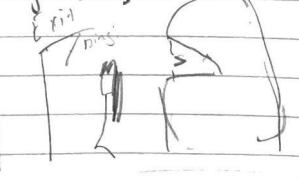
[Woman to the restroom]



[Observed, not unharmed]



[grimace]



Day one of brainstorming the adaptation: shot list with images for the Cold Open, the confrontation between McSomebody and Middle Sister.

