Case Study: Maybe Interactive's Western App

Transformed Eastern romance game content into a Western hit: \$1M+ revenue, 1M+ views, and a new franchise.

Role: Narrative (Content) Designer & Product Manager

Audience: Women and non-binary users (18–65) seeking high emotional stakes and fast-paced romance, but not traditional gamers.

Problem & Business Objective

Maybe Interactive needed to demonstrate profitability in the Western market beyond anime/manga fans.

- Problem: Existing content descriptions and creative direction weren't resonating with Western romance readers.
- Business Goal: Increase conversions, retention, and monetization by aligning the product with Western expectations in style, copy, and funnel design.

Context

- Prior state: Copy was awkwardly localized, art leaned too heavily on anime styles, romance character tropes were not centered, and story stakes were vague.
- Audience habits: Western romance readers expected clear tropes ("enemies to lovers," "werewolf," "forbidden love") and familiar art styles (like Chapters and Choices).
- Critical issue: Key romance terms weren't translated into Western search language (e.g., "GL" not recognized as "lesbian romance").

Research & Discoveries

- Benchmarked against popular Western interactive romance apps (Chapters, Episodes, Choices).
- Identified gaps: Missing romance keywords, lack of clear love interest framing, and overly detailed plots instead of emotionally compelling hooks.
- Learned that Western users valued quick clarity, trope familiarity, and upfront love interest descriptions.

Content & Design Decisions

- Copy optimization: Simplified and clarified descriptions, ending with strong calls-to-action.
- Art direction: Shifted covers toward Western romance aesthetics: realistic art, alluring poses, and other genre cues.
- Romance-first framing: Named love interests and tropes early. Reduced emphasis on dense plot details.
- Keyword strategy: Embedded romance SEO terms ("werewolf," "enemies to lovers," "forbidden love").
- Conversion funnel: Designed choices with compelling paid options alongside "good enough" free paths to retain players through all 40+ episodes.
- Monetization: Tuned cosmetic options to align with optimal Western price points.

Iteration & Trade-offs

- Iteration: Shortened copy whenever possible. Experimented with establishing the love interest in the first line or the main character in the first line.
- Trade-off: Focused on character details over key plot stakes. Risk of alienating some users who did not understand the story synopsis.

Outcomes / Results

- Broke two monetization records.
- Conversion rates doubled.
- Earned \$1M+ in revenue and over 1M views.
- Achieved 500k+ organic views despite Apple's 2021 marketing changes.
- Turned the first game into a franchise with 6+ properties.
- Revenue growth funded hiring of 8 new team members.

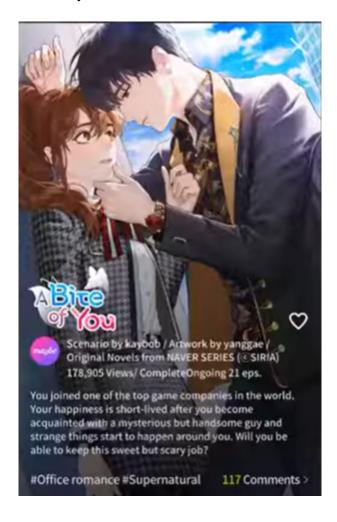
Learnings & Growth

- Learned how to adapt global IPs for new markets by ensuring new audience localization and accessibility.
- Validated that romance-first, trope-driven copy is essential for Western romance audiences.
- Developed repeatable frameworks for description writing, art direction, and funnel optimization.
- Gained confidence leading cross-functional teams (narrative, art, product) to achieve measurable business results.

Visuals & Evidence

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- Less than 200,000 user views.
- Choppy, awkward copy.
- Limited understanding of story stakes, main characters, and love interests.
- Anime-driven art style.





After:

- 1M user views.
- Clear, polished, snappy copy.
- Strong understanding of story stakes, main characters, and love interests.
- Realistic art style.

