

Section 1: Television Series Information

Group Members:

Title

- *Two of Cups*
- The title *Two of Cups* is a reference to the tarot card titled the same. In this series, we follow the story of our main character who is coming to terms with her sexuality through the interest that another character has in her. The reason this series is given this title is because the connect that grows between these two characters and the chance that our character takes this new relationship which changes her life is simply that, a chance. Two of Cups symbolizes a new love that is pure, honest, and everlasting, this series is about learning if the cards are in favor of our character.

Genre

- Drama
- This series is meant to hold on to your heart and take it on a rollercoaster. There will be moments where you will be crying, laughing, and simply smiling as you undergo the hardships our character faces to overcome her fear of getting into this new relationship.

Synopsis

- Olivia, the protagonist is a 20-year-old bisexual college student who has just transferred to a new college in the city, coming from a small suburban community college. She has been finding her place on campus and in this new city over the past two months and then she meets Saba. Our story progresses as the two begin their “friendship”. Meeting through a club on campus the two’s connection grows quickly. Saba being the hopeless romantic she is, falls head over heels quickly for our main character but Olivia falling for Saba too but runs into a dilemma, she is not out to her friends and family as bi. As the days go by and the relationship of these two grow stronger and stronger. Through endless hangouts, “date not date” nights, and a deep emotional connection as these two let their guards down and tell each other things no one else knows, the question is at hand, “what are they?” Saba upfront tells Olivia how she feels but Olivia hides her emotions by telling Saba she isn’t interested. But as the days go by, Olivia’s guard of avoiding her feelings is torn down and she tells Saba how she feels on Christmas morning.

Section 2: Character Biography

Character Name:

- Olivia Brooks

Physical:

- Olivia Brooks is a 22-year-old, white woman with an average height of 5'4" and an average build. Growing up in a rural area surrounded by mountains she stands strong on her feet. She has beautiful straight strawberry blonde hair, eyes that resemble sunflowers (dark centers with halos of green/yellow hues that surround it when the sun hits them), and freckles placed perfectly on her skin. She wears a little bit of makeup filling in her eyebrows and wearing mascara but that's all. When it comes to clothes she makes simple casual look its best such as jeans, a comfy sweater with a nice jacket, and some colorful vans (ankle socks always).

Personality:

- Olivia grew up chasing independence that shows vibrantly in her persona which has grown her into personality of not letting people in too easily (or sometimes just not at all). When it comes to love, when she loves something she does it with her whole heart such as her love for music by having a background in musical theater and currently playing in college marching band. Her energy is ecstatic and when she is on a dance floor, everyone's eyes are on her, however for someone so vibrant and making everyone around her so happy, she holds a lot of things in which come out only when she is alone. We meet Olivia on the night that Saba has told her that she likes her and Olivia says she doesn't feel the same (which is a lie). She reflects as Saba has given Olivia a "free coupon" for a date she can "cash in" to Saba whenever she decides to want to go on that date since Saba knows she isn't the best at telling people how she feels or admitting she has had a change in heart.

Life Experiences:

- **Event 1:** One huge life event for Olivia was transferring to a city college. Coming from a small rural town in the Delaware Water Gap with a graduating class of 227 seniors and going to a community college after, this was a big move. Being 3 hours away from home and all the norms of it, this new boost of independence excited Olivia. Being in a much more liberal environment and surrounded by types of people she has never been, she was overjoyed with a sense of comfort.
- **Event 2:** Olivia's only major relationship was when she was 14. Still being a kid this relationship heavily skewed her perspective on love and having a partner. Unfortunately, this relationship was toxic and overall unhealthy which has shaped her mentality into being hesitant to open up to a new partner.
- **Event 3:** Exploring her sexuality has always been fueled by being in the closet. Through a few hookups and small flings with girls in high school, these interactions always ended with her mentality of not wanting to commit due to the fact that she was not out. This was always fueled by internalized homophobia of knowing she was bi and that it would be better for her and her family to eventually just end up being with a man.

Current Situation:

- As we see play out in the series, Olivia's conflict of not being out yet wanting to pursue something with Saba has led to a turmoil of emotions internally. After a night of talking to each other until 5am and parting ways with this new coupon in hand has left Olivia with many confictions. She was not able to simply tell Saba that nothing will come of them, because she knows deep down she sees something happening. Through the next few weeks we follow as life and chances bring these two character closer and closer leading to Olivia finally telling Saba how she feels. However, the big reveal of telling the world she is with a girl is still to come.

Section 3: Character Inspiration

Character Inspiration 1

- Salvatore ‘Sal’ Romano: *Mad Men*
- I chose Sal Romano for my character inspiration due to his struggle of hiding his sexuality in the show *Mad Men*. Throughout the series Sal has this internalized homophobia that my character struggles with as well. He does everything he can to hide his sexuality by even making comments assuring the room he is attracted to women. This is very similar to Olivia limiting her relationships and flings to men only out of internalized homophobia. For Sal, it is about giving into these feelings and just being his true self, which is very similar to what Olivia is going through. In terms of the play out of events unfortunately we see Sal go through a difficult time at work once he is caught with the bellboy and forced upon by a client. In terms of Olivia’s situation, she is more so just struggling with giving into coming out to her family. Both emotionally are holding in a lot of turmoil which is why he is a great character to reference for Olivia.

Character Inspiration 2

- Elena Alvarez: *One Day at a Time*
- I chose Elena Alvarez to take inspiration from when creating my character because of her conflicts and experiences with identifying as a bisexual and her passion for the things she loves. Elena is a girl who realizes throughout the first season that she is a member of the Queer community. Throughout *Two of Cups* the character I created also has to experience coming out to her family just like Elena. I wanted my character to identify as bisexual to raise awareness for the bisexual community and the conflicts that they face from society and the community itself. Another way Elena inspired me while creating my character is through her passion for the things she loves. This is similar to Olivia’s persona because when she loves something or someone she loves them with her whole heart which is a trait I wanted my character to have.

Character Inspiration 3

- Lucy Ricardo: *I Love Lucy*
- I chose Lucy Ricardo as one of the characters I drew inspiration from for my character because she is an ambitious and independent woman. Lucy is a woman who goes after the things she wants. I wanted my character to hold these same qualities. My character is ambitious and independent from her childhood and working from such a young age. Lucy also has a personality that makes everyone love her, much like my character Olivia. Another way Lucy inspired me for my character is through the way she puts her whole heart into everything that she loves. When Lucy wants to do something, she puts her all into which was a trait I wanted my character to possess. This is one of the most important personality traits that my character portrays throughout the show which is why it is such a common trait throughout my character inspiration.

Section 4: Filming Techniques and Explanation

Technique 1: Extreme Close Up – 9-12 seconds

- The extreme close up on the note in Olivia's hand is to really emphasize what this moment is about. It is symbolic in the sense that Olivia is holding the key to let go of the anticipation of being with Saba and this is truly her ticket to just do it. However, the saying "so close yet so far" is true for our character. Regardless of having this coupon she is unable to use it. This close up really emphasizes the significance this will have in the near future but also focuses the audience in on the only thing Olivia is thinking about now which is finding the courage to use it.

Technique 2: Deliberate Choice of Music – 17-32 seconds

- I picked this song because quite simply the lyrics showcase what Olivia is feeling during this moment. As she returns from her night with Saba, coupon in hand, she has one wish and that is to be good enough to love Saba. The song starts simple, just utilizing the instrumental to showcase the emotions of Olivia. The crescendo into the lyrics of the song hit as Olivia hesitantly tries to text Saba and confess that she likes her. She is unable to do so because of the fears and the anxieties she is facing. The tone of the song is gentle and delicate, showcasing the fragility of this moment for our character. I wanted this moment to pull the heart strings of the viewers and give them a glimpse into the pain the character is facing.

Technique 3: Color as symbol: A contrast of color– 4-8 seconds

- The Christmas lights in the scene are not only to set the time we are in but also to emphasize the mood of the season. Christmas and Christmas time is linked to happiness and this feeling of togetherness but that is the complete opposite of what our character is feeling right now. Colorfulness usually symbolizes cheeriness but our character is not there right now. However, I would like to think of these lights as almost "light of hope" that our character is able to overcome this moment and these feelings during a time that is so colorful and vibrant. Indirectly the colors are also close to all the colors of the rainbow which emphasizes the LGBT+ story representation in the film.