

y/n and self image

i feel like there's always been two distinct archetypes of the "your name" self insert character of fanfic. i think they are both unrealistic and riddled with internalized misogyny but also fun and a compelling look into the minds of tween and teen girls coming to terms with themselves.

the first y/n (in my humble, well-versed in fanfic, opinion) is a straight-laced, type A, "good girl" who somehow ends up at a concert or show even though she doesn't really fit the vibe. this always felt too close to my actual personality and view of myself and thus less exciting.

what fascinated me much more was the indie-sleaze, too-cool-for-you, carefree, almost manic pixie dream girl. there are several components to her. first, she is vaguely alternative, in music, books, politics, humor, or some combination of several different variables.

the style and looks of this version of y/n filled my mind, pinterest board, and tumblr. she wears lots of black. owns doc martens. liberally uses black eyeliner. her hair is styled perfectly messily with the impression of carelessness that is in actuality crafted with precision and intentionality. perhaps she smokes cigarettes or at the very least always has a lighter on her person.

with every fiber of my junior-high self, i wanted to be her. but not really. so instead i dove into this fictional vision of myself through fanfic.

i think this truly altered the way i saw myself on a fundamental level that continues to impact me. i wanted this version of me to exist but still wanted to be high-achieving in school, please and impress adults in my life, and fit in with the "normal" kids at school. i didn't know how to hold both of these images let alone the actual real version of myself all at once.

i see myself continuing to gravitate towards things that fit the y/n archetype even now, i own three pairs of doc martens and love sylvia plath. i wonder if i would've stumbled into this sense of fashion or had these interests without the influence of trying to be this nameless, fantasy of a person.