

# QUEEN BEAT

VOLUME 8

FALL 2023



Welcome to Queen Beat! For the unfamiliar, here's our backstory...

Not so long ago, and in a world quite like our own, there stood a kingdom more vast than all the oceans put together. This kingdom was a magical place: a sanctuary for all those within its borders, and it was run by a court of powerful Queens...

They had come from all walks of life: some running from certain ruin, and others simply looking for a place they could call home. Together, the Queens decided to pool their wide array of abilities to create this magical kingdom for themselves. It wasn't long before they opened their gates to Queens from far-off kingdoms, offering a place of safety and happiness to all those who promised to uphold the same for their fellow Queen.

These Queens ruled together, laughed together, grew together - and now they open their gates once more, to you.

Welcome, fair traveller,  
to our kingdom of

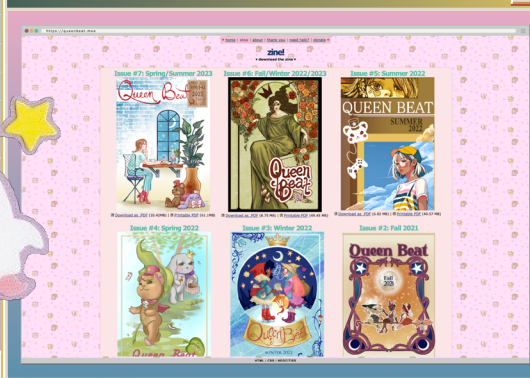
# Queen Beat!



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DOOR 4



ARRIVALS

INTERNATIONAL  
ARRIVALS

# The Bravery Test

*Friendship, stupidity, trust, and flying solo to the otherside of the world to see if friendship truly is as strong as your internet connection.*

**"How'd you know they're not gonna kidnap you?"**

Sleep-deprived and jet-lagged, I'd just finished having my fingerprints scanned at security. Looking up at the guard with his eyebrow raised, I replied with a smile: "Well, I paid £1k for this trip, so I might as well make it worth it."

In truth, I had no idea that *'they'* wouldn't. I was on the other side of the world, my first time traveling on a long-haul flight alone, shaking from a lack of sleep and decent food. This was the bravest thing I had ever done, the most exciting thing, and, to some, the most stupid. I took my post-Brexit blue British passport from his American hands and walked shakily through to the arrivals concourse at the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.



I'm not a stranger to meeting up with people online. Despite the warnings from parents and trusted adults as a teenager, I had already met up with someone on the net by the time I was 18 - an old friend with whom I am no longer in contact with.

In fact, I traveled to Norway to meet a friend whom I met on a My Chemical Romance forum

back in the day. We'd spent many nights throughout 2007 - 2009 chatting on MSN, and in 2015, I'd taken the plunge and flown solo on a short-haul flight to Trondheim to meet her—we'd actually first met in London in 2013! It was great; however, I felt nervous that I wasn't the awesome person I'd made myself out to be online. I was struggling with anxiety and the stress of university, and I felt I wasn't as good of a guest as I could have been. We keep in touch now and then, swapping birthday wishes and informing each other of life events (meeting a guitarist of MCR, for example), but I wish I'd done things differently. If you're reading this, Line; I'm sorry. And I'd be happy to jump on the next plane to Norway to make things right.

Since then, I've met up with several 'strangers' online, for all-you-can-eat dinners, sleepovers, and anime conventions. I even met my partner of 6+ years online. I had done this time and time before, but why was this different?

This was going to be an article about my time in Seattle, about flying to the US solo, about PAX West and cosplaying and Nintendo Live, yet I kept returning to the feelings I had surrounding the trip: before, during, and after. I was nervous as hell, thousands of miles away from home, and about to get into the car of someone I'd only ever known online. Taken into a city





I'd never been to, in a country I'd only been to once before—and that was in a state on the other side of it (New York, 2012). There was no easy way to run away, to have an escape plan; those being the essential words of wisdom that everyone gets when meeting up with



online strangers, whether it be before a Tinder date or after you've finished an episode of a True Crime podcast. But I was on the other side of the fucking world. I wasn't taking public transport to the place I was staying—I was

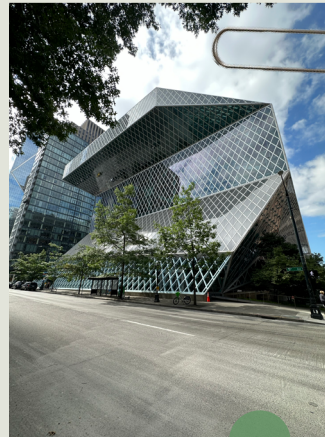
getting picked up by someone.

Internet friendships have been an important part of my life ever since I joined *Habbo Hotel* in 2005. I have been able to confess deep feelings to internet friends and share intimate details that I wouldn't dare tell others 'in real life'. These include openly discussing my previous thoughts and experiences about self-harm, suicide, and sexual assault.

If anything, these friendships have been more real to me than the IRL ones have. Sherry



Turkle, a sociologist who authored "Alone Together" and "Life on the Screen" (both excellent books I highly recommend), wrote, "when you move friendship online, you get the benefits of a 'Goldilocks effect': You can have your friendships at the temperature you want them—not too close, not too distant, just right. And when you want to end things, it can usually happen without penalty from family or community"<sup>[1]</sup> suggesting that internet friendships are distanced, more shallow compared to 'real ones'.



I used to agree with this statement, having cited Turkle many times in my master's dissertation, but now I personally disagree. Friendships that lack face-to-face interaction allow more intimate expression from person to person—perhaps similar to how Freud positioned his patients facing away from him. You're not talking to someone who can make assumptions about you, your clothing, your hygiene, or vice versa. You have a screen, a blank wall, a "[user] is typing...." notification blinking on and off as they type their response. This would explain why I've been able

to open up to online friends easier than I have 'offline' ones. Or maybe Freud just didn't like being looked at for eight hours a day.

Jazmine Hughes states, "It's easy to dismiss friendships that originate online as superficial, with the broad assertion that no one is their 'true' self online, but instead a distilled curation of snapshots, quips, and restaurant check-ins, all rolled into one cohesive personal 'brand.'"<sup>[2]</sup>

But, are the offline friends ones that know the true me? It would explain my anxiety, hoping that Rabies and Ozu liked me in person, and expresses my prior concern about not being a great person while in Norway. If my true self was online, I wouldn't be worried, right? So is the 'true self' the self I present offline? My



me IRL - I don't think I could present this draft to my real-life friends. But I feel I can, and will, ask a friend in the server to go over it for me prior to putting it in the zine.

Alice Marwick adds, "Though I followed hundreds of people who wrote at the height of LiveJournal's popularity, my friends' list now contains the thoughts of only a few. I've known many of them for close to a decade. We've written about marriages, miscarriages, Ph.D.

programs, moves, breakups, highs, and lows. I feel genuine closeness and intimacy with them based on their words, though they are written by people I've never met."<sup>[3]</sup>

Perhaps it's the environment I've met these people in. Although I wasn't big into LiveJournal back in the day, I did find familiar communities through the self-hosted blogging sphere and the previously mentioned Habbo Hotel. I don't think I could have made intimate friends over a large public platform like Twitter. But a closely-knit server



<sup>1</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/03/05/real-relationships-in-a-digital-world/only-face-to-face-friendships-involve-real-emotions>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/03/05/real-relationships-in-a-digital-world/the-internet-can-make-real-life-friendships-easier>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/roomfordebate/2015/03/05/real-relationships-in-a-digital-world/increased-social-support-even-online-is-beneficial>



with similar interests, stemming from our experiences browsing niche image boards and gossiping about internet personalities? I think so. People that have similar interests, familiar with the internet culture you're familiar with, the memes, and lolcows that real-life friends just wouldn't understand. The lore has already been explained. The same could be said for a 'guest room' in Habbo full of other people in their late 20s who have escaped to their teenhood's sanctuary. You know the environment; how you're supposed to behave, to act, to talk.



In real life, you don't know what you're gonna get when making friends. I don't know how I'd make friends outside of work, existing friendship circles, or the internet. Icebreakers,

awkward silences, and the fear of being considered odd are all hard to put up with when making friends in real life. Not to mention absolutely exhausting for someone who is introverted as hell. I think maybe skipping those awkward intros allows a more intimate connection with someone. Despite that, I still think that pushing through the awkward silences and the fear of rejection is an essential part of being a human. Not everything comes pre-vetted for you. I guess I'm not as good at it as others are. I value my in real life friendships; we've experienced life-changing moments together and supported each other through it all (I made sure to keep them updated on my solo Seattle antics, where I was and who I was

with), and I wouldn't swap them for anything.



Back in Seattle, when the gold Toyota pulled up to the arrivals pick-up area, I was immediately greeted with a hug by a smiling, curly-haired Ozu. She drove me to my hostel, where I immediately 'napped' for 11 hours and missed dinner. The next morning, I met Rabies by the golden pig at Pike Place Market. Doc Martens, black and red striped trousers, and gorgeous green eyes, I was pulled into a hug as the pig (and Andre) watched on.



There were no awkward silences; we swapped stories and spoke non-stop almost constantly. We talked about cultural differences (Everything in the US is so much bigger, for real!), Chris Chan, server chats, the zine, world events, and everything else under the sun. We laughed, we cooked, we ate, we cried, we had an amazing time. There was never a pause with nothing to say; in fact, I wish I had said more to them. Distance makes the heart grow fonder, a decent wifi connection makes



the friendship stronger.

If anything has taught me about this trip, it is to believe in myself more. Believe that I can do hard and stupid things because I am a brave person who is able to make and sustain lifelong friendships both thousands of miles apart and a 20-minute walk away. Not many people would fly across the world to meet people they've only known online, let alone long to go back again next year. I still grapple with what makes an online friendship different than others, and I'm not sure if this article has made it any easier for me to understand, maybe even harder to understand (!), but all I know is that I feel extremely lucky to have such wonderful internet friends who didn't murder me.

Also, PAX 2023 and Nintendo Live 2023 were absolutely amazing. Maybe I'll write about them next time, but compared to the whole trip, they were just bonuses.

by *hellobelle.indd*





# New Year's Resolutions

susan

2023

Learn how to properly cook and bake.

2024

2023 resolution FAILED I need not cook for shit.  
2024 resolution: to resist any urge to chop off all my hair and finally let it grow.

2023

chipi chapa

As for my resolution for 2023, i would say i wanna be able to stand my ground, hold my own opinions and not let myself be influenced, i wanna become a mentally strong as fuck woman

2024

i wanna start striving towards finding a goal in life which will provide me actual happiness, learning new stuff/skills and re-pursuing/pursuing hobbies i always wanted to do or dropped to the side

hellobelle.indd

2023

Look after myself and consciously make better choices, like going to the gym, eating healthy, reading books, etc. Engaging in my hobbies instead of letting myself get caught up in my phone or other trivial nonsense. Take no shit but do no harm.

2024

Continue the positive progress I've made from last years resolution, by continuing to go to the gym, engaging in hobbies, and doing things I love with people I deeply care about.

2023

queen of saturnalia

For this year, I am going to pick something easier, like winning the lottery.

2024

ngl i never even bought a single lottery ticket. does visiting a casino for a magic show count? *[sure!]* then i visited a casino for a magic show, which is basically the same thing!

kway

2023

I want to focus on my hobbies that I have been neglecting and try to branch out into new interests. Also I would like to wear more blues and purples this year!

2024

Oop- I guess I did succeed in my resolutions! Well except for resisting pink LOL. This year Id like to focus on myself and my health. Specifically I want by next year to have a real exercise routine that Ive stuck with!

2023

bowbellum

Be a hot girl, make money, and start riding my bike more!

2024

Love myself more, and be more productive with my mental health by going to therapy!

# Picrew.me: Dream Dungeons and Dragons Blunt Rotation

## Info!



This issue's Picrew is "OC Creator" by MaeEllen!

♥ Link to Picrew: [https://picrew.me/en/image\\_maker/2141620](https://picrew.me/en/image_maker/2141620)

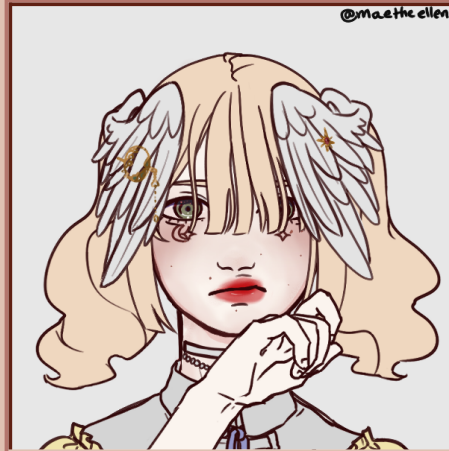
♥ Instagram: [@maetheellen](https://www.instagram.com/maetheellen)

♥ Tumblr: [maetheellen.tumblr.com](https://maetheellen.tumblr.com)

## bowbellum



## kway



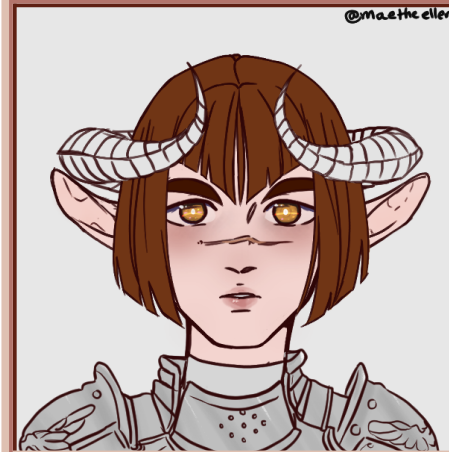
## rabies



## hellabelle



## susan



## prophie



## chi



# /shit awaq says/

*chipi chapa @ 23/10/2023 09:36*

men saying that women age like milk and hit the wall at 25, while they age like they drink nuclear disposal every morning since they were born will never not be funny



*chipi chapa @ 11/01/2024 11:31*

the sourdough bread to tradwife pipeline breadpilled

*chipi chapa @ 16/01/2024 19:19*

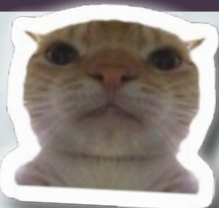
it's getting annoying getting content that pisses me off and i do not want to consume at all recommended to me lol

tiktok did the same, i liked a nature video and for the whole day it recommended me christian slideshows about having a traditional family with god and living in a farm surrounded by nature  
bruh i just liked a video of grass in 4k

*bowbellum @ 21/11/2023 11:26*



*bowbellum @ 26/10/2023 16:33*  
angry crafting noises

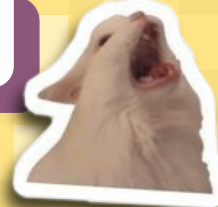


*Kway @ 14/01/2024 21:31*

Hahaha foolish women clearly you sleep on the floor by the toilet

*Kway @ 17/01/2024 17:16*

Charles gotta go to the booty doc



*Comfort Cat™ @ 10/01/2024 13:33*

Pursuing my dreams of only dressing like I'm in a Berlin nightclub



*hellobelle.indd @ 18/10/2023 09:52*

"Mr President, Chris chan has uploaded a second video"

*hellobelle.indd @ 27/11/2023 21:28*

I'm also going to finish off the bottle of wine in my fridge whilst I'm at it because I'm *checks watch* almost fucking dead

*hellobelle.indd @ 16/01/2024 12:34*

God I hate it, I was searching for knitting videos the other day and then suddenly get a Eugina Cooney short slapped in the middle of the search results

Unless she can show me how to correctly connect working stitches together I am really not interested



*queen of saturnalia @ 30/09/2023 13:15*

tw sleeping in a guest room wake up at like 3:30am because something is tickling my arm

'ah, this is that human psychological thing where we automatically interpret the tickling of small air currents as bugs crawling on us because of our evolutionary environme-'  
no, it was a real spider.

*queen of saturnalia @ 24/10/2023 22:11*

me when invited to work events like 'uhhh i was sick that day. also my grandma died. and i got kidnapped.'

*queen of saturnalia @ 11/01/2024 19:09*

if god was real your office/corporate building would be struck by lightning and burned to the ground for the sins that have been committed within it.



*St. Hildegard II @ 02/01/2024 19:10*

I love being the boss at work sometimes cuz I literally have done no work since 10am and my shift is almost over





# Susan's Anime Recommendation: Gundam: G no Reconquista

**Studio:** Sunrise

**Director:** Yoshiyuki Tomino  
2014 TV series (26 episodes)

## 5 compilation movies:

I - *Go! Core Fighter* (2019)

II - *Bellri's Fierce Charge* (2020)

III - *Legacy from Space* (2021)

IV - *Shouting Love Into a Fierce Fight* (2022)

V - *Crossing the Line Between Life and Death* (2022)

In 1979, Yoshiyuki Tomino kickstarted a new era for the mecha genre and the anime medium in general with the creation of Mobile Suit Gundam. In 1999, he provided a thematic conclusion to all Gundam series with Turn A Gundam. The importance of Turn A Gundam cannot be understated, as it is not only responsible for shaping the director's current outlook and approach to storytelling and directing but also gave a push for the franchise to enter the new century with a momentum of experimentation by new creators. Turn A seemed like Tomino's exit point from holding the reins of the franchise, as the series had given him the opportunity

to finalize his message. However, that didn't last forever, and 15 years later, Tomino was back in the director's role for a new Gundam series, G no Reconquista (G-Reco for short).

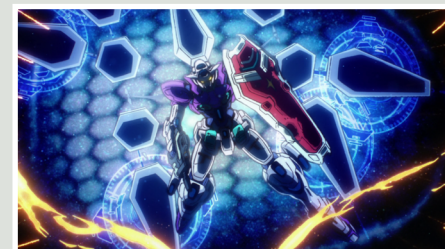


Tomino's attempt to remind the newer generation what anime used to look like in the previous century divided audiences. Many considered it to be a confusing mess of a narrative made by someone who has lost their marbles, while others defended the show to the death as a challenging masterpiece of thematic cohesion. As I belong to the latter group, I'm happy to observe that, since the compilation movies concluded a year ago, more and more people, after having watched both the TV and movie versions, have started to look

at the show with a more favorable attitude compared to the vast amount of negative reactions when the show first aired. I'm writing this in an attempt to encourage people to give the show a chance.

The show takes place in the very far future of the main Gundam timeline (Universal Century Timeline), where a strong religious taboo against the unlimited advancement of technology is culturally prevalent as a result of wars that took place centuries ago, almost eliminating Earth's population. Part of that taboo prohibits the manufacturing of photon batteries, which are the energy source of this world, on Earth. Instead, they are produced in the space colonies, and their distribution is regulated by the semi-religious authority of the Capital Territory that owns a space elevator called the Capital Tower. Capital Tower is used for the transfer of photon batteries from space to Earth. Conflict ensues when the Empire of Ameria seeks to end this regulation and onsets a war, with a plethora of sides, including multiple factions, being enveloped in it. The story follows the sharp and energetic cadet

of the Capital Guard, Bellri Zeram. After he encounters the mysterious mobile suit G Self and crosses paths with Aida Surugan, a member of Ameria's pirate corps, driven by his curiosity, he is set out on a journey that will broaden his understanding of the world.



G-Reco's plot is not easy to follow. Not because it's overtly complicated (maybe a little bit) but because of its presentation. The information needed to construct the model of the G-Reco world in your head and to keep up with the progression of the conflict is not given to the viewer directly but is often mentioned offhand (you blink, and you miss it) during casual dialogue, which enhances the feeling of realism but demands making inferences to truly understand their meaning

for the story. The viewer is treated less like an audience and more like a time traveler thrown into a future world where customs and ideas are not deciphered intuitively. On top of that, it's not an easy task to keep up with all the factions and their motivations. Characters' goals and sides change at the drop of a hat, often during the frenzy of a space battle. It's not hard to get lost in these battles as they involve a high number of characters, parties, mobile suits, ships, and structures.



Now, all this might sound like G-Reco is going to give you a headache, and that's not inaccurate. But, in my opinion, G-Reco's chaotic and demanding nature is its greatest strength. The show challenges you to follow it with all your attention, offering an exhilarating experience as you desperately try to piece things together. You will find yourself sharing the characters' frustration as they themselves try to grasp what is fully going on. You might feel extremely euphoric when you manage to put two and two together and go through an epiphany moment, the same way that the characters feel more determined as their understanding of the world becomes clearer. Understanding is the key theme of G-Reco. The characters have to come to terms and engage with people of opposing beliefs and goals to work towards a better future. That understanding is a never-ending process and not easy. G-Reco invites the viewer to do the same.

The tone and emotional resonance in G-Reco might seem a bit unconventional unless you



have consumed a lot of Tomino's works before. In general, it is a very upbeat show with a lot of humor and slapstick that would feel contradictory in a war story. Somehow, Tomino manages to make the gravity of the situation clear without resulting in tonal shifts. In all his works, he demonstrates a talent for eliciting complex emotions not commonplace in media. Often, I find myself being moved to tears, but I can't exactly figure out why. The complexity of G-Reco isn't restricted to the emotions of the characters but also to their motivations. The show is not a simple morality play with an obvious right and wrong answer.



When it comes to animation and art, even the most adamant haters would admit that the show is stunning. It has some of the most elaborate character and mechanical designs you can find in anime, especially after the 2010s. The character animation is above and beyond. The animators are not resorting to commonplace post-2010s anime character animation, and they try to be creative with animating all sorts of movements that the human body can make. The screen is always filled with someone doing something mundane even if they are

not on the foreground, which makes the show immensely endearing. Even if many of the characters are not given enough time to be fully fleshed out, they are all very memorable solely based on their visual presentation. A little detail that should be mentioned is the eye catches of the show. They feature the characters doing a small dance. The choreography for those has been provided by Tomino's daughter, Yukio Tomino, who is a professional dancer. The backgrounds are always full and colorful, featuring many locations and environments. The space battles and mobile suit fights are impressively storyboarded. In addition, a filter has been placed over the animation that makes the line work look more like cel animation. In general, the look of the show will make you feel nostalgic for 80s and 90s anime.



When it comes to music, the most memorable parts are the "G no Senko" ending song, which is one of the most hopeful songs I've heard in my life, with lyrics written by the director himself, and the theme song of the compilation movies, "G" performed by "DREAMS COME TRUE," which was introduced in the third movie.

Now, should you watch the compilation movies?

Yes. Tomino making compilation movies after finishing a TV series has been common practice. Compilation movies can be a hit or miss, but I believe that the G-Reco movies are some of his best. They were made with the goal of fixing a lot of pacing issues,



and for the most part, they succeed. They aren't really omitting important elements; they polish a couple of arcs of the TV series that were lacking, and they include scenes with upgraded animation. In my opinion, it's better to watch them after finishing the TV series. G-Reco is hard to get on the first watch, but going through the narrative again with the compilation movies made things way clearer for me.



G-Reco feels like both a relic of the past and a work that is ahead of its time. It showcases Tomino's ability to stay creative and ahead of the curve while at the same time delivering a strong message. In 2022, Tomino announced that the end of the G-Reco movies marks his retirement, but recently, it was stated that he's working on a new project. As much as he's saying that the future belongs to the younger generations, he seems to never run out of energy to create more. Throughout his entire career, he has proven that his sense of style and perspective on storytelling remain fresh and relevant. He's always presenting us with his perpetually youthful outlook on life and inviting us to be hopeful towards the future.

*lovingly reviewed by susan <3*



# Server Fashion Lookbook

left: susan featuring a pair of iconic socks and BEAUTIFUL green trench coat!

right: chi fulfilling all our hot goth gf dreams i am screaming

bottom: chi satisfying our thirsty dehydrated butts with a beautiful selfie <3

right: susan in YET ANOTHER beautiful coat!!! where does she get these coats from oh my GOD i need to know and look at the bOOTs AAAAAAa AAAAAAa

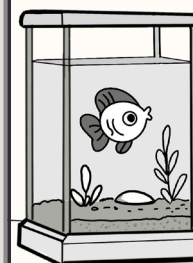
bottom: ozu providing us a sneak preview of the fashion for spring. look it up sweaty



"A Fish" by st. rabies

Girl and her fish doodle drawn by ozu <3

i wish, i wish i was a fish  
i'd never have to wash a dish  
for if i lived under the sea  
they'd be clean automatically





# AWAQ Winter/Fall Playlist

1. **Ends of the Earth**  
Lord Huron
2. **Ellipsis**  
Drab Majesty
3. **Trees and Flowers**  
Strawberry Switchblade
4. **1979 - Remastered 2012**  
The Smashing Pumpkins
5. **Maps**  
Yeah Yeah Yeahs
6. **Sloppy Seconds**  
Watsky
7. **F.M.I.D.**  
Pigeon Pit
8. **Eyes Wide Shut**  
girlfriends
9. **Shrike**  
Hozier
10. **Ghost Stories**  
The Narcissist Cookbook
11. **Take Out**  
Pigeon Pit

12. **Driving Home for Christmas**  
Chris Rea
13. **Heather**  
Conan Gray
14. **Glimpse of Us**  
Joji
15. **Landslide**  
Fleetwood Mac
16. **i love you**  
Billie Eilish
17. **i was all over her**  
salvia plath
18. **Somewhere Only We Know**  
Lily Allen
19. **Built This Way (Slow Remix)**  
Samantha Ronson
20. **Twin Size Mattress**  
The Front Bottoms
21. **Tears Over Beers**  
Modern Baseball



WE REGRET TO ADVISE  
YOU THAT DUE TO AN INCREASE IN  
LIGHTING AND CCTV THIS LITTLE AREA  
IS NO LONGER SAFE FOR DRUG DEALING  
FLY-TIPPING AND NOOKY

Thank you for reading our Fall/Winter zine, our eighth zine and our third double issue. We hoped you enjoyed reading it as much as we enjoyed creating it!

Thanks once again to everyone that contributed, photographed, wrote, designed, discussed, laughed, cried, simped, and funded our eighth zine. This project would be nothing without your constant support and feedback, I love you all from the bottom of my heart and I always will. I say this every zine, but I really mean it! And as always, thanks to those who are reading this - you're super special! If you bought a physical copy, thanks again! Your purchase helps keeps printing costs down, supports local businesses, and supports the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

With love,  
The Queens

Queen Beat is a formerly quarterly, now biannual zine made by the members of the All Women Are Queens Discord server that features seasonal stories, poetry, quizzes, look-books, Picrews, and more.

The AWAQ Collective strives to create fun and relatable content each issue that embodies the experience of being a femme-presenting creative regardless of background or orientation. Our members came together through various Discord servers associated with anonymous websites. Eventually, the All Women Are Queens server was born following the closure of the servers, and we have called it home ever since. Our server is invitation only. We aim to keep profit to a minimum with this zine, with any profits donated to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts where possible.

You can download PDFs of our zine on our website, [queenbeat.moe](https://queenbeat.moe). If you're interested in supporting us financially, check out our Patreon & Ko-fi pages.  
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If you have any questions, queries or juicy gossip related to the zine, please contact [hellobelle@gmail.com](mailto:hellobelle@gmail.com) on Discord or email [queenbeatzine@gmail.com](mailto:queenbeatzine@gmail.com).



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