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FLM170.1 Storytelling for the Screen: A Few Bitter Brews [Film]

SAE University College

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A still life photograph of a coffee-making setup on a round wooden table. In the foreground, a silver French press sits on a white saucer. Next to it is a white pitcher and a white cup on a saucer. A small potted plant with red flowers sits on a white saucer. A glass of water is also visible. The background shows a large window with a view of a city skyline, framed by green and yellow leaves. The text "A Few Bitter Brews" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font, and "Amy Chung" is overlaid in white, sans-serif font below it.

A Few Bitter Brews

Amy Chung

Logline

When a recently heartbroken romance author is stricken with writer's block, she attends a speed dating event to conduct character research but is thrown off by a man who she fears could break her heart.



Michael Hague's Synopsis Template

A Few Bitter Brews is a Romance film about Harper, an independent – and recently cheated on – 27-year-old romance author who attends a round-robin speed dating event at her friend's local café, wanting to conduct character research for her next novel, and subsequently, dig herself out of an unexpected case of writer's block. When Harper is first coupled up with Miles, she finds herself face to face with the embodiment of the "nice guy", the kind of man that had broken her heart just a few months before. Refusing to let Miles' go-lucky persona be the kind of character research she gains from the dating event, Harper acts cold in hopes that he is deterred and does not want to interact with her for the rest of the afternoon. But when her blunt attitude does not scare him off but instead is met with Miles' challenging conversation and witty remarks in the following rounds of the speed date, she slowly notices herself blushing and wanting his endearing conversation to continue. Harper, amongst sitting through the round robin of unique personalities and archetypes, must now figure out if Miles is someone more than his guy-next-door exterior or if he is just a carbon-copy of the person who left her heartbroken before by dropping her guard, in spite of the fact that he could hurt her just as much – or even more.

Why I Chose To Write About This Topic



- I love watching Romance and Romantic Comedy Films.
- I knew I needed to have mainly 1 setting to achieve the scope required for a short film.
- I think speed dating is a very interesting concept and I think the quick pace of plot could make for a unique film.

Character Bio: Harper



Harper is a 27-year-old successful Australian romance author. She stands at 5'6 and has always been quite attractive with her curly brown hair and glowing skin, donning a simpler – more casual – wardrobe. Harper grew up in a middle class household surrounded by a lot of love, something that contributed to her being a romantic at heart. As a romance author, Harper noticed that the stories she wrote were best when she could visualise the love, so she wrote about the couples that she knew and, many times, she wrote about the relationships she was in. Having just found out she was being cheated on, Harper was heartbroken and alone, leading her to turn to her work, however she found that as she was trying to come up with characters, she was drawing a blank. After informing her friends about her writer's block, her friend Tara insists that she come to a speed dating event she is holding at the café she owns. Harper agrees but only with the intention of gaining research for her next novel's characters.

Character Bio: Miles



Miles is a 30-year-old human resources manager for a pharmaceutical company in Australia. Miles grew up with parents that worked long hours, leaving him to his own devices almost every day. Though he often felt quite lonely with no parents and no siblings around, he grew up incredibly grateful for the things in his life that he did have. His childhood also made Miles a person that always tried to see the best in people, like he had always tried to see the best in his parents. Despite his conventional good looks Miles has had a lot of trouble finding love, and entering his 30s, his longing for romance has grown stronger. Having tried – and failed – at dating apps, Miles decides to give speed dating a go and try to find the love that he wishes for.

Wants and Needs

Harper

Wants:

- To collect research for characters in her next novel
- To figure out if Miles is actually a good guy

Needs:

- To open herself up to the possibility of love
- To fall for Miles (the kind of guy that will stick by her)

Miles

Wants:

- To find a romantic partner
- To get to know what Harper is really like (see the best in her) and get her to like him

Needs:

- To let himself be helped by others

Ghosts (Functional Backstory)

From Childhood:

When her parents unexpectedly divorced when she was 16, Harper felt blindsided, thinking they were always the picture perfect example for a love she wanted to have in the future. Instead of letting their split get the best of her and ruin the idea of romance, Harper instead decided to devote her life to showcasing great examples of love – kicking off her career as a romance author.

Current:

Harper had been dating Jacob, a clean-cut man she had met and bonded with at her local library. Having been drawn to his “nice guy” persona, Harper was shocked to find that after 6 months of dating he was still receiving and sending texts to other girls on many dating apps.

Other Characters

Main Characters:

Harper: *Protagonist*

Miles: *Love Interest*

Tara: *Best Friend, Herald*

Female Speed Date Characters:

Pippa: *The Introvert*

Katie: *The Life of the Party*

Sheryl: *The Divorcee*

Lena: *The Fish out of Water*

Elle: *The Friend*

Male Speed Date Characters:

Mark: *The Interrogator*

Ethan: *The Elite*

Jason: *The Mama's Boy*

Will: *The Joker*

Tom: *The Nerves*

Harper's Character Arc

Beginning:

In the beginning of the film Harper has been torn down by her break up with her boyfriend, making her unable to do her job due to writer's block. Her break up has caused her to be closed off to the idea of love and has made her put up a guard between herself and people that remind her of her ex.

End:

At the end of the film Harper has put down her guard and allowed Miles to see the person she really is. She has pushed away her prejudice against the "nice guy" archetype and is able to walk out of the café with her heart full and her mind racing with ideas for her next novel.

Character Archetypes

Harper:

The Librarian

- Leads with her head
- Passionate
- Thinks she has all the answers
- Can be a bit stubborn

Tortured Artist:

- Displays constant torment due to frustrations with art

Miles:

Boy Next Door:

- Average nice guy
- Does everything right

McCoy:

- Cares for others deeply
- Does the right thing, no matter the situation
- Sees the best in others

Genre

The Romance genre encompasses films about love stories, or affairs of the heart that centre on the passion, emotion, and affectionate involvement of the main characters.

This film could also fall under the Romantic Comedy genre.



Where To Now?

- I still feel like I need to fine tune the connection between Harper and Miles to make it more realistic.
- I need to make the conclusion of my story more clear.
- I think I would like to include more input from Tara throughout the film.
- The scope of the film is getting quite big so I may need to eliminate some extra characters or adjust the plot slightly.
- I need to research more about Harper's archetype.

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Thank You
Any Questions?