

Who is Pumpkin?

PUMPKIN

Age: Early 20s | Baltimore, Maryland

The Best Friend. The Personality. The One Who Says What Everybody Else Is Thinking.

UNDERSTANDING PUMPKIN

Pumpkin brings something very important to **DEEP:**

LIFE.

She's funny. She's expressive. She's comfortable around Nissi and Rod. She has personality. She can walk into a room and change its energy without trying to become the center of attention.

But Pumpkin should **not** be played as comic relief.

There's a real young woman underneath the humor.

And as Rod's world becomes increasingly dangerous, Pumpkin finds herself much closer to something serious than she ever expected.

That contrast is what makes her interesting.

WHO SHE IS

Pumpkin is part of Nissi's everyday world.

She's the friend who can come over, sit around while Nissi does her hair, talk, joke, complain and get involved in whatever is happening in the house.

There's familiarity.

She belongs there.

When we see Pumpkin with Nissi, it shouldn't feel like we're watching two characters exchange scripted dialogue.

It should feel like:

These women have had a thousand conversations before this one.

They've laughed together.

Talked about men.

Talked about hair.

Talked about life.

Probably gotten on each other's nerves.

Made up.

And kept going.

HER PERSONALITY

Pumpkin is **funny, outspoken, expressive, curious, playful, loyal and emotionally reactive.**

She doesn't hide everything she's thinking.

Sometimes it's written right across her face.

That's useful in this story because Pumpkin can react the way the audience might

react.

When something sounds crazy—

Pumpkin can look like it sounds crazy.

When something feels wrong—

we can see her processing it.

When something becomes frightening—

the humor can disappear.

That shift is important.

PUMPKIN & NISSI

This relationship should feel like genuine friendship.

Nissi is doing Pumpkin's hair when Pumpkin decides she wants to get involved in what's happening.

Nissi tells her:

"Wait."

Pumpkin doesn't.

Nissi gives her the look.

That's friendship.

There doesn't need to be a speech explaining how close they are.

Their behavior tells us.

FOR THE ACTRESS: BUILD HISTORY WITH NISSI.

When you tease her, you've teased her before.

When she gives you that look, you know exactly what it means.

When things become serious, you're not standing beside some random woman.

That's your girl.

That changes how you respond.

DON'T TRY TO BE FUNNY

This is probably the most important note for Pumpkin.

PUMPKIN IS FUNNY BECAUSE SHE'S PUMPKIN.

Not because she's trying to deliver punchlines.

Don't mug for the camera.

Don't exaggerate every reaction.

Don't add unnecessary attitude to every sentence.

Don't turn every pause into a joke.

Let the humor come from her honesty.

Sometimes Pumpkin simply says or does what everyone else knows they probably shouldn't.

That's where the personality comes from.

HER REACTIONS

Pumpkin is a character where **reaction shots matter**.

A lot.

You may not always have the most dialogue in a scene.

That does not mean you're not acting.

If something strange happens—

we should see you notice.

If Nissi's energy changes—

notice.

If someone walks into the room and immediately changes the atmosphere—

notice.

If a conversation suddenly becomes more serious than you expected—

LET US WATCH PUMPKIN FIGURE THAT OUT.

Don't anticipate it.

THE SHIFT IN TONE

Pumpkin's scenes become particularly useful because the world around Nissi begins changing.

One minute this can be a normal day.

Hair.

Friends.

Jokes.

People coming through the house.

Then suddenly—

something isn't right.

That's where Pumpkin needs range.

The actress has to be capable of letting the personality disappear without making Pumpkin become a completely different person.

Her face changes.

Her breathing changes.

Maybe she stops talking.

Maybe she looks at Nissi.

Maybe she realizes:

This isn't funny anymore.

That silence can be more powerful than another joke.

PUMPKIN & DANGER

Pumpkin isn't part of Tavon's operation.

She isn't involved in Morelli's world.

She isn't investigating Rod's inheritance.

She's not living in the world Eve understands.

She's a regular young woman who gets caught close to something dangerous.

Protect that.

Don't suddenly make Pumpkin street-tactical because the scene becomes threatening.

Don't give her knowledge she doesn't have.

Don't make her fearless.

Let her respond like an actual person.

FEAR

If Pumpkin becomes afraid, don't immediately scream and panic unless the moment genuinely demands it.

There are different kinds of fear.

Sometimes fear is:

going quiet.

Looking at Nissi.

Trying to understand whether the person across from you is serious.

Watching the door.

Not knowing whether you should move.

Trying not to make the situation worse.

USE STILLNESS.

For a naturally expressive character, suddenly becoming still can tell the audience:

Something has changed.

HER LOYALTY

Pumpkin's friendship with Nissi is what grounds her.

When things are fun—

she's there.

When things become uncomfortable—

she's there.

And when things become dangerous—

that's where we begin discovering what the friendship actually means.

Anybody can be your friend while you're laughing.

Pressure reveals something different.

Pumpkin doesn't have to become an action hero to demonstrate loyalty.

Sometimes loyalty simply means:

I'M NOT LEAVING MY FRIEND ALONE IN THIS.

FOR THE ACTRESS

Bring personality.

But don't bring a "character."

There's a difference.

We don't want you walking into the audition thinking:

"I'm the funny best friend."

Instead think:

"I'm Pumpkin."

You have opinions.

You have a life.

You know these people.

You're comfortable enough around them to be yourself.

That's why you're funny.

DON'T OVERDO THE ATTITUDE

Pumpkin can absolutely have attitude.

But if every line has:

a neck roll,

an eye roll,

a hand movement,

a facial expression,

and a punchline—

we lose the person.

LESS CAN BE MUCH FUNNIER.

Sometimes one look is enough.

Especially with Nissi.

The audience should eventually learn what Pumpkin's face means before she even opens her mouth.

CHEMISTRY WITH NISSI

This will matter tremendously in casting.

We need to believe these two women actually like each other.

Not merely tolerate each other because the screenplay says they're friends.

There should be ease.

Interruptions.

Looks.

Inside-joke energy.

Comfortable silence.

Playful irritation.

REAL FRIENDSHIP IS MESSY AND EASY AT THE SAME TIME.

Find that.

EMOTIONAL RANGE

Pumpkin gives the actress an opportunity to move through:

humor, curiosity, excitement, playfulness, annoyance, concern, confusion, suspicion, fear and loyalty.

The key is contrast.

The more alive and funny Pumpkin feels during normal moments—

the more we feel it when she stops laughing.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't play Pumpkin as comic relief.

Don't force jokes.

Don't make her loud simply because she's expressive.

Don't make every line attitude.

Don't make her foolish.

Don't play her as Nissi's sidekick.
Don't give her knowledge she doesn't have.
Don't make her fearless when real danger appears.
Don't turn her into a stereotype of the "funny Black girlfriend."
And don't disappear just because another character has the dialogue.

PUMPKIN'S REACTIONS ARE PART OF HER PERFORMANCE.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We're looking for an actress with **natural personality, comedic timing, warmth, expressive reactions and emotional honesty.**

Someone audiences enjoy seeing the moment she appears.

Someone who can make us laugh without looking like she's trying to make us laugh.

Someone who can build believable chemistry with Nissi.

And someone who can make the transition from:

"Girl, what is going on?"

to realizing—

something is seriously wrong.

We need both sides.

THE HEART OF PUMPKIN

Pumpkin begins in one of the safest parts of DEEP's world.

She's hanging with her friend.

Getting her hair done.

Talking.

Laughing.

Living.

Then Rod's problems begin walking through the door.

And that's important because DEEP isn't only about what happens to the people making dangerous decisions.

It's also about what happens to the people standing beside them.

Pumpkin didn't inherit anything.

She didn't make a deal with Morelli.

She didn't steal from Tavon.

She didn't ask to uncover anybody's secrets.

She just loves her friend.

And sometimes being close to someone means their problems can become yours.

That's Pumpkin.

The personality is what we notice first.

The loyalty is what we should remember.

That's Pumpkin.

Now show us your version of her.