

Title: Cupid's Murder Evidence Board

Synopsis:

In this podcast episode, Tim & LeeAnna tackle the emotional carnage of dating within a friend group – where one kiss can unravel years of “we’re just friends” stability. Tim and LeeAnna pull on Nadira Goffe’s brilliant observation that friend-group multiple romances (at least on TV) can end up looking like “the world’s most confusing murder evidence board.” The result? Chaos, melodrama, and a reminder that when Cupid joins the friend group, nobody escapes unscathed.

Podcasts:

[Listen on Apple Podcasts](#)

[Listen on Spotify](#)

[Listen on Audible](#)

[Listen on PodBean](#)

[Listen on iHeart Radio](#)

Discussion Questions

Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:

- Why do romances inside a friend group feel more dramatic than those outside it?
- How does the “murder evidence board” metaphor help writers (and viewers) track chaos?
- Are friend-group romances inherently doomed, or can writers craft a believable happy ending?
- How much drama is too much – when does a story cross from compelling into cliché?
- Have you ever seen a friend circle survive repeated romances? What made it work (or not)?
- How can you use humor to highlight the absurdity of these dynamics without making the characters seem shallow?

Writer's Prompts

Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:

- **Prompt 1:** The Drink That Changed Everything. Two friends share a casual drink until one “innocent” comment lights the fuse. Write the moment when the spark can’t be ignored. Fun Thought: Nothing says “we value our friendships” like blowing them up for one tequila-fueled spark.
- **Prompt 2:** Memoir of a Friend Group Debacle. Write in memoir style about the friend-group romance disaster you lived through (or wish you hadn’t). Use hindsight, humor, and shame. Fun Thought: If your memoir doesn’t include at least one passive-aggressive text thread, was it even a friend group romance debacle?
- **Prompt 3:** The Group Chat Goes Nuclear. Write the group chat’s reaction after two friends confess their relationship. Does it explode in memes, go silent, or devolve into Shakespearean shade?

- **Prompt 4:** The Dinner Party Disaster. One couple arrives holding hands, another leaves in tears, and dessert never makes it to the table. Write the scene from the POV of the “neutral” friend stuck in the middle.
- **Prompt 5:** Passive-Aggressive Olympics. One friend starts dropping hints that they disapprove of the new couple. Write a scene where every line of dialogue is a veiled jab or “concern.”
- **Prompt 6:** The Murder Evidence Board Monologue. A character literally imagines their group as a true-crime evidence board. Red string, photos, Post-Its. Capture their inner commentary as they narrate the chaos like a detective losing their mind.
- **Prompt 7:** The Apocalypse That Wasn’t. Imagine two friends confess their romance to the group... and no one cares. Write the anticlimax – and how the couple secretly feels robbed of their drama.

Class Activities

These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:

- **Evidence Board Exercise:** On a whiteboard, map out a fictional friend group’s connections with red string or markers. Add secret crushes, breakups, and betrayals. Then brainstorm how the web creates tension points for stories.
- **Roleplay Dinner Party:** Split into small groups. Stage a dinner party where two characters “drop the bomb” that they’re dating. The rest must react in character – drama, comedy, or unexpected support.
- **Memoir Lightning Round:** Ask students to write (or invent) a 100-word “mini-memoir” of a group romance debacle and read aloud. Vote on the most chaotic.
- **Genre Flip:** Take the same scenario (two friends confess attraction) and write it as: (a) rom-com, (b) horror, (c) Shakespearean tragedy. Compare tones.

Closing note from the Podcasters, Tim & LeeAnna

“Well, writers, there you have it: proof that love in the friend group is less ‘happily ever after’ and more ‘Lord of the Flies with beer pitchers.’ Remember – your job isn’t to tidy up the mess, but to lean into it. Exaggerate the cringe, amplify the awkward, and let the soufflé of group dynamics collapse spectacularly. After all, Cupid never promised accuracy – just maximum chaos.”