



# Crime Does Pay:

## How The Traitors Rewards Illegal Activity

Christine D. Myers, Independent Scholar  
Northeast Popular Culture Association Annual Conference  
11 October 2025





DEMOL



THE MOLE













## The Traitors Is Taking Over the World | 30+ Territories. 6 Continents. 1 Deadly Game



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faithful<sup>♥</sup> noun

faith·ful \ 'fāth-fəl \

: a loyal follower

traitor<sup>🔪</sup> noun

trai·tor \ 'trā-tər \

: one who betrays

## The Traitors: (AUS)

S1 E1: Episode 1



0:00:08 / 1:21:47



MORE EPISODES





-You are now in the company  
of cold-blooded killers.



BBC

Armani









# THE TRAITORS

TONY  
VLACHOS



DERRICK  
LEVASSEUR



Vanda 54

Crime Writer

Faithful

27  
Financial  
Investigator

Armani







KELDA STAGG  
KRIMINALTEKNIKER I FÖRRÄDARE



| TV14

Coarse Language



MK  
CRIMINAL DEFENCE LAWYER



OLIVIA  
FORENSIC INVESTIGATOR



MARK  
LEGAL PROFESSIONAL



PAUL  
FINANCIAL INVESTIGATOR



| TV14

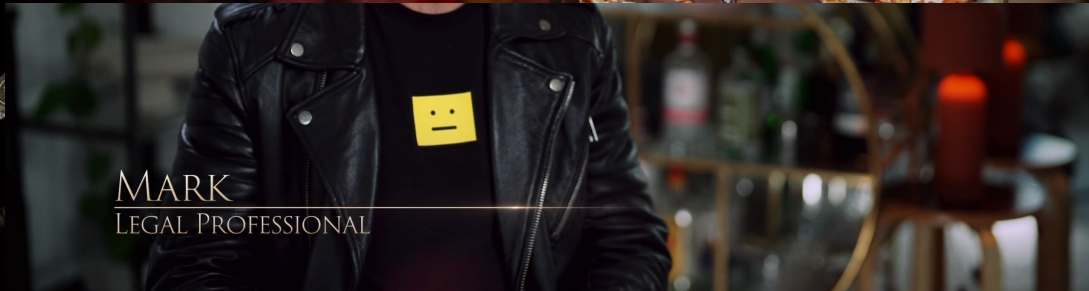
Coarse Language



KASHINDI  
LAW STUDENT



MARIELLE  
LAW & INTERNATIONAL POLITICS STUDENT

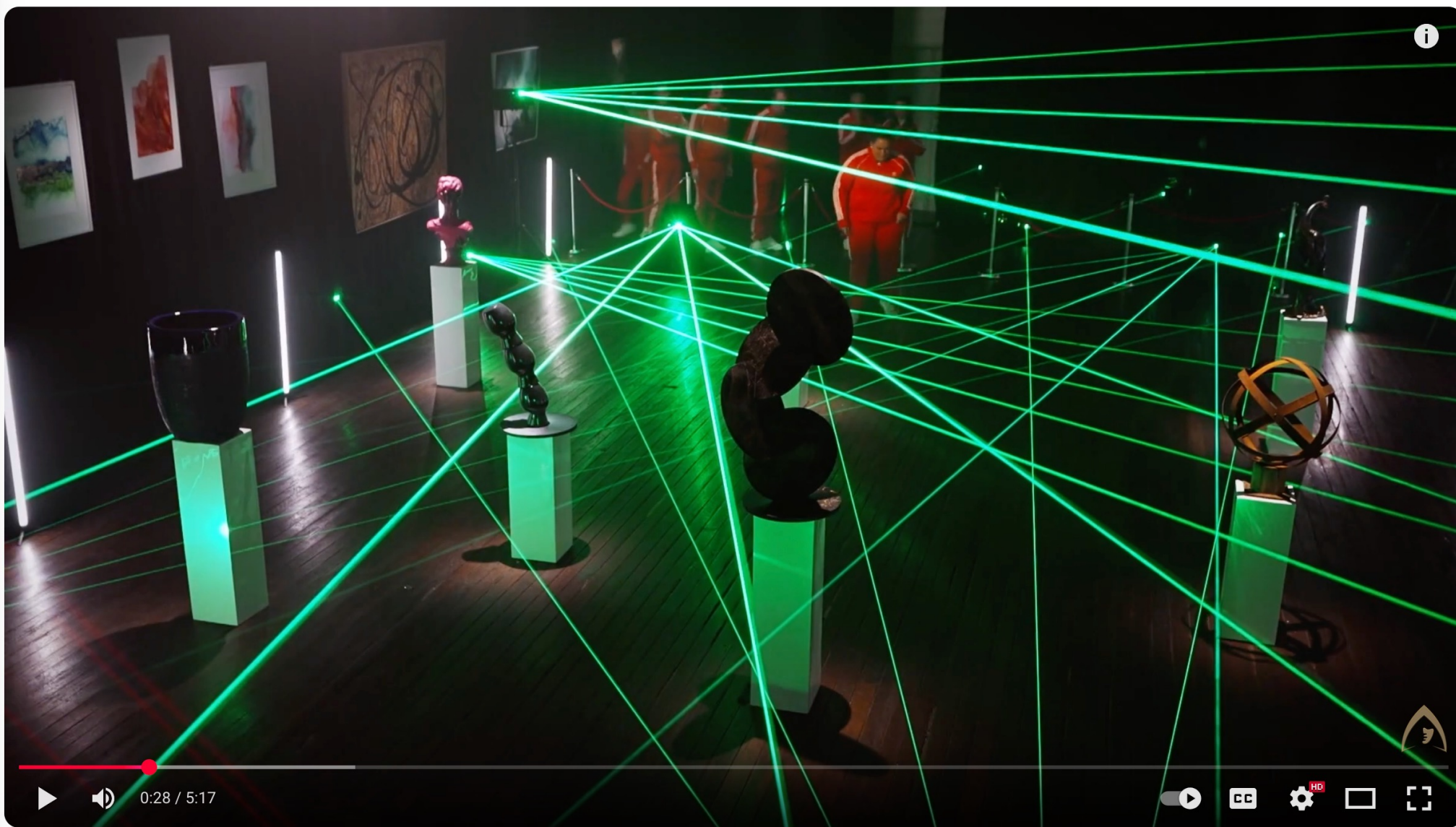


MARK  
LEGAL PROFESSIONAL



PAUL  
FINANCIAL INVESTIGATOR





## Can They Beat The Laser Challenge In Time? | The Traitors Australia



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hanging in some cages  
above the trees.

# The Traitors: UK

S3 E4: Episode 4

0:15:00 / 0:58:26



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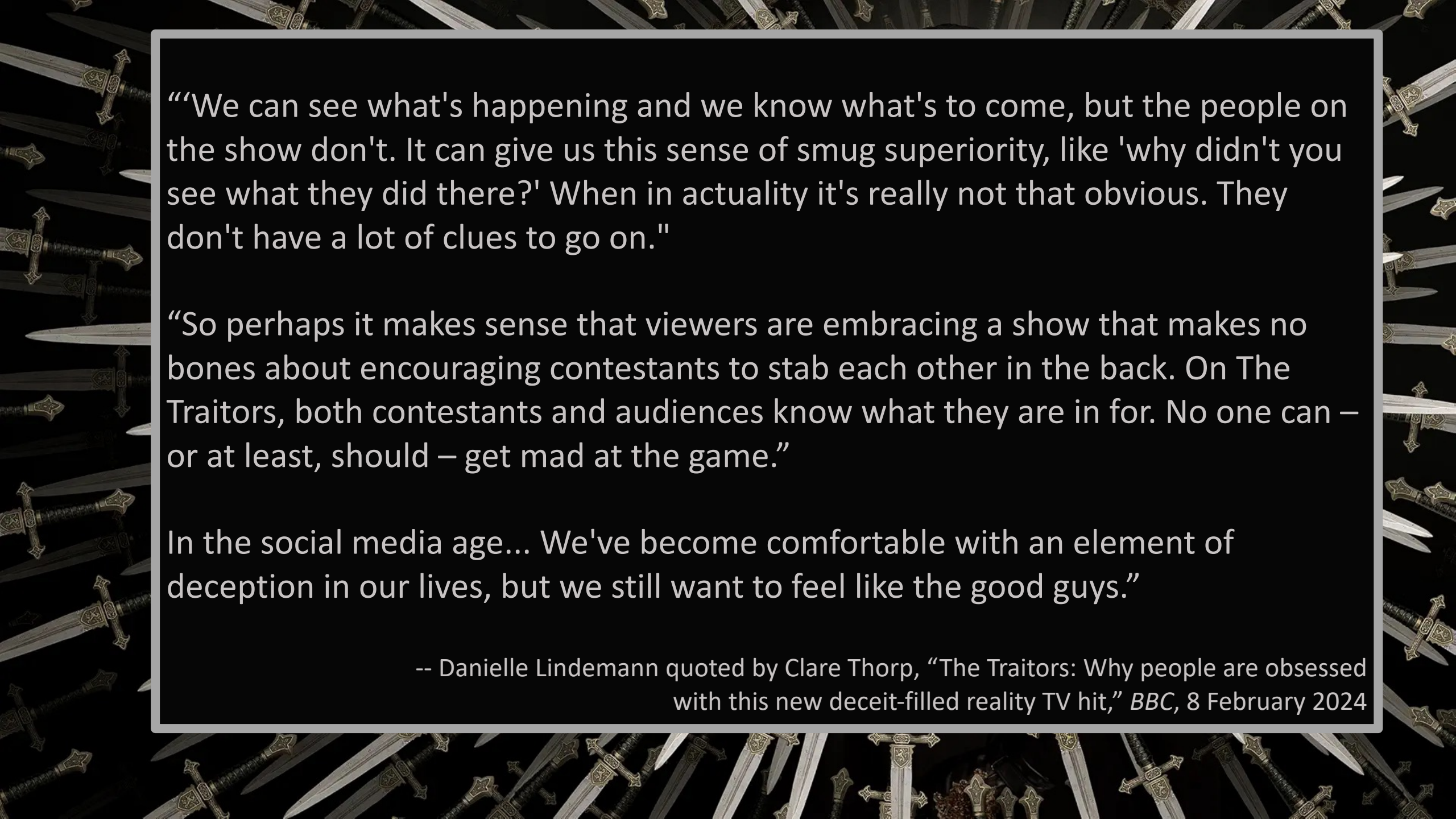
A woman with long, dark braided hair is shown from the chest up. She is wearing a dark green or black hooded sweatshirt. Her head is tilted slightly upwards and to her right, and she has a playful, mischievous expression on her face, with her lips slightly parted. The background is dark and out of focus, featuring two bright, warm-toned circular lights that create a bokeh effect. The entire image is framed by a decorative border consisting of numerous sword hilts and blades arranged in a repeating pattern.

-I feel deliciously wicked.







The background of the entire image is a dense, repeating pattern of various swords and daggers. The blades are mostly silver or light grey, while the hilt and guard areas are dark, possibly black or dark brown, with some gold-colored accents. The weapons are oriented in various directions, creating a complex, textured background.

““We can see what's happening and we know what's to come, but the people on the show don't. It can give us this sense of smug superiority, like 'why didn't you see what they did there?' When in actuality it's really not that obvious. They don't have a lot of clues to go on.”

“So perhaps it makes sense that viewers are embracing a show that makes no bones about encouraging contestants to stab each other in the back. On *The Traitors*, both contestants and audiences know what they are in for. No one can – or at least, should – get mad at the game.”

In the social media age... We've become comfortable with an element of deception in our lives, but we still want to feel like the good guys.”

-- Danielle Lindemann quoted by Clare Thorp, “*The Traitors: Why people are obsessed with this new deceit-filled reality TV hit,*” *BBC*, 8 February 2024



There's no, like,  
DNA or fingerprints,

# The Traitors

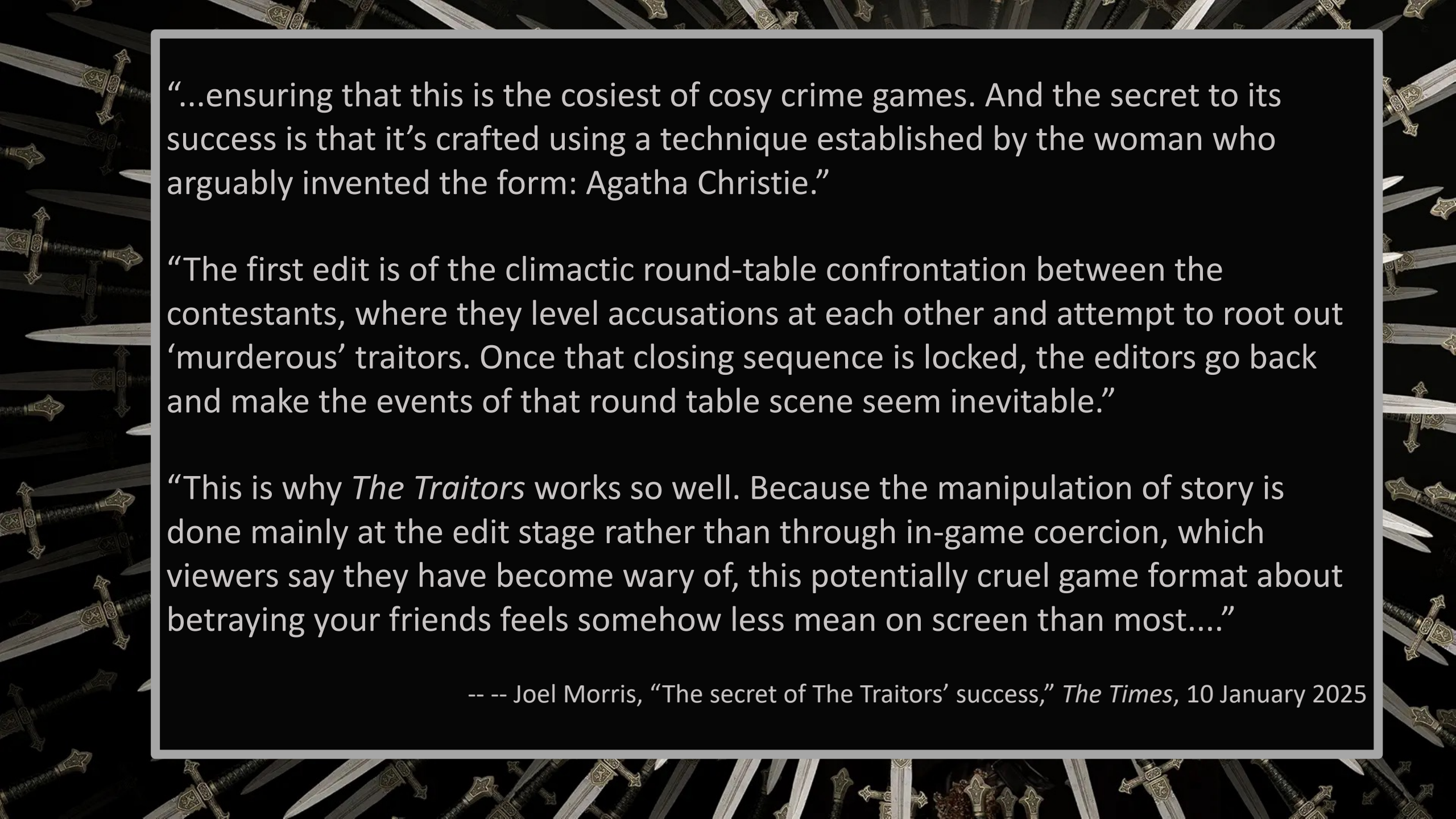
S3 E4: I Will Bury You Under the Sand

0:24:10 / 1:07:41



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“...ensuring that this is the cosiest of cosy crime games. And the secret to its success is that it’s crafted using a technique established by the woman who arguably invented the form: Agatha Christie.”

“The first edit is of the climactic round-table confrontation between the contestants, where they level accusations at each other and attempt to root out ‘murderous’ traitors. Once that closing sequence is locked, the editors go back and make the events of that round table scene seem inevitable.”

“This is why *The Traitors* works so well. Because the manipulation of story is done mainly at the edit stage rather than through in-game coercion, which viewers say they have become wary of, this potentially cruel game format about betraying your friends feels somehow less mean on screen than most....”

-- -- Joel Morris, “The secret of *The Traitors*’ success,” *The Times*, 10 January 2025





## The Psychology Behind Why We're Obsessed With "The Traitors"

"The things that tend to naturally grab our attention are oftentimes the things that we're concerned about..."

"The more we can learn about it and observe it, the more confident we get that maybe we can avoid that happening to us..."

-- Christian L. Hart quoted by Kelsey Garcia, "The Psychology Behind Why We're Obsessed with 'The Traitors'," *PopSugar*, 7 January 2025



“...we get to scream at the TV at bozos making bad moves, gasp giddily when someone is surprisingly on the right track, and generally project that we are smarter than everyone else. Would I be a good Traitor? Dear God, no. But the beauty of this series is that I get to lie to myself and act like I am.”

# ***‘The Traitors’: Why Everyone Is So Obsessed With the Greatest Reality Show on TV***

**BINGE-WORTHY**



Kevin Fallon  
Senior Editor, Obsessed

Published Feb. 2 2024 4:24AM EST





October 9, 2025

# FILMHOUNDS



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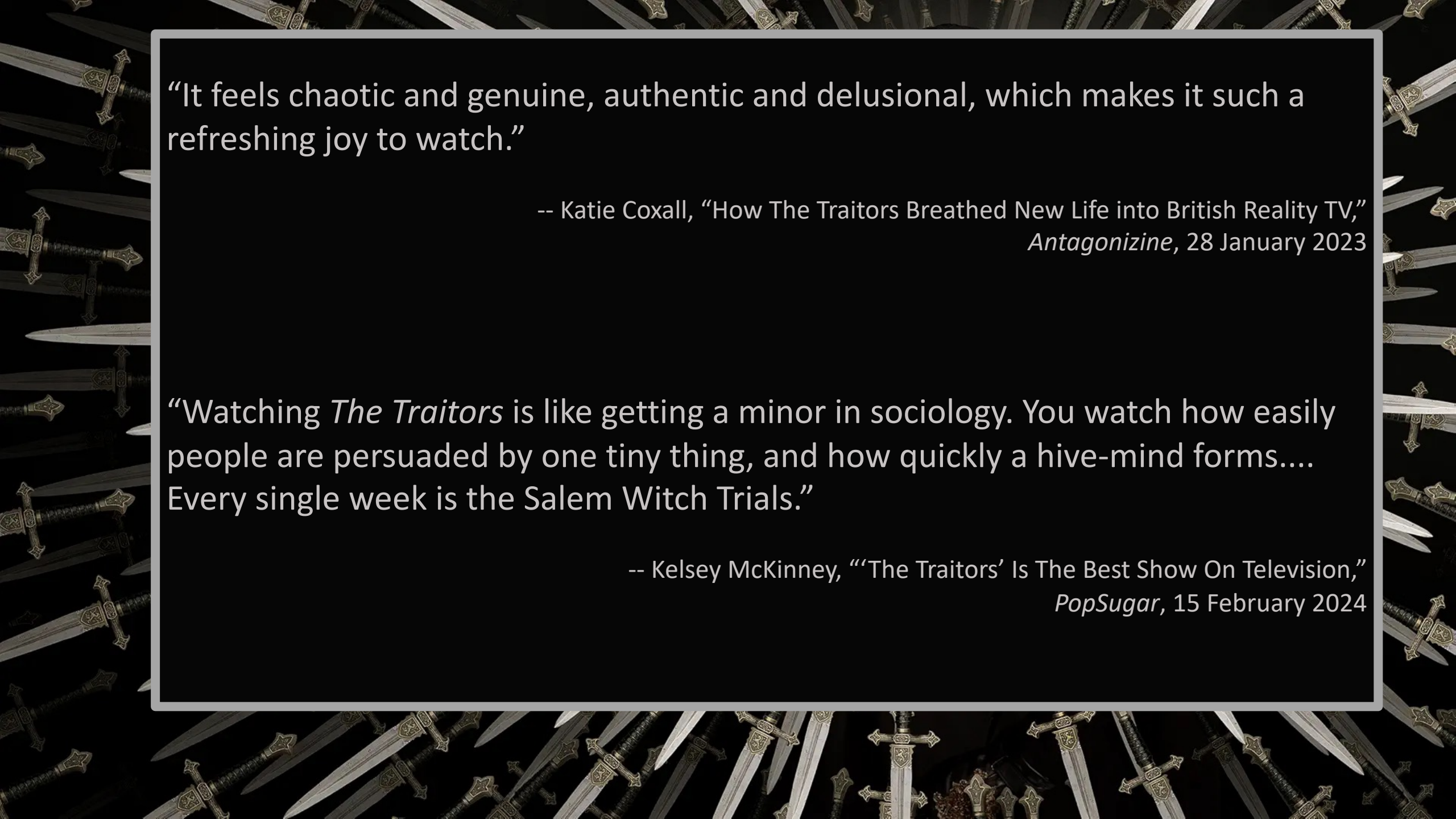
Features

## The Traitors: Addictive Armchair Cluedo Chaos – Why do we love it so much?

4 min read

January 17, 2024 Seb Jenkins





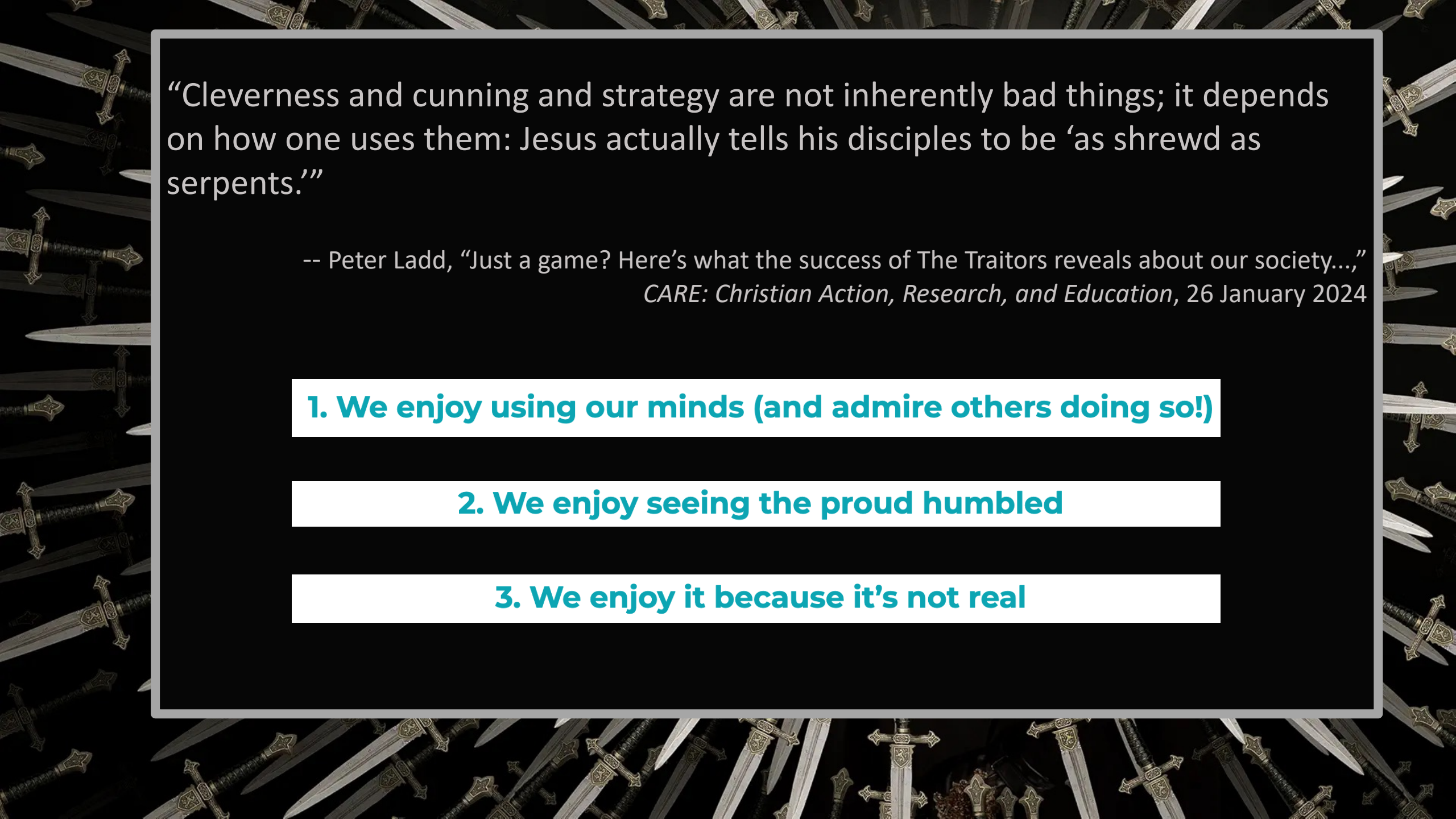
“It feels chaotic and genuine, authentic and delusional, which makes it such a refreshing joy to watch.”

-- Katie Coxall, “How The Traitors Breathed New Life into British Reality TV,”  
*Antagonizine*, 28 January 2023

“Watching *The Traitors* is like getting a minor in sociology. You watch how easily people are persuaded by one tiny thing, and how quickly a hive-mind forms.... Every single week is the Salem Witch Trials.”

-- Kelsey McKinney, “‘The Traitors’ Is The Best Show On Television,”  
*PopSugar*, 15 February 2024





“Cleverness and cunning and strategy are not inherently bad things; it depends on how one uses them: Jesus actually tells his disciples to be ‘as shrewd as serpents.’”

-- Peter Ladd, “Just a game? Here’s what the success of The Traitors reveals about our society...,”  
*CARE: Christian Action, Research, and Education*, 26 January 2024

**1. We enjoy using our minds (and admire others doing so!)**

**2. We enjoy seeing the proud humbled**

**3. We enjoy it because it’s not real**



# The Traitors Harry Clark and Paul Gorton launch new true crime podcast

26 June 2024





## The Traitors

S3 E1: Let Battle Commence

0:57:40 / 1:03:45

I must ask you  
to take the traitor's oath.



MORE EPISODES



# References:

[“How The Traitors Breathed New Life into British Reality TV”](#)

[“Just a game? Here’s what the success of The Traitors reveals about our society...”](#)

[“The Psychology Behind Why We’re Obsessed with ‘The Traitors’”](#)

[“The secret of The Traitors’ success”](#)

[“Stray Thoughts on Recent Iterations of The Traitors”](#)

[“The Traitors: Addictive Armchair Cluedo Chaos – Why do we love it so much?”](#)

[“The Traitors’ Alan Cumming Is Sick, Twisted, and Needs to Be Psychiatrically Evaluated”](#)

[“The Traitors Harry Clark and Paul Groton launch new true crime podcast”](#)

[“The Traitors India Review: A Test of Patience”](#)

[“The Traitors is like watching a pantomime – it’s inherently outrageous and I can’t get enough of it”](#)

[“‘The Traitors’ Is The Best Show On Television”](#)

[“‘The Traitors’: Why Everyone is So Obsessed With the Greatest Reality Show on TV”](#)

[“The Traitors: Why people are obsessed with this new deceit-filled reality TV hit”](#)

[Yaro Cut Black Font](#) (aka., The Traitors’ US font)

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Thanks as well to Peacock, The Traitors Wiki, and YouTube for the remaining images!!!!