

the
Fantastical
After-School
WRITING
Club



A woman with dark hair, wearing a colorful floral dress, stands in a classroom setting. She is gesturing with her hands, one pointing upwards and the other open, as if she is teaching or presenting. The background shows a chalkboard and desks with books.

Logline

Taeyeon is horrified when she finds herself co-teaching an after-school writing class with her college nemesis, Yongjin. Little does she realize that the worst is yet to come.

They're in for a wild ride when they get sucked into a novel written by 8-year-olds, where absurdity becomes reality!

Comps



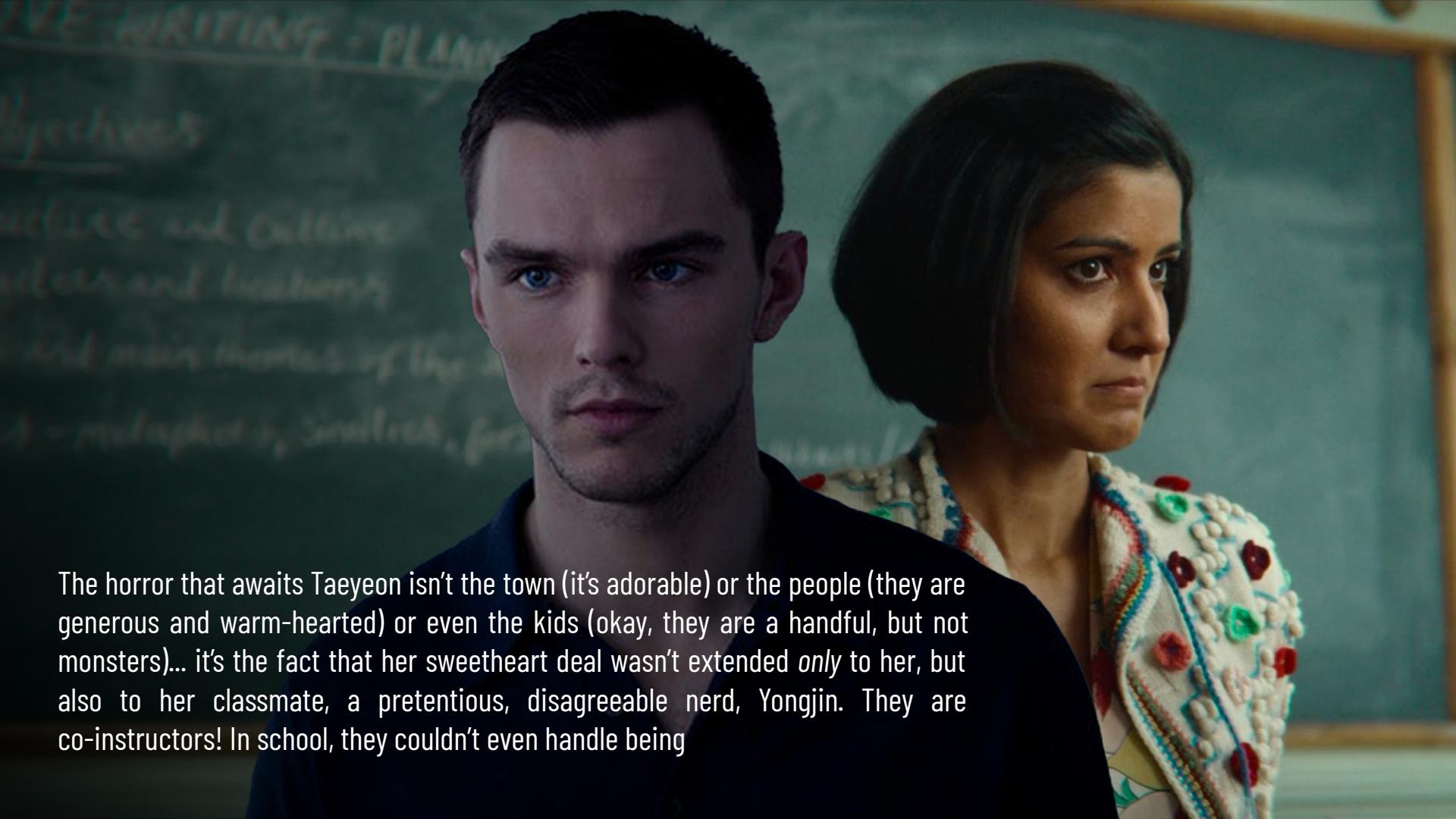
Like SHMIGADOON or AFTER PARTY, this comedic series would use genre conventions and tropes to propel a fanciful enemies-to-lovers romance as our two leads try to learn HOW AND WHY this town is forcing them into a fictional reality. There is more here than the town lets on!

THE CONCEPT

Taeyeon is a recent grad from a big city teaching college who has been offered a sweet deal - triple a normal starting salary (plus room and board) to teach elementary English in a remote town tucked away in the mountains. Sure, it's gonna be weird living in a place where she can't go shopping for designer clothes, but at least she'll be able to afford them by the end of the semester! Not something most beginner teachers can say.

For Taeyeon, even being a teacher is temporary, as her real ambitions are to become the biggest selling novelist in history. So she can put up with almost anything on her journey to fame and fortune - even some precocious eight year olds raised in the sticks.





The horror that awaits Taeyeon isn't the town (it's adorable) or the people (they are generous and warm-hearted) or even the kids (okay, they are a handful, but not monsters)... it's the fact that her sweetheart deal wasn't extended *only* to her, but also to her classmate, a pretentious, disagreeable nerd, Yongjin. They are co-instructors! In school, they couldn't even handle being



They are co-instructors! In school, they couldn't even handle being in the same literary criticism class together, because it turned into a *criticism of each other* class, forcing the school to separate them.

How will they now collaborate? They'll need to find a way in order to keep those sweet paychecks coming, no matter how much they hate each other!

As is tradition in the school, the students spend the semester writing a RELAY NOVEL. Each student has one day to add a section to the novel, then passes it to the next student the next day to add their section.

But our leads butt heads explaining the assignment. The students need to find protagonists, a setting, and a source of conflict. Well, conflict abounds between these two newbie teachers so the students decide to "cast" them as the romantic leads in their creative work of fiction! The teachers don't love it, but they'll go along for the ride –

– until the first scene is written and the teachers discover they are LIVING IT!



So begins THE FANTASTICAL AFTER-SCHOOL WRITING CLUB, a half-hour comedy full of imagination and romance!

Each episode consists of objective reality (two teachers who hate each other) and an intrusion of "novel reality", where they are forced to be romantic leads.

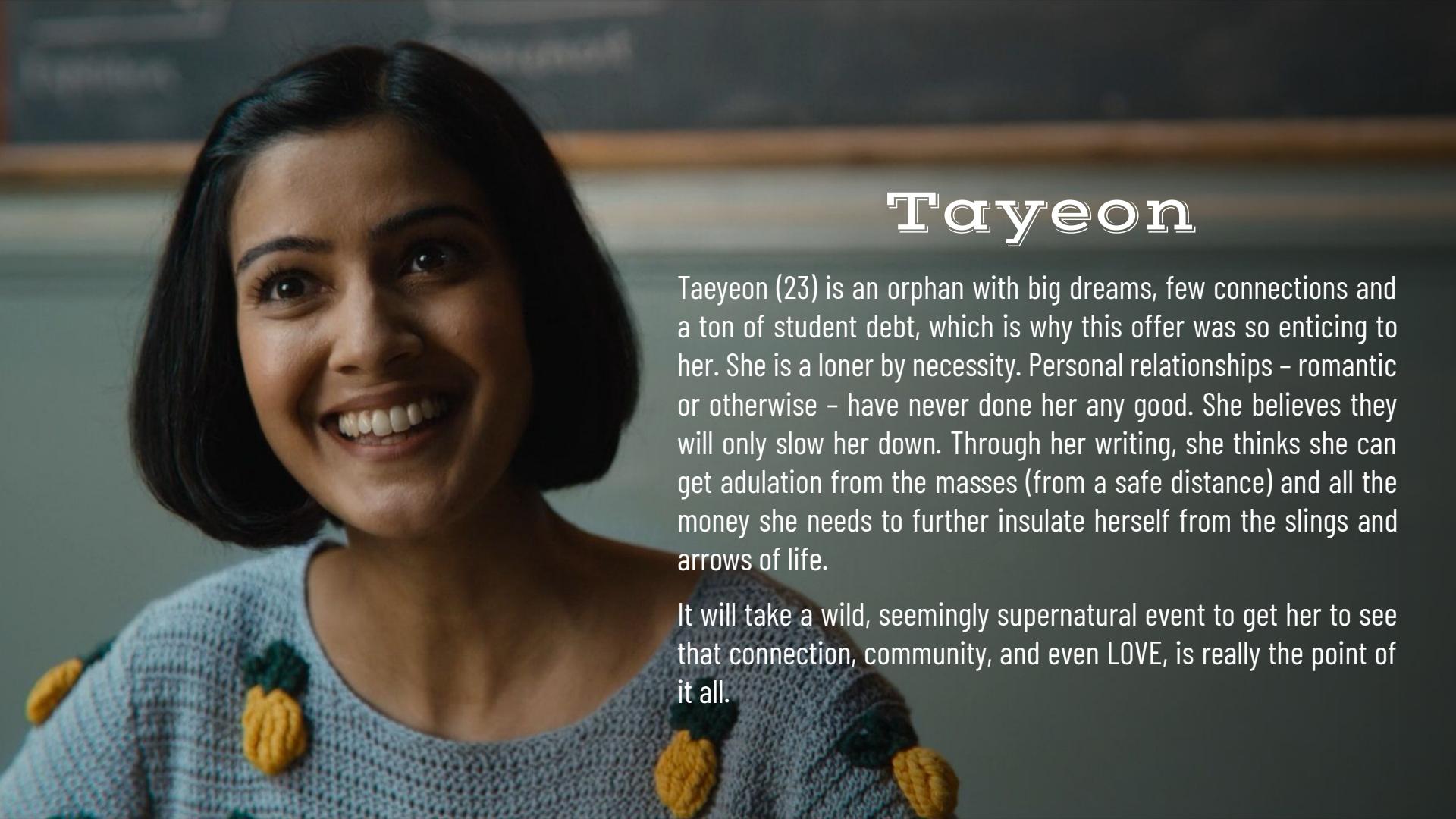
The "novel world" consists of riffs on popular genres (as refracted by a child's perspective)

Each episode is "authored" by a different kid, and each "author" can do whatever they want, forcing our leads to play along.

Our leads are forced to navigate a new reality and roll with the punches.

When the child writing that episode's chapter closes the novel, our leads go back to an objective reality

Any physical injury suffered in the novel world carries over to objective reality.



Taeyeon

Taeyeon (23) is an orphan with big dreams, few connections and a ton of student debt, which is why this offer was so enticing to her. She is a loner by necessity. Personal relationships – romantic or otherwise – have never done her any good. She believes they will only slow her down. Through her writing, she thinks she can get adulation from the masses (from a safe distance) and all the money she needs to further insulate herself from the slings and arrows of life.

It will take a wild, seemingly supernatural event to get her to see that connection, community, and even LOVE, is really the point of it all.



Yongjin

Yongjin (24) is from a strict family that valued culture and education above all else. He grew up a misfit, bullied by "regular" kids. He became an elitist as a kind of armor against bullies, but it had the effect of removing him from all of life, keeping him isolated in his ivory tower.

While in school, Taeyon was antagonistic towards Yongjin. He's a know-it-all who cherishes inscrutable novels. Taeyeon thinks success=value, so she hated "snobs" like Yongjin. In truth, she lacked the patiences to decipher Yongjin's heros, spending most of her time reading trashy, trope-filled ebooks, webfiction and even some fanfic. And that's when she was reading and not watching TV. So part of the fun of the show is Taeyeon having a deep understanding of some of the tropes the "world of the novel" plunges our leads into, while Yongjin is oblivious. She, of course, find it embarrassing to admit why she has such deep knowledge of these cornball tropes.

Ironically, it will be her knowledge of trash culture that gets Yongjin to admit that a lot of his highbrow taste is really just rooted in alienation from pop culture. The more time he spends with Taeyeon, the more he understands, and the more he starts to fall for this hard-to-love girl.

Dobong Ko

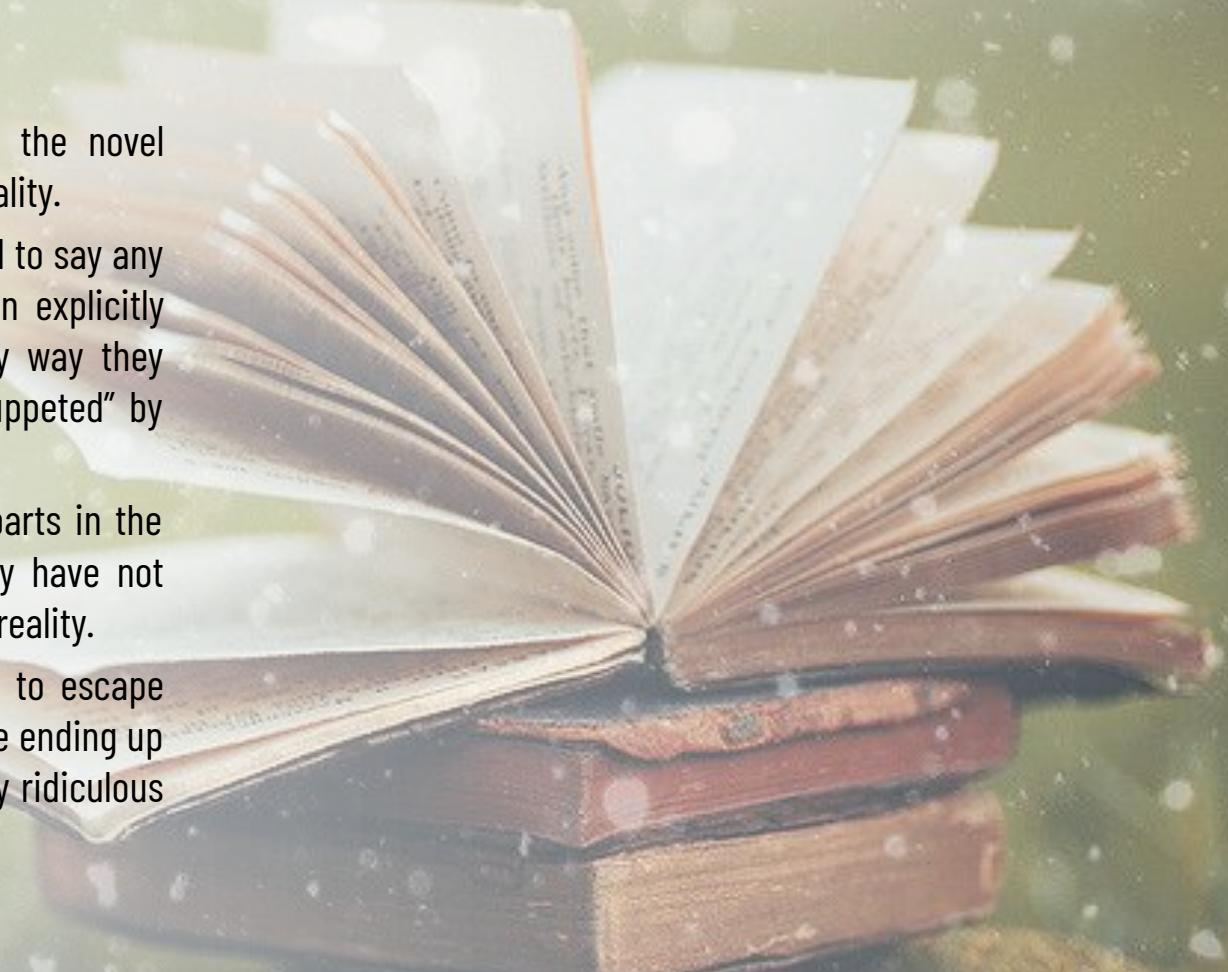
Dobong Ko - The Mayor's 20 year old son, who was living in Southern California. He is hunky - a romance novel lead come to life. He proves very distracting to Taeyeon, even though they have nothing in common. In fact, as the most free of free spirits, it's comedically ambiguous if he's interested in Taeyeon or Yongjin or both or neither! He's the perfect third side of any romantic triangle the kids (especially those who've seen *Heartstopper*) want to formulate.

Eventually, however, Taeyeon may learn she's developed more appreciation for Yongjin's depth than she would originally admit. Even an Adonis can get kind of dull if all he talks about is surfing.



The Rules

- Any physical injury suffered in the novel world carries over to objective reality.
- In the novel world, our leads need to say any line of dialog or take any action explicitly written, but are free to act any way they want when they aren't being "puppeted" by the text.
- Townsfolk play all of the other parts in the story, but, unlike our leads, they have not recollection of being in the novel reality.
- In objective reality, any attempt to escape the town or discover why they are ending up in the novel reality is thwarted by ridiculous circumstance.





Why Now?

Every story (besides fueling the humor and the love story) is also a window into the soul of one of the kids.

Taeyeon and Yongjin are both selfish and self-obsessed in their own ways.

Each episode forces them to confront why a kid would write the story a specific way, and motivate them to intercede to help the kid navigate some difficult emotional terrain.

Eventually, Taeyeon and Yongjin start seeing not only the humanity in each other, but also see the humanity in all of the people in the town.

To be clear: this is a HARD JOKE, WILD, IRREVERENT, REALITY-WARPING show with a DEEPLY CYNICAL lead character, but it is ultimately in the service of having that character (and, in fact, all the characters) discover EMPATHY.

And, in a social media-obsessed, deeply divided world, couldn't we all benefit from a forced perspective shift?

Students - Child actors are expensive and difficult, so we'll keep our key cast focused on three 8 year olds and a one of the student's older sister (cast as an adult).ance

- A "poor little rich girl", who's mother left and who's father always works
- A girl who's mom is remarrying, forcing her to contend with a blended family
- A boy who thinks this entire assignment is "yucky" and is here to seed chaos
- The high school student who will add more adult themes to this kid's-eye-view of romance

A wide-angle, nighttime photograph of a snowy mountain town. The town is densely packed with houses and buildings, many of which are illuminated from within, casting a warm glow. The streets are also lit, creating a network of bright lines against the dark night sky. The town is nestled in a valley, with snow-covered mountains rising steeply in the background. The foreground is a slope covered in snow, with some trees visible. The overall atmosphere is one of a quiet, cozy community in a beautiful, rugged setting.

Townsfolk - Dobong, the town mayor, the principal, the other teachers and the parents of the children serve to build out the larger community. They have their own web of relationships – they are brothers and sisters, cousins, aunts, uncles and grandparents. Then, as our characters learn more, they see who are lovers, exes, rivals and more – whole Peyton Place boiling under the surface of respectable citizens.

The one thing these townsfolk have in common is a secret as to how the Relay Novel is possible...

THE WORLD OF THE RELAY NOVEL

The real fun of the show is when our leads are plunged into fictional worlds.

Here are some worlds explored in the comic:



Period Romance, such as...

BRIDGERTON



Office Romance, such as...

A promotional image for the 2015 Disney live-action film 'Cinderella'. The scene is set in a grand, ornate ballroom with a high ceiling and a large, curved staircase. In the foreground, a woman in a light blue, voluminous gown with a silver sequined bodice and a large white bow in her hair is looking back over her shoulder. She is wearing a silver tiara and long, dangling earrings. Behind her, a man in a dark, patterned velvet jacket and a white shirt is looking up at her with a surprised expression. The lighting is dramatic, with warm, glowing light fixtures in the background.

Fairytales, such as...

Disney

CINDERELLA

Daytime soaps, such as...

GENERAL HOSPITAL



THE WORLD OF THE RELAY NOVEL

The real fun of the show is when our leads are plunged into fictional worlds.

Here are some worlds to be explored in the show:

A romantic couple is shown in a close embrace, looking into each other's eyes. They are standing in a city street at night, with warm, out-of-focus Christmas lights creating a festive background.

 **Hallmark**
Christmas Romance



Raunchy Rom-Coms, such as...

KNOCKED UP

A promotional image for the movie Mr. & Mrs. Smith. It features a man (Will Smith) and a woman (Angelina Jolie) in a dynamic pose, running towards the viewer through a field of fire. The man is in the foreground, looking over his shoulder, while the woman is slightly behind him. In the background, a helicopter flies across a dark sky. The overall atmosphere is intense and action-oriented.

Steamy Action Movies, such as...

Mr. & Mrs. Smith



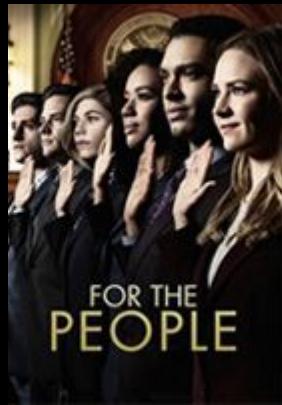
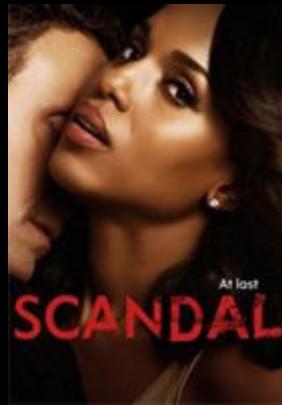
The

BACHELORETTE



...and other Reality Dating shows!

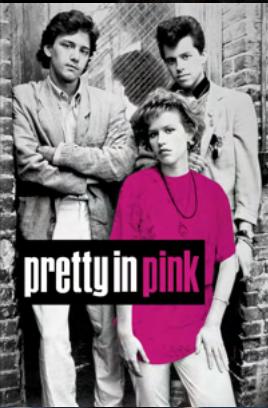
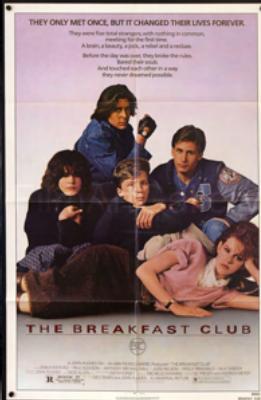
Soapy procedural network shows, such as...



A shirtless cowboy wearing a wide-brimmed cowboy hat and a striped button-down shirt is leaning against a dark wooden fence. He is looking down at his chest. In the background, there is a scenic landscape with snow-capped mountains, a red barn, a pink pickup truck, and several horses grazing in a field. The overall atmosphere is rustic and romantic.

Cowboy romance novels

80's Teen Movies, such as...



Tropey,
contemporary
romance
novels
featuring
love
triangles
and
more

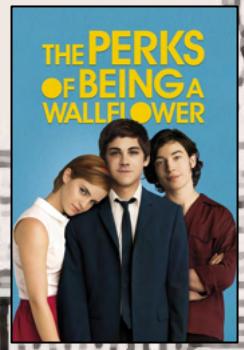




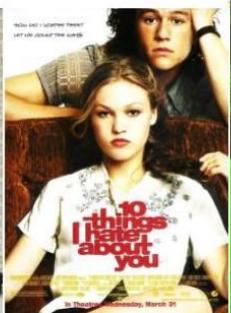
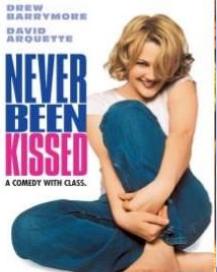
ENRIS
1990

Classic "bodice ripper"
romance novels

Indie film romance, such as...



Theatrical rom-coms, such as...



the
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CLICK HERE TO READ THE
WEBCOMIC ON MANTA