

In line with Caughey's assertions that "imaginary relationships" can have positive, important individual and social consequences (69), interview participants revealed how their deep investments in Lady Gaga have exerted a powerful influence on them, in some cases literally saving their lives. Their candid comments demonstrate that Gaga's identification as a monster and her reclamation of the term through her music and persona allow them to see themselves through her perspective and learn to value their differences, essentially making Lady Gaga "a narrative focal point in the construction of life narratives and identities" (Sandvoss 111). Further, as Sandvoss suggests, the profundity of the relationship's impact says less about Lady Gaga's influence than it does about what fans need from Lady Gaga (105).

—Click et al, p. 373.

- What do you think of Caughey's 'imaginary relationship' concept?
- Does Lady Gaga matter at all in all this?

...by giving fans the impression that they are communicating with celebrities through a familiar and personal medium, Twitter “creates a new expectation of intimacy” (156) between fans and celebrities. Similarly, Jeffrey Kassing and Jimmy Sanderson argue that celebrity and fan online interactions not only demonstrate, but, more importantly, transform parasocial relationships (185). Although online relationships and conversations between celebrities and fans remain mediated, fans increasingly experience them as real and authentic, reinforcing their feelings of truly “knowing” celebrities. Celebrities’ reciprocity gives the illusion of two-way communication, which deepens fan-celebrity relationships in ways not possible through traditional media forms (Corrigan).

—Click et al, p. 366.

- Is this communication always illusory?
- How does this work in the context of microfame?