

Killing Eve

Season 2



Six Core Questions

1. Genre

Thriller - Serial Killer

2. Obligatory Scenes and Conventions

Obligatory Scenes

- Inciting Crime Indicative of a Master Villain - This remains unknown for most of the series until the Ending Payoff, it is unknown why the Ghost is killing and who she is killing for - she is killing for Peel in order to secure his information weapon
- Speech in Praise of the Villain - in Ep 2, Eve speaks about Villanelle - “She is Flamboyant, instinctive, spoiled, easily bored, not sloppy”; and the Ghost - “Careful, anonymous, meticulous, and discreet - the opposite of Villanelle”
- The Hero becomes the victim - When Peel’s men come to kill Eve and she hides under the bed
- The Hero at the Mercy of the Villain - When Peel tries to convince Villanelle to join him and Eve thinks it’s possible; In this case, Eve uses her ability to understand Psychopaths and thinks that Villanelle might actually kill her OR this scene is when Eve kills Raymond. The Core Event is where the genres intersect, and Eve doesn’t have an active role in the Peel scene, but she has an active role in the axe scene
- False ending - Eve saves Villanelle and it looks like they might end up together, but Eve betrays Villanelle’s love in the end and Villanelle shoots her

Conventions

- MacGuffin - It’s not clear what the Twelve want (this is a weakness of the book), Peel wants power, Villanelle wants Eve,
- Red Herrings - The role of the Ghost is a red herring, Raymond seemingly getting the best of Villanelle, Villanelle considering joining Peel
- Making it Personal - Villanelle confesses her love for Eve, tells Eve that Eve is hers. Raymond taking pleasure in the task of Killing Villanelle

- Clock - People close to the Peel family keep dying. There is pressure to stop the killings

3. Point of View

In Season 1, every scene of the Killing Eve series has either the protagonist, Eve Polastri, or the villain, Villanelle, present. In Season 2, we are also presented with Carolyn's, Constantin's and the Ghost's POV.

Does this give us more narrative drive? Yes, because we have Dramatic Irony - which is when the viewer has MORE information - we know more than the individual characters. As a viewer, we can often see the clashes that are coming up between the different sides.

However, arguably Season 2 **lacks the tension** of Season 1 where we had full sight of both the protagonist and antagonist. We don't fully understand the Twelve's role or understand what they are after.

4. Objects of Desire

The objects of desire are the wants (external) and the needs (internal) of your protagonist. In Season 2

Eve Polastri: Even though Eve investigates the 'Ghost' now, she still wants to see Villanelle again. At first, she always checks french police reports and news for any sign of Villanelle. They finally meet in episode 5. We've waited a long time for this and suddenly Villanelle, who is a proven psychopath, is allowed to help out on an investigation? It's like she got the jail free card. And Eve's more motivated to watch Villanelle, than working on the case. The case just seems like the means to be with Villanelle.

But anyway, Eve is obsessed with Villanelle and sexually aroused by listening to her or thinking of her. So some part of her is telling her not to fall for Villanelle, but being in love you do stupid things. Which ultimately lead to Eve's wake up call in the last episode.

Villanelle: Eliminate skilled mystery woman 'The Ghost' who could take Villanelle's job if you believe her new handler Raymond (i guess an organization like the 12 has more assassins for hire. So why kill Villanelle when they could have 2?) But what really bothers Villanelle is that Eve is investigating someone else. She wants Eve for herself. It's an obsession love story on her end, too.

Note: *In episode 1 the side of Good and Evil was clearly recognizable. Eve was the protagonist and Villanelle her antagonist.*

Who's the antagonist in Season 2?

There are several but there's none that pushes the plot forward from the beginning of the story to its ending?

- Is it Villanelle's new handler? Hardly, he doesn't show for most of the episodes?
- Is it Aaron Peel? The plot certainly revolves around this guy but the power divide between the combo of Eve and Villanelle and this guy is just not strong enough. And he's killed so easily by Villanelle.
- Is it the 12? Doubtful, there's not much to go on to say how much they've been involved?
- Is it the new female assassin? The Ghost? She's so scared of Villanelle (no suspense and the promise was not kept that the Ghost could be the one who threatens Villanelle's life) and was so easily found (like magic). Hardly a match for Villanelle.

Antagonist's objects of desire:

- Villanelle wants to push Eve closer to her by all means necessary.
- Aaron Peel wants to sell his weapon, but I have no idea what he gets out of it. Why should he sell something that gives him the biggest pleasure?
- The 12 want Peel's weapon because information is power. But they are so far in the background of this story that they're almost left out if they weren't mentioned once or twice.
- The Ghost probably just wants to make a living to get her kid to school.
- And the handler rather kills someone than buying a weapon.
- And Carlyne loves to play people as if she was playing a game of chess and cheating because she knows all the moves already.

Having no clear antagonist is the heart of the problem. Our previous villains have become victims. Constantin is now helpless without his family and has to hustle for work. Villanelle remains unhinged, but it's clear her power is limited, she's no master villain. The Twelve have diminished as a villain save for the pasty-faced Raymond, who is dangerous but he lacks the threat and that Constantin displayed in Season 1.

Worse still, we have no hero. Eve's descent into immorality tilts the balance. In a sea of semi-villains, we have no lightning rod for morality, apart from Kenny.

In short, we are lacking a master villain.

5. Controlling Idea

Death triumphs if love gets in the way of being able to use your gift to the fullest (Eve's psychoanalysis capabilities) and see the one you love for who they truly are.

6. Beginning Hook, Middle Build and Ending Payoff

A severely injured villain, Villanelle, is making her way to London to find the MI6 agent that she is obsessed with but finds herself imprisoned by the psycho Julian, and later under the control of her new 12 handler Raymond. MI6 agent Eve must find the 12's new assassin The Ghost and enlists the help of Villanelle; together they discover Billionaire Peel's involvement and Eve is incited to murder by Villanelle, leading to deathly consequences.