THE FEMINIST FANDOM MANIFESTO: ABRIDGED

FOR THE NERD/GEEK/FAN CULTURE BY: M_L_K

LIST OF DEFINITIONS

An unfashionable or socially inept person.

Nerd – A foolish or contemptible person who lacks social skills or is boringly studious

Fan –A person who has a strong interest in or admiration for a particular person or thing.

Fandom (also uncommonly known as "Geekdom" or "Nerdom") – The fans of a particular person, team, fictional series, etc., regarded collectively as a community or subculture. Its interests can be but not limited to: books, movies, TV shows, video games, anime, gaming, manga, music, cosplay, tabletop gaming, and etc.

Cosplay – The practice of dressing up as a character from a movie, book, or video game, especially one from the Japanese genres of manga and anime.

Gamer – A person who plays games, usually referred to video games. Note: Please note I use "geek", "nerd", and "fan" interchangeably.

CW: MENTIONS OF DEATH THREATS, RAPE, SEXUAL HARASSMENT, FATPHOBIA, AND CYBER HARASSMENT.

INTRODUCTION

I have been a part of Geekdom for most of my life, and it is still a part of my life as I grow up. But being in Geekdom for so long I see there are many problems within it. The geek/nerd/fan community is much more diverse despite what others think from nerds being portrayed badly in media I'm looking at you big bang theory. But we are not a monolith. We created our own microcosm to hang out with people with similar interests and for the "majority" who rejected us for our interests. In my manifesto, I will bring up a few of the problems we need to address in the geek culture. I call this the Feminist Fandom Manifesto I am looking through a feminist critical eye to address these issues that affect not just women but also women of color, differently abled people, and the LGBTQ+ in the fan community. I offer up some solutions to these problems in order to address these issues.

ON ABJECTION WITHIN NERD CULTURE

Abjection – When a collective rejects an individual that does not conform to the collective's norms. The collective feels threatened by the individual's values and deviation from the norms. There is also a process of an individual learning to reject and hate a part of themselves due to being abjected by a collective.

In nerd culture we came together as a collective due to the fact we kind of rejected by what seems like the "majority" of society. But within the subculture that we created for ourselves, other fellow nerds end up rejecting others because that see the others. This rejection is also known as abjection, which end up creating others. This happens in nerd culture through discriminating gender, race, LGBT+ identities, differently-abled people, and pretty much anyone who is not white, cisgender, heteronormative male. Here are a few examples of abjection within the nerd community.