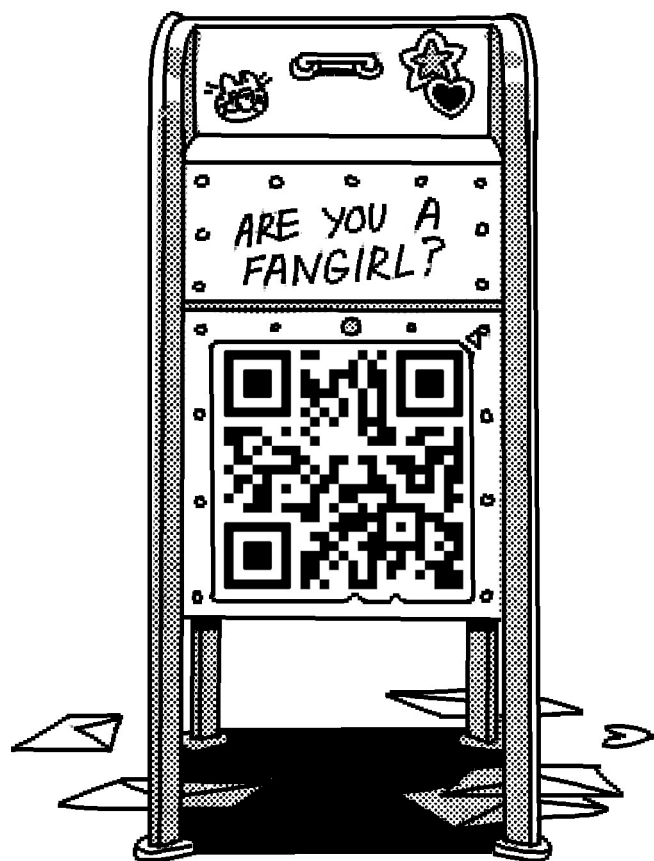
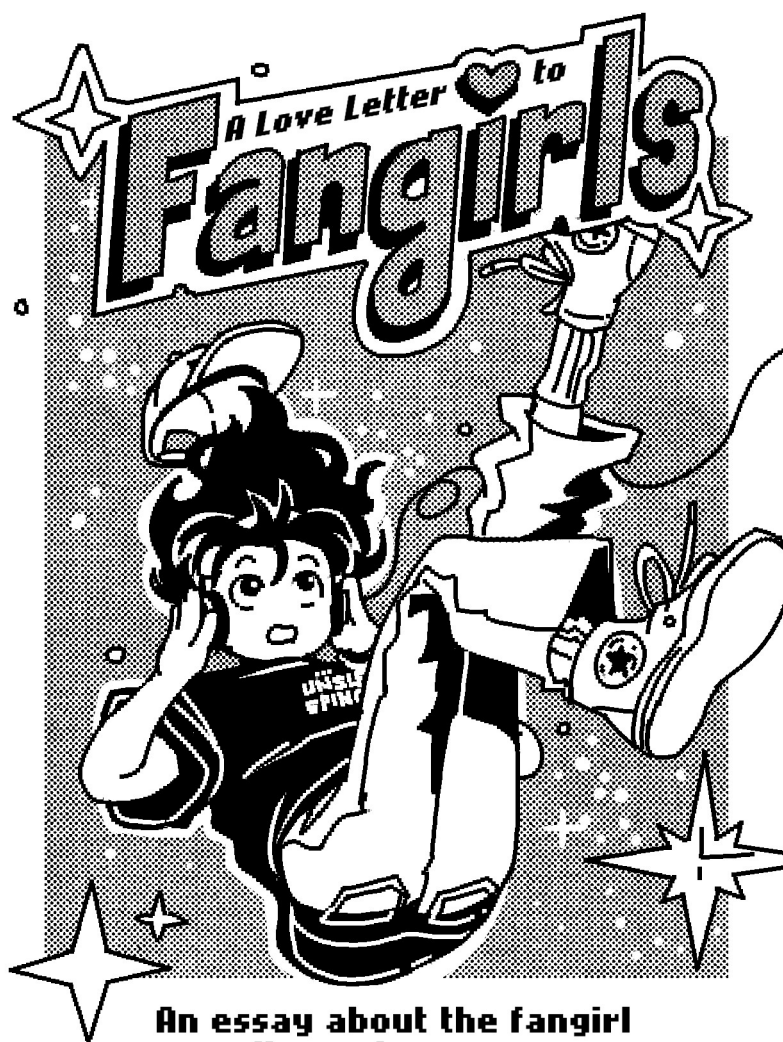


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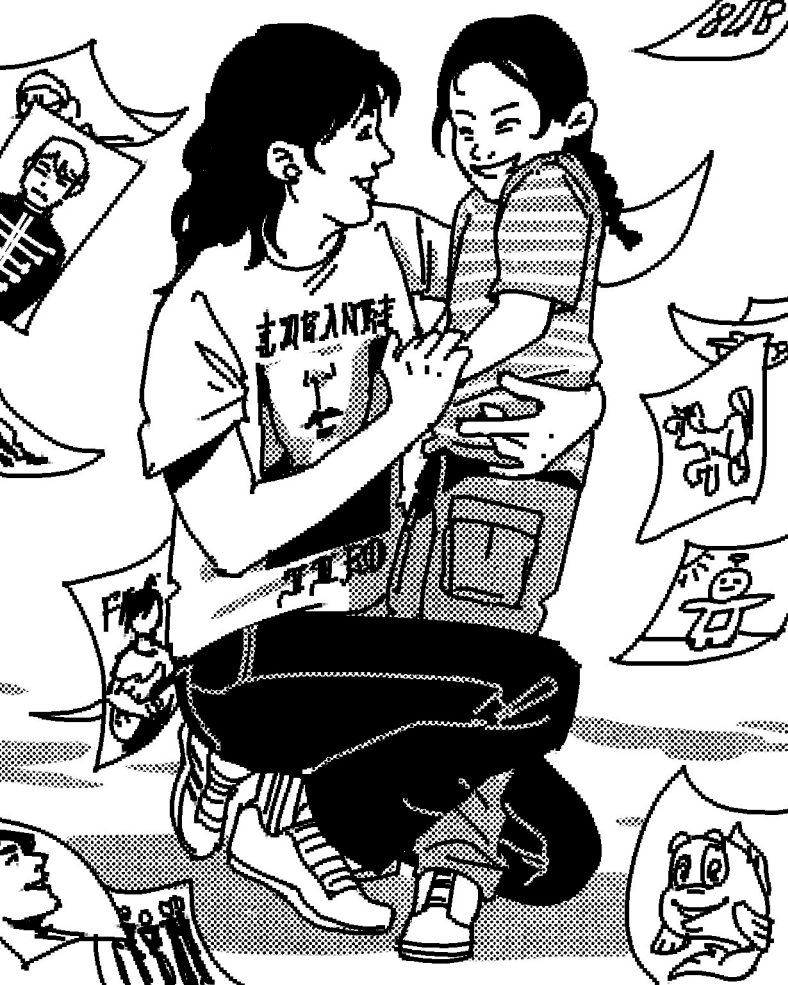


2024



An essay about the fangirl
culture phenomenon

I'm a fangirl; I've been one for as long as I can remember, and I'm only just now learning to embrace it.



But to me, being a fangirl is the purest form of love.

NEURON ACTIVATION

Real, unrestrained love for something or someone that pushes you to the point of creation.



I'm a fangirl. That word leaves a bittersweet taste in my mouth. Being called one often comes packaged with snickering and disdain.



Being a fangirl is considered childish, immature—something to be ashamed of and kept secret.

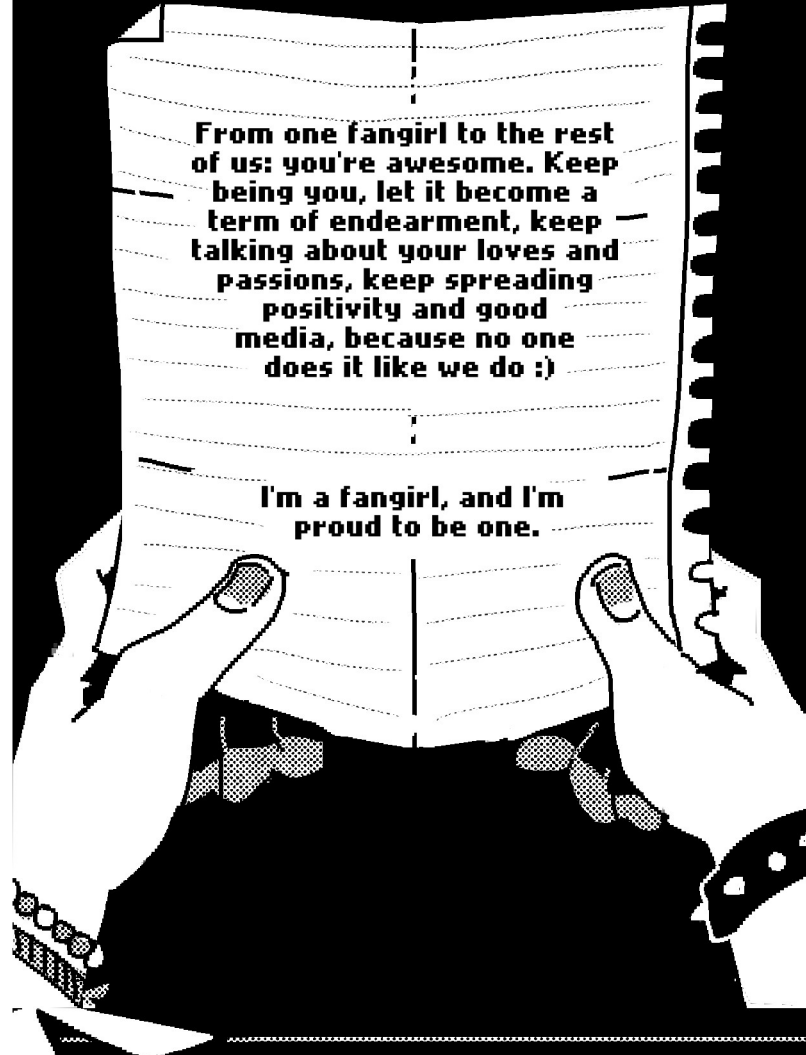
Some people create art, and some create tightly knit communities that share a passion for the same thing.



Fangirls connect across continents, languages, and backgrounds to share this bond.

From one fangirl to the rest of us: you're awesome. Keep being you, let it become a term of endearment, keep talking about your loves and passions, keep spreading positivity and good media, because no one does it like we do :)

I'm a fangirl, and I'm proud to be one.



I have yet to meet a fangirl who doesn't light up with joy and excitement anytime you ask them to tell you about their favorite thing. Their whole face changes as they dive into an hour-long monologue about their favorite fictional character.



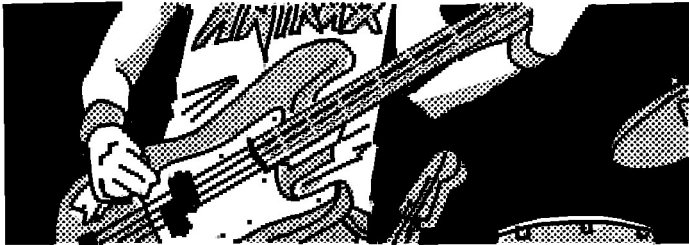
Some of the best stories I've ever read were *Hannibal* fanfiction.



Some of the most gorgeous drawings I've seen were *My Chemical Romance* fanart.



Some people become musicians and singers solely because their favorite artist inspired them to do so.

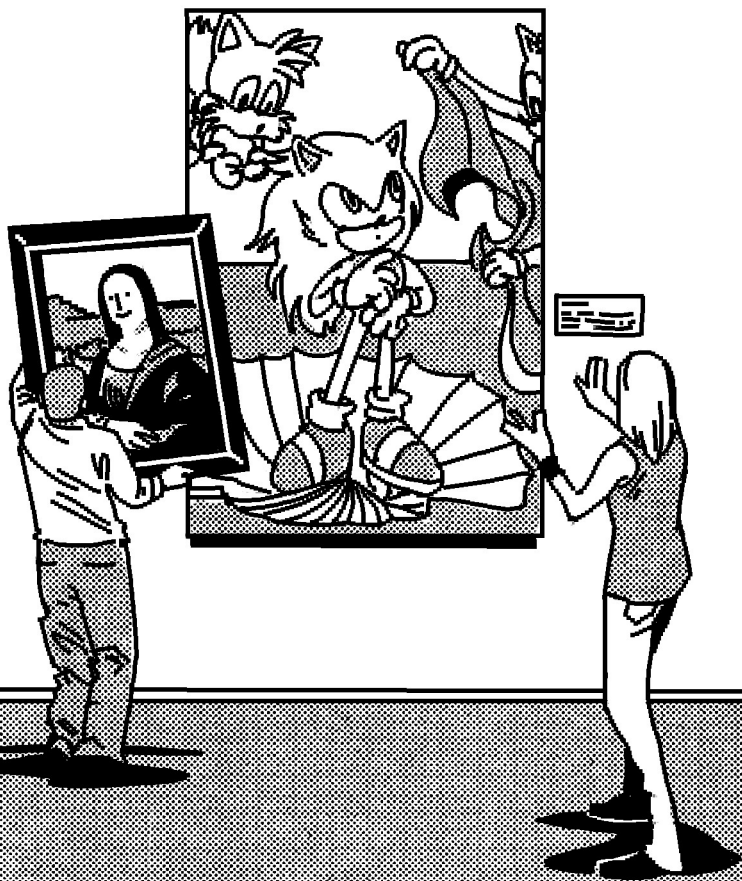


We're the ones who show up to basement shows and stand in the first row, who re-watch movies enough times to keep them relevant, who make fandoms trend because we can't stop talking about them.



We're the heartbeat of fandom culture, the silent force that keeps our favorite media on *your* radar.

Some might say that fanart is the purest form of art. Modern art galleries *wish* they could elicit half as much emotion as the average Sonic fan artist does.



You don't know what it's like to be a fangirl until you've stayed up all night reading fanfics, camped out for a gig all day, worked on an edit of your favorite show, or drawn overly intricate fanart of your favorite video game character.

Being a fangirl teaches you that passion doesn't need to be justified—it just needs to be felt.



Fangirls will write love letters and put pictures of their idols on their walls. Fangirls will buy their ugly T-shirts and wear them with pride.



Fangirls won't shut up about their favorite piece of media to their friends and anyone who will listen. Fangirls get it.



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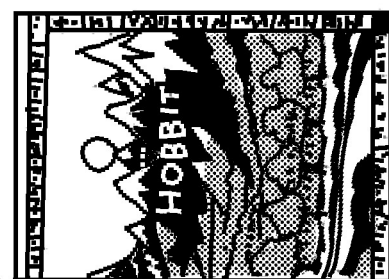
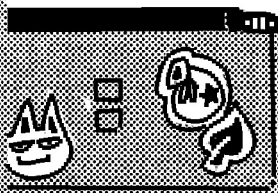
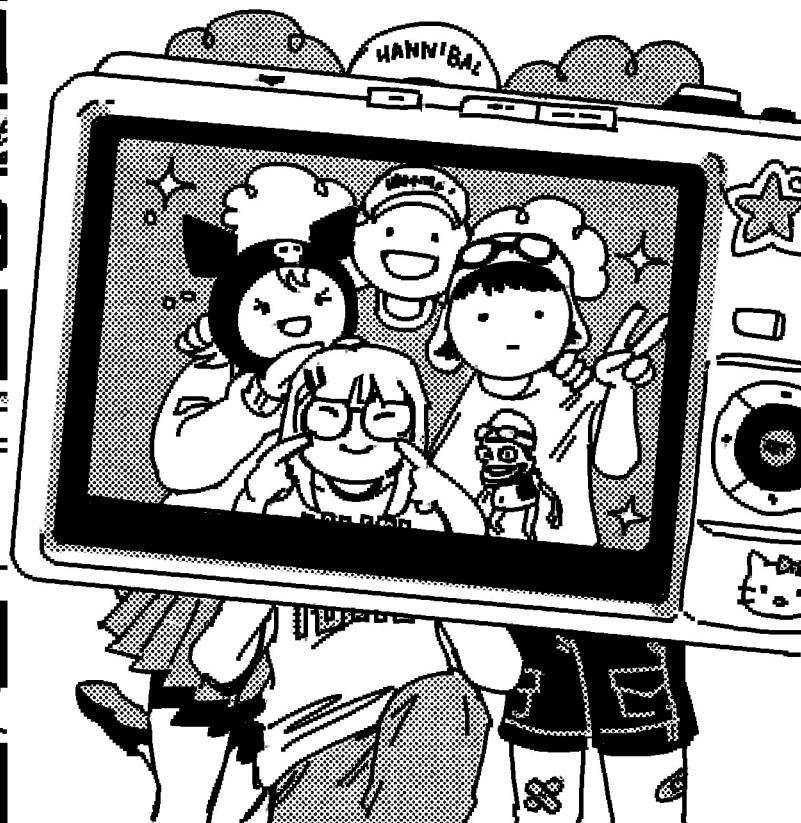


Fangirls are invisible (read: overlooked) giants that hold up entire industries on their backs.



When you're a fangirl, you're part of something bigger than yourself.

You're part of a community that's always there, ready to welcome you back with open arms whenever you feel like revisiting an old obsession.



Others become writers, screenwriters, or painters, tracing their talents back to the first spark ignited by a song lyric, a movie scene, or a book passage that changed the course of their life.

