

Industry Insider TV Pilot Proposal

HOW I MET YOUR MOTHER

1-SERIES LOGLINE

Through a series of flashbacks, Ted Mosby tells his children the (very long) story of how he met their mother and the shenanigans that he and his four best friends had to go through in Manhattan in order to lead him to the love of his life.

2- WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION FOR EACH OF YOUR MAIN CHARACTERS

Ted Mosby - The heart and lead of this ensemble cast. He is an architect who thinks of himself as an intellectual. He is on a quest to find "the one," and while he is happy for his friends who are luckier in love than he is, he can't help feeling jealous that it's taking him so long to find the love of his life.

Marshall Eriksen - Ted's best friend from college. Marshall is an environmental lawyer and all-around stand-up guy with Midwest values. Lily Aldrin is the only woman he has ever been with and he is perfectly fine with that. Ted wishes he was so lucky to have met the one his first time at bat.

Lily Aldrin - A kindergarten teacher and aspiring actress. She has been friends with Ted and dating Marshall since freshman year of college. She is always ready to put her friends in their places, give sage advice and resolve conflicts with some tough love.

Robin Scherbatsky - News reporter from Canada, she puts her work ambitions ahead of relationships. She is introduced to the group when Ted falls for her. She is beautiful, but can act like one of the dudes, quoting movies, drinking scotch, smoking cigars and being reserved about commitment to relationships.

Barney Stinson - A womanizer who works for the man. Barney spends his days coming up with cons to get women to sleep with him. We forgive his antics because he was abandoned as a child and has the redeeming quality of being a fiercely loyal friend.

3. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION DETAILING HOW EACH CHARACTER FEELS ABOUT THE OTHERS

(Use attached Character Relationship Map)

4. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PLOT IN THE PILOT EPISODE

A PLOT:

Thrilled to hear his two best friends are getting engaged, Ted sets out to find the woman of his dreams (despite Barney's wishes) and immediately finds everything he is looking for in an aspiring news reporter named Robin.

B PLOT:

Marshall sets out to make an amazing proposal to his girlfriend of 9 years, Lily.

C PLOT, ETC. (IF APPLICABLE)

5. WRITE A SUMMARY OF EACH ACT IN THE PILOT (No more than 500 words per Act)

Act 1

A man tells his kids to sit down. He is going to tell them the story of how he met their mother.

Flashback to:

Ted and Marshall practice how Marshall is going to propose to Lily.

Ted meets up with Barney at the bar and laments how he wants to get married and settle down. Barney tries to talk him out of it by encouraging him to just meet (and use) women. Marshall proposes to Lily, then pops a champagne bottle and the cork hits her in the eye. Ted lays eyes on "the one."

Act 2

Ted meets "the one", Robin. Marshall takes Lily to the hospital. Ted and Robin go on a date and introduce us to the "olive theory," which is a way to judge whether a couple is meant to be, created by Marshall and Lily. Robin has to leave the date early. Marshall, Lily and Barney discuss how Ted should've kissed Robin at the end of the date. Ted decides he is going to do something drastic. He steals the blue horn from where he and Robin went on their date.

Act 3

Ted shows up at Robin's door with the blue horn. Robin, interested, invites him in and pours him a drink. Barney tries to talk Marshall out of marrying Lily. He exposes that the olive theory is just a big lie. Ted tells Robin he is in love with her. She freaks out and their nice night comes crashing down. Marshall admits he is scared to get married but he loves Lily more. He tells Lily the olive theory has been a lie. Ted leaves Robin's and tells her that he is tired of being single. He'd make a great husband and father. Once again,

Ted misses the opportunity to kiss Robin. Show ends with him saying to his kids," and that's how I met your Aunt Robin."

6. WRITE A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE ARC SHOWN WITHIN THE PILOT EPISODE

Ted goes from having no love interest prospects to thinking he found the one.

Marshall and Lily get engaged.

Barney works against the feeling that he is losing his friends to settling down.

6a. THE ARC WITHIN THE FIRST SEASON

Ted pursues Robin and gets her at the end of the season.

Marshall and Lily break off their engagement.

Barney proves that he is a good guy and a good friend, not just a slime ball.

6b. THE ARC WITHIN THE WHOLE SERIES

Ted will eventually meet the mother of his children.

Lily and Marshall will work through the issues that come with love, marriage and children.

Barney and Robin will overcome their fears associated with settling down and getting married.

7. WHY DO YOU BELIEVE THIS SHOW COULD HAVE THE LEGS TO GENERATE A HUNDRED EPISODES?

The show focuses on five friends at very different places in their lives. Lily and Marshall have found each other and are a unit. Ted wants desperately to settle down and become a unit. And Barney and Robin are terrified of the idea of settling down. The constant contrast and conflict of five friends coming at life from very different angles will give plenty of story lines to keep generating shows for many seasons.