



Tulip, Ruth Negga's character in AMC's television adaptation of the popular DC Comics story *Preacher*, is a woman who knows her mind, knows how to build a bazooka out of soup cans, and knows how to talk to young children. As the ex-girlfriend of protagonist Jessie Custer (played by Negga's real-life boyfriend [Dominic Cooper](#)), we're not yet familiar with all the details of Tulip's past, but we know that she grew up in a brothel and was, at one point, involved in robbing banks. Perhaps the most obvious and succinct way to describe her is as a "badass."

For Negga, however, it was Tulip's "sweet naivety" that first attracted her to the role. "When she detains the kids [in the pilot] and is like, 'This is how you make a bazooka,' it's not in any threatening, weirdly egotistical way," the Irish actor explains over the phone. "It's like she's showing them how to use watercolors for the first time," she continues. "I really like that kind of oddness. Everything seems straightforward in *Preacher* but nothing is; everything is kind of askew. You're dealing with this hyper unrealness—that's what comics are—and I like that sort of twist."



**BROWN:** Have you ever auditioned for a character that you really liked on the page, but once you did the audition, you realized you just weren't a good fit for the role?

**NEGGA:** I try and damage control before you have to go in and read with anybody. I've done that a few times where I've been honest with myself: reading out loud or exploring that character in the safety of my bedroom and then realizing that it's not going to work. While I'm not limiting myself through fear, I think it's interesting when you know instinctively or you have an energetic response to something and realize that someone else would be better.