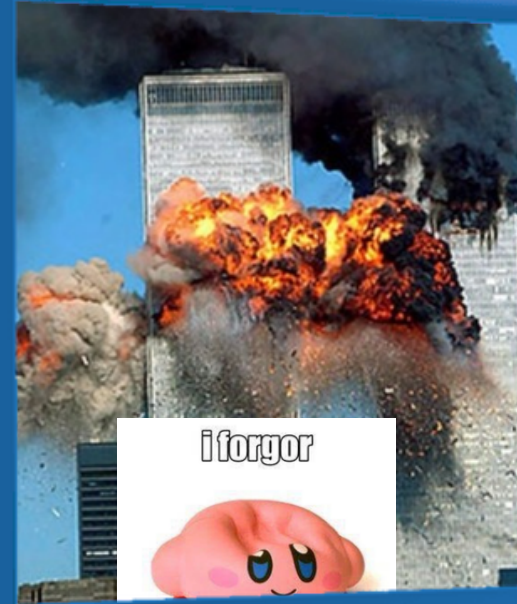


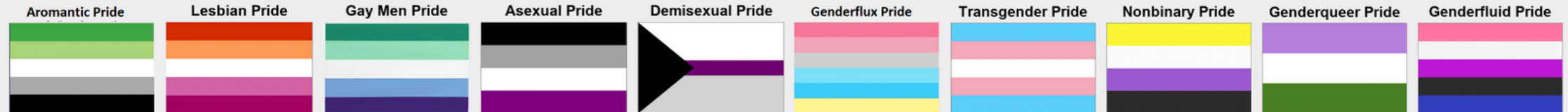
Breaking News



BREAKING NEWS

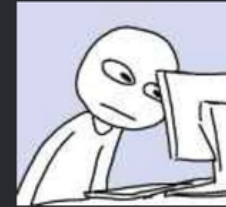
KTi Book Report: Kill All Normies

Kill All Normies Kill All Normies Kill All Normies Kill All Normies Kill All Normies Kill All

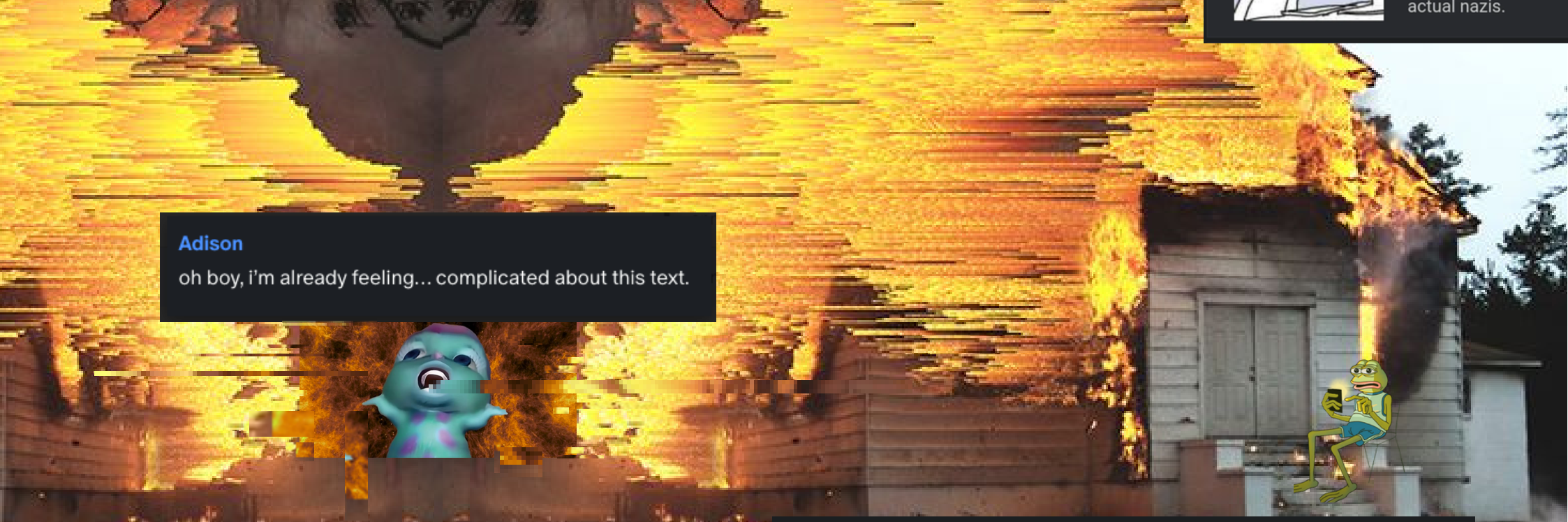




■ Anonymous 03/20/19(Wed)14:32:14
 No.795418828 >>795419076 >>795419300 >>7954193
 >>795419471 >>795419659 >>795419963 >>795420320
 >>795423954 >>795427056 >>795429883 >>795431053
 >>795431227 >>795434989 >>795435038 >>795436616
 >>795437958 >>795438558 >>795440429 >>795442438
 File: 1475719103327.png (10 KB, 429x410)



i miss when
 4chan was ironic. i
 think all the nazi
 shitposting
 attracted real
 actual nazis.



Adison
 oh boy, i'm already feeling... complicated about this text.



Willow De la Rivia
 Do not cite the ancient texts to me witch I was there when they were written!



<Opfag> I just want to see her die horribly.

<nullspace> i couldnt care less about vidya, i just want to see zoe receive her comeuppance



KotakuInAction
Gaming · Ethics · Journalism · Censorship

Aug 19 02.28.30 <mugg> okay, is zoe actually depressed?
Aug 19 02.28.35 <kailasha> i bet she is now
Aug 19 02.28.37 <mugg> diagnosed etc?
Aug 19 02.28.39 <meshnetguy> kek

Aug 19 02.29.22 <Opus> I think she tried killing herself before
Aug 19 02.29.28 <kailasha> she should try that again :^)



KotakuInAction: The almost-official GamerGate subreddit!

r/KotakuInAction

there are countless conflicting accounts about the nature of threats and attacks, but even taking the uncontroversial ones alone, it is fair to say they did receive a level of abuse that in the pre-Internet days were reserved for few other than child murderers.



I am once again asking you to pledge to Comrades
Patron to watch for GamerGate targets



Target: Gamergate

How to attack a woman who works in video gaming

Jenn Frank

For example, someone recently and bafflingly tried to hack into my email and phone contacts. This is all very frightening to write, and so I must disclose that I *am* biased, insofar as I am terrified. I have worked in this industry for most of the last nine - not always perfect - years and I have never professed to be a perfect person. However, my values, my belief that abuse must not, cannot become "normal", "acceptable" or "expected" is at odds with *oh, God, please, why are they doing this, what's the point, don't let it be me, don't let it be me.* My unabashed love for video games, my colleagues and my work have a conflict of interest with my own terror.



Also, last major thought - what the fuck is up with all the death threats?

Samson the Ladle





--GAMERGATE--

i think the fact that a lot of academia around the arts tends to lean left goes a long way in explaining some of the origins of gamergate. the feminist critiques of video games that Anita Sarkeesian had would be (as Nagle puts it) "quite normal in literary or film criticism" (p21). those disciplines have entire fields of study based around putting a feminist or marxist lens onto them. but video games are such a new medium that there isn't really an academic field for it. we were only just beginning to see some cannon for how to analyse video games from people like Jacob Geller or Brian David Gilbert.

the sheer level of harassment and misogyny that was used against many of the women who worked within the games industry during gamergate is terrifying. i'm a queer woman on the internet. i've had shit thrown at and said to me, but nothing on the level of what happened to Petra Davis. someone had to go through every step of that and think 'yeah, this is the right thing to do'. these men have mothers. even though it was nearly a decade ago, the rampant misogyny still in place online scares the living shit out of me. the existence of something like that scares me. "I am biased, insofar as I am terrified." (p24, Jenn Frank)

azalea water

I think it was around 2017 that the company I worked for (ArenaNet) invited Sarkeesian to talk. That's the last time I remember getting this gut punch of concentrated terrible. I mean her recounting of the backlash against her, not her message, haha. Something about talking to her in person, witnessing her ... smallness? Frailty as a small human woman, pitted against that wall of evil was so evocative.

Josh F

How A Small Video Game Narrative Studio Wound Up At The Heart Of A Massive, Anti-Woke Conspiracy Theory

Sweet Baby Inc doesn't even remotely do what many think it does, but on the modern internet, that doesn't matter


3:33 PM EST on March 7, 2024



Online trolls are targeting a company involved in video game development, calling their efforts "Gamergate 2.0"

WRITTEN BY ALEX KAPLAN
PUBLISHED 03/08/24 11:19 AM EST




 NTRmanMan · 3 days ago

Their job is to make games worse. Companies give them their games (due to wokeness and Joe Biden), and they make them worse (due to wokeness). And they get paid for ruining games Can you believe that ?

↑ 139 ↓ Reply Share ...

Replies

 Akil · 1 week ago

I honestly don't like the fact that this was composed by a woman!

3 14

CJ The X

Well, you're not gonna believe this, but chapter 2 made me uncomfortable! There were hurtful words and subjects discussed that i would consider taboo!!!!!!!!!!

Samson the Ladle

Ugh.

Matthew M

so yeah Chapter 5 kind of sucks.

Chandler Sterling

I think I'm reading books wrong.

Lou Corben

Whew, this portion really triggered my snowflake.

annie liz

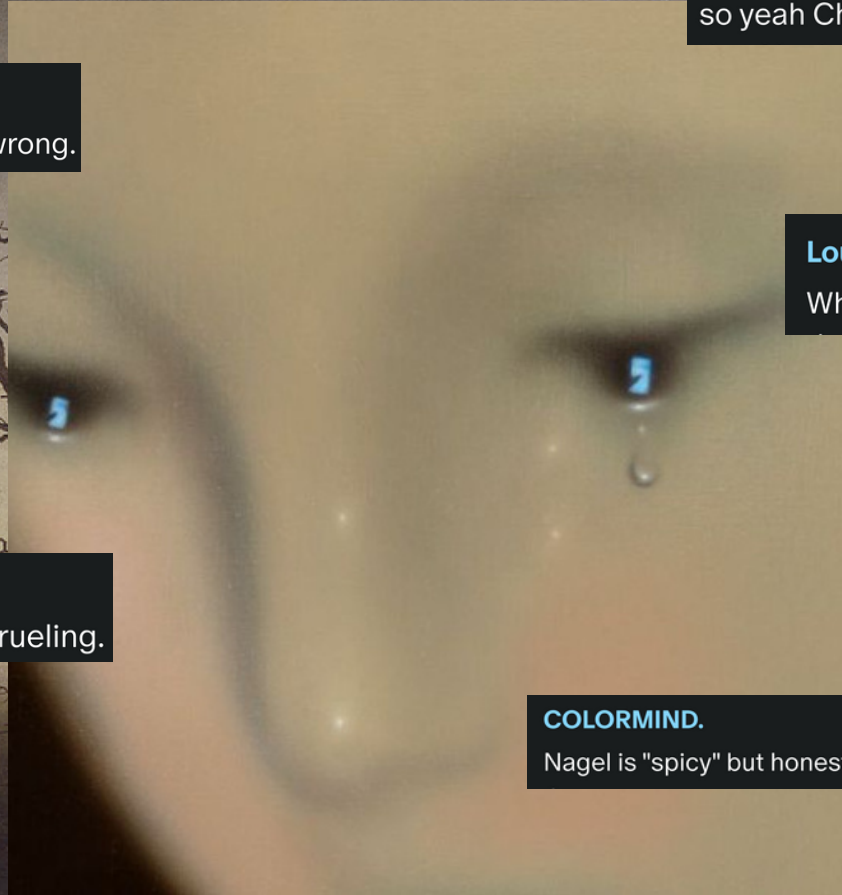
Well gang, this sure was grueling.

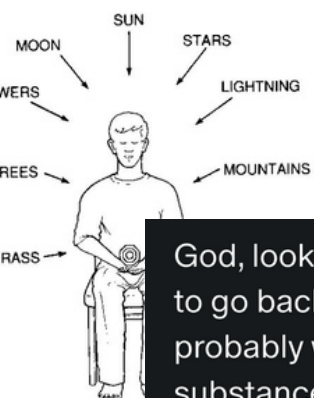
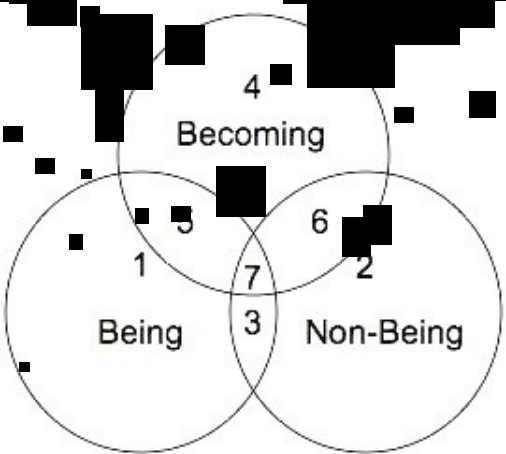
COLORMIND.

Nagel is "spicy" but honestly at times I too yearn for the mines (the dirtbag left)

RubyOrchids

i keep trying to act light-hearted, but fuck me this book is a L O T.



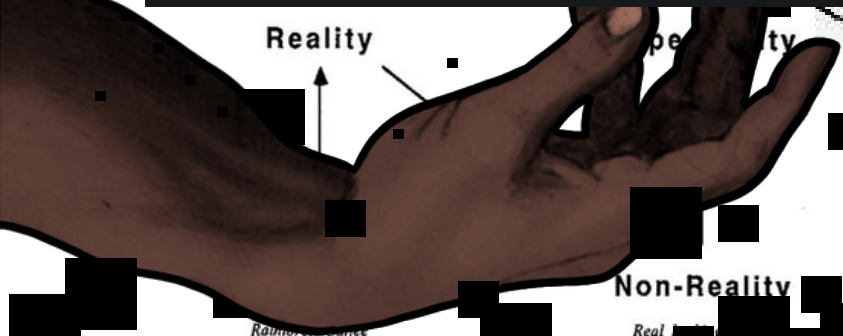


I found Nagle's assessment of the 4chan community as deeply creative to be both horrifying and illuminating. Because, she's right. It really made me take a step back and realize how much stuff these communities have created, and the organized creative power that they are willing to mobilize. They invented rickrolling! How did I not know that!! There's something gross about admitting the creative power of people you don't like or agree with. It feels like they shouldn't have access to creativity, or art, or meaning, and yet, they always do. Horrifying.

adison

God, looking back at 2016, man we meme about it but the darkness was real, it's hard to go back to that time when all the stuff that's just how things are was new, I think I probably would have had a "fuck this imma drink too much and do questionable substances" phase regardless of the times of my coming of age, but man was I a perfect age to get sucker punched. I made my first facebook so I could play FarmVille with my friend across the street, now I've deleted more accounts than my parents have ever had. I made harambe* memes, now I'm reading about politics and harambe is a part of the story. Fuck.

Shy Anne



- OUTPUT
- Outer Alchem
 - Creation
 - Empathy
 - Social Behav
 - Projects
 - Stamina
 - Abundance
 - Power
 - Expansion
 - Giving



10^{25} cm


10^{-20} cm

10^{-15} cm

10^{15} cm

10^{10} cm


10^5 cm



"...a sinister Darwinian guide to tricking the loathed female prey into surrender." (p. 89)


"...in the stark and vicious social hierarchy through which they interpret all human interaction." (p. 89)

"... an unconvincing voice of ultra-rationality to conceal what seems like a great deal of bitterness and hurt at rejection." (p. 95)

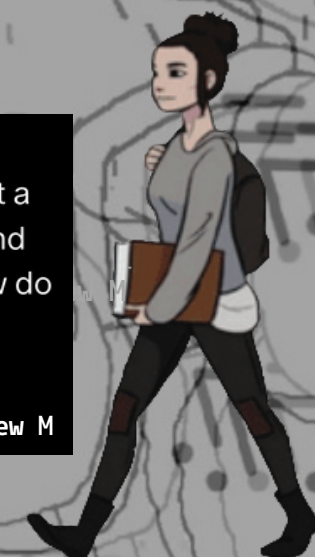


I am... not transgressive in the slightest. There are parts of me that want and have always wanted to grasp at the strings of transgression and counterculturalism; to have the nerve to punch the status quo until one of us bleeds. I think that's a very human trait. but at my core and at the basis of my upbringing is the far more normie-core truth, which is that I am a goody-two-shoes-pleasure-to-have-in-class and always have been. Like, I would take my headphones out of my ears when I was 12 when I knew a song had a swear word in it. This has both served me and harmed me for reasons exemplified in the chapter, describing "good guys" and ""bad guys"" wielding transgression as a weapon for passionate ideological goals. My Review: It's scary! This shit is terrifying!!!

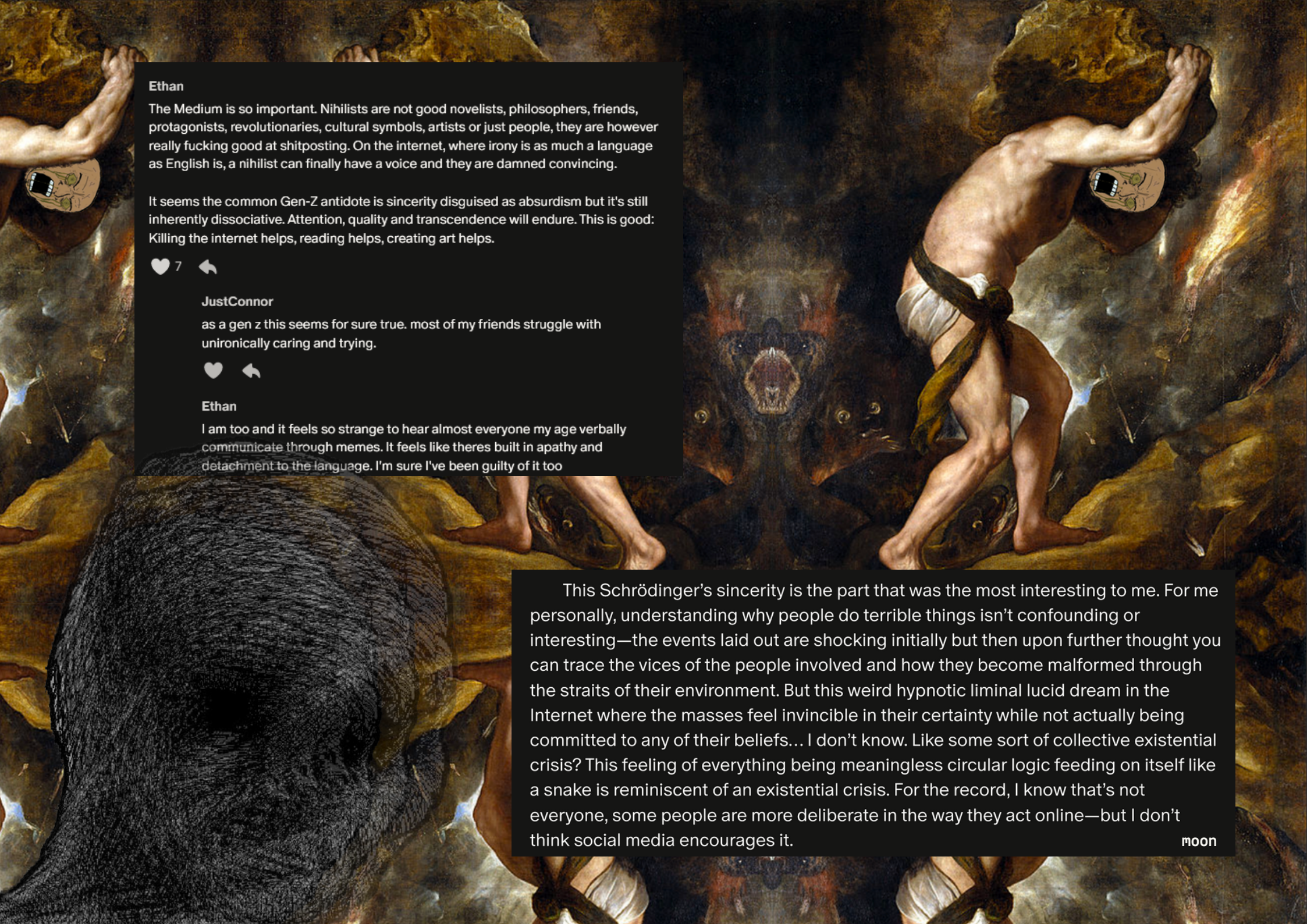
annie liz



I don't know exactly why, but some of the quotes in this last chapter disturbed me in a way nothing else in this book had. Weev's diatribe about trolling as 'Internet eugenics' was almost a little funny to me, with its ridiculous over-the-top self-righteousness, pathetic misanthropy and random tangents about how "There are tortilla riots in Mexico"--but then he ends it with "How do we kill four of the world's six billion people in the most just way possible?" (p.103) and I can't laugh. I just feel sick. He really thinks this. Or even if he just *thinks* he thinks this, he's still enthusiastically saying it in an interview.



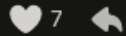
Matthew M



Ethan

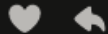
The Medium is so important. Nihilists are not good novelists, philosophers, friends, protagonists, revolutionaries, cultural symbols, artists or just people, they are however really fucking good at shitposting. On the internet, where irony is as much a language as English is, a nihilist can finally have a voice and they are damned convincing.

It seems the common Gen-Z antidote is sincerity disguised as absurdism but it's still inherently dissociative. Attention, quality and transcendence will endure. This is good: Killing the internet helps, reading helps, creating art helps.



JustConnor

as a gen z this seems for sure true. most of my friends struggle with unironically caring and trying.

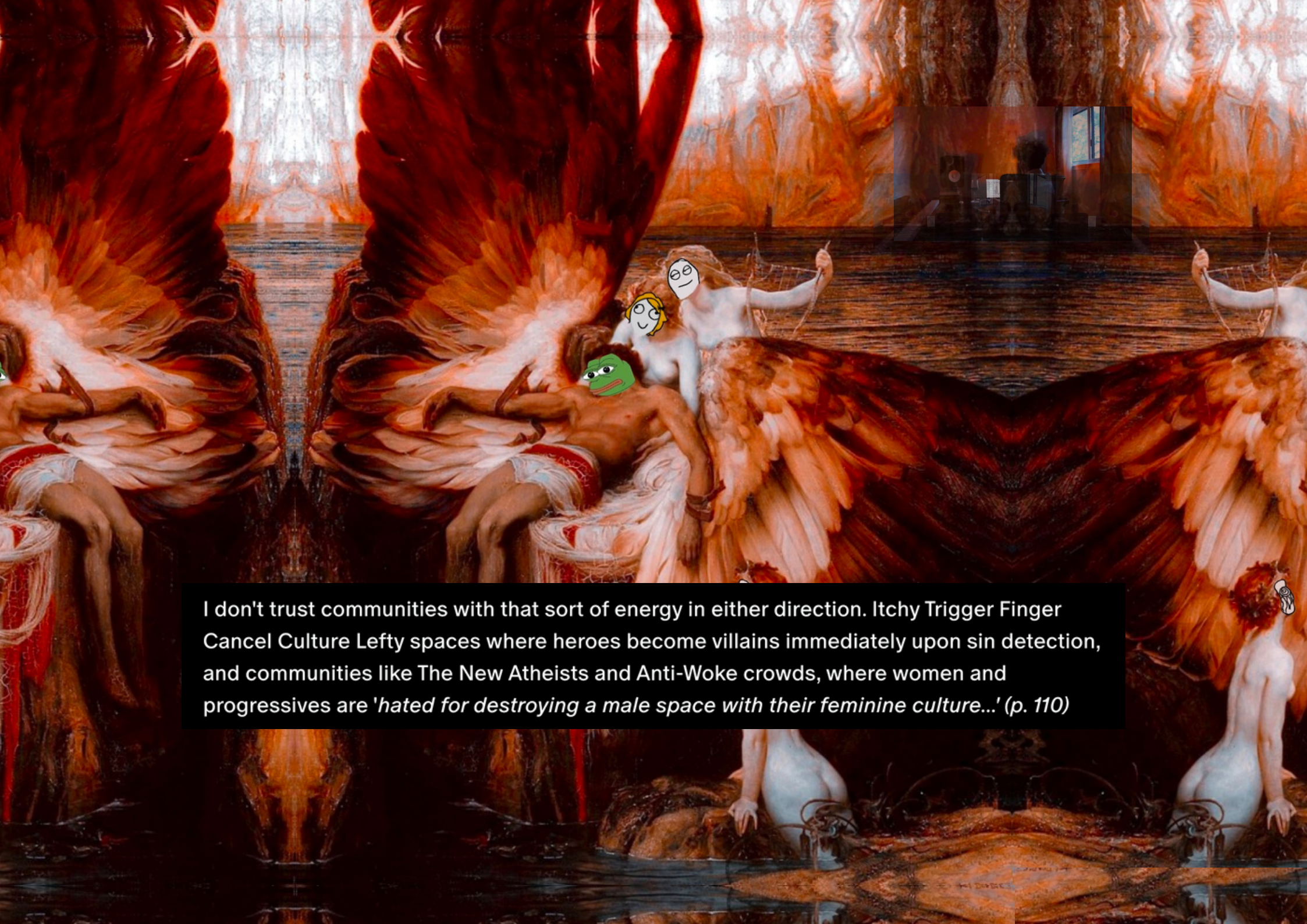


Ethan

I am too and it feels so strange to hear almost everyone my age verbally communicate through memes. It feels like theres built in apathy and detachment to the language. I'm sure I've been guilty of it too

This Schrödinger's sincerity is the part that was the most interesting to me. For me personally, understanding why people do terrible things isn't confounding or interesting—the events laid out are shocking initially but then upon further thought you can trace the vices of the people involved and how they become malformed through the straits of their environment. But this weird hypnotic liminal lucid dream in the Internet where the masses feel invincible in their certainty while not actually being committed to any of their beliefs... I don't know. Like some sort of collective existential crisis? This feeling of everything being meaningless circular logic feeding on itself like a snake is reminiscent of an existential crisis. For the record, I know that's not everyone, some people are more deliberate in the way they act online—but I don't think social media encourages it.

moon



I don't trust communities with that sort of energy in either direction. Itchy Trigger Finger Cancel Culture Lefty spaces where heroes become villains immediately upon sin detection, and communities like The New Atheists and Anti-Woke crowds, where women and progressives are '*hated for destroying a male space with their feminine culture...*' (p. 110)

I appreciated the reminder that conservative politics have always been about exclusion and affixing oneself to the top of the hierarchy.

"While the Trumpians are busy quickly rewriting history, it is important to remember that behind the 'populist' president, the rhetoric of his young online far-right vanguard had long been characterized by an extreme subcultural snobbishness toward the masses and mass culture."

This quote and others really hammered home why conservatives despise communism, social spending, and welfare. To lift up the masses, to support them in times of need, is to allow them the dignity of humanity. And if you see the masses as vermin or over-emotional mobs, then it's hard to imagine them as anything other than blobs of conceptual horror.

adison



This objective, lifting up the masses, is exactly what I found beautiful about leftist thought when I first encountered it, thank you college.

What gets me stuck sometimes is wondering if I like it because it's beautiful, or because I think I'm right/have biased myself into that worldview. Did I learn this value from Jesus? Or did I learn it from my college friends and then apply Jesus to it because I want Jesus to think I'm right?

Samson the Ladle



I'm sure there's some of both going on. I think I find it both poetically and politically to be a goal worth fighting for. Existentially, there is a lot of beauty in collectivism. Creating something larger than yourself will almost always be rewarding. But there is also material safety in protecting the lived experiences of the masses. That is what creates individuals who can live beautiful lives. And I think Jesus would probably be down with that.

adison

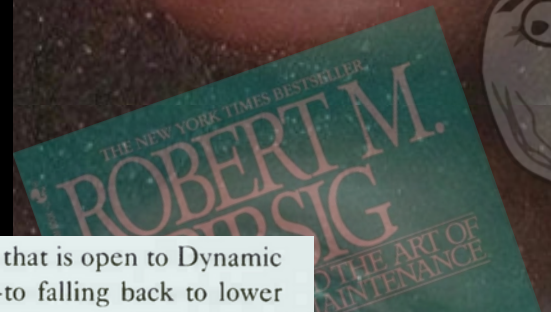
Static quality patterns are dead when they are exclusive, when they demand blind obedience and suppress Dynamic change. But static patterns, nevertheless, provide a necessary stabilizing force to protect Dynamic progress from degeneration. Although Dynamic Quality, the Quality of freedom, creates this world in which we live, these patterns of static quality, the quality of order, preserve our world. Neither static nor Dynamic Quality can survive without the other.

I am currently reading Lila in an attempt to catch up on the KTI Book Club of the past, so I can't really help but consider everything in the terms of Static and Dynamic Quality. I found myself really agreeing with Adison in my initial response to how 4chan users were described as creative. It felt morally bad to say, so the moral structure in Lila felt like a good place to start unpacking that feeling. I'm thinking that they were accessing Dynamic Quality in some ways, but they were using it for degeneracy instead of pushing us forward which leads to the disgusted feeling. Dynamic ways of interacting on the Internet are being used to reinforce the current Static Social status quo which is immoral under Pirsig's framework. Using ironic memes to dismantle any genuine attempt to interact with a new idea is a Static Social layer upending an Intellectual one, and it leaves us latched in place as each side runs in circles trying to undo the work of the other.

Chandler

It seems as though any static mechanism that is open to Dynamic Quality must also be open to degeneracy—to falling back to lower forms of quality.

How can you tell the two directions apart? Both oppose the status quo. Radical idealists and degenerate hooligans sometimes strongly resemble each other.



"irony isn't something you have unless you previously had sincerity that was devastated by reality."

and that's what I've always felt. When you meet someone who says really nihilistic, cynical or myopic shit, don't you always feel some deep misery underneath it? Maybe sometimes that's just projection of the fact that I feel bad for people who are aggressively cynical, but I really have trouble believing that that degree of nihilism can be like...a fully consciously integrated belief that someone has a healthy relationship to. It seems to always be a reaction to some pain or disillusionment or wounded ego. Most cynicism dissolves into sadness with just a little truthful self-reflection.

Matthew M

/b/ - Random

The stories and information posted here are artistic works of fiction and falsehood. Only a fool would take anything posted here as fact.

[Start a New Thread]

[Start a New Thread]

The stories

[Start a New Thread]

The posts from so many of those incel/manosphere/alt-right/alt-light users were so deeply depressed and hopeless that I just wanted to cry. As miserable and horrible and evil some of those cesspools of internet sludge are, I can't help but feel my soul lurch just a bit for the lost folks within them. Their vision of community and shared value is so warped and twisted that they truly feel like /b/ is all they've got. /Redpilled has to be the answer for feeling so lost and unloved and unconnected to the world and the people within it. Sending rape threats to a woman on the internet might be something, as long as you're doing it with everyone else. I feel sick.

annie liz

[Start a New Thread]

[Start a New Thread]

"In the pursuit of the irrational, art has become negative, nasty and nihilistic.' Literary critic Anthony Julius has also noted the resulting 'unreflective contemporary endorsement of the transgressive.'" static dynamic static dynamic

adison

[Start a New Thread]

Only a fool would take anything posted here as fact.

[Start a New Thread]



Pepe the Frog creator wins \$15,000 settlement against Infowars

Victory is latest in a string of legal actions by Matt Furie, who is seeking to halt the co-option of his cartoon by the far right

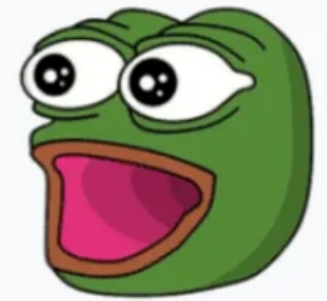


Image of Pepe the Frog, a meme that reached widespread fame during the 2010s.

Interview

Matt Furie on life after Pepe the Frog: 'You have to lead by example'

Sam Thielman

The gentle creator of a cartoon that became a far-right mascot talks about the years of litigation against the likes of Alex Jones, and his ambitious new book *Mindviscosity*

Matt Furie - a superhumanly gentle person, imagine Bob Ross with a skateboard - never wanted to be in the political limelight. [When we last spoke in 2016](#), just a few weeks before Donald Trump's election, the artist was baffled by the "alt-right" adoption of his creation Pepe the Frog, a chill amphibian who had become a notorious avatar for hate. "He's a frog, why would he support white supremacists?" he said at the time. "That doesn't make *any* sense."

"You can't be afraid," Furie says. "You just gotta be yourself and be positive." This may sound naive to some, but he is adamant: "A lot of times I've had an email saying 'I hope you and your family die!' and then I'll just open up to them and say, 'Hey, what's going on? Have you had a bad day? You want to talk about it?' Nine times out of 10, it's a 15-year-old who's angry at the world who really responds to me offering an olive branch."

Is it weird to have to have these arguments?

It's just funny. People are taking it *really* seriously and it's a damn cartoon frog.



FEELS GOOD MAN



Feels Good Man

Feels Good Man is a 2020 American documentary film about the Internet...
en.wikipedia.org

just have vague visions of all the memes related to it. What I DO remember from my time online then was the amount of hateful subreddits and misery spirals I was around. I was depressed and felt relief from memes taking cheap shots at people who had it worse than me, I also spent time in places like r/foreveralone and r/nofap, culty "self-help" pages I hoped would "cure" me.

I was teetering along the incel/manosphere pipeline and these websites really helped reinforce the negative space I was in. I'm in a MUCH better place now, I'm not proud but I dont hold it against myself too much (I was a kid), however when I do look back at this time I always wonder HOW I managed to not fall deeper into these holes. I've concluded that being a minority, having a few feminist friends, and being from a diverse city gave me enough experience/perspective to kinda see how toxic those environments were. Thats all well and whatever for me, but knowing that also makes me wonder how people without those backgrounds fare online, especially the target audience of isolated white teens. And I ESPECIALLY wonder how kids have it now with isolation being the norm and social media being 1000x faster.



Anonymous 03/18/20(Wed)03:55:35 No.823020648 ▶ >>823020687
File: [smug12.jpg](#) (42 KB, 549x549)



>>823020559
>People will jerk off to me but not give me rights
And here I was told I'd never get treated like a real woman.

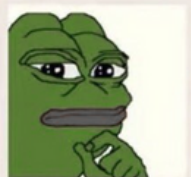
Theres this video called "the incel to trans pipeline" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IAA1XtDOuH8>) and it brings up some of the mentality I had at the time, like frustration with not being a "chad" and feeling rejected by society. Also it focuses on one of my now favorite mangas, Inside Mari (gender bending plot following two absolute losers), which I also... relate to... lol.

cyber . death . rat



The Incel to Trans Pipeline and Inside Mari
1.1M views · 6 months ago
celcocat

Anonymous 05/20/22(Fri)23:24:18 No.878548961



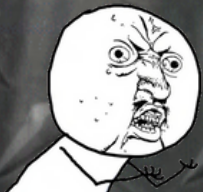
>for a website that is supposed to be homophobic, I really have seen some of the gayest shit ever on here

GAMER JAIL!!!!

[SHOTS FIRED]



"First, let me be clear on my own position on gaming. If you're an adult, I think you should probably be investing your emotional energies elsewhere." (p. 21)
Gamergate itself kicked off when Zoe Quinn created a video game called Depression Quest, which even to a non-gamer like me looked like a terrible game... (p. 21)
WHAT!? Gamers catching strays for absolutely no reason out here?????



I'll start with an easy opinion — I was a little bit annoyed by her comment on gaming not being worth an adult's time. It's probably the least important thing in the chapter but, like, would she say that about thester and novels? Just miffed me a lil.
Ricardo A

just want to say ftr i played zoes depression game back then and it wasnt bad. it was basically just a simple cyoa text game about her experience with mental illness. you would play as someone trying to get through their week, and as you try to establish a stable routine, choices that were previously available before would get crossed out with a red line(ie work on your project would be available one day then crossed out the next, to signify the lack of energy to work on it). like it was very bare bones and sort of amateurish but not the worst thing to grace gaming
Cat

I'm excited to see where this books go but I'm also a little heated over the games slander... sorry Nagle but I will be pouring my emotional energies into gaming until I die.
Natthew

Such a weird choice to entirely denigrate a medium of art/entertainment too. It felt very boomer. Personally, Disco Elysium elicits emotions in a complexity that most novels struggle achieve and there is so much joy to be had in a full room playing Mario Kart that it makes me feel like she's missing out on a lot in exchange for some sense of superiority.
ethan

the Depression Quest jab is stupid.

The dunk on gamers was indeed random and I can see the argument that it's in poor taste, but I think it delivers a nuance to the subject so that it's not reduced to feminist gamer vs chad gamer or whatever. Namely, the secret third option, gamer hater.
bunny



Everyone disliked that.



GRAMMAR JAIL!!!!



Chapter 6 is where I finally lost patience with the sentence structure thing.

Cady

Nagle, who inserts unnecessary clauses into her sentences, like other completely different and unrelated authors who make similar mistakes that I'll draw comparison to here before I've made my point, better not do that throughout the entire book. You know?

Olive Nicole

The lack of oxford commas, unnecessary asides especially when there's a lot of them or they're combined, and I have to reread the sentence three times, and the occasional bad grammar and no oxford commas, are annoying for sure



There were several individual sentences that I spent upwards of five minutes trying to parse.

Matthew M



annnnnd i can immediately tell what cj's talking about re: sentence structure. "Before delving into yet another aspect of the culture wars that typically generates all heat and no light, that I'm not at all unsympathetic to the genuinely egalitarian goals of fairness also found in the men's right movement." what is that. what does that mean. like i published my first paper (as third author Imfao) like four months ago and yes it's hard to connect a lot of unrelated idea together, but that's why you have a kajillion other people in the doc commenting "lol tf does this mean"

sleepystorm





I'M IN.

sleepystorm

mm. we start punching left as the lord intended.

2,045 notes

bloodjob

January 29

3,230 notes



firea



fake

#rb

there is nothing “wrong” with a politics of complaint
but there are several risks
like developing a dependent relationship with “the
enemy”
politically neutralizing oneself by dumping all of one’s subversive
energies into meaningless channels
or reifying one’s powerlessness by identifying with it
because it makes one virtuous
complaint becomes a form of subcultural capital
a way to morally purify oneself
—Jackie Wang, *the tumblrization of everyday life*

welco
me to

my blog

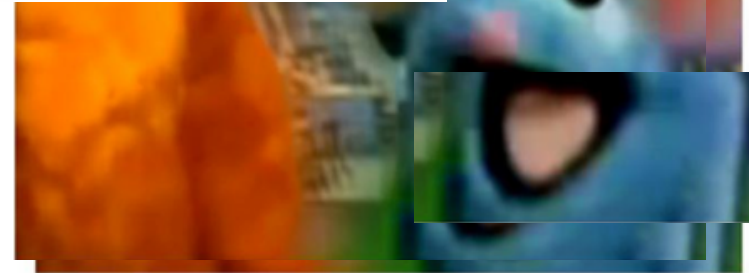
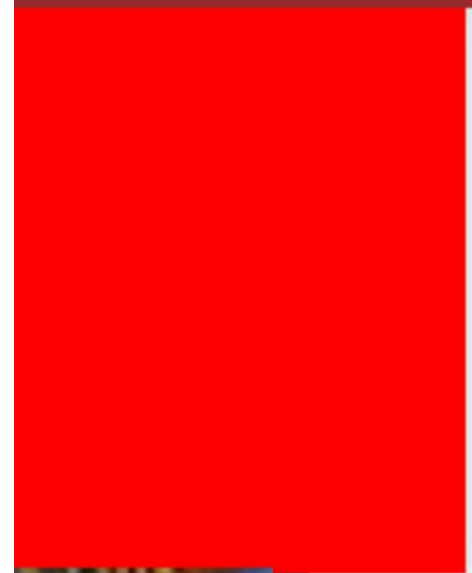
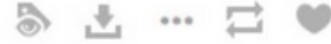
107 notes

tumblr user walks
e of tumbler dot com*

bler: hey what kind of changes do you want in this new tumblr update

user: just fuck me up

otes




AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA
AAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA

LATE

otes





how the fuck
do you spell
borjwazeey
— carl marks

The idea that “liberals don’t care about politics anymore, just bearing witness to suffering” got me thinking about Tumblr Liberalism and fandom. They’re inseparable. Tumblr has always been first and foremost a fandom space. Strife and hardship are integral to literally every story ever, it’s easy to become obsessed with it, and it’s easy to think of real life suffering like fiction when it’s wedged between Sherlock edits and Hamilton fanart. 4chan being faced with this chose to think of reality like fiction, Tumblr thought of fiction being as real as anything.

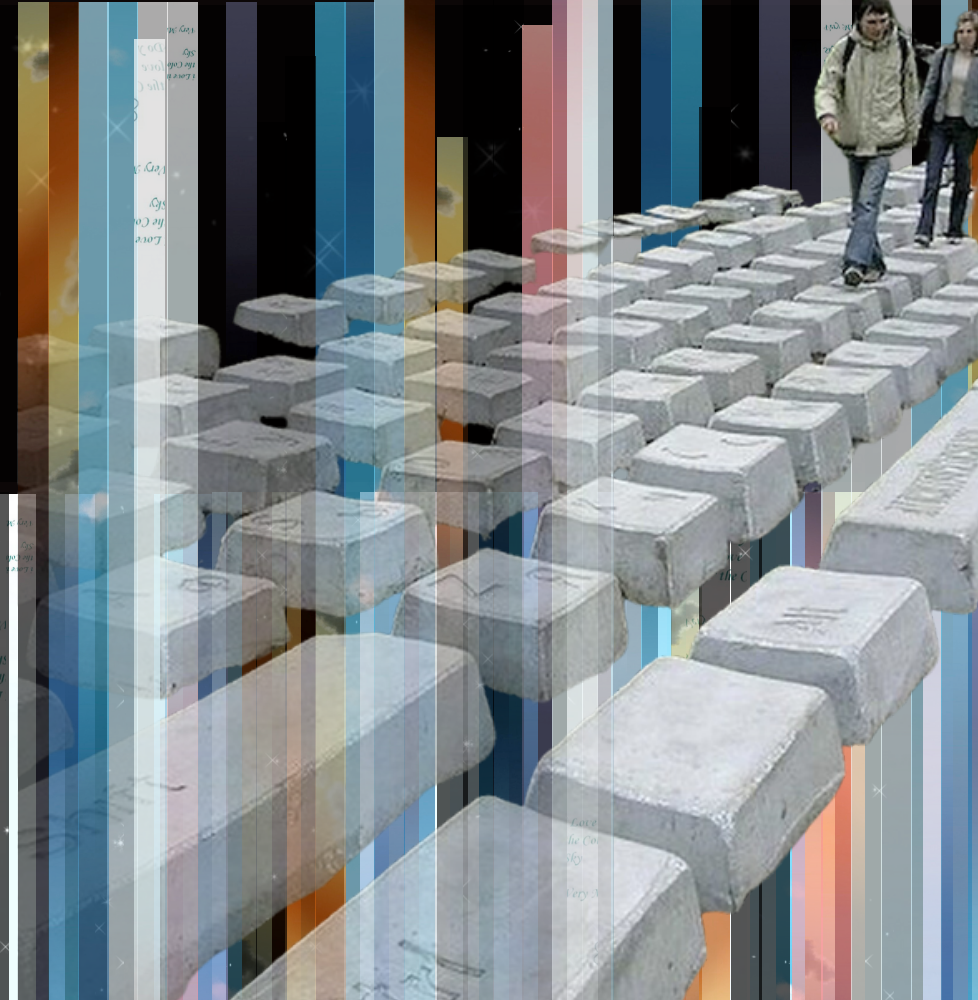
Olive Nicole

Another thing that I think is (frustratingly) not emphasized enough is just **how young** the userbase of both these websites were, and still are. Obviously, there are always outliers, but the bulk median of the both of userbases is unignorably **adolescent**, which is something that Nagle also seems to miss. The fact that the cultural-political quagmire we’ve found ourselves in has been, in a significant part, caused by what I feel I can only describe as high school lunchroom cat-fighting remains mind-boggling to me. No, these two communities were not the **sole** cause of the cultural and political unrest we’re experiencing now, not by a long shot. But I feel like they acted as very compelling vectors through which politics was being piloted through culture (the respective sub-communities in question being the loudest and most narcissistic, etc.) They both largely consisted of young people with a lot of fervor, bitterness and self-righteousness that was ripe for being harvested and appropriated by other people with much more sinister agendas.

Madraykin

Chapter 5. Oh boy!

Of the many criticisms The Gang has had over this chapter (all of which I've hungrily and appreciatively read), a lot of them seem to boil down to context, scale, and faith. Sleepystorm points out the stats comparing neogender tags on tumblr to r/incels, drastically different numbers that Nagle equates as equal. Adison mentions framing and stakes, disbelieving the gravitas of disinvited college talks to the rise of actual nationalistic authoritarianism. Lou mentions the lack of sourcing and background. Matthew M talks about missing motivations. Everyone is just kinda raising their eyebrows and I love it.



Internet
Internet
Internet
Internet



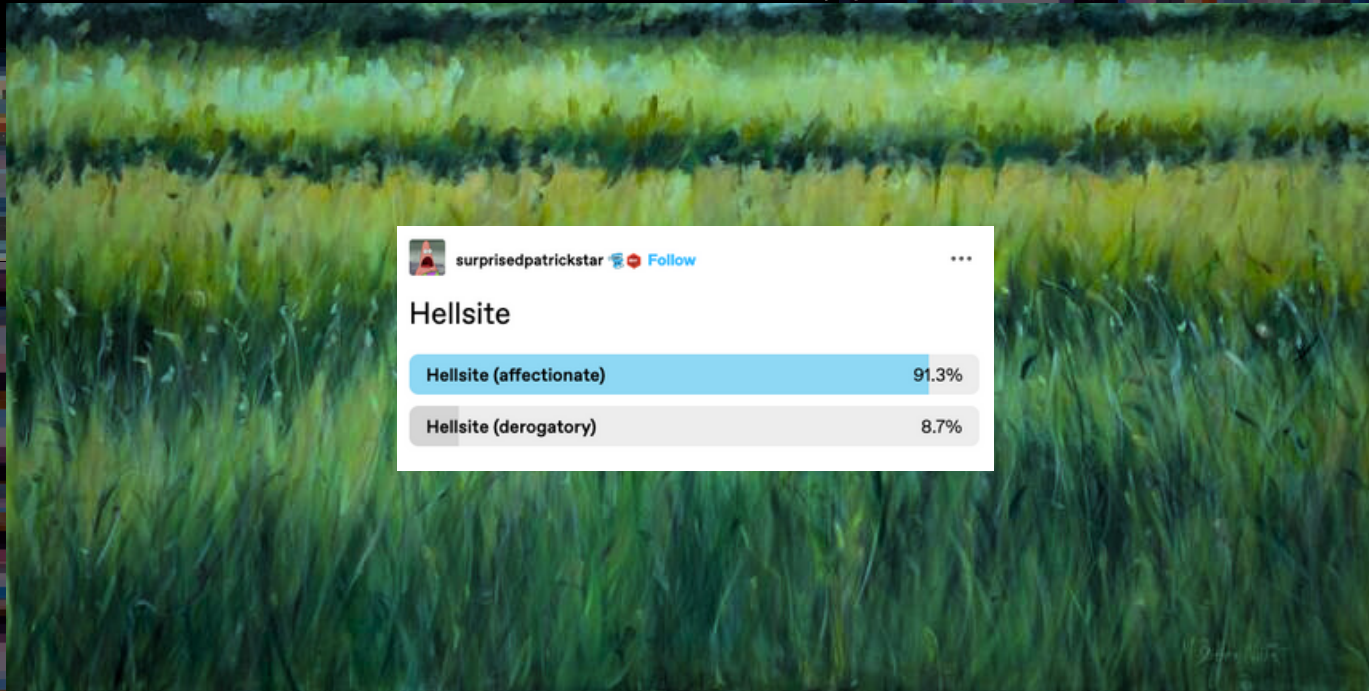
My problem is I keep on catching slivers of what Nagle wants to say and AGREEING with her before the context and the scale and the bad faith whisks her back away from our common ground. Like YES, let's talk about the online foundations of callout posts and canceling, let's talk about the influx of identification, let's talk about white victimizing and the self-flagellation of privilege, let's talk about purity policing, let's talk about the feelings of autonomy surrounding personal attacks compared to community organization!!!! There's good shit in here!! But Nagle doesn't wade into it the way she did in previous chapters with 4chan and right-wing political commentary.

annie liz

Ok I'm coming back from the ContraPoints GamerGate retrospective and I'm reeling in horror at seeing the timeline now that we have the language for what the hell happened

Like hearing the original "Zoe Post" compared to a post-breakup Tumblr callout post, or realizing that the original Tropes vs Women Kickstarter funded at \$150k (which is now small potatoes for digital content Kickstarters)...like this was cancel culture before we had the words for it. The "Hot Allostatic Load" article describes this phenomenon a full year AFTER this...and it took the internet a good 5-10(!) years to conceptualize all this.

Ajey



"And yet, amid all the vulnerability and self-humbling, members of these subcultures often behaved with extraordinary viciousness and aggression, like their anonymous Pepe-posting counterparts, behind the safety of the keyboard. (p. 74)

MOBBING

CALL-OUT CULTURE AS RITUAL DISPOSABILITY

David French of the National Review:

"The misery is compounded when longtime friends and allies dismiss my experiences and the experiences of my colleagues as nothing more than the normal cost of public advocacy. It's not. I have contributed to National Review for more than ten years now, and have been deeply involved in many of America's most emotional culture-war battles for more than 20. I've never experienced anything like this before." (p. 118)



1) It has an unusually strong power to damage the victim's relationship to society, because it can't be written off as an outlier, as some singular monster. It reveals a fundamental truth about people that makes it difficult to trust ever again. People become like aliens, like a pack of animals that can turn on you as soon as some mysterious pheromone shift marks you for death.

2) The insidious nature of emotional abuse: How do you fight ostracism and rumors? They leave no bruises, they just starve you.

3) Mobbing typically occurs in places where the victim is trapped by some need or obligation: work, school, circles of friends. This can prolong exposure to damaging extremes.

There's a seductive clarity to certain labels. Omnigay. Perigenderflux. They invite you to point at them and say: That's me. Pin down the everchanging malleable being that is your gender and don't let it escape! Take a few labels and build yourself an identity. Online you can explain who you are before you meet people.

valentin

Mainstream newsreading audiences were baffled when Facebook revealed that it was offering more than 50 gender options for its members to choose from in 2014 around the same time when campus wars over safe spaces, trigger warnings, no-platforming and gender pronouns emerged. But the social-media

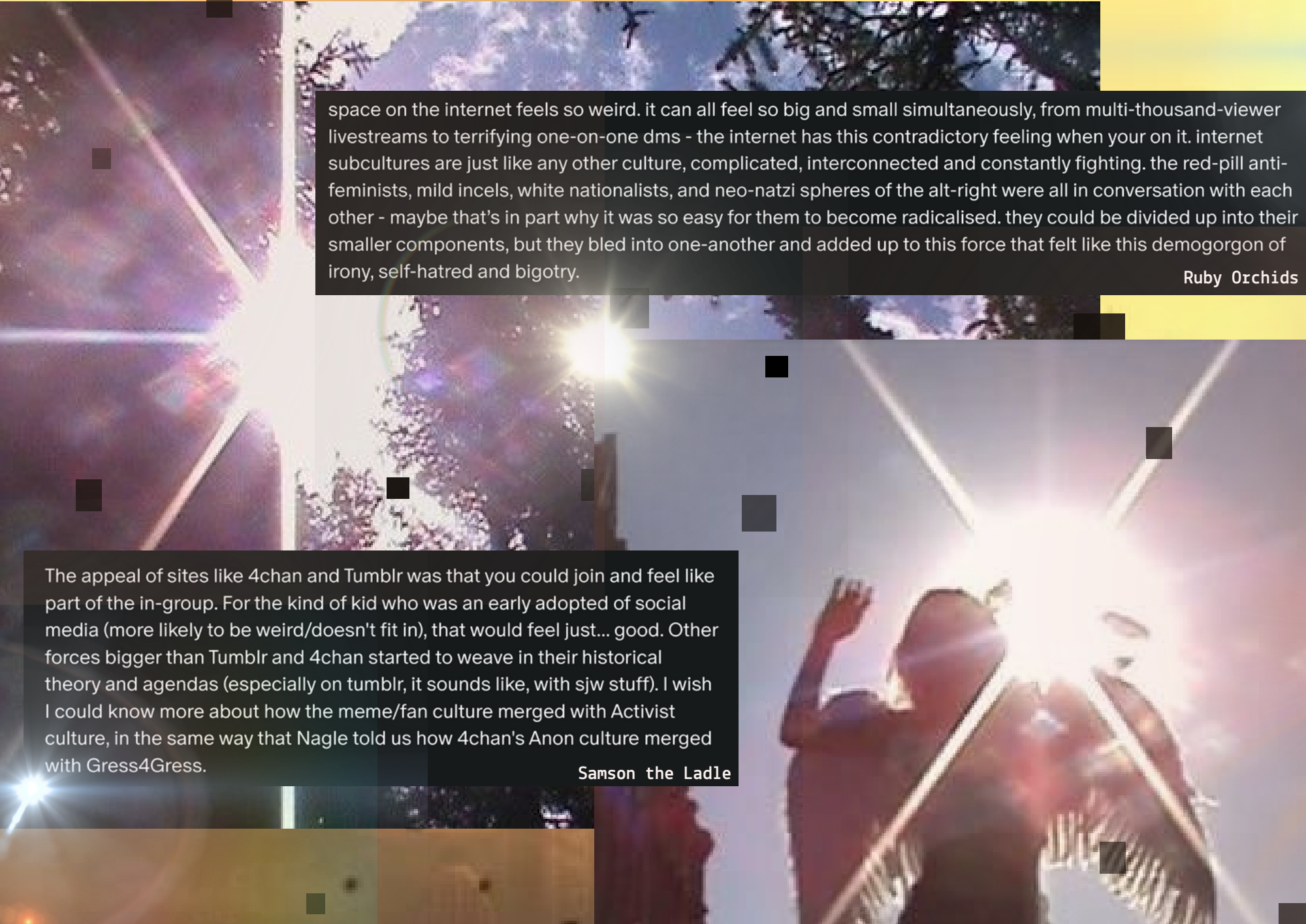
I lost my pronouns in the campus wars

Also re: the abundance of labels: The list of genders feels very similar to the tiktokification of fashion - the Tomato Girl, Cottagecore, Dark Academia, Mori-Girl, GoblinCore, OfficeBitch, Eclectic Grandpa - they're all different ways for people to try to find a way to make their identity visible. My hope is that over time, this will make the hyper-speed fashion consumption so obviously unsustainable and illogical that we'll say "fuck it, wear what you like, everything is normal now" and be done with it. Perhaps the same can happen with gender?

Samson the Ladle

[EDITORS NOTE:]

the 3 nonbinary people on our staff concur the NB Pride flag is ugly af & upon perceiving the comparative soothing majesty of this Genderflux Pride flag we are all now considering identifying as this gender instead for aesthetic purposes



space on the internet feels so weird. it can all feel so big and small simultaneously, from multi-thousand-viewer livestreams to terrifying one-on-one dms - the internet has this contradictory feeling when your on it. internet subcultures are just like any other culture, complicated, interconnected and constantly fighting. the red-pill anti-feminists, mild incels, white nationalists, and neo-natzi spheres of the alt-right were all in conversation with each other - maybe that's in part why it was so easy for them to become radicalised. they could be divided up into their smaller components, but they bled into one-another and added up to this force that felt like this demogorgon of irony, self-hatred and bigotry.

Ruby Orchids

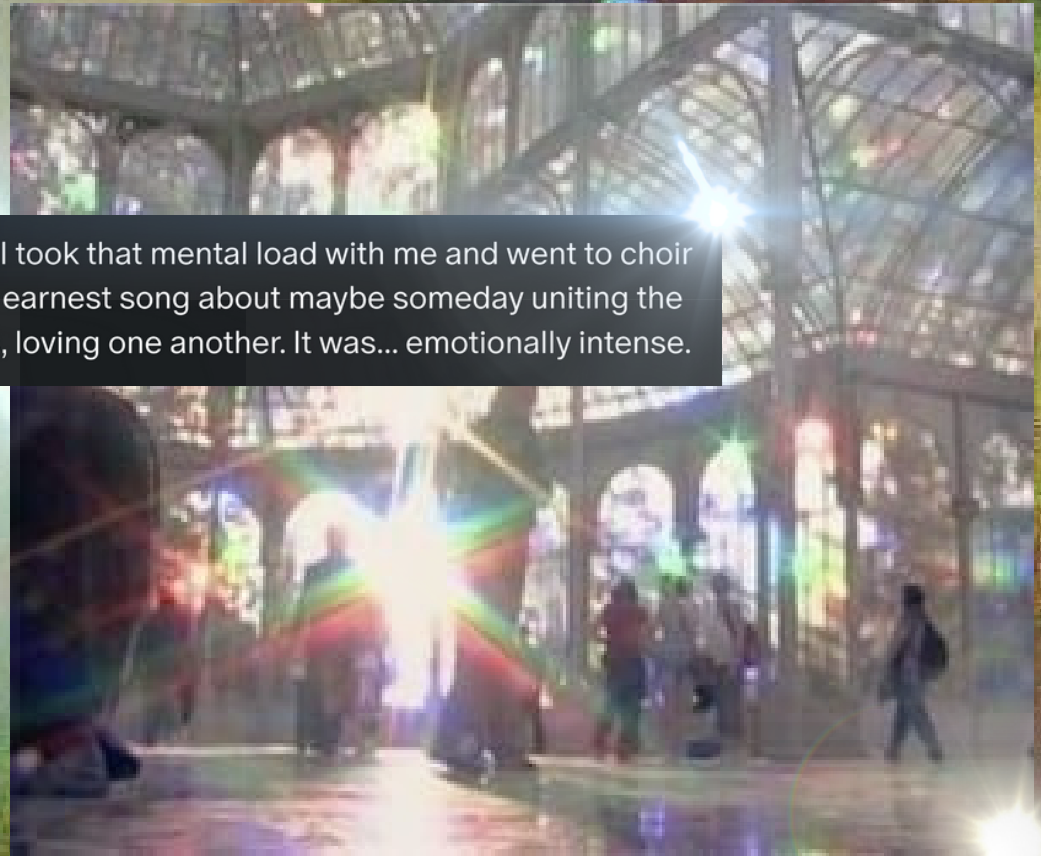
The appeal of sites like 4chan and Tumblr was that you could join and feel like part of the in-group. For the kind of kid who was an early adopted of social media (more likely to be weird/doesn't fit in), that would feel just... good. Other forces bigger than Tumblr and 4chan started to weave in their historical theory and agendas (especially on tumblr, it sounds like, with sjw stuff). I wish I could know more about how the meme/fan culture merged with Activist culture, in the same way that Nagle told us how 4chan's Anon culture merged with Gress4Gress.


Samson the Ladle



Immediately after I finished this book, I took that mental load with me and went to choir practice at my church. We sang a very earnest song about maybe someday uniting the human family, swords into plowshares, loving one another. It was... emotionally intense.

ShrubDryad





Transgression definitely makes people feel powerful and gives them a sense of control, which I think is part of it. A lot of people feel powerless in their lives for whatever reason, so it's fun for them to indulge in the fantasy that they're some kind of edgy hackerman who's breaking through society's boundaries. There's also this big part of 4chan's culture that revolves around being ironic and detached and not giving a shit about anything, which I think is very important because it makes them feel like they're protected from getting hurt. After all you can't feel sad about something if you never cared, and you can't feel rejection if it was just a joke, right? It makes them feel strong and shielded from pain, which is desirable for them because they've felt pain and hurt in their lives and they want to convince themselves that they're emotionally invincible.

Izzy

As someone who is very conflict avoidant, I've always tended to look at transgression for transgression's sake as pointless violence. Transgression should be a tool to oppose violence, not create it. And if I find myself being transgressive in my daily life, it is often with the goal to defend and advocate. However, with this Internet wave of edgy alt right users, even what I consider 'good' transgression is no longer productive or useful due to being met with nihilism and non logical rhetoric.

Florence

I think I'm overall pretty pro-transgression as a rhetorical strategy or artistic expression because, as the poets say, "I'm a bad bitch and I got bad anxiety, bitches call me rude cause I ain't lettin' them try me." (Megan the Stallion, Anxiety) Like I'm autistic, I've had issues figuring out what is appropriate in different contexts and also issues giving a shit because sometimes polite, well-mannered behavior is bullshit! Sometimes it's appropriate to transgress against norms because the norms are unjust! Lizzie's in a box! Hip-hip-hooray!

Shy Anne

I've long been exhausted by the conservative tradition of transgression, and I found it interesting to explore how this ideology of rejection was created.

Because that what it is right? An ideology centered on the rejection of another. An ideology of "owning the libs." I think that's I find dissatisfying about this kind of transgression is that it doesn't stand for anything. Only against. To use a Pirsigism, it's very static, and not in the way that breeds discipline or pursues order, but in a way that stifles the dynamic.

"The psychopath, like the artist, privileges id over superego and desire over moral constraints

I find the tension between the dynamic creativity and the static ideology of trolls endlessly interesting. As a movement, these types of trolls are capable of creating and organizing on a truly horrifying scale, but they never seem to use it to create anything ... real?

adison

I think a dialectical approach to like virtue vs transgression is ultimately more helpful than take it a side. Like the virtues of kindness, generosity, love, empathy, justice; these are good places to connect with others, good guiding principles, good goals. But everyone is problematic and I condemn them all, especially myself! We are all wicked and must be cleansed of our sins by making the world better, and we can't do that without sometimes fucking around and finding out; we shouldn't be ostracized for being problematic, we should be in communities that help us learn from our own fuck-ups, and we should put effort into helping our allies understand when something they're doing may be problematic for the movement, rather than kicking them to the curb.

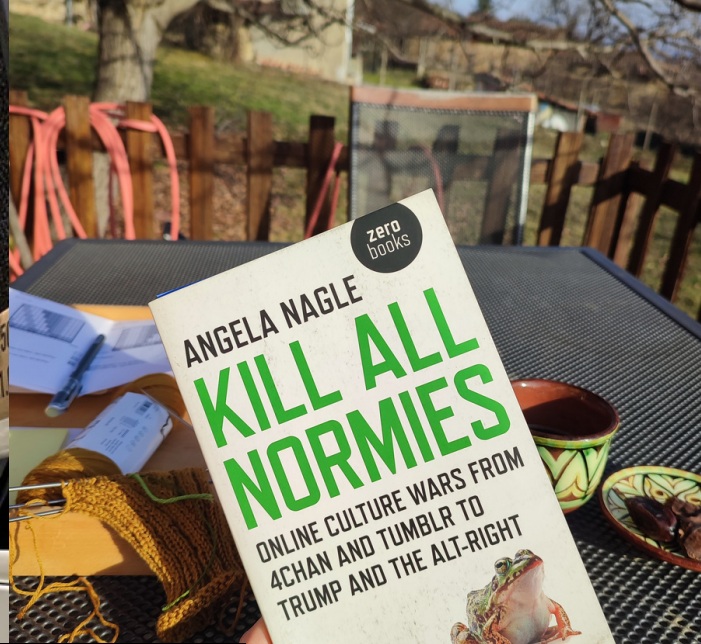
Shy Anne

This Milo dude claims that the alt-right is the "new punk." But I profoundly disagree. There is nothing countercultural about being transgressive on the internet. The internet culture IS transgression and outrage. But what is the new counterculture?

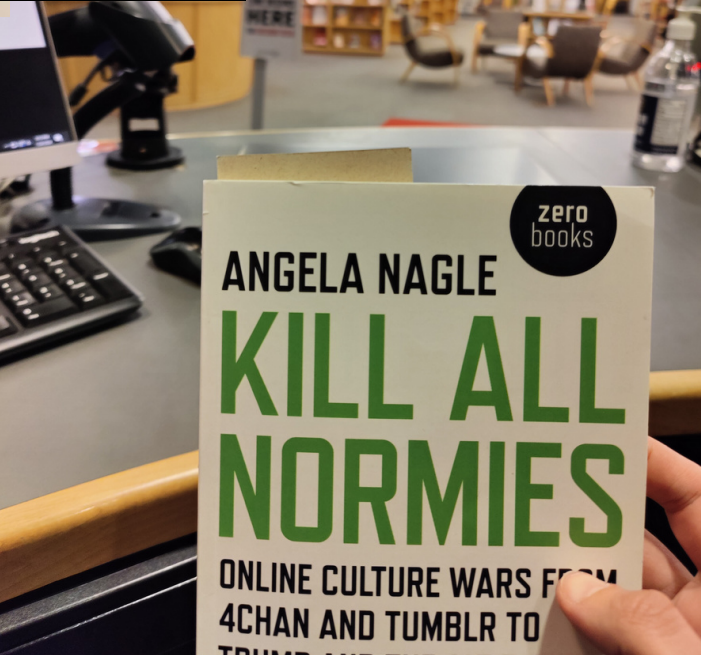
Counterculture today is long form discussion. It is book clubs like this. It is fragmented websites instead of big social media sites. Counterculture is building community on and outside of the internet. It is networks of people distributing art independently. It is engaging in conversation with those you disagree with. And it is places like this.

Counterculture today is no longer transgressive. Counterculture today is gentle.

valentin

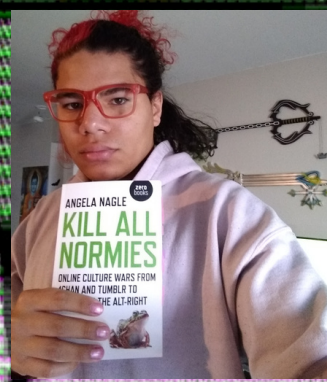


Halley
 I sat down with a coffee to read this at a gaming cafe because I was early (I work with children in a separate part of the building) but I was finding it hard to concentrate because the only other guy in the whole place sat at the table next to mine drinking a beer at 10am and proceeded to YELL on his phone for a solid fifteen minutes. kinda just felt like that's how this was meant to be read

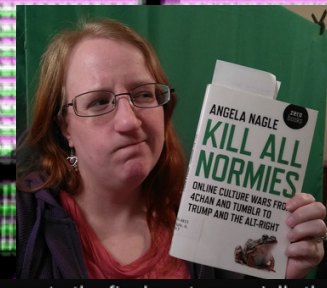
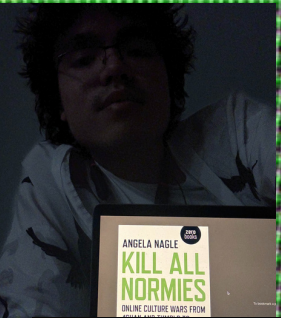


Mathew M and Chandler Stirling have wrinkled my brain to mush

Shy Anne, especially that week 1 comment <3

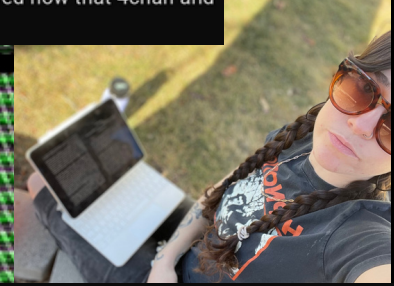


I resonated with valentin's comments on chapters 2+3 regarding 'gentle transgression'. Their analysis of classic transgression being the new normal on the Internet, and that resisting this requires rejecting not only the rhetoric but the medium of discussion itself really stuck with me.

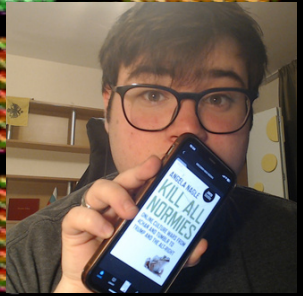
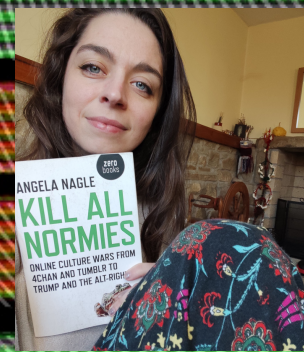
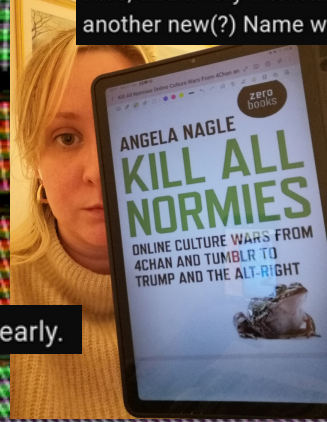
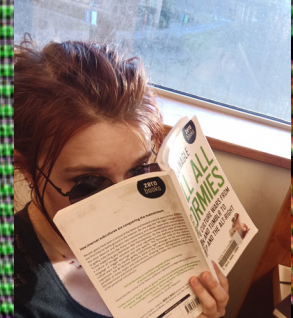


really liked Madraykin's response to the final post, especially the section about the relative youth of these communities when all of this was happening. I'm curious how this dynamic has evolved now that 4chan and Tumblr have "grown up"

Matthew M kept putting into words things that I was vaguely feeling while reading the book. Also, Madraykin's message on the last thread drew a lot of resonant ideas out of a difficult book.



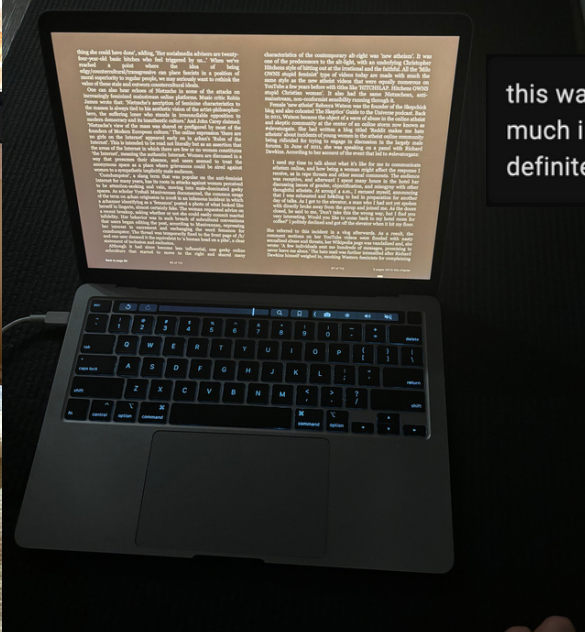
I've been following Matthew M's contributions like a goddamn puppy cause they're great Also Shy Anne - a new face, and a very welcome addition! Yessa made a comment that made me think for pages Rubyorchids is another new(?) Name whose writing I enjoyed ldk guys I liked all of yall



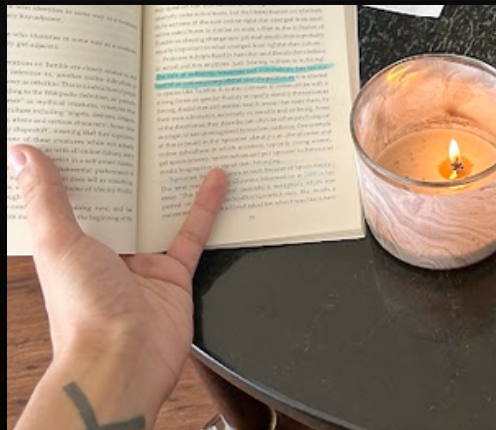
Shy Anne had a lot of great insights and a perspective that came across really clearly.



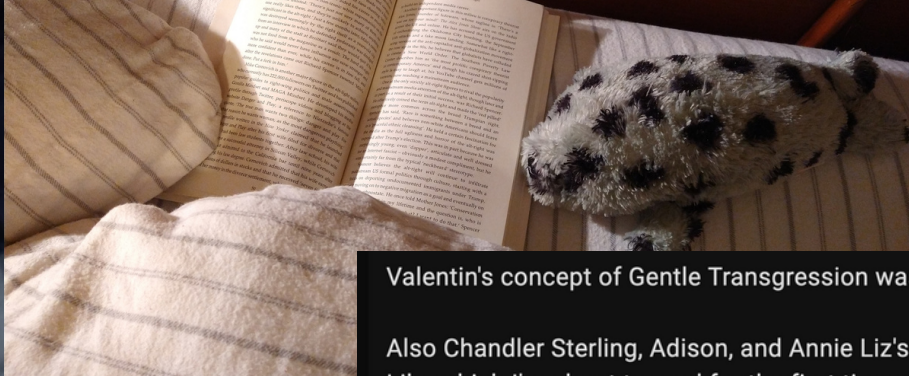
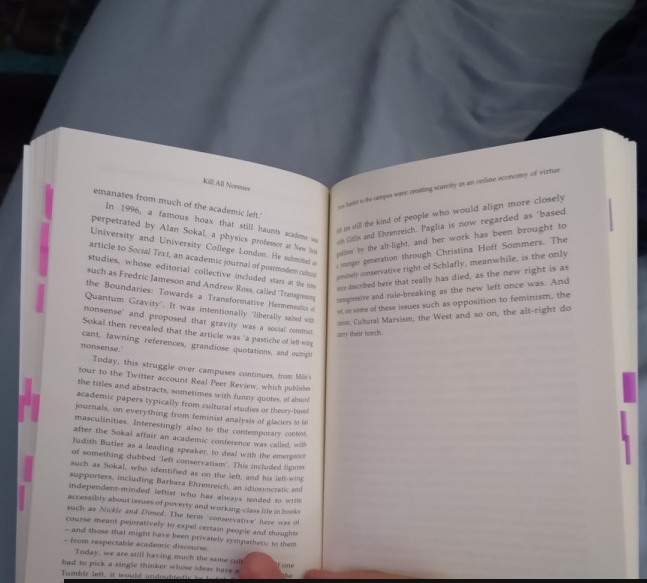
Idk guys I liked all of yall



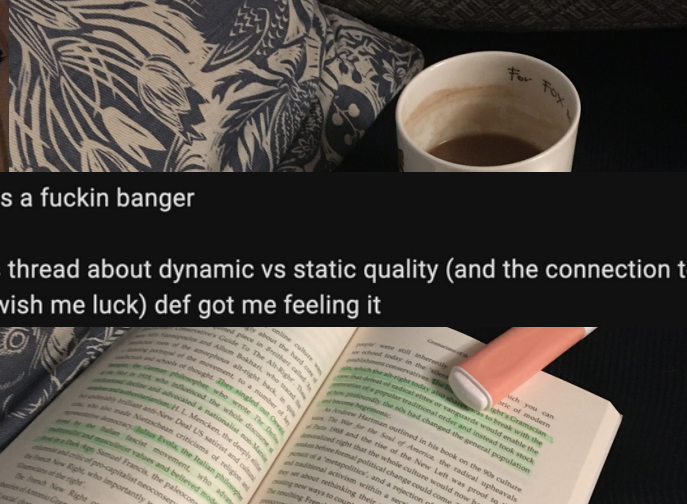
this was my first book club experience, and i felt like i didnt have much to say about this book. that lead to not much interaction, but it was nice to post my thoughts and have a couple people like it here and there. definitely want to engage more next time though.



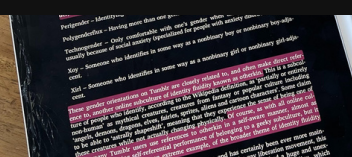
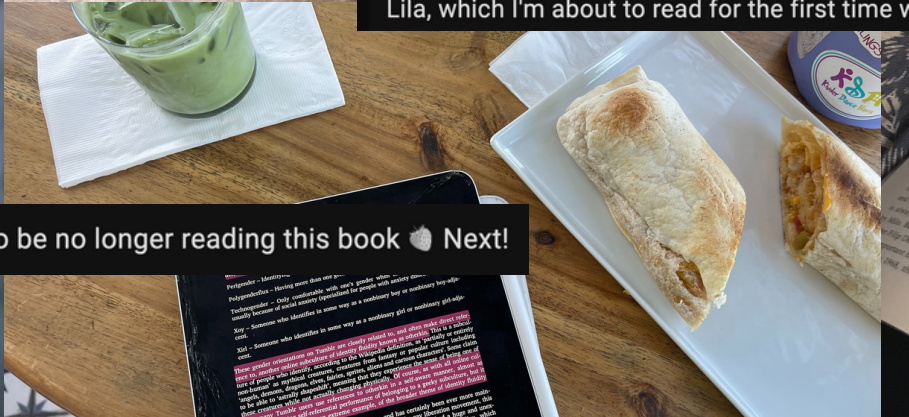
Instead of highlighting one individual thread, I just want to highlight the energy of the community as a whole. Sometimes these threads are quieter, usually building off each other to create an interwoven collection of reflections. But there was such a fun level of cooperation this time around, and I really appreciated it.




Valentin's concept of Gentle Transgression was a fuckin banger
Also Chandler Sterling, Adison, and Annie Liz's thread about dynamic vs static quality (and the connection to Lila, which I'm about to read for the first time wish me luck) def got me feeling it



Everyone is so smart and cool and I'm glad to be no longer reading this book 🍷 Next!





Why not take a break?
You can pause the game
by pressing .

WiiSports



Editors



CJ The X
they/he

still alive, despite it all

cjthex.com

--:[LAST LOGIN]:--
at the sidewalk at the edge
of the world



Valentin
he/him

prefrontal vortex

--:[LAST LOGIN]:--
trying coffee for this and
disliking it intensely



Annie Liz
she/her

whirling at a stoplight

--:[LAST LOGIN]:--
following rules & breaking hearts



atwood machine incarnate

saba
they/them

sabafeleke.art

--:[LAST LOGIN]:--
inside the belly of the beast



adison

bo.badison.substack.com

unknown entity

--:[LAST LOGIN]:--
exhuming the sky body

they/them

[#0094ff](#) [Dabin Ahn](#), *Blue*, Oil on Linen, 2023

[#f2dad5](#) Caspar David Friedrich, *Abbey in the Oakwood*, 1809-1810

[#413117](#) Titan, *Sisyphus*, 1548-1549

[#0bc729](#) Herbert James Draper, *The Lament for Icarus*, 1898

[#571b22](#) [bohemainsthings](#), *Zig-Zag*, 2024

[#34324b](#) Sir Claude Francis Barry, *Monte Cassino*, 1944

[#2a0547](#) Christian "Dogmuth Behedog", *Gaping Dragon*, 2021

[#cc00ff](#) Matt Furie, *Mindviscosity*, 2020

[#bcdcdca](#) J.M.W. Turner, *The Fifth Plague of Egypt*, 1800

[#dca79c](#) [shoujowonderland](#), 19 July 2014

[#d94122](#) Shūzō Oshimi, *Inside Mari*

[#f246ad](#) [ask-crammaster-ham](#), 11 Sep 2017

[#b982f7](#) [caluummhood](#), 2013

[#679bff](#) Anatoly Vyatkin, *Keyboard Monuement*, 2005

[#4d956e](#) [Melita Biber Nuta](#), *Summer Grass Painting*

[#89898](#)
[2](#) Paul Delaroche, *The Execution of Lady Jane Grey*, 1833

[#ec729a](#) Gustave Doré, *Satan Contemplates a Serpent*, 1868

[#e4e7ff](#) Boris Ogñenovich, *Depersonalization Disorder.png*, 21 Sep 2014

[#96ff89](#) [Kimsooja](#), *To Breathe—A Mirror Woman*, 2006

[#033710](#) photos of the ground, valentin, 2024

Citations