

## Section 1: Television Series Information

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**Title:**

- *A Chef's Destiny*
- The title reflects many of the key points of the show. The protagonist must weigh his options in his pursuit of an educator/career. The show goes through the conflicts that the protagonist must navigate as he follows his dreams of being a professional in the culinary industry.

**Genre:**

- Drama
- This series is meant to give the viewer a sense of empathy towards the protagonist. We will focus on the problem that the main character faces in his life/family. It will be a dramatic and emotional series with the viewers wanting to see Nick follow his dreams.

**Synopsis:**

- *A Chef's Destiny* is a drama TV series revolving around the life of 20-year-old, Nick Risotto, the protagonist, who is a college student who is navigating his way through the tough decisions of life. Risotto grew up with strict parents who have always planned for him to join them as a lawyer in the family firm, Lorenzo Family Law. Nick grew up in Richboro, the suburbs of Philadelphia in a large house with a white picket fence around it. When applying to colleges, Nick's parents coerced him into applying at prestigious universities with the hopes of attending law school later. Nick was unsure of what he wanted to do in his life and was more interested in a traditional college experience. During his first two years at Temple University, Nick develops an interest in cooking as he has the freedom to explore his interests when he is away from his parents. He shares this passion with his new friends that he has met in college and connects with. He questions his previous decision to study Criminal Justice and decides he wants to pursue culinary, despite his parents' wishes.

## Section 2: Character Biography

### Character Name:

- Nick Risotto

### Physical:

- Nick Risotto is a 20-year-old, white college student who is built tall and thin. He has ocean-blue eyes that gaze deep into anyone he has a conversation with. He has brown hair that he likes to slick back to give off a professional look as suggested by his parents. Risotto is well-dressed and keeps himself clean-shaven. His parents came over to Philadelphia from Italy as young adults, but Risotto is much more Americanized in the way he goes about his life.

### Personality:

- Nick is portrayed as having two personalities. His one side is always appealing to the wishes of his parents, and the other is focused on the pursuit of his own dreams. Nick is a nice, charming guy that loves to be sociable. He is very hardworking and tends to focus on his schoolwork and his passion for cooking. Nick is a member of a friend group of other upper-middle class college kids but finds them to be too snobby and entitled. Nick would much rather socialize and go out with his friends from South Philadelphia who are down to earth.

### Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** Growing up, Nick witnessed the strong work ethic that his parents had in their work at the law firm that was ingrained into him. Instead of enrolling him in after-school programs, Nick's parents would pick him up from school and take him back to the law firm, where they worked overtime. As a freshman in high school, Nick expressed interest in joining the Ski and Snowboard Club at school. His parents insisted that he work part-time helping with work at the firm.
- **Event 2:** Nick's parents only let him be friends with the most prestigious people. Nick never clicked with these friends. Nick's parents were upset with him when he hung out with other people outside of an upper-middle class "ring". Something that Nick will never forget was when his parents said, "Don't hang out with those poor kids, they are only bad news".
- **Event 3:** While sitting in the lobby of the law firm while his parents worked, Food Network shows were always playing on the TV which struck his interest in cooking. Since he never had the opportunity to express his own interests, cooking was always kept in the back of his mind. Up until college, Nick never pursued cooking as a career since his parents always had him on track to be a lawyer.

**Current Situation:**

- Nick in college just does not fit into the law society and while he presents himself as professional, he is more down to earth over a lawyer who is strict and straight forward. His college friends accept him for who he is and encourage him to do what he wants to do in life. His parents want him to find a law internship, but he does not find that interesting and he wants to work at a restaurant in Philadelphia for the summer. He is indecisive on if he wants to continue to follow what his parents say or if he wants to do what truly makes him happy. His sophomore year is coming to an end and Nick needs to decide what he wants to do with his future. Being in college, Nick can think for himself for the first time in his life.

## Section 3: Character Inspiration

### Character Inspiration 1

- Andre Johnson Jr.: *Blackish*
- Andre Jr. is very similar to Nick because he wanted to play field hockey with his friends that he really connected with, but his dad wanted him to play basketball instead. His dad sees field hockey as a non-blackish sport and sees basketball as a blackish sport and because Andre is black his father wants to go along with what he is used to. This is like Nick's situation where his parents want him to be in law school, but he wants to join the culinary field. His parents are used to the law industry, so they want him to do that just like the dad, (Dre Johnson) in blackish. Andre also wants to have a Bar Mitzvah, but his dad is holding back on this idea and thinks it is crazy because he doesn't see what Andre Jr. sees. Nick's parents are blinded in a way just like Dre Johnson because all they see and do is law. Dre Johnson finally lets Andre Jr. have a Bar Mitzvah, but will Nick's parents let him pursue his dreams?

### Character Inspiration 2

- Louis Huang: *Fresh off the Boat*
- We selected Louis Huang from *Fresh off the Boat* mainly due to the outgoing and risk-taking qualities that he shares with our protagonist, Nick Risotto. In *Fresh off the Boat*, Huang leaves a comfortable lifestyle to pursue his dream of owning a restaurant. Our protagonist does have the ability to study at a prestigious law school and join his parents in the family law firm but is willing to break out of those barriers to possibly pursue his own dreams in the culinary industry. Huang faces struggles as he is new to the restaurant industry and must navigate the challenges of being an Asian man who owns a Western-themed restaurant. Risotto also has his struggles fitting in with the upper-middle class students that his parents want him to associate with. These characters are not very similar in a physical sense, but they do share in traits and characteristics that make them unique and intriguing to the audience. They are both ambitious while dealing with doubters in their families. Louis Huang's family is critical of him deciding to move the family from a comfortable life in Washington D.C. Nick Risotto's family is extremely critical of him pursuing anything other than a career in law. They feel that they have set him up with all he needs in life to be comfortable. Both Louis Huang and Nick Risotto will much rather sacrifice comfort if it means they get to live out their dreams.

### Character Inspiration 3

- Piper Chapman: *Orange is the New Black*
- We selected Piper Chapman from *Orange is the New Black* as a character inspiration because of the similarities she shares with our protagonist with trying to fit in. Piper Chapman is thrown into a foreign environment when she enters a federal prison for a crime, she committed 10 years earlier. Like Chapman, Nick Risotto is used to life in the middle-upper class, even though he feels he does not belong. Both characters have to adapt their personalities in order to fit into society. Nick is forced to interact with the

other well-off kids who he does not necessarily feel comfortable with. Piper is forced to interact with inmates who she shares nothing in common with. She finds allies in prison who may not seem to fit with her former lifestyle. Nick finds his own allies in college who support his passions and interests in life. While there may not be a lot in common between the two characters, they do share similar life struggles that we have related together.

## Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

### Technique 1: Silence - 0:43-0:46

- We choose to incorporate a brief period of silence in our video for a couple significant reasons. The silence is used as a transitional period between the stress that the protagonist is dealing with and the fortune cookie that catches his eye in the distance. Prior to the period of silence, the scenes and dialogue are fast paced. The brief silence acts as a reset for the protagonist to slow down and relax. We also choose to incorporate the silence because it grabs the attention of the audience to ponder what is going to occur next in the scene. The silence changes the tone of the video from dramatic to uplifting and optimistic.

### Technique 2: Extreme Close Up - 0:58-1:04

- We choose to film this part of our video with an extreme close shot for a couple reasons. Simply, the close-up shot allowed us to show the fine print on the fortune cookie in greater detail than it would be possible without it. This scene starts out as an over-the-shoulder shot but we emphasized the close-up shot to reflect the emotions of the protagonist and give the audience his point of view. The close-up shot gave us the opportunity to implement an element of foreshadowing for the protagonist's life. It is the last shot of our video which also leaves the future up in the air and provides suspense.

### Technique 3: Deliberate Choice of Music - 1:05-1:16

- We choose to end our video with the song, "Who are You" by *The Who*. This song was chosen due to the lyrics that directly relate to the story line of the protagonist. The protagonist is starting to figure himself out towards the end of the video. "Who are You" once again changes the tone of the video and leaves the audience excited to watch more. In the editing process, we set up the cuts to flow with the credits at the end to give off a professional and clean-cut appearance to our film. Music is an essential element to any piece of film. We felt that using a popular song that many people are familiar with would draw an audience into a show that is currently unfamiliar to them.

## Section 5: Contributions List

- Cinematographer
- Editor
- Came up with music.

- Came up with the story idea.
- Worked on the final project written portion.
- Got dressed up for the character of a college student (protagonist).
- Worked on the script.
- Helped with prop placement.

- Worked on the final project written portion.
- Worked on the script.
- Dressed up for the character of the Dad (antagonist).
- Came up with different techniques.
- Helped with prop placement.