Opinion

Some fanfictions should not be sold

By ALEXANDRA MARTINAKOVA
Editor-in-Chief

Waking up to the news that "All the Young Dudes" is being sold and published as an original work ruined my day, I can tell you that.

The sad part is it is not the first major fanfiction work that saw this fate and frankly I have had enough of it.

Fanfiction is an underrated genre of fiction that many don't even consider as one. Because it takes inspiration from other sources, many do not consider it an original piece of work.

Whether it is or isn't is a different conversation.

But the truth is, no matter what side of that argument one stands on, there are some fanfictions that are so engraved into different fandoms, that taking them out should not be possible. And yet that is the trend that has steadily become the norm.

If you think you have never read or seen a fanfiction before, think again. Ever read "Fifty Shades of Grey?" "After?" "The Mortal Instruments?" "The Love Hypothesis?"

All of them started as fanfictions, and pretty popular ones at that.

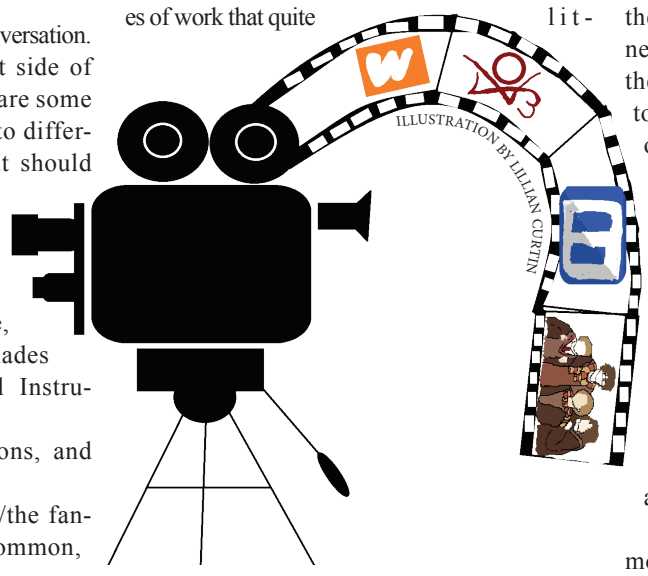
But the thing all of these books/the fanfictions they came from have in common, is that they were not that important.

Harsh, but hear me out.

A fanfiction is the author's original work. No matter how many creative liberties the author takes — whether it is a very similar story with a different ending for example or a completely different one with just the same characters — it is still something that the author sat down and wrote.

If they want to publish their work and make money that is completely understandable, we all need to get paid somehow.

What I get annoyed at is when it comes to pieces of work that quite literally started a completely different fandom.



Take the aforementioned "All the Young Dudes," a piece of work from 2017, that is based in the world of "Harry Potter" or more exactly, the sort of prequel with the previous generation called Marauders. This fanfiction, that is over 500,000 words long, is what basically created the fandom based on Marauders, which online grew arguably even bigger than the original text.

How can you take that and turn it into something completely different?

In order for it to be officially published, the characters and the world it is set in needs to be changed. And the worst part, the original "All the Young Dudes" needs to be taken off of the site it was published on — which in this case is AO3.

Uhm, excuse me, how dare you?

Take another example. "Manacled," also a piece of work set in the Harry Potter world, is a fanfiction that started the entire 2020 DracoTok era. It is an alternate universe that merges Harry Potter with "The Handmaid's Tale" and it is still being quoted till this day.

Last September it was published as "Alchemised" and "Manacled" is only available as a pirated pdf.

You want to publish your work and earn money for it? Don't write fanfiction.

Again, a harsh statement, maybe, but it is true. Fanfiction writers aren't writing these stories because they don't have any original thoughts and have to copy someone else's work like it is a homework assignment. They are doing it because they love the original story or characters and want to enhance that preexisting world. Trust me, I would know.

The fanfiction authors are doing it for the love of the game; if they wanted to write something original and publish that, they would've. Most of them are more creative than half of published authors anyways.

Taking your fanfiction, which became as great as it was because of the fandom it built, and turning it into something else is cheap and that's when I will call you unoriginal. Because while your fanfiction piece enhances something, stripping it of its core and "creating" a new story acting like its original piece of fiction counts in my dictionary as copying.

And "After" or "The Idea of You" lovers put the pitchforks down. Fanfictions that were based on any One Direction member do not count in this argument — God knows not a single one of those was original in the first place.

Women can find athletes hot and still know ball

By EMILY MARQUIS AND AMANDA DRONZEK

LET'S GET IT BERGER-ON

It took me nearly a full season to see Boston Bruins alternate captain Patrice Bergeron's face.

When your parents are proprietors of not buying expensive cable, watching Bruins games becomes an exercise in sailing the seven seas and watching post game interviews isn't necessarily in the cards.

But don't get me wrong. He was still my favorite player.

"Bergy" was exactly the kind of athlete that always endears me. The hard-working, defensive hero that plays his best in the brightest lights. The kind of guy that you'd let date your sister. Lunch pail, hard-working, never in it for the stats kind of hockey.

But his stats are incredible. Men will see my favorite player ever isn't a fourth liner from the East Coast Hockey League and decide "I don't know puck." Then they'll take a look at Bergeron's French-Canadian jawline and make a host of other incorrect assumptions about why the Bruins' former captain is my favorite.

Calling me a "puck bunny" when I am the first to defend Bergeron in the Selke Trophy conversations is ridiculous when my evidence is his CF% (Corsi for Percentage), a stat that tracks a player's puck control in a quantifiable manner. An eye test from a perfectly capable person, including a woman who believes Bergeron to completely live up to his nickname of "Saint Patrice" in every aspect, could've told you the same thing that stat could.

Maybe I just have bad luck with picking favorites because Bruins goaltender Jeremy Swayman seems to also cause a stir within the male hockey fan community. Newsflash, when goaltender Jaroslav Halak went down in the 2020-21 season, there was an option between two goalies to take the mantle. One had a 3.40 goals against average, the other had a 1.50.

Am I really a "puck bunny" if I liked the guy who let in less goals? It's not even an advanced stat, it's a simple metric that every broadcast from Hamden to Swayman's hometown of Anchorage, Alaska, includes. I could have a nuanced conversation about how Swayman's goals saved above expected of 27.1 is a lot higher than most fans are willing to give him credit for.

But to be honest, I don't particularly want to. I don't owe a spirited defense over why I like these players. They're hot, they're good at puck and that's my business.

SLUTTING UP FOR THE SEASON

On Dec. 3, 2013, former Boston Red Sox center fielder Jacoby Ellsbury signed a seven-year, $153 million deal with the New York Yankees.

Eight-year-old me stood on the stairs in a gray 2013 Red Sox World Series t-shirt and sobbed for two reasons. One, I hated the idea of the 2013 team breaking up like One Direction. And two, I was in love with him.



Men love to claim they know more about sports than women. "Real" Boston fans dubbed faux fangirls, "pink hats," in 2003 when a historic Red Sox team made it to the American League Championship Series.

"Pink hats" are the ditzy bitches at games who go for the Instagram pics, booze and a hot dog that they won't eat.

And then, from under the brims of their pink hats, they'll turn to their boyfriends and ask: "Who's winning?" when the game is tied in the bottom of the ninth.

I can't stand a fake fan either. But it's worse to be compared to one. I genuinely care about baseball more than my own family. I'm my dad's designated son. Since I don't have a dick, I take on the role of diehard fan — hater of the ghost runner at second base in extras — and horny young adult. It's just my cross to bear.

Red Sox left fielder Roman Anthony is a stud — athletically and physically. Height, hair, hug me brotha.

The Red Sox acquired Anthony because they offered a qualifying offer to pitcher Eduardo Rodriguez, who declined and signed with the Detroit Tigers.

Therefore, compensation pick.

Anything else from the peanut gallery? No? Cool.

Moving on to former Sox shortstop, Xander Bogaerts of the San Diego Padres. That was my soulmate, man. I dreamt he'd take me to Aruba and we'd have quadrilingual kids who went straight from high school to the majors like their daddy.

Bogaerts genuinely changed my life. He was the first autograph I ever got. Did you know he was No. 72 in 2013 during his rookie season with Boston? Or that his walk up song, "X Gon' Give It To Ya," is perfect because his nickname is "X-Man?" Did you?



I get it. I'm a woman who knows what WAR stands for, and that's super scary.

It means wins above replacement, BTW. It's a comprehensive stat that uses overall player metrics to estimate how many more wins that player can contribute to his team versus a replacement from the bench or minor leagues.

But yeah, I don't really know shit. I just like to ogle at Cubs shortstop Dansby Swanson, who batted .244 in 2025. Sure. .244 sucks.