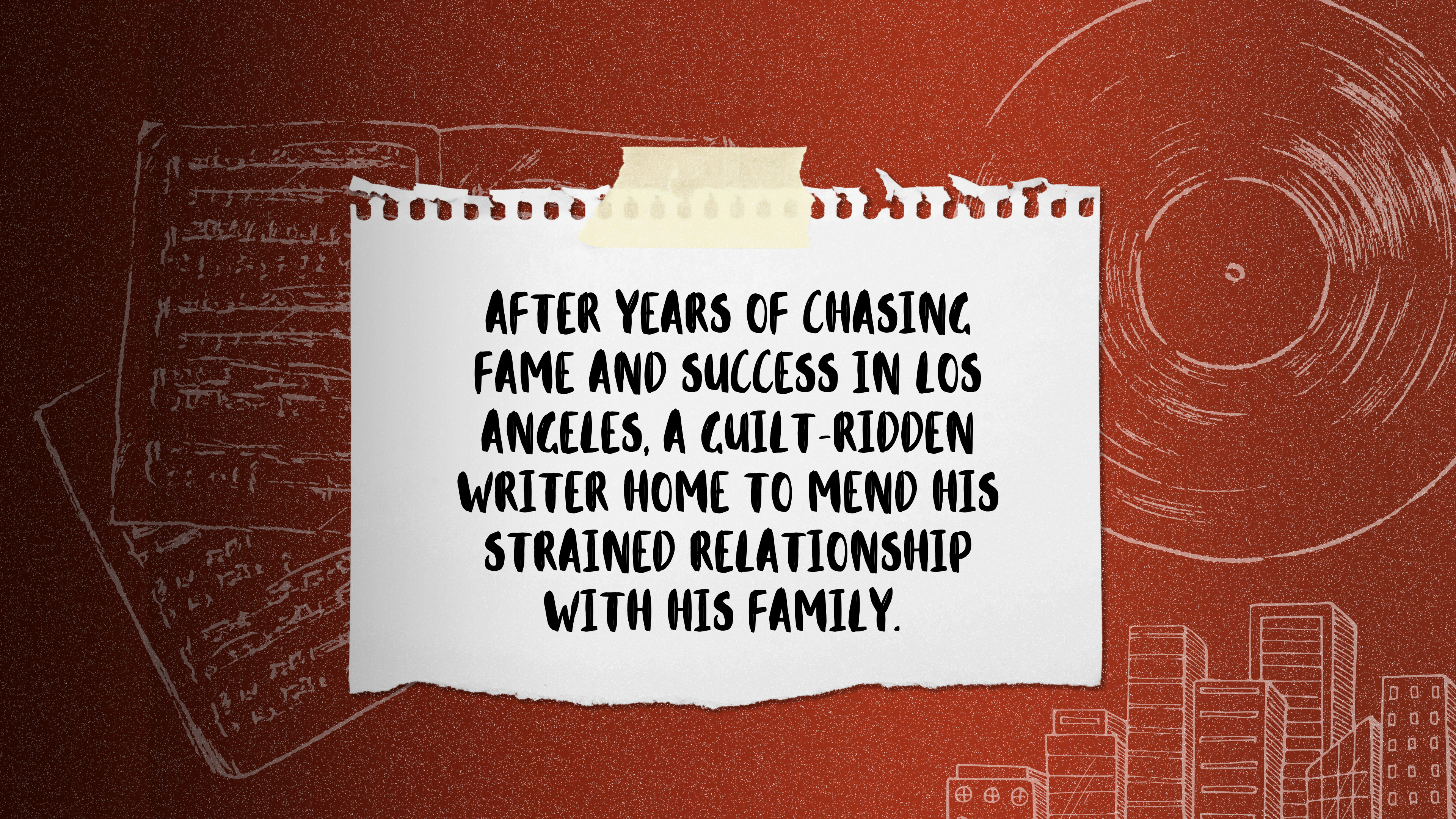


sweet

like

mango

VICTORIA J. SMITH



**AFTER YEARS OF CHASING
FAME AND SUCCESS IN LOS
ANGELES, A GUILT-RIDDEN
WRITER HOME TO MEND HIS
STRAINED RELATIONSHIP
WITH HIS FAMILY.**

SYNOPSIS

Sweet Like Mango tells the redemption story of a career-driven writer, Yuri. After moving to LA at a young age, he becomes consumed by his career, moving forward to success but simultaneously distancing himself from the family he left back home. With growing tension between him and his sister, Yolanda, he decides to move back home. However, he finds he has bonds to build not just with his sister, but also his niece Dee, whom he finds a very special connection with. As Dee discovers her voice through her art, Yuri longs to encourage her. Yolanda, however, blinded by the sibling's past does not approve. An upcoming open mic night brings the three together and shows them forgiveness is the first step in healing.

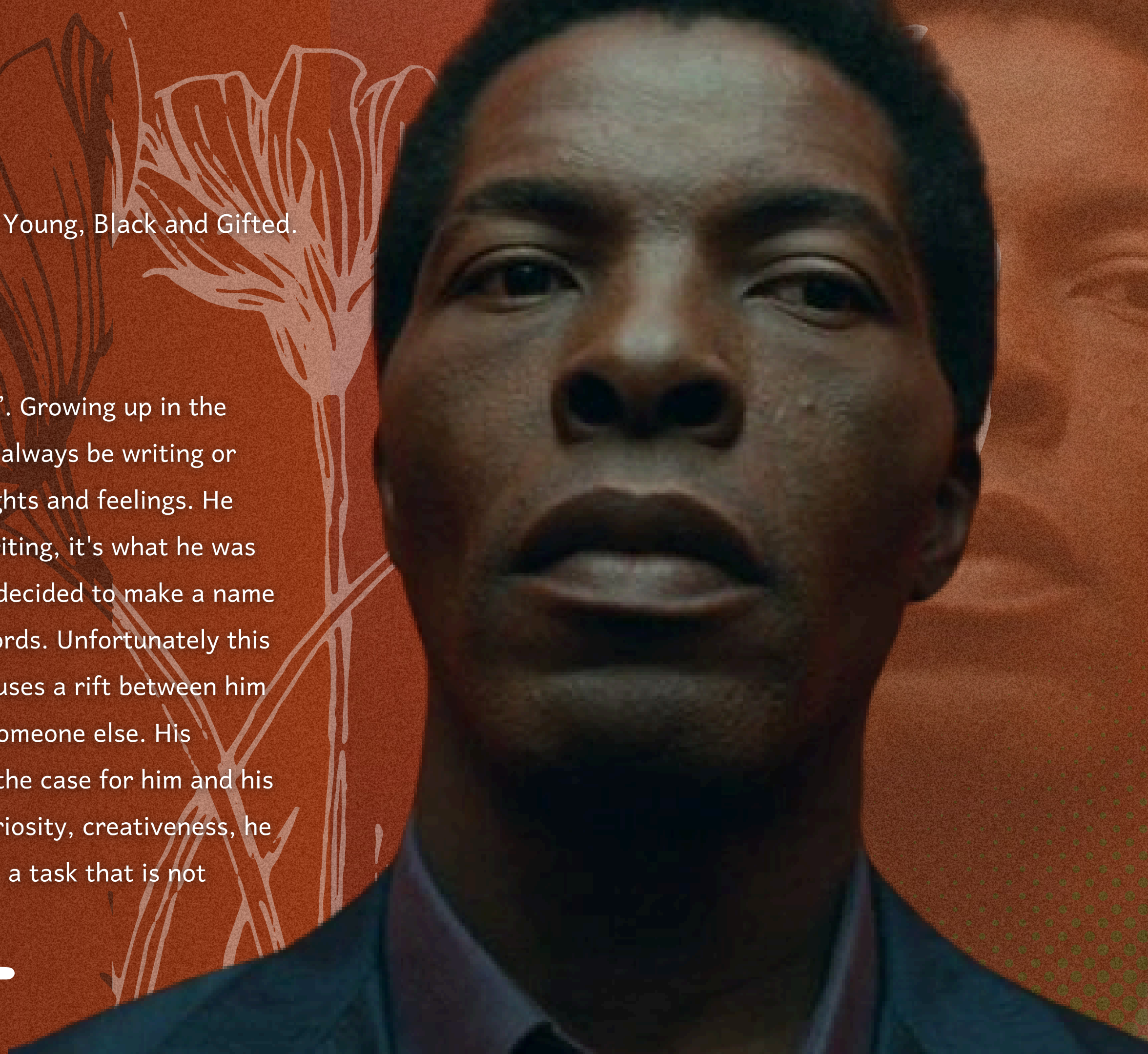


CHARACTERS

YURI

(26) Young, Black and Gifted.

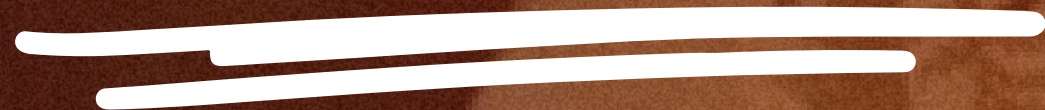
From birth Yuri's head has always dwelled "in the clouds". Growing up in the shadow of his extraverted, brilliant older sister he would always be writing or reading. He writes down everything about his inner thoughts and feelings. He couldn't imagine pursuing any other career other than writing, it's what he was created to do. He moved out to LA after high school and decided to make a name for himself. He becomes a successful writer for Kyza Records. Unfortunately this opportunity came at the cost of his time energy which causes a rift between him and his family. Again he finds himself in the shadows of someone else. His relationship with his sister might be tense but that's not the case for him and his niece Dee in which he sees a lot of himself. That same curiosity, creativeness, he wants to foster it and encourage it and be a better uncle, a task that is not received well by Yolanda.



YOLANDA

(36) Outgoing. Doesn't take mess from nobody.

Her whole life she has been forced to protect and care for other people in her life. When she was little it was her brother, then as a teen mom it was her child, and for most of her adult life it was her parents. She works to the bone as a nurse at a nursing home, the same one her mother has been at for several years. At times she was tied down by her little brother "If you're gonna go take Yuri with you" She stays on the straight and narrow until a certain 90's fine young man walks into her life and leaves her with the biggest change in her life: a baby. She lets her guard down once in her life and she is left with the biggest responsibility as a human being. As a single mom, her and her mom raised the child. In a way she had experience from looking after Yuri for so long. After the rift between her and her brother deepens, she views his absence as ungratefulness. Deep down underneath her tough exterior she's a nurturer. She has this armor because she has to in order to survive and get through life challenges.



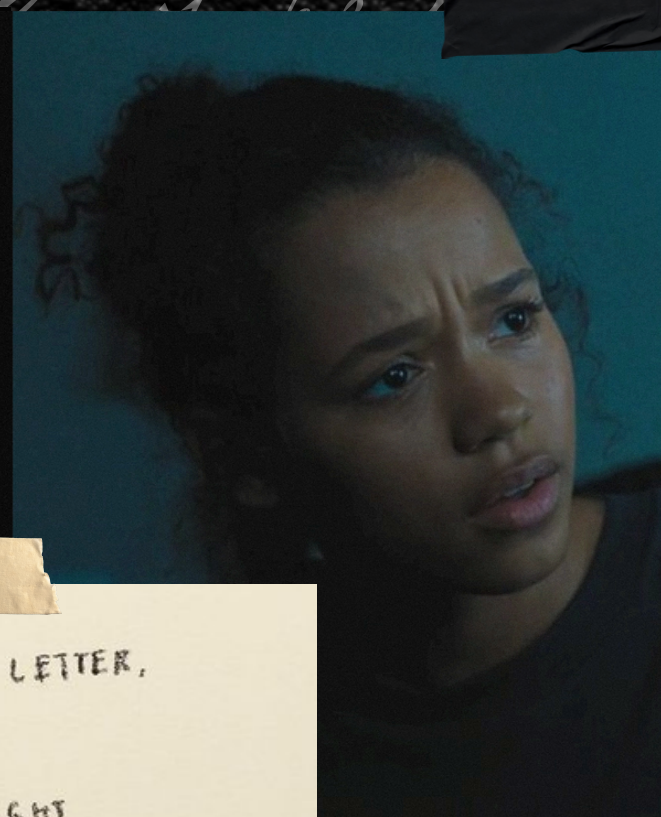
DEE

(16) Bright. Misunderstood.

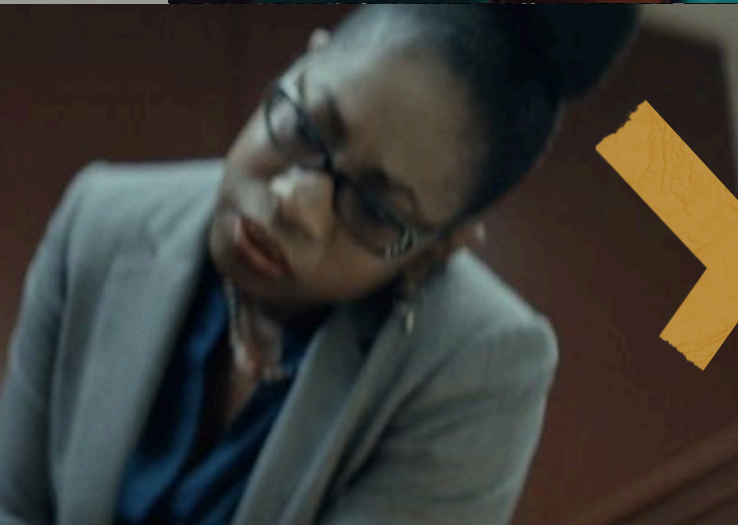
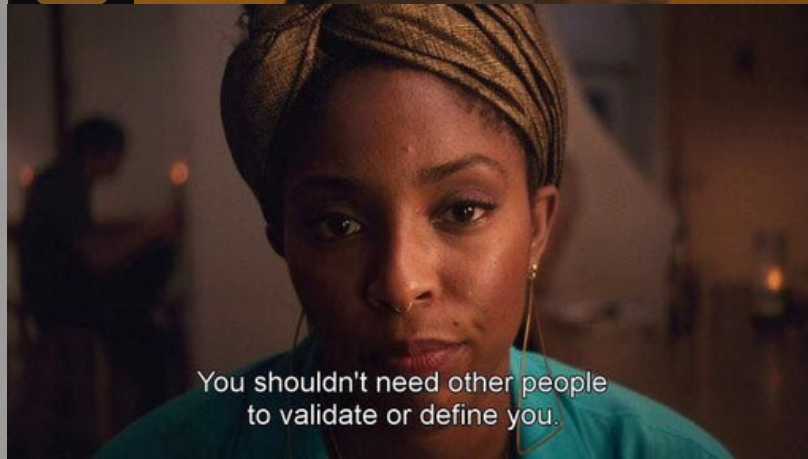
Dee's whole life she's only known school, church, and home. Nothing in between, mostly due to her mother's strict disciplinary methods and partly due to her introverted nature. Why go out when you can stay in and be transported into another world through literature? Although this sacred time is where her happy place lies, this path is incredibly isolating for her. Her "friends" are whoever happens to sit at her empty lunch table and after school. As Dee enters her "rebellious" phase she has potential to be great and uses art to channel it. Yuri is the only person Dee has that remotely resembles a father-figure and she feels seen when he's around. She idolizes "Cool" Uncle Yuri and doesn't completely understand why her mom doesn't talk to him anymore.



THE MOOD



I WROTE YOU A LETTER,
~~SO~~ I MIGHT
NEVER SEND IT.



DIRECTORS STATEMENT

This film is based off of a quote that my grandmother told me a few years ago, “If you're sour like a lemon people will stay away from you and isolate you. But if you're too sweet like a mango, people will take advantage of you and chew you down to the seed.”

So with that in my mind I wanted to explore a complicated family dynamic where circumstances and behavior create distance between the characters, not only figuratively but physically. That long distance aspect, and the strain that puts on a relationship. But I also wanted to know where someone is trying to mend a relationship that already seems broken beyond repair. Yuri wants to do better and encourage his niece, who he sees a lot of himself in, to follow her gifts and her dreams. But Yolanda is resistant to this, and doesn't want Dee to follow down the same path, because she's been burned before.

I want people to walk away from this film and immediately want to hug their loved ones. This movie is about cherishing time and memories. Sometimes life gets in the way but I want this film to help show people not to not take moments for granted.

**WITH LOVE,
VICTORIA J. SMITH**

