

YEARNING: INSIDE MARI

This Too Is Yuri

this zine is a love letter? of sorts

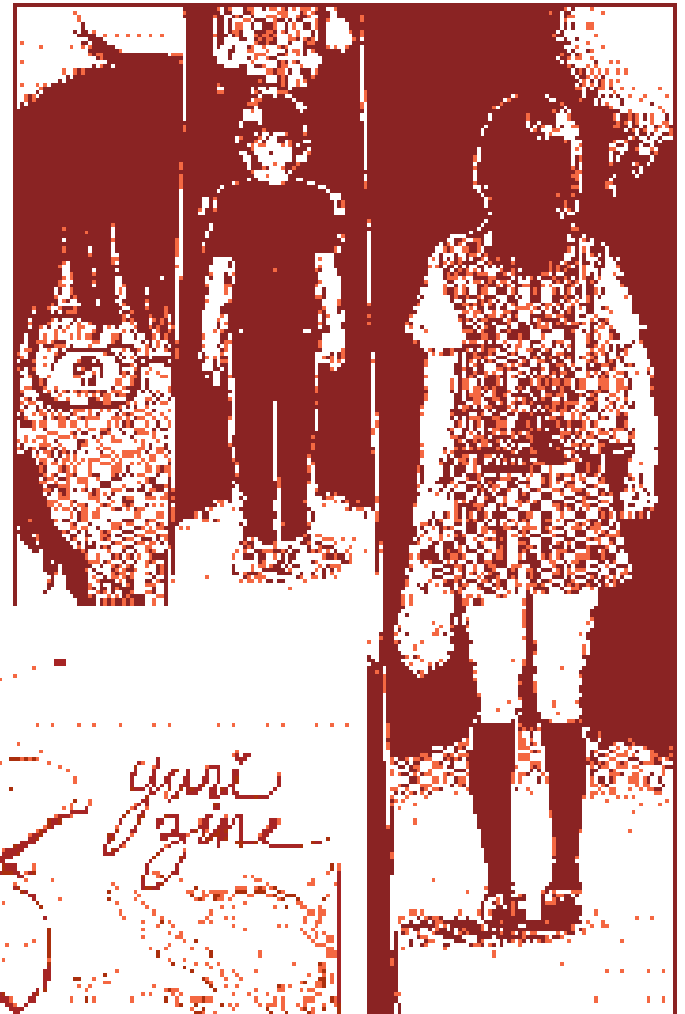
LM: A rusty, decaying vehicle is resting on
top of wheel tracks.

R.M.: Right.

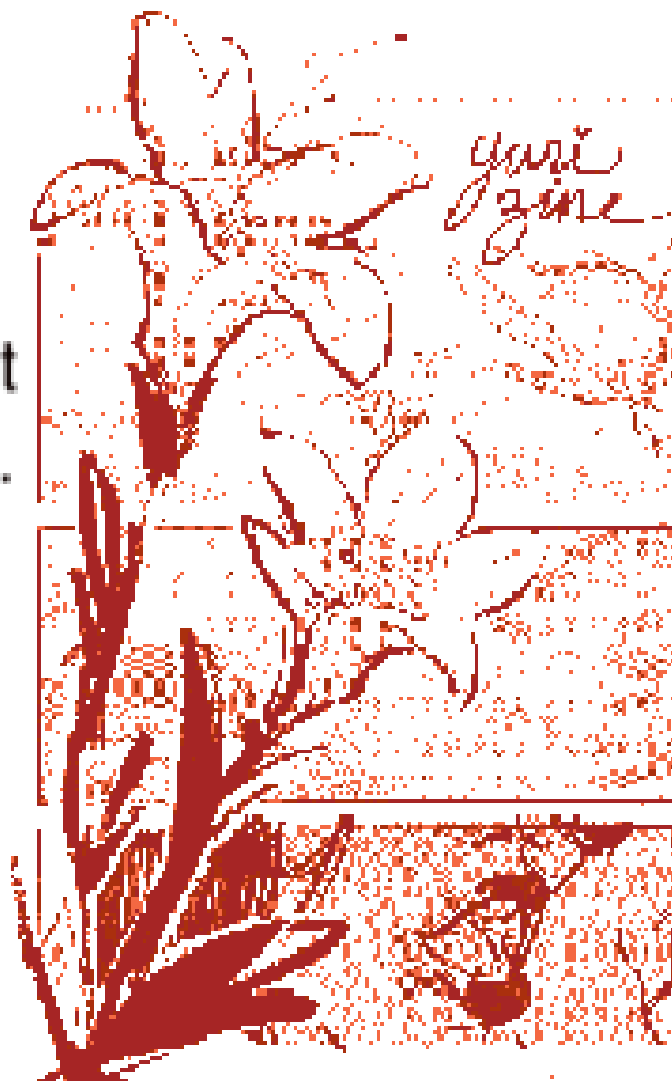
LM: Then you imagine one day two girls
were there... Isn't that already totally yuri?

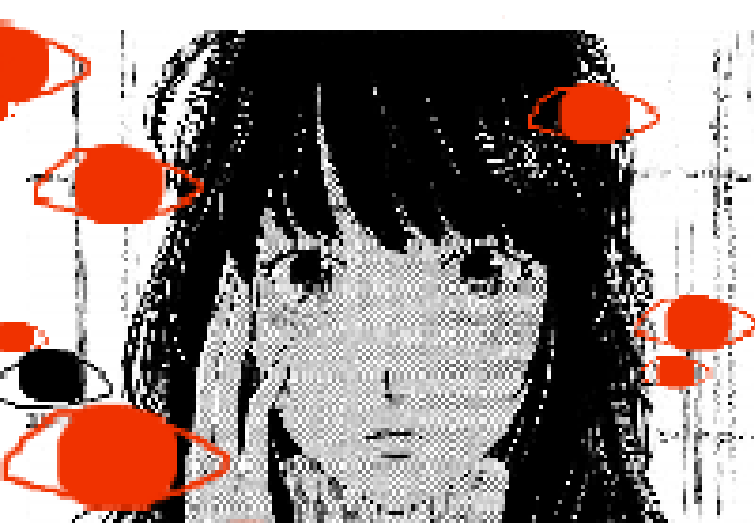
R.M.: Right...

LM: So a grassland somehow becomes yuri.



i was super
inspired after
reading all of the
yuri zine and it
reminded me a lot
about Inside Mari.
so i wrote an
essay about it
that i am now
turning into a
zine. an ode to
yuri. yuri zine.
and inside mari.
all in one.





LM: I think pairings between a calling and a floor are commonly accepted in the BL community, but I haven't seen much of that in yuri. But on the other hand, I think a concept of "yuri of absence" is beginning to form.

the horror of Looking at yourSelf yuri as a tool for self identification

in an attempt to find an identity for herself, mari was forced to actually Look at herself. something she just couldn't handle. there is something so uncomfortable and somewhat horrifying about that. confronting yourself

"yuri is the relationship to absence, to projection"

mari "absents herself" as a way to allow herself to love Yori (to love girls in general). because the reality is, mari is mari. not komori body swapped into mari's body. the mind warping mental gymnastics she goes through to live this sort of delusion allows her to be a boy who is trapped in a girl's body so it allows her own self to love girls and accept this because. it's not mari thinking these things, it's komori who is a boy so. it's allowed.

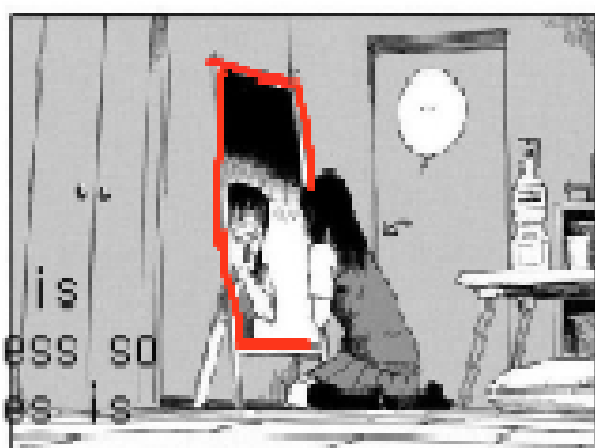
the ways she goes about identifying her self while at the same time struggling with the mere act of Looking at herself is so yuri.

what is it that mari yearns for? what is it about gender? (and identity)

her fragmented identities: fumiko, mari, komori

her attachment to komori's identity is less about his masculinity or maleness so to speak, but what she really desires is to love other girls in the specific (romantic, sexual) way he is allowed to in this society. her yearning is lesbian

yearning isn't limited to wanting to be with someone, but wanting to be someone. to live life the way they do.



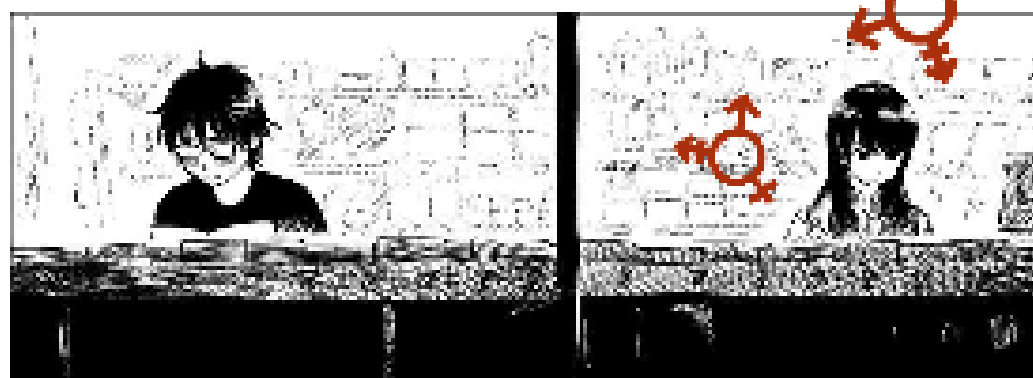
yearning is gay.
yearning is queer.
yearning is
lesbian. - yuri
zine

i read her experience playing with gender not as her struggling with her own gender identity, instead with the suffocating social pressures of it all. i think she's a girl who doesn't feel connected to the daily practices and rituals that signal femininity. explaining why she sort of.. forgets how to do makeup and dress herself when she exists as the clueless komori inside mari's body. she uses him to liberate herself from these expectations.

yet her story is still so genderqueer...



as she scrambles to settle into an identity of her own, komori is an accessible outlet for her to yearn.



opening with a freaky friday concept, i was expecting a heavily trans-coded story. and while mari herself isn't trans (to me) this is still a trans story...

i always like to joke that every character with a shapeshifting superpower of sorts is auto-trans. immediately hit with the trans-your-gender-inator3000. the same thing goes for a lot of body horror, under which the freaky friday trope falls. existing in an unfamiliar body, experiencing the brutal social expectations that come with having a particular body, having to go about your daily life pretending you're okay with all of this, and the mental stress this can cause a person until they eventually crumble resonated a lot with me in a gender way.

what does it mean
to feel like a person?

yuri made me human
to feel human?

is the fantasy of yuri about
finding a way to become a
person. when you don't feel like
one? yes but. which person?

fumiko? the person who died along with her
grandmother? abandoned? replaced? forgotten?
fumiko does not feel like her feel like a person

or mari?

a person who's expected to perform femininity but
is never allowed to desire it for herself? mari
does not feel like a person. mari feels like jail

maybe komori?

the depressed hikikomori who
doesn't see how good he has
it? the one who is allowed to
love girls openly hold hands
with them at the park. the
komori that ultimately broke
under the heavy weight of the
truth that he is not her. and
she is not him, either

"komori...  

don't disappear"



yuri is nothing. yuri is everything. only after becoming no one,
does mari finally start to feel like a person.

for most of the story mari is putting up an act, living as someone else. the first time mari confesses to yori, she is met with the question of who are you? mari? komori? to which she responds neither. that mari doesn't exist anymore, and neither does komori. the one who loves yori is the person standing in front of her now



"i don't have a home either, so lets find one together,"

while yori loves mari, she doesn't accept her confession until the end, when mari confronts her selves and becomes her Own. it's not until then, when she asks yori to be her friend, to stay by her side, to be there for her, that she says yes. it's only when it's clear that mari completed her journey of self-actualization that yori accepts the love she's been denying herself too.



mari ends her story defining herself, by her own means, and accepting herself for who she is. this is yuri!!!!

"the path to yuri is paved with self-actualization"

i had so much fun re-reading inside mari from a more focused yuri perspective. i loved thinking about how she envies komori for his ability to pursue and love women. the way she **projected** onto him. the way she wanted something nonexistent and **intangible**. the way she yearned through imagining herself as someone else entirely. the way she shattered when finally forced to Look[△] at herself.

this too is yuri

the way she existed not as a participant, nor an observer. the way she loved yori so much she became everyone and no one. and the way that, in the end, she Looked and she Accepted.

what is this if not yuri?

