

PITCHING A TV SHOW

Eileen Chang

June 2020



HOW TO PITCH A TV SHOW IN THREE EASY STEPS

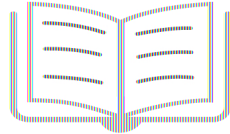
1

COME UP WITH AN ORIGINAL IDEA

CREATE AN ORIGINAL IDEA THAT
WILL HAVE LONGEVITY AS A
MULTI-SEASON TV SHOW.



DEVELOP THE IDEA



CONSTRUCT A PITCH
CONTAINING EVERYTHING
YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE
CONCEPT, INCLUDING A SEASON

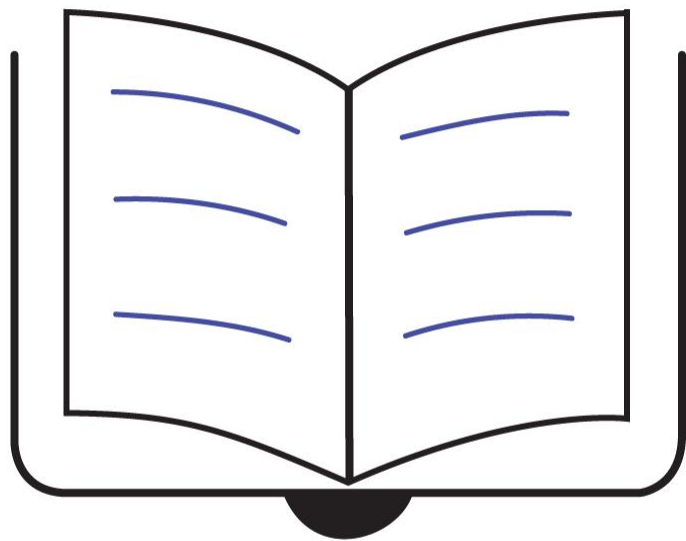
3

PITCH THE IDEA

BE CONFIDENT SO THE NETWORK
WILL KNOW WHY YOUR TV SHOW
IS WORTHWHILE AND SHOULD BE
PICKED UP!







A THOUSAND MILES

it seems pretty far.

Series Bible by Eileen Chang
June 2020

AT A GLANCE

After meeting at a party in Chicago, a struggling songwriter falls in love with someone who happens to live miles away from him – all in a single night.



THE BIGGER PICTURE

Based off the 2006 hit song, "Hey There Delilah" by Plain White T's, *A Thousand Miles* is a thirty-minute episodic romantic drama about a long distance romance between Ollie, a struggling songwriter in Chicago, and Delilah, a college student in New York City.

The series explores these two's 21st century love story as they navigate the ins and outs of a long distance relationship. It details the journey of Ollie's unrequited love that is capable of travelling a thousand miles until he gets that love in return. With this long distance relationship, comes learning how to understand one another and to trust one another. The lovers must learn to navigate all the hardships in their individual lives as well as the addition of a developing love story.

One of the biggest themes of the series explores is human connection. In a digital world, it is easy to feel connected yet alone at the same time. *A Thousand Miles* dives into the need for human connection every person needs in their lives, especially during early adulthood. It explores what it means to make real life connections with real life people in the online world.

CHARACTERS

OLIVER "OLLIE" BEAMONT is a 22 year-old singer songwriter living in Chicago. He is tall and has curly hair. He is skinny, leaning on the side of underweight. He is always dressed casually, like a struggling musician, which he is.

He dropped out of school at age 19 to focus on his music career that has failed to pick up for the past three years. On the surface, he keeps to himself and his close circle of friends and always keeps his cool. But deep down, he feels that he doesn't have anyone and that he feels alone. He writes music as a form of escapism, but at the end of the day, the lack of publicity in his career reinforces that feeling of loneliness.

Ollie feels like he's stuck in one place until he meets Delilah. To him, Delilah is his muse. She is the spark that Ollie needs in his life. After meeting her, he dedicates all his time to try to win her heart with what he knows best, music.

DELILAH CONTE is a 21 year-old student at Columbia University. She is currently working on earning her degree in psychology in New York.

Delilah is very charming. While not the most popular kid in school, she is known by many and always keeps good company. She has a big heart and genuinely cares for everyone she meets. She comes off as strong and independent, but deep down, she has always wanted a special person she can always depend on.

DREW MIRCHOFF is a 22 year-old student at the University of Chicago studying Chemistry and is Ollie's roommate. He is incredibly intelligent and always has since he was young. He is finishing college soon and already has jobs lined up to support his career into chemistry. He is very headstrong and always knows what he wants. He has been Ollie's best friend since childhood. The two have always been inseparable as long as they have been friends, but lately things have been changing.

KAI FOSTER is a 20 year-old student at Columbia University studying English. They are very outgoing and friendly. Sometimes, they have a habit of caring only about themselves and not others, making them unreliable at times. Delilah and them were roommates as freshman and have been best friends since.

PILOT

"INSPIRATION"

The episode starts off with Ollie sitting on his bed with his guitar. He is strumming his guitar while humming a tune. His phone is screenside up on his bedside dresser. He looks out his bedroom window as the camera pans down to the city below triggering a flashback to the night Ollie and Delilah first met.

The flashback takes place about a week prior at a Chicago party. Ollie and his friends, Thomas and Joey, are standing with each other away from the main party. They are holding drinks and joking around with each other, but it is clear that Ollie isn't really enjoying his time there. This keeps up until Ollie's best friend, Drew, approaches them with a girl he met elsewhere in the party, Delilah. She is introduced to the friends and Ollie instantly is charmed by her. His entire mood is lifted and he tries to talk with her more. They instantly hit it off and Ollie quickly develops a crush on Delilah, however, it is unclear if Delilah likes him back. As the two continue in conversation, they explain more about themselves and their backgrounds. Ollie learns that Delilah is currently a student in New York and she's visiting for her winter vacation. On the other hand, Delilah learns much more about Ollie than she'd expect to learn. Ollie tells her about his music and ends up venting to her about his career hasn't gone anywhere. He didn't expect to tell her so much, but it just came out.

It flashes back to modern day. Ollie begins playing a bit more of his guitar. He tries to strum a new song but nothing is coming to him. He grabs his phone and scrolls through Delilah's Instagram profile. After scrolling through her account, he turns off his phone and it enters another flashback.

This flashback takes place at the party about an hour after the last one. Ollie's friends are ready to leave the party. Even though they were his ride home, he decides to stay at the party a little longer just to talk to Delilah, which seems pretty out of character for him. When the two decide to head home, they are seen walking together outside in the Chicago streets. They exchange numbers before saying goodbye.

Back in present day, Ollie is playing his guitar again. He is playing the opening chords to "Hey There Delilah." He continues to play but stops right before where the lyrics would kick in. He puts away his guitar in frustration and then picks up his phone again. He calls Delilah. The episode ends with the phone being answered and Ollie saying, "Delilah? It's me, Ollie."

EPISODES

II. WELCOME TO THE CITY

Now that Ollie has reached out to Delilah again, they have been talking with one another as they go on about their daily lives in Chicago and New York City respectively. The two tell each other about how their days are spent. This episode formally introduces Ollie's friends, Drew, Joey and Thomas, and Delilah's friends, Kai and Erica.

III. COFFEE

All of Ollie's friends have been busier than usual. Drew is never home, Thomas and Joey are always busy, leaving Ollie alone. He tries to refocus on his music but he can't focus. When Delilah calls him once she's done with class, Ollie finds himself asking her to get coffee with her. They go to a local coffee shop in their respective areas and talk to each other from there, like an actual coffee date, except for the fact that Delilah didn't realize it was a date.

IV. THE HUMAN MIND

After getting friendzoned at his impromptu coffee date, Ollie is back in a rut. He tries his hardest to write out this feeling of heartbreak in a song, but it gets nowhere. Meanwhile, Delilah realizes that she made a mistake and that she may just have a little crush on Ollie. She tries to tell Kai about this but they don't seem to care, leaving the two friends in a feud.

V. OVERSTEPPING

Ollie's friends ask Ollie to go to a party with them since they claim he needs to get out of the house. All his friends end up getting drunk while Ollie decides he's not in the mood. His friends make fun of him for his crush on Delilah making him upset. When he excuses himself to go call Delilah to make him feel better, his friends instead take his phone and claim that he needs to live a little. Drew also calls a local bar on Ollie's behalf to book him a gig there, without Ollie knowing.

EPISODES CONTINUED

VI. TIME MANAGEMENT

Ollie tries to call off his show because he doesn't feel anywhere near comfortable playing a live show, but ends up learning that the bar is in serious need of musicians so he is unable to call off the show. Ollie is upset with his friends for how they treated him last night. Delilah is upset that Ollie didn't call him the night before like he promised he would. Ollie tries to apologize but Delilah won't let him. When she's ready to confront him, Ollie is too busy to pick up. Having no other option, Delilah turns to her friends to help her, where they make up and advise her to act upon her feelings for Ollie.

VII. THE BARGIG

The night of Ollie's gig at the bar has finally arrived. He is nervous about his show and it's only made worse that things are still tense with his friends and Delilah. He nearly doesn't show up to his own show, but much to his surprise, all his friends are there to support him. He decides to not ask them to call Delilah so she can be there for the show, even though she had asked him to. Ollie is halfway through his set. Meanwhile, we see Delilah with a packed bag entering a taxi at O'Hare Airport, ending the episode.

VIII. HEY THERE DELILAH

Delilah is in the cab driving towards an unknown location. Ollie continues his set and starts to really get in the groove of performing. His crowd is getting more lively and his nerves go away. As he starts to play his last song, Delilah walks in the bar but Ollie doesn't notice. The last song on his set is "Hey There Delilah." After the show, Ollie meets up and makes up with his friends. Delilah then approaches him telling him how she heard his song for her and the two confess their feelings for each other. The two go off into the bar to spend time with one another in person. The episode ends on Ollie's phone buzzing and dingling with notifications.

WHAT LIES AHEAD

Past the first season, *A Thousand Miles* has the potential to extend to future seasons, much further than a thousand more miles. Future seasons include exploring Ollie and Delilah's relationship as it continues to develop after they have established they are in a relationship, further exploring that overarching theme of human connection. More than ever, relationships, both platonic and romantic, form online and those stories deserve to be represented. New characters will be introduced to test the trust of the long distance lovers and to support them on this journey. All the characters are in a stage of their life of uncertainty and change which will be important to the future arcs of the characters. In the season finale, we catch a small glimpse into what the future of Ollie's music will be and what that means for him and his career. The second and following seasons of this show will feature how this song will change not only Ollie's life, but Delilah's as well. Will their love be able to survive in a new life?

