

Violet Khatri (22, South Asian Indian, female, queer)

Violet is hard-working and charismatic when she wants to be. She's endlessly fascinated by people and willing to do whatever it takes to gain insight into the human psyche. She loves solving puzzles, and emotions are pretty much the biggest puzzle of all time. The more Violet learns about people, the further she gets from a clear, straightforward understanding of what makes them tick. Every time she thinks she's figured people out, they surprise her. Her inability to express empathy continuously complicates her goal.

Penelope Skoog (21, Caucasian, female, queer)

Penelope is Violet's lab partner and best friend, and one of the weirdest people on the planet. Between late-night gaming and her professionally honed procrastination skills, Penelope doesn't remember the last time she was asleep by 3am. Despite her selectively enthusiastic work ethic, she's a literal genius with an IQ of over 140. She drops insightful truth bombs like it's her job, and she could be a stellar counselor if she wasn't utterly terrified of emotional intimacy

Keira Holloway (23, biracial, female)

Keira is Violet's high-strung roommate and a staunch believer in plans. Keira's 16-year plan includes marrying her boyfriend Braxten, having three children, and running a successful private practice as a children's grief counselor by the time she's 34. She has a habit of pathologizing all of her friends' problems while systematically ignoring her own. Sure, she can be a tad bit overbearing, but it's only because she cares deeply about her friends and genuinely wants to see them happy.

Dr. Helen Marin (58, Caucasian, female)

Dr. Marin is the reason that students come to Mauve University. She's a legend in the field of cognitive psychology. After spending almost 40 years working in labs, she has missed out on developing a personal life. Nonetheless, she pressures her most naturally talented students, like Penelope, to follow in her academic footsteps. Dr. Marin is drawn to Violet as a subject of study, but she overlooks the fact that Violet is a person and not a bacterium in a petri dish. Just like Violet, Dr. Marin treats pretty much everyone as a potential subject. In order to watch Violet more closely, Dr. Marin hires one of Violet's patients to report to her, throwing ethics out the window in the name of science.

Dr. Steve Wilcox (46, Black/Latinx/Asian, male)

Dr. Wilcox attended college with Violet's parents, and he's known Violet since she was born. Violet is resistant to his continued involvement in her life, but Dr. Wilcox sincerely believes he has her best interests at heart. With a decade of experience as a therapist, Dr. Wilcox always prioritizes patients' emotional needs over bureaucracy or reputation. He thinks the intensely stressful environment at Mauve U is toxic to its students, professors, and especially the counseling program's patients.

Graham Arshaud (29, Middle Eastern, male)

Graham has been a student at Mauve U for eleven years. Seriously. He desperately wants to study music, but his crippling anxiety surrounding Western string instruments makes it difficult for him to pass basic courses. Add in his intense agoraphobia, and it's a miracle he ever makes it out of his dorm room. Dr. Marin offers to pay Graham off in exchange for reports about his meetings with Violet. He accepts her offer, but the guilt eats at him.

Braxten Jameson James (23, Caucasian, male)

Braxten is a multi-generational legacy student at Mauve U. In fact, his great-great-great grandfather founded the school. Prestige is everything to his family, and Braxten feels a tremendous amount of pressure when it comes to fulfilling his parents' expectations. Whenever

a problem arises - such as, say, a debilitating chronic illness like Multiple Sclerosis - Braxten believes he can handle it himself. He's a James, after all.

Shannon Ineza (22, Black, female, queer), eternally chill, is a proud nerd in every aspect of her life. She's the more mature counterweight to the rest of the cast, especially her online gamer friend Penelope. Shannon is very self-aware, and she often gives Penelope reasonable advice on how to navigate uncomfortable emotional situations. Shannon loves getting to know new people, whether it's online or at her job at NASA.