

## Bittersweet – Character Details



Her name is Marie, his name is Lawson.

### Marie



Marie isn't doing so well in lockdown. Her job is stressful enough, and now its contained at home with her, along with her worries around her Mother who's living down the road, and the unpredictable sense of the pandemic constantly on the news. She moved back to her home city, into a new apartment to support her Mother who is suffering with dementia, relying on Marie to help her through daily life. Her apartment feels bare, as she is set on this being a temporary situation, until her Mother can organise the help she needs. Turns out Marie prefers a minimal space for her anyway; zen and calm so she prefers it sparse in character. Despite her job being fairly stable, the effects of lockdown have thrown the balance of life and relationships awry. Lawson, her constant stability in her life, feels far away and out of reach as he stayed behind to occupy their flat in a city on the other side of the country. As a realist, she likes certainty but recent times have challenged her. She likes to describe herself as holding a traditional and a modernist outlook on life in tandem. As an assistant to a lawyer, she takes on a lot of daily work, which she finds clear and straight forward as a 'brainy person', predictable and logical. Now with in flux, out of her control, she has found her space and routine has become ever important for her. Her mornings say it all; likes to save time by having a daily uniform & her morning coffee on time. Simple things such as enough time in her morning shower and being able to have a moment with her new smoking habit is her vice for now.



She met Lawson, when he was working in a café down the road from her university. She went there a lot as she was studying for her law degree, initially for the love of great coffee and eventually for his company. He is the spirit in her life, the free spirit that reminds her to not take herself too seriously. Feeding off his light heartedness which she finds harder to manifest, being away from him, she works to stay sane within herself. She struggles, as she starts to smoke during lockdown with the stress of it all; the nature of her job, keeping her mother stable with her dementia which is increasingly becoming a problem. It's not his fault, but she becomes increasingly frustrated with the distance between her and Lawson in this difficult time. Her life feels small, but intense. She feels lost in this rainstorm, not able to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

## Lawson

Lawson – is stuck in the city. A city in lockdown. Quieter than it's ever been – what is the city without its buzz, without the rhythms of life flowing through it he wonders. A vacuum. Lawson is light in nature – a naturally creative soul, a sense of humour, and positivity for life. He wants to roll with life and cares about making the most of what chances he is given. Chances he is given to make a beautiful life for himself and his loved ones. He has known Maris now for 5 years, and when he asked her to move in with him, it was the moment he really felt his life stepping up into a new gear. A flat to share with someone he wanted to create a life with.



Lawson is a mechanical engineer; its computer work, paper work and being on site. But it requires him to use his brain, knowledge, and focus, without paying too much attention to his presentation. He has to be technical, and be in the background fixing things, and his personality suits it. He can be relaxed in his daily clothes, and demeanour, as long as he shows up to do the work. Through this pandemic, he has worked to support Marie and her family troubles. He is on furlough, but despite him being in a precarious job situation, he manages to find time for her, and headspace for the things he enjoys – cooking, seeing his family if he can, reading old books he hasn't managed to get around to, catching up with tv shows he has missed, and of course, spending time with Maris.



He cares deeply for Marie, someone he sees as his kindred spirit. When he noticed her as she came into his café the first couple of times, he was drawn to her calm nature, her sensibility and personality that felt stable for him and warm. Now as their relationship grows, year by year, Lawson wants to provide for them. For now he enjoys the present, not looking to step up on any ladder, enjoying being young still without responsibilities. Sure he does not have everything together as she would want all the time but he is a rock for her. A steady force, who manages to handle her stresses when they come her way. How they will manage across this lockdown, he hasn't got many answers but he is always firm in the fundamental belief that it will be ok.

The one thing that Lawson seems to struggle with in this time, is the loneliness. Loneliness in the city, in an apartment that was designed for 2. His idea of fun, is cooking or trying new take away and a movie with friends, and he has found it harder not being able to pick up plans with friends in the pandemic, let alone see Marie everyday. The apartment, is littered with pairs of things, reminding him of the routine they were so comfortable in sharing together. He loves having a home with her, and misses having her around. This time apart tests his upbeat personality, and has given him much more time to play with and think on things. He tries to push through it, but of course there is only so much he can do in the pandemic alone.