

**Title:** The Tragedy of the Incels (part 2)

**Synopsis:**

In this second installment of The Tragedy of the Incels, Tim and LeeAnna continue their dissection of the bizarre world of men who believe rejection is a lifestyle choice and that being ignored is some sort of political statement. They dive deep into social awkwardness, self-righteous rage, and the dangerous emotional loops that fuel the incel mindset. Through their snarky commentary, the episode tackles emotional dysfunction, social awkwardness, and the canned narratives that many incels use to justify their bitterness. It's an emotional rollercoaster, with dramatic readings from Tim and LeeAnna that illustrate the sometimes successful, sometimes painful, interactions between their fictional characters, James and Alice.

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**Discussion Questions**

*Use these questions to spark conversation and reflection in the classroom:*

- What are the key factors that contribute to social awkwardness, and how can they escalate into bitterness or resentment in individuals like incels? How does this compare to the "Dangerous Loop" Tim describes?
- Why does Tim suggest that writers should focus on the attempt to fix a broken connection rather than just writing about the conflict itself? How does this provide emotional depth to characters?
- Tim introduces the "Sad & Interesting" test, where one thinks their sadness will attract attention or love. Why do you think this fantasy persists, and how does LeeAnna's take on it reflect a deeper truth about human connection?
- Discuss the concept of "Canned Narratives." How do people (incels in particular) use these narratives to justify their actions and avoid self-reflection? How does this behavior relate to emotional efficiency?

**Writer's Prompts**

*Creative exercises to help students apply the themes of the topic:*

- **Prompt 1:** The Dangerous Loop. Write a scene where your character is stuck in a cycle of social awkwardness, resentment, and self-doubt. Show how these feelings build up until

they explode in an emotional outburst. How does this moment of failure impact their future interactions?

- **Prompt 2:** Sad & Interesting. Create a character who is convinced that their sadness or emotional depth will draw others in. Have them encounter someone who doesn't respond as they expect. How does this challenge their view of themselves and their approach to relationships?
- **Prompt 3:** Canned Narrative. Write a monologue from the perspective of a person who justifies their anger and bitterness by blaming the world around them. How does this character view their own inadequacies, and how do they project blame onto others to protect their ego?
- **Prompt 4:** The Attempt to Connect. Write a scene where a socially awkward character tries to form a meaningful connection with someone, but the attempt is clumsy and unsuccessful. What does their failure reveal about their emotional landscape?

### **Class Activities**

*These activities will help expand on the themes of the topic:*

- **Group Discussion:** "The Dangerous Loop." Discuss how the "Dangerous Loop" (social awkwardness, resentment, radicalization) applies not only to incels but to people in general. Can this cycle be broken? What strategies can people use to escape it?
- **Debate:** The "Sad & Interesting" Test. Divide the class into two groups. One group will argue that sadness and emotional depth can attract connection, while the other group will argue that it only isolates the individual. Explore the psychological effects of vulnerability without engagement.
- **Collaborative Story-Building:** Incels in Fiction. In small groups, write a short story about a character who embodies elements of the incel mindset. Focus on their attempts to connect with others, their failure, and how their "canned narrative" influences their actions. Afterward, each group will present their story and discuss how these characters reflect deeper emotional truths.

### **Closing note from the Podcasters, Tim & LeeAnna**

*Well, folks, that's it for The Tragedy of the Incels—part two. We've dragged you through awkwardness, bitterness, and some truly misguided attempts at connection. So, writers, what's the takeaway here? Don't just write the fight—write the failed attempts where a character tries to save themselves, break the cycle. That's where the real emotional complexity lies. The world isn't full of "Chads" and "Betas"—it's full of messy, vulnerable people trying to connect in the most awkward, painful ways possible. So go ahead, make your characters bonkers, flawed, and deeply human.*

*Because when they fail to connect and it looks like they can't or won't save themselves, that's where the real story starts.*

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### **Closing Note from the Author, The Snark**

Well, folks, that's it for *The Tragedy of the Incels*—part two. We've dragged you through awkwardness, bitterness, and some truly misguided attempts at connection. So, writers, what's the takeaway here? Don't just write the fight—write the failed attempts to make things better. That's where the real emotional complexity lies. The world isn't full of "Chads" and "Betas" – it's full of messy, vulnerable people trying to connect in the most awkward, painful ways possible. So go ahead, make your characters bonkers, flawed, and deeply human. Because when they fail to connect, that's where the real story starts. And if you happen to be sitting on the edge of a personal apocalypse, maybe give the *Alchemy* podcast a listen. You might learn something about yourself... or at least get a laugh.