

Jeff: little interaction with parents
Bonding to Tim and Buff as family
Opposite of Sooze, introspective vs. extroverted
“What course of action should I take?”
Has to plan, unlike other characters who tend to be more impulsive
More in love with Sooze than Sooze is with Jeff, dependent on her, always the one to stop fights and avoid conflict
Not bold enough/charismatic enough to make people listen when he needs to talk
Gets petty cash from job packing boxes, recently quit
Doesn't really have too many expensive, relies a lot on Christmas presents for clothes and such, cheap clothes
Not very independent; doesn't stay at house often, but doesn't have a place of his own
Not involved with family, but crashes there, uses dad's car, sneaks out with girlfriend.
In between high school and adult relationship with parents, partly because he can't get through college
Had good enough grades for 4-year university, but no motivation or steering from parents
Dad was first in family to go to college, not really an expectation
Kind of constrained by lack of life/career of his own

Buff: Arnold Douglas McCloud
Favorite color is red, moved to Burnfield in 6th grade (dad got transferred for factory job)
Beat up in 5th grade by a 4th grade girl (Emily Vandierez in Florida)
Loves disgusting food, but favorite is homemade spaghetti with meatballs
Keeps tons of condoms in wallet, drinks beer before working out, not drink much water
Secretly trying to quit smoking, uncle just died of lung cancer
Birthday in January
Doesn't really read, but tries newspaper puzzles

Norman: born in Karachi
Father: business man, owns several internet cafes
Eldest brother was arrested (not wealthy cousin), has seen sense, is still in prison
Wanted to be comic book artist when grew up, but helped father with business after secondary school
Took some night classes in Southhall before incident at the shop
Taking some classes at Carver Community, but transferring to state
Injured as child in moped accident in Karachi, broken leg never fully healed
Has been trying to quit smoking with no success for two years
Loves KFC

Pakeesa: From Karachi (very big and modernized city)
Reluctant to follow brother, but something happened to parents, so didn't have choice
Very bitter, mainly because she is 20 years old, and spent many later teenage years working behind the counter in the convenience store, which explains hatred of teenagers: living it up, and stupid
Character is younger than Hui Ying
Continues to wear traditional Pakistani dress, despite time in US

Pony: Neil Patrick Moynihan

Pony is mixture of first and last name

Parents were significantly more involved in life than most others in show, successful
Dad was an electrical engineer, Mother had success with flute before marriage, was stay-at-home

First taste of music from mother at early age, some piano and sax before guitar clicked

Practices a lot

Does not visit parents, with whom he was so close, but friends instead

Had falling out with folks when worked toward band instead of going to college; parents did not support “throwing away his life”, so have not quite made amends despite success

Used to hang out with this crowd, but was more of the ‘tag-along’

Closer with Sooze than with anyone else

Originally from Burnfield, 2-story colonial

Bee-bee: Elizabeth Bernice Douglas

Doesn't mind being ignored

Just wants a couple good friends, but the people in this parking lot aren't them

More to her than she lets on, not really willing to open up

The people here (other than Sooze) aren't worth it, don't want to understand

Comes from lower income background, thinks these people are throwing things away

Wants to go into a medical field

Parents don't talk to her much, want to be a bit protective (has lots of potential)

Don't see that these kids who she is hanging out with are not really her crowd

Sooze leaving takes away last person who has confidence in her

Has a deep connection to Sooze, so loss of Sooze is the last straw

Serious depression: no real reason for something to be wrong, just in a hole, repetition

Sooze: Susan Christine Daniels

NOT Susan, Sue, or Suzy

21; older sister is 28. Mikey was 4 years older than her, 15 when he died

Dad left shortly thereafter, and sister got out of the house around the same time

Ended up with just her mom. A lot of people forgot about Sooze, made her own way

Artsy girl, painted in the art room in free time

Outgoing, but it's a front. Jeff doesn't know extent, would be more supportive if he did

Bee-bee knows, but talked to Neil more

Been at home taking care of mom, started at community college

Mattress on the floor, stacks of books by bed, Vagina Monologues

Mr. Brooks has been inspiring her to get out, recent turn, newfound energy with new door

Finally learning that her mom is her problem, makes mistakes too, can judge her on an adult level and say “you don't know how to handle life any more than I do”

Not being selfish, but separating mother's life from her own. Crossroad energizing her

Everyone in high school knew and liked (think Juno, kind of hipster)

Jeff: lots of tension, quick to fight, complacent area. Was ok with being stuck, isn't

anymore, and Jeff is scared by this change. She also has blinders on, and doesn't see

Jeff's point of view on her new escape. Expects him to give in, but eventually just can't deal with him anymore.

Pony: hadn't thought about him until he called, had just been 'that guy' who wasn't a threat, nice guy friend. Starts out curious, doesn't know what to make up it. Not starstruck or jealous, wouldn't say 'impressed', but genuinely happy that he got his dream. Hasn't thought about relationship until they start talking.

Sooze runs the finances in her house, shops at thrift stores

Has enough money and doesn't have to ask for it, but financial burden of paying bills, so won't waste it

More classes at Carver Community College than Jeff, but stays home for now for mother

Tim:

Dad was most important person in his life, was in Vietnam, inspired the pilot dream

"I want to be the best", "I'm not gutless" → wants to prove himself

Wants to seem not gutless, but is cowardly because of childhood traumas

That leads him to the army, which destroys him again

Slowly killing himself, too afraid to kill himself actively, so drinking and smoking is passively destroying himself

Mind no longer as sharp as it used to be, already lost

Asking Norman to kill him = gutless, hoping someone else will do the job for him

Still lives with his parents, but very independent

Parents never really took care of him

Tries to keep room tidy, but is destroying self so much that army-like organization that he likes is no longer possible

Clothing nice but already worn out, dark colors, hiding himself

Not moving much, nothing happening in his head, void, which is what allows him to be so impulsive

Accumulates energy, explodes, then falls down into depression, kind of bi-polar

Totally independent, totally separate from parents, receives pension and disability