



Comments from the Jury Group:

“This is an important and necessary exposition of femicide, it presents the warning signals to be aware of that could save victim’s and perpetrator’s lives. This documentary systematically studies the cases of five women to present evidence of the common patterns that led to their murders. This is excellent journalism, that deftly manages personal and factual information to form a persuasive argument. The televisual medium is well used throughout, the photography is excellent as is the sound design. Overall this is an engaging and powerful documentary that has good prospects for persuading authorities to adopt the means to prevent femicide.”

“Visual, auditory and story-structurally perfectly executed documentary. Never boring or long-winded, always exciting.”

“Urgent topic. Told in a captivating way.”

“The reflexion on the main strokes of the abusers interwoven with the personal stories of some of the murdered women create a very balanced and strong narrative. Beautifully filmed and very hard without pushing for “easy” emotions“

In France, in 2019, 150 women were killed by their current or former partners. To respond to this scourge, journalists from Le Monde created an investigative unit to gain insight into these femicides. Working methodically, they unveiled a recurrent criminal pattern, identifying the obvious and more subtle ‘red flags’ that led to these women’s murders.

This documentary analyses five emblematic cases of femicide. Through the testimonies of those close to the victim, as well as institutional representatives, the film traces the evolution of a relationship, from the first encounter to the murder. These stories highlight what should have been visible, and point out a collective blindness.

Five tragic stories reveal the mechanism of femicide, in the hopes of putting an end to it.

The film’s intention is to raise global awareness around this issue, and make audiences realise that it concerns everyone. A man does not kill his wife on a whim, out of nowhere, without any warning signs. In reality, the murder is the result of his radicalisation. The seeds have been planted over the course of years, stemming from his family background, as well as his vision of love and gender equality. Because love is political: together, a couple forms a society, and a man who kills his wife is not moved by humanist values. He is someone who thinks it is possible to possess another being, and that the loss of this person must lead to death. This violence is measured by the number of bruises left on the body. Abusive relationships should not be treated as isolated incidents, but as a woman being deprived of her freedom.

Congratulations to:

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Camera:	Jérémy Frey
Commissioning editor:	Catherine Alvaresse, Renaud Allilaire
Producer:	Laurent Bon
Production company:	Bangumi
Co-producer:	Le Monde, with the participation of France Télévisions
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