

Who is Marcus ?

MARCUS

Age: 22 | Baltimore, Maryland

The Friend. The Wild Card. The Man Who Knows Too Much.

UNDERSTANDING MARCUS

Marcus is Rod's friend.

And that's the most important place to begin.

He isn't entering Rod's life as an enemy. There is real history between these two young men. Real friendship. Real loyalty. They know each other well enough to joke, argue and recognize when something isn't right without needing everything explained.

But Marcus has gotten himself into something **much bigger than he expected**.

Now he's scared.

He's hiding things.

He's making questionable decisions.

And from Rod's perspective, it's becoming harder to determine whether Marcus needs to be **saved from the danger—or whether Marcus is bringing the danger directly to him**.

WHO HE IS

Marcus is street-aware, resourceful and naturally funny.

He has personality.

Even when things are going badly, humor can come out of him. Sometimes it's genuine. Other times it's how Marcus handles fear.

He's not necessarily the toughest guy in the room.

And he knows it.

Marcus survives by reading situations, thinking quickly and figuring out how to maneuver through them.

The problem is—

he has finally maneuvered himself into something he may not be able to get out of.

HIS PERSONALITY

Marcus is **charismatic, funny, nervous, loyal, impulsive, secretive, resourceful and unpredictable**.

He can talk.

He can explain.

He can deflect.

And when he's uncomfortable, he may try to lighten the situation rather than admit just how frightened he actually is.

Marcus doesn't want people feeling sorry for him.

Especially Rod.

That means even when Marcus desperately needs help, he may resist looking helpless.

MARCUS & ROD

This relationship is the heart of Marcus.

Marcus genuinely cares about Rod.

That's important for the actor.

Do not approach Marcus as someone secretly plotting against his friend.

Things Marcus has done may make Rod question him. Marcus has withheld information. His actions have created serious consequences. There are reasons for Rod not to trust everything Marcus says.

But underneath all of it, Marcus believes there are things Rod doesn't understand.

That's why one of the most important truths behind Marcus is:

"Believe it or not, you're not saving me. I'm trying to save you."

That tells you how Marcus sees the situation.

Rod thinks Marcus is in trouble.

Marcus knows **Rod is in trouble too.**

And Marcus may know enough to understand that Rod's danger is much bigger than Rod realizes.

THE TROUBLE HE'S IN

Marcus has become connected to dangerous people and dangerous money.

Tavon is part of that world.

There is money involved.

There are questions about what Marcus did, what he took, what he knows and why.

Marcus has also made decisions involving Rod's identity and the situation surrounding the land left by Rod's grandmother.

Those decisions create a serious question:

WHAT EXACTLY IS MARCUS TRYING TO DO?

That uncertainty should follow the character.

Sometimes Marcus appears guilty.

Sometimes frightened.

Sometimes suspicious.

Sometimes completely sincere.

The audience should constantly be trying to determine:

Can Rod trust Marcus?

HIS FEAR

Marcus is scared.

Don't hide that completely.

But also don't play him as a coward.

There's a major difference.

Marcus understands the people he's dealing with.

He knows what they're capable of.

So when Marcus becomes nervous, there is usually a reason.

The actor should always be asking:

What does Marcus know right now that everyone else in this scene doesn't?

That question will help tremendously with the performance.

HIS HUMOR

Marcus's humor is important because it makes him human.

It also makes the dangerous moments more effective.

He can say something funny when nobody should be joking.

He can use humor to avoid answering a question.

He can joke because he's nervous.

And sometimes Marcus is simply funny.

Don't turn him into comic relief.

The humor should feel like part of his personality—not like Marcus knows he's in a television show and needs to make the audience laugh.

When the danger becomes real enough, the humor disappears.

And when Marcus stops joking—

we should know something is seriously wrong.

FOR THE ACTOR

DO NOT PLAY MARCUS AS A SNAKE.

Even when Marcus is hiding something.

Even when Rod doesn't believe him.

Even when the audience questions him.

If you enter the scene trying to show us that Marcus is suspicious, you'll give away everything.

Marcus believes his actions make sense based on **what he knows.**

Play that truth.

DON'T PLAY THE SECRET. PROTECT IT.

Marcus frequently knows more than he's willing or able to say.

That doesn't mean constantly looking guilty.

Instead, listen.

When someone gets close to something Marcus doesn't want revealed, something small may change.

His eyes.

His breathing.

A pause before answering.

A joke that comes a little too quickly.

Then Marcus recovers.

Those small moments are much more powerful than obviously acting nervous.

MARCUS IS UNDER PRESSURE

Think of Marcus as someone trying to keep several doors closed at the same time.

Rod wants answers.

Dangerous people want something from him.

Marcus is trying to protect himself.

He may also be trying to protect Rod.

And every lie, half-truth or decision creates another problem.

Eventually there are too many doors.

Something is going to open.

That's where the tension in Marcus comes from.

HIS EMOTIONAL RANGE

The actor playing Marcus needs to move naturally between **humor, friendship, fear, frustration, desperation, guilt and genuine concern.**

Marcus can be laughing with Rod in one moment and terrified in another.

He can become defensive when accused of something.

He can be angry that Rod doesn't believe him.

He can desperately need Rod's help while simultaneously refusing to tell Rod everything.

That contradiction is essential.

Because Marcus may sometimes look like he's betraying Rod while believing he's actually **protecting him.**

WHAT NOT TO DO

Don't make Marcus a stereotypical street character.

Don't make every sentence aggressive.

Don't constantly look nervous because you know Marcus has secrets.

Don't play him as weak.

Don't play him as evil.

And don't decide too early that Marcus is either **good or bad.**

Marcus lives in the gray area.

That's what makes him interesting.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

We want an actor who can make us **like Marcus while making us question him.**

Someone naturally charismatic.

Someone who can be funny without forcing comedy.

Someone who can show fear without becoming helpless.

Someone who understands that sometimes the strongest acting choice is trying desperately **not to show what you're feeling.**

Most importantly, Marcus needs chemistry with Rod.

When these two are together, we need to believe there was a friendship **before we ever started watching them.**

They should feel like two young men who know each other's habits, weaknesses and history.

That history is what makes the possibility of betrayal hurt.

THE HEART OF MARCUS

Marcus is a young man who got involved in something bigger than himself and is desperately trying to find a way through it.

Rod thinks Marcus needs saving.

Marcus believes Rod doesn't understand the truth.

And somewhere between the secrets, money, fear and friendship is the question that should follow Marcus throughout **DEEP:**

IS MARCUS THE FRIEND WHO PUT ROD IN DANGER—OR THE FRIEND TRYING TO KEEP HIM ALIVE?

That's Marcus.

Now show us your version of him.

