

## Section 1: Television Series Information

### Group Members



### Title:

- Reeled In
- The title of our series reflects the idea of our protagonist's outlet of pacifying his insecurities. In this series, the main character discovers that he is able to achieve more success with girls when he creates a fake profile, using pictures of traditionally attractive men he finds online. When using photos that aren't his own, protagonist Jacob Cohen is able to reel in his victims and selfishly take advantage of their trust and emotion.

### Genre:

- Thriller
- Though the main character first is able to establish sympathy from his viewers, the series takes the role of a thriller because we see Jacob insensitively projecting himself as someone he is not, and it takes a dark, captivating, and suspenseful turn of events. The series is meant to leave the viewer feeling disappointed with the main character, but at the same time begging to see what more that he can get away with.

### Synopsis:

- Our series takes place in a time period we have already experienced: prime time of the global pandemic in April of 2020. The series takes place entirely in Mr. Cohen's residence, more specifically Jacob's room, in Cherry Hill, New Jersey. Though he was very active as a child and teen, a part of baseball teams and basketball leagues, Jacob experienced many incidents of bullying that left him diffident. While he was in his sophomore year of highschool, Jacob's parents decided to split up after his mother was caught having an affair with her boss at work. Jacob largely spends all his time at his dad's house. During junior year, Jacob's loneliness and affliction began to ease when he met a girl named Sandy Whitesman, who eventually turned into his girlfriend. After almost a year of dating, Sandy cheated on Jacob with Jacob's only (who he thought was sincere) friend, Nick. The first episode in the series picks up shortly after the betrayal of his ex-girlfriend and ex-best friend, and we see him attempting to start over with a new girl. Reaching the final months of his senior year with nobody, Jacob enters a very dark and cynical mindset. With pressures of little to no social interaction mixed with the multiple insecurities and past experiences of the protagonist, he finds himself doing the unimaginable via social media apps.

## Section 2: Character Biography

### Character Name:

- Jacob Cohen

### Physical:

- Jacob Cohen was born in Philadelphia, PA, and was raised in Cherry Hill, NJ. Jacob is an 18 year old white male. He has short, messy blonde hair and pale blue eyes. He is tall, but lanky, and walks with a shrug. He is typically wearing blue jeans with some sort of graphic t-shirt and a flannel over top, with beat up vans that he's had for years.

### Personality:

- Though Jacob grew up as a very active child in sports and school activities, when high school came around, he had a hard time making new friends and became very withdrawn. Despite his differences of being extremely introverted, despondent, and self-conscious, Jacob is a very independent boy and is very passionate about things he finds interest in. Though he got cut from his highschool basketball tryouts, he still puts in work afterschool and attends practice squad opportunities. Something else about Jacob is that he is very cultured for his age: His favorite rappers are Tupac and Biggie, and his favorite movies are Fight Club, Pulp Fiction, and The Godfather. Ever since his parents got a divorce, Jacob's sadness and insecurities seemed to skyrocket. Since the incident, he has developed a very negative mentality on love, and internally struggles with his emotions.

### Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** Although Jacob has always been involved in sports and activities, he was never extremely talented at the things he did and he was picked on for his inability to be as good as everyone else. This was a big starting cause of his insecurities which eventually carried over into being at a new high school. When trying out for his high school basketball team, Jacob was cut even though he had played his entire life. Though he never gave up the sport, this deeply offended Jacob and made him feel more insecure from an athletic perspective. Though he wanted to be involved in more activities, he had nobody to join clubs with, which only added to his reserved personality. Fighting personal insecurities on top of getting denied from the basketball team left Jacob broken.
- **Event 2:** When Jacob was 16, during his sophomore year of high school, he discovered that his mother cheated on his father. Mr. Cohen found out when he went to surprise his wife at work, and she was caught having sexual relations with her boss. Since this incident, Mrs. Cohen has moved out and now lives with her boss. Due to the uncomfotability, Jacob rarely ever visits his mother and spends most of his time at his fathers house. Though with time he has gotten better dealing with the situation, this incident has permanently altered Jacob's perception of love, and made him especially dejected.
- **Event 3:** When Jacob was a junior in highschool, he met a girl named Sandy Whitesman who he had multiple classes with. Through Sandy, Jacob also met a boy who he quickly developed a friendship with named Nick Antonio (who was dating Sandy's friend). After

the divorce of his parents, Jacob was so happy to finally have a solid friend and even a girlfriend to rely on. For the year they dated, the two made unforgettable memories together. However, during senior year, Nick and his girlfriend broke up and during this time, Nick confided in Sandy a lot and the two eventually got closer. To Jacob's surprise, Sandy and Nick went behind his back and began hooking up themselves.

**Current Situation:**

- As the first episode begins, Jacob is finishing up his last few months as a senior in high school. Due to the recent betrayal from his best friend and his girlfriend, he is left feeling immensely unconfident, insecure, and miserable. From feeling like his life was finally headed in the right direction to entirely collapsing all over again, Jacob felt crushed. His family had fallen apart, his friends completely betrayed and abandoned him, and how he feels more alone than ever. Covid-19 has just been declared as a global pandemic, and struck with complete boredom and sadness, Jacob is attempting to start his love life over via text message and social media. When he finds that he is not getting the response he wants, he blames it on his physical appearance since he has always struggled with confidence at large. Due to this outcome, the viewers meet Jacob at a very low point in his life, and he decides to earn validation through others by posing as a catfish on dating apps.

## Section 3: Character Inspiration

### Character Inspiration 1

- Patrick Star: *Spongebob Squarepants*
- We chose Patrick, also known as Patricia, as an inspiration for our character because in the episode we watched for class, Patrick pretends to be somebody he is not for his own protection. At the beginning of the episode, Patrick mistakes a salesman for a hitman, and fears that he is going to be in some sort of trouble if the ‘hitman’ were to find him again. Due to this, Spongebob helps him come up with a secret identity so he can continue to stay at Bikini Bottom without any safety concerns. Patrick, after messing around and putting seaweed on his head, gives Spongebob an idea, which was to dress Patrick as a girl. There is a connection between Patrick and our character Jacob because both characters pretend to be someone they are not for their own personal gain. Patrick wants to stay in Bikini Bottom, and Jacob seeks validation from others that he would not receive as himself. In a sense Patrick is technically ‘catfishing’ others (though it is in person and not over social media) by going along with a false identity and having short relationships with people he meets as Patricia.

### Character Inspiration 2

- Joan Carol Clayton: *Girlfriends*
- We chose Joan as an inspiration for our character because of her strong and passionate attitude. In the episode of *Girlfriends* we watched for class, we learn that Joan is one of only two black lawyers at the firm. She is also one of the only women at the meeting, which already belittles her character in the setting with predominantly white men. While she is talking at the meeting, she gets cut off multiple times by her colleagues. When she makes a point she gets shut down, but when her fellow white male colleague makes the same point, he is deemed as a ‘brilliant man’. Despite the hardship she faces at work, Joan is a passionate woman who is determined about her work. Instead of acting flirty to get her boss's attention, she knows her degree from UCLA is enough and should be treated as such, and just because she is a woman in a ‘mans world’ does not mean she needs to back down. Much like Joan, despite the hardships Jacob faces, we wanted him to also embody that strong sense of passion. When Jacob enjoys something or finds interest in an activity, he doesn’t give up. When he got cut from his highschool’s basketball team, he didn’t give up basketball, he refused to let one coach ruin the game for him. Instead, he makes time to play after school with pick-up leagues and attends practice squads during club season.

### Character Inspiration 3

- Mary Tyler Moore: *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*
- We chose Mary as an inspiration for our character because of the similar forms of betrayal both her and our character face. In the episode we watched for class, we meet Mary at a very vulnerable time in her life. As explained in the episode, Mary moved to Minneapolis because her romance blew up in her face. Mary was dating a man named Bill for two years (through his internship and then his residency at the hospital), and he promised her the minute he started his practice, the two would be able to get married. However, after the two years were up, Bill suggested to Mary that they ‘shouldn’t rush

into things'. Both Mary and Jacob face betrayal from their significant others, but they also both know that they need to create a new life for themselves in order to move on. Mary does this by moving to a different state and becoming an independent woman, while Jacob does this by creating a fake identity, and literally creating a 'new life' for himself to live.

## **Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation**

### **Technique 1: Deliberate Choice of music - 29-39 seconds and 42-46 seconds**

- We chose this song because of its dark and somber, yet grooving feel. This song has a slow and steady build up, but invites more thrill and suspicion as the viewers watch Jacob's shift in character. Just as Jacob begins to take screenshots of another man's profile, the music tone shifts by the usage of a synth which at first progresses in a high chord, but then quickly declines and cuts off to add more skepticism and intensity. A few seconds later we hear a few strings from a guitar being played while Jacob is importing the screenshotted photos from his camera roll onto Bumble. The sound from the guitar exhibits a feeling of disappointment, as it once again begins with a higher tone and quickly declines into something much more somber and dull.

### **Technique 2: Light and Dark: A Contrast Between Light and Dark - 55-59 seconds**

- The contrast between light and dark is in the shot where the main character, Jacob, is using multiple devices to 'catfish' many different girls at once. The importance of the contrast shows how everything in our characters life regarding social aspects, personal image, and love was dark and sad (dark room around the bright screens). On the other hand, catfishing people, getting their interest and attention, brings the validation and interaction that Jacob craves. This craving being filled is the light in his life and what keeps him happy which is represented through light coming from all of the screens. This shot was used as the ending of our video because it leaves the viewer with the thought of our character's change and him feeding into doing wrong to others.

### **Technique 3: Close-Up - 53-54 seconds**

- Once he creates a fake profile, Jacob finds his success to be much greater when using pictures of someone else. The close up on Jacobs face is used to emphasize the surprise and accomplishment in his eyes. This allows Jacob to establish a sense of vulnerability from the viewers, as they are able to intimately see details on his face that they would not be able to appreciate if this was a long shot, medium shot, or fill shot. This close-up shows that he is enjoying doing something that is wrong. This shot proves that Jacob does not care that he is playing with others' emotions and is selfishly using them as his own confidence booster.

## Section 5: Contributions List

- Wrote technique 2 and 3 in section 4
- Found sound effects for the final video
- Filmed the entire video
- Edited the entire video

- Wrote section 1, 2, and 3
- Wrote technique 1 in section 4
- Found sound effects for the final video
- Found the background music for the final video