

THE FEMINIST FANDOM MANIFESTO: ABRIDGED

FOR THE NERD/GEEK/FAN CULTURE BY: M_L_K

RECOGNIZING OUR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CAPITAL WITHIN FANDOM

Social Capital – Being to afford enough time and knowledge to spend and consume within a capitalist system.

Economic Capital – Being able to afford enough money to spend and consume within a capitalist system.

Privilege – A special right or advantage available only to a particular person or group of people. Some groups of people are treated better than others due to their class, race, gender, sexuality, or physical ability; it is reflected through systems and institutions that affect us.

We as fans, geeks, and nerds chose a hobby that is pretty expensive. To take a part in fan culture, it involves a lot of time and money. Think about it, we usually live under the idea that we should pay for consuming whatever creators make, which isn't a bad thing either. These creators put in time to create these wonderful shows, books, comics, manga, and games; if we are to consume these we should give back to them. And taking a part in our hobby is not a bad thing either, it requires us using our creativity, when we make cosplay, fanart, or fanfiction. We can also choose to be entrepreneurial and make money off of selling our cosplay and fanart (no to fanfiction, because we're not supposed to sell those. Don't do what E.L. James did.). We consume these mediums and merchandise, because it's what makes our fan/nerd/geek identity. Doing these activities require time and money, which some people cannot afford. We need to recognize that we have privilege to enjoy this hobby to whatever extent we can. We cannot belittle anyone who cannot participate in these activities. Especially since there are people who would like to participate in fandom activities, but do not have social or economic capital to afford it.

Let me illustrate listing out on spending things that people in fandoms usually like to participate in.

TO STREAM TV SHOWS AND ANIME

- Crunchyroll - \$6.95/month
- Hulu Plus - \$7.99/month
- Netflix - \$7.99/month

BOOKS, COMICS, MANGAS, GRAPHIC NOVELS

- Which can cost somewhere from \$11.99+, for each one you buy

GAMES

- New console games \$60 each (from any video game system excluding handheld games)
- 3DS games \$30-\$35 each
- Consoles can go for at least \$300-\$400+

COSPLAY

- Sewing machine \$80-\$100+ Cloth materials \$10+ onwards (The prettier and more complex the cosplay the more expensive it can be.)
- Prop material (depending on how complex they can be) \$10+
- Buying wigs \$30+ (not including shipping)
- Buying circle lens eye contacts \$20+ (not including shipping)
- Buying makeup which can be \$100+ (if you don't already have makeup)
- Invest in time, which can take hours and months to sew your cosplay, make accessories, and or finish making your props OR
- You commission someone who's really good to make your cosplay or props, it can run up pretty high \$60-onwards (depending on how complex the character's costume is, and if you're doing a rush order; usually you have to order months in advance so you have it in time for the convention, or pay for a high price on rush orders)