

Transcript

"Sephirothslave: The Bride of Sephiroth"

by Garage Dwelling Frogs

00:00 Foggy Mental Breakdown

00:02 [Music]
00:24 On November 6, 2002, a fanfiction.net account was created,
00:30 known as High Priestess Megami. Immediately after creation, High
00:35 Priestess Megami would publish a story entitled *Shinra High*
00:41 based upon the immensely popular JRPG *Final Fantasy 7*.
00:46 *Shinra High* was just one of 5,671 stories published for Final Fantasy
00:52 7 at the time. Seemingly innocuous in the sea of writing, High Priestess
Megami
00:58 referred to her story as a "novel" and claimed she had been writing it for
two
01:03 years before publication. *Shinra High* ran for 59 chapters. While her
01:08 chapters tended to be very short, the story itself is 78,000 words long. In
01:13 Chapter 43, Megami confirmed that the story would receive a sequel.
Shinra High ended on June 7th 2004.
01:21 On June 8th Megami published the sequel, entitled *Shinra SOLDIER*
picking up,
01:27 exactly where *Shinra High* had left off. The stories are a perfect storm of
tropes. They starred an unsubtle

01:33 self-insert named Julia Nakahama, an angsty goth teenager who was introduced,
01:39 kicking open the double doors of the school out of boredom. Her tragic backstory begins with her father
01:45 molesting her and forcing her into prostitution. After being put into the foster system, Julia begins her training
01:52 at the Shinra Electric Power Company's high school. Luckily for her, she's inexplicably
01:57 talented and in possession of powerful magic. She meets Sephiroth, the main villain of *Final Fantasy 7*, Here
02:05 reimagined as a dreamy bishounen love interest. Over the course of the story, Julia and Sephiroth would fall in love,
02:12 get married, and have a child together. Eventually they would become elite first-class
02:17 members of "SOLDIER," and leaders in the "Shinra Wutai War." Under their leadership, they would
02:24 instigate the genocide of the nation of Wutai. Despite this, Julia and Sephiroth
02:30 are always presented as the heroes. The story fits into the High School Alternate Universe archetype of fan
02:36 Fiction. High School AU fanfics offers simple and accessible premise that
02:41 provides plenty of room for the author to branch off from the source material while staying faithful to it.
02:47 Megami's description even stated that she had ignored characters ages for the sake of story.

02:54 Megami followed through on this promise, mixing around events and
characters such as the characters Yuffie Kisaragi and
03:01 Tifa Lockhart, here shown to be the same age as each other and already
acquainted.
03:06 In canon, Yuffie is five years younger and a country apart from Tifa,
before the
03:11 start of the game. Despite the complete disregard for established
canon, as the story evolved Megami shifted her novels
03:18 to serve as prequels, leading up to the events of the game, forcing
herself to kill off her original characters to
03:25 maintain established canon. This culminated in the death of Julia
Nakahama, and her baby daughter,
03:32 beginning Sephiroth's descent into darkness. Megami's personal life
permeates every aspect of the story. She
03:39 unobtrusively inserted herself, her family, and her friends into the story,
03:44 though insisted that the characters were unrepresentative of the real
people they were named after.
03:50 Megami demonstrates transparent biases in favor of characters, like
Yuffie Kisaragi, and against characters, like
03:57 Cloud Strife and Zack Fair, who she frequently humiliates. Her writing is
littered with typos. Infamously, she
04:05 continually used the wrong version of "Zack" when referring to Zack Fair
04:10 (a mistake she corrected in chapter 13). Megami's stories are conflicted
in their
04:15 portrayal of sexuality. She tends to eschew discussing it, and when it is
brought up it is presented in a negative

04:22 Light. Before their wedding Sephiroth is forced by his father, Hojo, to
rape and impregnate Julia. But after that, it is
04:30 not until Julia and Sephiroth get married that they even sleep in the
same bed together. Megami also takes offense
04:36 to any character doubting Julia or Sephiroth's heterosexuality, such as
when
04:41 she added this scene to the remake of *Shinra High*, "'I called ya a
lesbian. L-e-s-b-i-a-n. Got it?'
04:49 Again he offered that insanely irritating smirk. Grinding her teeth
together, she ground out, 'And where would
04:55 you have gotten that misinformation?' 'Dunno. Never met a straight girl
that didn't go for me!'
05:01 He began clicking his pen top up and down as though he were to just
ignore her.'[sic] 'Listen up, Reno.' She growled. 'I feel
05:09 inclined to set the record straight here, only because your big mouth will
blow such a lie way out of proportion.' When he
05:14 continued ignoring her, she grabbed his arm and dug her nail in. "If you
ever insinuate that my sexual preference is
05:21 anything other than straight again, I'll tear your arms off.' As an
afterthought, she grinned and said,
05:28 'And as to why I don't go for you... well, I'd say you're a bit too feminine
for my
05:35 Tastes.'" *Shinra SOLDIER* concluded in 2006. In total, the duology would
span 169
05:42 chapters and an epilogue. That April she would launch the third part of
her saga,

05:47 *Silent Melody*. Compared to the massive scale of her previous works,
Silent Melody only lasted four chapters. In
05:54 January of 2008, she decided to rewrite *Shinra High*, as she had been
unsatisfied with the
06:01 quality of the finished story. The project did not last long, only covering
nine
06:06 Chapters, fifteen percent of the first novel. In both cases it is assumed
that the backlash towards her writing or
06:13 possibly a lack of motivation caused her to drop the story, concluding
the trilogy
06:18 at 174 chapters. High Priestess Megami's bibliography included four
other stories.
06:25 None of her other work would garner the same level of notoriety as
Shinra High or *SOLDIER*. By 2005
06:33 *Shinra High* and *SOLDIER* had received widespread attention, amassing
601
06:38 Reviews. Their initial reception is unknown, as there is no longer a way
to see all the reviews left on her story.
06:45 Megami's author notes indicate that the reviews started off positively,
but as
06:50 time went on they would receive large amounts of scorn from internet
circles, becoming easy targets for mockery. High
06:57 Priestess Megami was also an avid reader of other authors' works. In
particular, she
07:03 left reviews that were oddly defensive of who Sephiroth should be in a
relationship with:

07:10 "As well written as this is... you should hurry up and kill the damn bitch.
The fucking whore doesn't deserve
07:16 to live! With that off my chest, a bit of constructive criticism: [sic] You are
an
07:22 amazing author, and I do love your writing style. Personal opinion
though it may be, I believe your talents could be
07:27 better directed towards other 'romantic pairings.' Such as...Cloud and
Aerith, perhaps?
07:33 In the game, I really did not see any textual evidence indicating that
there was any sort of relationship between
07:38 Sephiroth and anyone, let alone [sic] the pink-clad, violette selling
whore. Should you choose to write a story with a more
07:44 sensible pairing, I promise I'll leave a nicer review. While the context of
the fanfic is good, with a nice attention
07:50 Attention [sic] to detail, the concept of a Sephiroth/Tifa pairing seems
not only unnatural but in essence impossible. ...Lord
07:58 Sephiroth could never conceivably become involved with anyone of
AVALANCHE. However, as a final 'critic', I do thank you
08:05 for not being one of the scum out on the web who pair Lord Sephiroth
with another male. Fewer things infuriate me more.
08:12 Lastly, I do hope I do hope I do not sound like too much of an asshole (it
is my personality...but I try to suppress it)."
08:19 One author, who Megami had a run-in with, recounted their experience
on tumblr,
08:24 Writing, "Many a year ago, when the only fic I had going was my forever-
running

08:30 Aeriseph, I picked up a hater. She went by the name High Priestess
Megami. Some of
08:36 you already know the name. See, I had come across her fic about
Sephiroth searching the halls for
08:41 somebody named Julia..., followed it for a bit, decided that homophobic
obvious self-inserts weren't my thing and
08:48 removed it from my alert list. HBM took objection to that, it seems, and
responded
08:53 by leaving me a lengthy screeching flame about how disgusting it was I'd
paired Sephiroth with Aeris. I tried to ignore it,
09:00 but as flames go it was a doozy for my experience at the time. So late
one night
09:05 I began link surfing and [quite a] bit of googling, and found her blog, a
Blurty,
09:11 ...You know what I saw at that blog, you *all* know." High Priestess
Megami soon became known
09:17 for her aggressive attitude towards her critics. In response to a user,
reporting her story for content, within her
09:24 author's note. She wrote, "Well, I can officially say that this week
09:29 has been one of the more awful ones in my pathetic existence. Allow me
to elaborate.
09:34 I hate people. People are shallow, narrow-minded, stupid, and they
insist
09:40 upon forcing their opinions upon you, [...] I went to post the next chapter
of *Shinra SOLDIER*, to find (to my dismay) that my

09:46 account had been locked for some unknown reason. [...] I learned, by
checking my reviews, that

09:52 some bitch [...] had reported me to the fanfiction.net staff. [...] She
didn't like one of my Author's Notes. [...] Because of the

09:57 Phrase, 'Absolutely NO yaoi will be accepted for this Shrine. To assume
that Lord Sephiroth is of such low moral

10:04 standards as unfit of Him and insulting to me.' This was in reference[sic]
to my announcement

10:09 of the web-page that someone hacked offline about a month ago. Okay.
Now it must be stated that I have absolutely

10:15 nothing wrong with gays/lesbians. In fact, I know several who happen to
be some of the nicest people that I know.

10:22 Next, the only reason I find yaoi involving Sephiroth insulting is because
I happen to adore Him. [...] Would any sane

10:28 woman want to see the one they loved with another guy?! No, I think
not."

10:34 Spectators were less interested in Megami's writing and more
interested in Megami the individual. Megami had made a

10:41 name for herself, elsewhere, under another username: Sephirothslave.
Her most

10:47 infamous claim was that she had not only met, but married Sephiroth,
himself, while

10:53 visiting the astral plane. The combined negative attention, towards her
beliefs and writing, culminated in an

11:00 e-mail that was later reposted and turned into a meme. "Before you fire
off another round of

11:07 half-baked insults, allow me to assure you that you aren't to blame. In
good conscience, I cannot place blame on those
11:13 who have only room temperature IQ. [...] All of [it is] really irrelevant,
because *Final Fantasy 7* is a fictional work
11:20 upon which I based a fictional interpretation. [...] Your opinion is your
right, and I really care less whether or
11:26 not this changes anything. [...] Finally, I have reached the main point of
this letter, my beliefs. [...] How dare you accuse me of
11:33 Insanity. How dare you accuse me of lying. [...] I know what I say will be
ignored and
11:38 nothing I tell you will change your misguided opinion, but be warned. [...] You
are dealing with a far greater force than
11:44 anything you have encountered before. [...] Unleash your ignorant
tongue and spew whatever mindless stupidity you contrive
11:50 to force me to renounce my claim, for I shall never do so. [...] The loss is
yours, oh foolish blasphemers,
11:57 should you provoke me further. [...] You have now been warned, and I
feel no remorse for the metaphysical consequences there
12:03 may be for further disturbances. [...] Astral plane travel isn't the only
paranormal practice I've mastered."

12:09 What a Fool Believes

12:21 High Priest Megami was, in reality, Julia Ann Szczutkowski[Neiss], a
teenage girl
12:28 living in Stafford, Virginia. Her taste aligned with those of typical nerdy
teenagers in the early 2000's. She played

12:33 the flute in marching band, adored the heavy metal band Korn, and liked Sailor
12:41 Moon. But, above all else, she was a massive fan of *Final Fantasy 7*, and had been on the internet discussing it since
12:47 she was about 14 years old. Around 2003 and 2004, Julia, under the username
12:55 Sephirothslave, would start an account on the (now defunct) journaling website, Blurty. She used it as a space to discuss
13:00 her hobbies, mainly focusing on her exploration of metaphysical subjects.
13:07 Julia was raised in a Catholic household and was the oldest child, with three younger siblings. Early in her teenage
13:12 Years, Julia developed an interest in witchcraft and became an avid reader of
13:20 Wiccan literature. She estimated that she had read hundreds, if not thousands, of books on New-Age subjects.
13:26 later she would describe her beliefs as somewhere between a devout Catholic and a Witch,
13:33 and that neither group accepted her because of it. According to Julia, years prior, she had begun to have dreams of
13:39 Sephiroth. When she confided in her psychiatrist about the dreams, the psychiatrist compared them to astral
13:46 projection. This spurred Julia to research astral projecting, hoping she would master it.
13:51 The oldest post archived on her Blurty is from June 2004, discussing a book she

13:57 had recently purchased, so that she could learn to communicate with the dead.

14:03 "One of the things the prologue covered was 'motivations'. And under the 'good' motivations it listed: 'to communicate

14:11 with a deceased loved one.' Or words to that effect, anyway. So I ask myself: Does this mean that...[sic]

14:16 through the methods listed in this book... I can communicate with Sephiroth? it

14:22 stands to reason that I can, because... in my beliefs, He had to die at the hands of the enemy before being promoted to the

14:29 position of Arch Angel by the Lord God Almighty. ...So theoretically he did die...and therefore can be contacted, right? I

14:34 certainly hope so. Well, I'm off to read more of that book... see if i can get through the

14:41 introductory crap and into the actual methods..." It was unclear from her blog where the

14:46 line between fiction and reality began for Julia. Glimpses of her personal life were

14:53 scattered about it, such as this post from August, "Alright. To begin...these "interests of

15:00 Mine". For the past five-or-so years, I have been victim to insufferable depression and suicidal tendencies

15:06 ...mostly because of Sephiroth...my soulmate. Crazy-sounding, no? Julia truly believed that she was in

15:12 contact with her soulmate, Sephiroth. She described Sephiroth as a cold and

15:17 aloof individual, intensely jealous of other men, and nigh omnipotent.
While he
15:24 primarily wore black, he did not dress the same as in the game,
primarily wearing dress shirts and jeans.
15:30 Information about their wedding is inconsistent. Julia says she
somehow acquired a
15:36 wedding license for them in the year 2000. They got married, but their
anniversary is listed as either June
15:43 14th or July 14th. They frequently met together on the astral plane and
had
15:49 established a telepathic link to keep in contact. It also, apparently, took
four years of
15:56 marriage for him to confess he loved her. Given the choice between her
friends and family or Sephiroth, she stated she would
16:04 choose Sephiroth. In *Final Fantasy 7*, Sephiroth is established as
unambiguously evil. Julia rejected this
16:11 answer in favor of her own personal theory, entitled the *Jenova*
Possession Theory.
16:19 In her eyes, Sephiroth was a brave soldier who had been manipulated by
the mad scientist Hojo, and then possessed by
16:27 the ancient godlike alien Jenova. From this viewpoint she could easily
dismiss events such as the Nibelheim Incident, where
16:34 Sephiroth massacred the entire population of a small town. It is in fact
the other way around in *Final Fantasy*
16:41 Canon, which shows Sephiroth to have control over Jenova. Julia's
relationship with Sephiroth was

16:48 affecting her social life. At 11:57 p.m. on November 3rd, 2004, Julia's
younger sister,
16:54 Laurel, made a post on her own journal. "Why am I always alone? Why
does it seem
17:01 like no one really cares how I feel? No one ever asked how I am or if i'm
feeling alright they seem to always care
17:08 about how Julia feels. She's crazy and when I inform her of that she gives
me the 'Even my psychiatrist believes me. Why
17:14 don't you? And I'm sick of it, I hate Final Fantasy and I HATE Sephiroth. I
want my old
17:20 sister back. The one who never got mad at me or wore black or shunned
the whole male race.
17:25 I keep waiting for someone to notice, waiting for someone to ask if I'm
okay, waiting for someone to give a damn about
17:32 me because they care about me and want to help. Every night I say a
prayer for my 'friends' that they are safe and that
17:38 they don't have to feel the kind of pain I feel every day. I doubt if any of
them ever pays one
17:44 thought to me or offers one prayer up to the Lord for me. No one notices
the cuts on my risk or if
17:50 they do they believe the bull shit story I give them. They don't really care.
The knife I play
17:56 with is one of my dearest real friends, it helps me feel the pain I need to
make me realize I'm still living and must do
18:03 so until God call me home. I just want to go home now. But I can't.
There's something here that

18:10 my Lord wants me to accomplish and I will stay until I have done so.”
Laurel's post received unanimous support
18:17 in the comments, from her friends offering support and kind words. Julia
would not respond directly until 11 days
18:23 Later, in a post entitled “Life is Shit.” “I’ve officially decided that I’d
rather
18:28 be in a coma than live my life. So far, I’ve discerned one person who
doesn't
18:37 take me for complete lunatic and matters regarding Sephiroth. And
that's Sammy. I repeat: ONE person, out of God-only-knows
18:44 how many friends. Okay...so what? So I have really shitty friends who
don't believe my honest-to-God words. Oh well! My own
18:50 fucking sister doesn't believe... me why should anyone else? Okay...I
was wrong. There's TWO people who
18:57 believe me: Sammy, and my God damned psychiatrist. Tell me, those of
you who care, why would
19:03 my psychiatrist believe me if my friends don't? Could it be because the
psychiatrist is experienced and knowing
19:11 when a person is lying, and therefore knows when I’m telling the truth?
Next point: Laurel, the ‘sister’ you ‘want
19:18 Back’ doesn't exist. I’ve always been this way... since the day that I was
born and until the day I die.
19:26 So that random girl that you want back is NOT coming back. You don't
like it? Too damn bad! Disown me and go find yourself
19:33 a better sister! Continuing right along: Sam! I’m not ‘getting over
Sephiroth’ any God damned time

19:40 Soon! He's my soulmate...and he's one of the only fucking people in this universe that cares about me!

19:46 In Laurel's most recent blurry you said that religion was a crutch for people. Well, that means that God doesn't exist

19:52 Right? So who CAN I rely on?! Oh wait. I know the answer to that one! Sammy, who at

19:58 least believes me, and Sephiroth, who at least loves me! Before anyone asks, no I'm not mad at

20:04 Sammy! On the other hand, I am very mad at the rest of you. So go; flock to Laurel's

20:10 side and take care of her. Make sure she doesn't kill herself, because I'm not going to do anything to interfere. She

20:16 didn't care all that time ago when I used to cut myself...so it's only fair that I turn a blind eye to her when

20:23 she's 'in pain'. She's probably just doing this to get attention anyway." In 2004, Julia was preparing to travel to

20:31 Otakon with several of her friends, causing conflicts with her dad. She took to Blurry to air her grievances.

20:37 "First, I found out that my dear father doesn't want me to go to Otakon this weekend. He says I'm too unstable

20:43 (psychologically) to be going out in public. He treats me like a complete lunatic... then wonders why I hung up on

20:49 Him! [...] Third: my psychiatrist got the result of the blood test back today. And, it's not

20:54 Good. She says there's a severe problem in my thyroid. Which can mean one of two things:

21:00 More pills, or surgery. I don't want to have surgery! God damn it, I have enough problems as it is!

21:06 And...I'm scared. I watch things like 'Trauma: Life in the ER' and 'Impact' ...and i see

21:12 people dying on the surgical table all the time. Maybe this is how God is going to answer my prayer for death?

21:18 Now that it comes down to it...I don't think i like his method of choice. Lol...Later."

21:25 Julia ended up attending Otakon in Maryland, a trip she documented on her Blurty, noting she was trying to find an

21:30 individual named Vince. Vince lived in Maryland and Julia lived

21:36 in Virginia so the two would meet up at conventions when they could. A Blurty from one of Julia's

21:41 Acquaintances, known as Weaselonastick, asserted that Julia and Vince were in a

21:48 Relationship. Weaselonastick says that Vince was a great guy, and that he was completely fine with their relationship,

21:54 despite Vince being 23 and Julia being 16. Weaselonastick's assertion is

22:00 nothing more than conjecture. By Julia's account, Vince had never even flirted with her,

22:07 unlike Weaselonastick, whose advances had been rejected by Julia during the convention, where Weaselonastick

22:13 had met Vince. After being rejected by her, Weaselonastick began to date Julia's sister,

22:20 Laurel. A month after his rejection, he made a 17-point list of grievances he had with

22:25 Julia, believing she had led him on. Vince remained one of Julia's only
male
22:30 friends for years. In December of 2004, Julia opened up a
22:36 DeviantArt account. DeviantArt would quickly replace Blurty as her
primary journal.
22:44 She also posted both personal art and art she made for her classes. Her
primary medium was colored pencils,
22:49 with heavy use of pinks and purples. Her art is filled with surface level
religious symbolism.
22:55 Angelic figures comprising most of her portfolio. Most of her captions
were little blurbs describing her thought
23:02 Process, but drawings that depicted her character, Julia Nakahama,
were accompanied by original writing. These
23:08 stories focused on Julia Nakahama's relationship with the character of
Sephiroth, and feature themes of
23:15 submissiveness and obedience. 2005 would come and go and in 2006
Julia
23:21 became a freshman in college. She originally studied musical theater,
but would later shift her focus to video
23:28 game development. In 2006, she founded a website that she had been
working on for at least a year,
23:34 The Realm of the Guardian: A Haven for Followers of the One-Winged
Angel.
23:39 Here she would post fanfiction and essays. Only a single essay has
survived,

23:47 in which she uses catholic imagery and Sephiroth's appearance in the
Kingdom Hearts series to exonerate Sephiroth, and
23:52 prove that Cloud Strife is evil. At this point, Julia's online persona was
23:57 surrounded by her friends and associates. In the coming years, she
would be
followed by a group of individuals, hostile towards her and her beliefs.

24:02 Lovefool

24:04 [Music]
24:10 On February 12, 2007, following advice from her friend, Julia
24:16 made a post entitled "Necessary Documentation." She listed two users
who had posted
24:22 comments on her DeviantArt that she took offense to, advising them to
stop or she would
24:27 report them. One genuine commenter replied "I'm sorry but this is the
kind of dumb
24:34 shit that'll get you [on] E.D. This is the internet: a place where you can
get noticed and practically worshipped, or
24:41 laughed at for stupid stuff. Of course you get flamed a lot, you were in
love with a fictional character. People like
24:47 that usually get flamed." It appears that Sephirothslave might have been
featured on Ebaum's world,
24:53 as one commenter reposted a copypasta, 53 times, signing it
"EBAUMSWORLD." In
25:00 mid-2007, an internet user known as Iscariot, created a page on
Encyclopedia

25:06 Dramatica, documenting Julia and her antics. This action, more than anything else that

25:12 preceded it, led Sephirothslave to garner a minor cult following in the

25:17 online sphere. Her DeviantArt alone would receive 10,000 hits.

25:23 Trolls, inspired by Encyclopedia Dramatica, would flock to her profiles.

25:28 The most common kind of trolling was short, hateful quips, usually insulting her intelligence, her

25:36 Appearance, or calling her crazy. "You're a bad person, and you should feel

25:42 Bad." "What, exactly, makes me a bad person? [...] I'm considered a helpful pillar of my

25:48 Community, who will break her back to help anyone in need. I'd love to hear your half-baked argument, after all, I

25:54 always seek to learn." "Shut up. Your bitchiness and narcissism has been apparent since your donkeyface showed

26:01 up on the internet. Stop playing dumb." "hey i heard you were a delusional faggot retard"

26:06 "The fact that you think an entirely fictional character is real is a little stupid. I mean... in a way, you're raping the

26:13 character that the creators of Final Fantasy put so much hard work in. That. and you do realize if Sephiroth WHERE [sic]

26:19 Real, he'd stab you as soon as look at you, right?" "You are definitely hallucinating. Perhaps

26:26 these gaytarded hallucinations of gay video game characters are symptoms of: AIDS;

26:31 Cancer; Herpes: Being fucktarded; Too many dicks." "You are a failure
at life,
26:39 go kill yourself bitch." Another common type of trolling involved the troll
pretending to either, be in
26:45 contact with, or in love with Sephiroth, or any other fictional character.
Julia
26:51 never responded to any of these. Some individuals would attempt to
have a conversation with her,
26:57 "XD;;; they'll stop if you just ignore them, y'know. Flexing the muscle
words of your vocabulary and lecturing them only
27:04 makes them laugh, roll their eyes, screenshot and run back to ED. Just
hide comments you don't like, reply in notes
27:12 to personal questions you want to answer and keep your front page
light-hearted
27:17 and they'll give you a break. Trust me on this, I'm an ED writer myself
and I've
27:22 had a few articles fall on their face just because the person they were
about didn't care at all. And perhaps be a
27:28 little more cautious about what you publicly claim? "It's a little late to
be cautious about
27:34 what I publicly claim, don't you think? XD [...] I dug myself a hole when I
was younger, but I'm working my way out. Thank you for
27:40 your advice, I do appreciate it...but ignoring my trolls doesn't appear to
work well." Julia was rarely afraid to give trolls
27:48 Attention, which, in turn, attracted more trolls. It all reached a peak
when Julia wrote

27:53 on her DeviantArt blog about an altercation resulting from her online infamy.

27:59 "As of earlier this week, it's come to my attention that my reputation has officially hit rock bottom. [...] So here's the

28:06 Story. A friend of mine [...] and I were browsing through the mall, being fangirls, admiring wall scrolls, talking FFVII...

28:13 Anyway, we stopped into one of the comic stores and we're continuing our conversation when we were approached by

28:18 two guys where we're also fans and overheard our discussion. [...] My friend started talking to them. And

28:24 she apparently missed the memo about not making it public that i wrote *Shinra High* and *Shinra SOLDIER*. See, we actually met

28:30 because she read my work online, and eventually she met me through a few of our mutual friends who knew I was the authoress of the two

aforementioned

28:37 Works. And while it isn't the first time I've met a fan, this meeting in the comic book store marked my first meeting with the

28:43 sad little people on the internet who would like nothing more than to see me get hit by a bus / electrocuted by

28:49 my toaster / killed by a sniper. And the situation escalated pretty fast

28:54 after my friend told them who I was as far as my internet self. They put together that I was the 'infamous'

29:00 Sephirothslave...and before I knew what was happening in between feudal attempts to verbally defend myself, we were going

29:06 at it. The bigger the two guys lunged at me, and rather than standing there and getting pummeled, I engaged.

29:13 I've been well-trained in martial arts, so I simply grabbed the front of his shirt and drove my knee into his balls.

29:18 I'm pleased to say I doubt he'll ever be able to father children, and he went down. The comic store worker, my friend and his

29:25 friend were standing there in shock and horror, so I told her I'd see her later and asked her to remember in the future

29:31 that there are people who don't like me on the internet, and thus don't like me in person. After that, I took off and laid

29:37 rubber out of the parking lot. All I have to say about this in retrospect is that I'm glad I invested

29:43 in martial arts lessons for the past few years, because it wouldn't do to spoil my reputation as a bad-ass bitch and lose a

29:48 Fight. Since I've finally been found by people who would happily strangle the life out of me, I fear I may be fighting a lot

29:55 more now. [...] Aside from that, I thought it was an amusing encounter." In later comments she would elaborate

30:01 that she had studied ryukyu kempo and tai kwon do, and that the attack had been over her religious beliefs.

30:08 after polling on her DeviantArt, Julia decided to reopen her Blurty that October. She reworked her Blurty into

30:15 what she described as a sort of autobiography, devoting it to in-depth explanations of

30:21 her beliefs. Here, Julia gave specifics regarding the practice of astral projection.

30:27 She entered the astral realm by performing a deep space trance. As she explained it, the astral realm was just

30:33 one of seven non-physical dimensions, or layers, that surrounded our
physical
30:38 World. All layers operated on different timetables. Of the seven layers,
the one
30:43 where she visited Sephiroth was the closest to ours, located in between
Earth
30:48 and Heaven. At this time she made one of her most infamous posts,
30:54 ““Only the foolish believes suffering is just wages for being different.’
The
30:59 Cheshire Cat, American McGee’s Alice [...] In recent months [I’ve]
become increasingly aware of just how disliked
31:06 I am on the internet, mostly to my amusement...but I can say the
amusement tapered for me after I was publicly,
31:12 physically attacked from my beliefs. [...] Following a brief google search
to get an idea of what most everyone thinks of
31:17 Me, I found that I’m hated on hundreds of websites, mocked in English,
Spanish, French and German, become somewhat of a
31:24 household name for FF7 fans, and can make no move without the
information ending up plastered all over my page on
31:31 Encyclopedia Dramatica. [...] I am the Sephirothslave.
31:36 Even though I’ve long accepted that my life will never be an easy one,
I’ve decided to make an attempt at clearing
31:42 up the mess that has occurred because my younger self failed
miserably in establishing the boundaries of where the FF7-fan ends and
the practitioner in the

31:49 art of astral projection begins. Almost no one ever realizes that I have
two different internet personas-- one who
31:57 is the FF7 fan, who debates, writes fan fiction and draws fanart. The
other who is addressing all who read this here, a
32:04 normal woman, working her way through college, working, living on her
own and loving the independence of being away
32:10 from my family and starting my own life. [...] In this first entry I will try to
explain why I am different than the
32:15 hundreds of psychotic fangirls running around the internet, popping up
on forums screaming, 'I am Sephiroth's wife! Me! Only
32:22 Me!' I am not like them in any way. You see, Final Fantasy 7 and the
32:28 characters they're in are fictional. They don't exist. As most of you who
read this will have missed the news flash that I'm
32:34 aware of this, allow me to elaborate: None of the characters of FF7 are
real.
32:40 None of them. Yes, even including Sephiroth. Back when I first started
spontaneously
32:46 Projecting, I didn't know what I was doing... I thought I was dreaming and
nothing more, even though there were major differences in those
dreams than
32:53 in the other dreams I had. One, they were crystal clear after I woke up,
and didn't fade. I remembered each as
33:00 though it had happened in my daily life. Two, each was consecutive to
the last; i.e
33:05 they picked up from where the last left off. And it was in these 'dreams'
that I encountered the archangel Sephiroth.

33:12 I was being granted the only thing I truly wanted, the one thing I couldn't live without, I was with him. [...]

33:18 Now I suppose I'll delve back and explain why I believe this occurred when it did. [...] Before I began to project, I was

33:23 in a bad state. I had fallen in love with the character, but knew I would never be with him... and that combined knowledge was

33:29 destroying me. I got into a lot of bad habits, not the least of which being cutting myself and overdosing on various over-the-counter

33:36 Painkillers. If the archangel hadn't come to me, I wouldn't be here writing this. I would be dead.

33:43 The physical body's will to survive had overpowered the mind's desire to die, and it was that which allowed me to project,

33:49 to be with Sephiroth...my guardian angel, my spirit guide, and yes, my husband. [...]

33:55 Now here's the next bit of information that people tend to mess up when they're dealing with me. The archangel Sephiroth

34:00 bears the name and appearance of the videogame character (or rather, the character bears his name in appearance)

34:06 but they are otherwise unrelated. The archangel I am wed to is not the videogame character.

34:12 I hope that clears things up a little. [...] I truly believe my words will be better received if I can properly clear up the

34:17 impressive mess my younger self made when she mistakenly believed that no one would care what she wrote on her little

34:22 online journal if they didn't personally know her." Of note from this Blurty is this line

34:28 "In this first entry I will try to explain why I am different than the
hundreds of psychotic fangirls running
34:34 around the internet, popping up on forums screaming, 'I am Sephiroth's
wife! Me! Only Me!'"

34:39 As unlikely as it seems, she was not making this up. Julia seemed to
have become aware of
34:45 Australian cosplayer and internet personality, Summoner Yuna,
34:50 likely through Encyclopedia Dramatica. Summoner Yuna, otherwise
known as Christine or Mrs. Sephiroth, had founded
34:58 adventchildren.net in the lead-up to the release of the 2005 film *Final
Fantasy 7: Advent
35:05 Children*. Encyclopedia Dramatica was drawn to the site for its
eccentric cast of users and
35:12 frequent drama. Summoner Yuna was noteworthy because she had
professed herself to be Sephiroth's
35:19 Eternal Love. She was also a leader in the Sephyism Movement, an
attempt to found a religion around
35:26 Sephiroth. It garnered a few dozen followers. Sephyism had advertised
itself
35:31 as a parody religion, but feelings seemed to deviate from member to
member. Summoner Yuna never seemed to treat
35:38 Sephyism as satire. The key difference between Summoner Yuna and
Julia is that
35:43 Yuna's love for Sephiroth leaned towards peculiar role play and not
towards
35:49 spiritual practice. In 2004, Yuna stated on her blog

35:54 "Secondly, yes I know he's a character. I wish he was more than that,
but sadly for me that ain't going to happen. But
36:01 who does it hurt to have hope? Even if it's a false hope that will never
happen. Although that hope has brought me much
36:07 Sadness, it has also brought me much happiness in my life. I was a
goddamn wreck after my last "real-life"
36:13 Relationship. And it was my love for Sephiroth that actually helped me
get out of that hole I was in and begin to
36:19 live my life again. It was after that very hurtful relationship that I vowed
to never love in real life again. But
36:25 also I'm a person who for some reason feels that they must love ... and
for me, the ideal situation is [to] love someone such
36:31 as Sephiroth. And although I feel deeply for him, I do know the
difference between
36:37 fantasy and reality (even if some of you reading this may not think it). I
live a normal life, work, go out, etc. I
36:44 don't go around plotting to destroy the planet with meteor because
Seph does it or looking to murder people from
36:50 large corporations. Those are the people you should be saying
something to ... those that believed things so much that they'd
36:56 actually tried to do harm to someone because of their feelings..." In
April, Sephirothslave joined
37:02 adventchildren.net's forums, rumored to be an attempt to investigate
Summoner Yuna.
37:08 However, the two never publicly interacted. Though unsourced quotes
on Encyclopedia

37:13 Dramatica state that Julia dismissed Summoner Yuna as 'delusional.' It
is not uncommon for
37:20 modern discussion to conflate Sephirothslave and Summoner Yuna,
often mistaking
37:25 details about one for the other. Julia remained fiercely protective of her
marriage to Sephiroth. Responding to
37:32 a comment under one of her DeviantArt post, she would tout supposed
proof of their union:
37:38 "Shockingly, I have quite a bit of evidence to back up my claims.
Unusual, seeing as now every psychotic fangirl
37:44 claiming to be with Seph doesn't. [...] People have accused me of
hallucinating, or dreaming, whichever you prefer. But the
37:50 fact of the matter is that I'm on the medical cocktail from hell. Among
the medications I have to take
37:55 from my depression and thyroid disorder are anti-psychotics. Bottom
line, if I were hallucinating
38:01 before I was on meds, when I started taking them the hallucinations
would have stopped. [...] My beliefs have been evolving for years
38:08 based on new information I turn up on my gift, and my own personal
experiences. To this day, I revise my beliefs regularly, [...] I
38:15 imagine I'll keep studying and trying to understand as long as I live. For
that reason, I tend to go off on
38:20 people like Sephirothswife periodically. They (being she and all the
others) may very well be in love with
38:26 Sephiroth, but they are in love with a videogame character, who does
not exist. [...] I don't care if they run around the

38:32 internet proclaiming, 'I am Sephiroth's wife! Me! Only me!' Honestly, it's quite

38:37 Juvenile." Her increasing notoriety led Julia to do an interview on the website Enchanted

38:44 Subcultures. Enchanted Subcultures was a website documenting phenomena such as

38:49 soulbonders and otherkin. Though identified only as 'Amanda,' it was obvious

38:54 who they were talking about. "It would not be a stretch to say that Amanda, a young, talented model with

39:00 flowing gold hair, could attract any gentleman whose attention she might want. But alas, young men; her heart already

39:07 belongs to someone, [...] Amanda is rarely afraid to discuss her unconventional relationship around sympathetic ears. She

39:14 acknowledges that she is missing out on many of the things that normal couples do together, but feels that the strength

39:20 of her love makes up for this. 'I'm aware that I'll never have the physical bond that conventional couples have. I'm aware

39:27 that I may be alone in the physical world, but I'll always have Sephiroth.' Amanda would tell you that she is

39:32 married to Sephiroth. [...] She says that, though he does not exist physically in "our world," he exists spiritually [...] Amanda

39:39 says that, within her mind's eye, she can see Sephiroth and speak to him." Enchanted

39:45 Subcultures labels Amanda as a Soulbonder, but notes that she instead sees

39:50 her and Sephiroth as soulmates. Soulbonding is a confusing practice to wrap
39:56 your head around if you are on the outside. But broken down to its most basic components, soulbonding is a mental link
40:03 between a real person and a fictional character. But like most spiritual beliefs, it is up to personal
40:09 Interpretation. Most soulbonders seem to see it more as a relationship than a set of practices.
40:16 Sephirothslave would openly refute the label of soulbonder on her Blurty, while confirming herself to be Amanda. "This is
40:24 my clarification. I don't mind lending my 'expert' opinion to the side of the soulbonding community... since I have an open
40:30 mind to all possibilities and hope no one ever has to survive my level of torment from my beliefs. But I'm not a
40:36 Soulbonder. I'm a projector, and there is a great difference." In November, she made a post to dismiss
40:43 common speculation that she was either psychotic or schizophrenic. She cited a
40:48 WebMD quote focusing upon the social withdrawal associated with schizophrenia,
40:53 arguing that she was too interested in the outside world to be schizophrenic.
40:59 "I'm a full-time college student, I'm on the karate team, and I'm on call 24-7 for my modeling job (which, it so happens,
41:05 involves working with people to an almost annoying extent). I run this website and I'm active on

41:10 many others, in addition to corresponding with many, many people who
have written me privately to discuss my claims. I'll
41:16 not lie and say I necessarily like people, so to speak, but that's more
because their pettiness and shallowness
41:22 is irritating to me...and that holds true of the majority of people in this
world. However, I love my life. [...] Back when I was
41:29 first diagnosed with bipolar, I read up on a lot of mental illnesses, trying
to understand as much as I could to speed
41:35 my treatment. Working with my psychiatrist, it became clear I wasn't
bipolar...but suffered from severe
41:40 depression complicated by a thyroid disorder." In October, during an
otherwise standard
41:46 Blurty, she opened up about her attachment to Sephiroth, and the origin
of her username.
41:52 "The most significant reason I believe he is near me on the physical
world came about a year and a half ago or so, when I
41:58 was driving home from school. My younger sister was in the car with me,
and I had a terrible migraine. As I went to turn
42:04 the corner, I blacked out, and my car ran off the road...and I hit an
'adopt a highway' sign and a fairly large pine
42:09 Tree. My sister says she was screaming at me to hit the brake, but I
never heard her, or the sound of my car hitting the
42:15 sign or the tree. And yet, despite all that, somehow the car stopped
before I struck a solid wooden
42:21 Fence...something that would have surely hurt or killed us both. As I
came to again, I was going to just

42:26 put the car in reverse and get back on the road, and my sister said,
‘Don't back up.’ ‘why?’ I asked. ‘Because you're on top of
42:33 a tree.’ I looked out by opening my door slightly, and lo and behold, I
was indeed on top of a tree.
42:40 Eventually I was able to leave the scene, and miraculously, I was
unharmd, my sister was unharmd, and to go even
42:45 Further, my car was unharmd. The only casualty of the accident was
the poor tree. The only damage done to my car was
42:51 a scrape and light dent near the front passenger tire where I had hit the
sign. When I reflected on this accident later,
42:57 I could only conclude that Sephiroth had been watching over me again,
and for the second time had saved my life...or at
43:03 least spared me terrible injury. So now I'll hit on my alias,
Sephirothslave. This name wasn't fashioned to be
43:10 anything suggestive or kinky or anything of the sort...it was fashioned in
homage to how much I owe him.
43:16 Quite literally, I owe my life to him, and will be forever indebted to him.
When people use cheap imitations of my name
43:22 it is rather offensive, because this name I fashioned for myself is meant
to communicate my debt...that I will gladly
43:28 be his for the rest of eternity. [Music]

43:33 Any Major Dude

43:42 A semi-frequent occurrence on Julia's Blurty was question and answer
sessions,
43:50 during which she would attempt to clarify her beliefs. She garnered a
cast of regular commenters, one of whom was named Ladybow.

43:56 Ladybow would recount their experiences on LiveJournal, in 2013,
writing, "I became
44:03 penpals with her. I told her up front that I didn't / couldn't buy her beliefs
but that I was willing to listen
44:10 and give her respect. I had read so many hate-messages that were
outrageously aggressive that I wanted to tell her
44:15 that she didn't deserve it. Even though I told her I was a skeptic, I never
really disclosed the fact that I mainly was in
44:21 contact with her to draw out the complex web of lies with which she had
deluded her existence. [...] Despite the entries which
44:26 express this relationship as a purely positive, life-changing and life
saving,
44:33 she writes about having breakdowns, too. She says she sometimes
can't find the point in living her physical life and
44:39 prefers the comfort and substitute 'family' she's found in her spirit
guides on the other side. In her heart, I don't
44:45 know if she can even admit to herself that these things aren't
happening, I don't think it makes her crazy. I think
44:50 she's an extremely depressed and alienated person who believes she
needs to embellish her life in order to get
44:57 through it." A 'Question and Answer' from March gave, to date, the most
substantial insight into
45:03 Julia's relationship with Sephiroth. "What kind of things about him
annoy you, and what about you annoys him?"
45:09 "One of my biggest pet peeves about him is that he will randomly
become unavailable for a week, ten days, two weeks,

45:16 Whatever...doing something he can't tell me anything about. It's unfair
of me, certainly, but I wish he could tell me at
45:21 least what he's doing while he can't come to see me. As for what annoys
me about him, I'd have
45:27 to say probably that he expects some things of me (such as his opinion
that I should practically belong to him) that I
45:32 won't bend to..." "Has he ever said / thought anything that really hurts
your feelings?"
45:38 "There is one thing in particular that really hurts me in regards to what
he says / does. After all the years
45:43 we've been together, he still doesn't trust me completely. [...] Whenever
I happen to be spending a lot of time with one of my
45:49 male friends [...] it seems like he automatically assumes that I'm
attracted to this guy and gets irritated."
45:55 "Ever been in a huge fight?" "Yes. regarding a friend of mine I had in high
school - he had a huge crush on me,
46:01 and I felt sorry for him, so I consented to go to homecoming with him as
a one-time thing. [...] That incident was nearly
46:07 the end of my relationship with Sephiroth. Past that, not really. I feel like
a wimp for admitting this, but I
46:13 make an effort to not do the things that would annoy him." "Does
Sephiroth display abilities on the Astral Plane that you consider superior
46:19 to yours?" "Seph is pretty much better at everything. XD He's the
superior fighter
46:25 by a lot, he knows the area around our condo backward and forward
(whereas I would be totally lost without him), etc. I

46:32 learn a lot from him, because he's a lot smarter than I am. In fact, there
are a lot of times I felt downright stupid next to him! But even
46:39 though he has so many advantages over me, he's always patient enough
to help me out. The only area I think I have him
46:44 beat is in my ability to trust and be open to him." "Does your family
know about him?"
46:49 "Ah...the family. Yes, they know. My father and I fought so often about
the issue
46:55 of whether I was insane / lying / possessed by Satan was half of what
drove me to move out as soon as I
47:00 was able. It's something that we'll never see eye to eye on, and he drives
me insane with his less-than-subtle hints
47:06 on if I've met any new guys lately, [...] It's maddening, really. My mother
and three younger sisters know,
47:11 but they won't talk about it with me. I don't think my little sisters believe
me, and the one time I actually got to sit
47:17 down and talk to my mother about my relationship...I made her cry. She
said she was sad for me, that I was
47:22 'condemning myself to loneliness,' and was depressed that she
wouldn't get any grandchildren out of me.
47:28 I love my mother dearly, and we have a great relationship...but that's the
one thing I can't discuss with her or anyone
47:34 else in my family. Pretty sad, huh? XD" At this point Julia's visits with
47:40 Sephiroth on the astral plane were occurring three to four times a week.
47:46 She began custom crafting jewelry. Of note is this medallion with angel
wings.

47:51 In it is inscribed a rune that, she says, translates to Sephiroth. She theorized

47:58 this rune was what tethered Sephiroth to her. The original model was made of clay, but when she started crafting her own

48:03 Jewelry, she created two new medallions that she wore every day. To her, the

48:11 Sephiroth rune was the evidence that Sephiroth was not a figment of her imagination, but a real entity that she

48:16 could contact. Also, in 2008, her cousin introduced her to photoshop, which she

48:21 would use consistently over the years. By 2009, her stream of content had slowed to

48:27 a trickle. Her posts became farther and farther apart. As she shifted away from the online space,

48:33 she continued to regularly post art, and even a few photos from her modeling.

48:40 While her modeling consists of potentially legitimate compositions, the actual quality of the photos was lost

48:45 upon upload. As she notes, she artificially enlarged the photographs in

48:50 Microsoft Paint before posting them to DeviantArt. Even with her frequent post,

48:57 she abandoned her DeviantArt journal in September. Following a rant about Encyclopedia Dramatica, her Blurty only

49:04 updated once in the entire year, on December 14th. Explaining where her focus had shifted, the post described her

49:09 applying for a job at a metaphysical bookstore. After not receiving
anything back for
49:15 two months, one of the store's psychics reached out to her, so that they
could meet. "When I got there, I learned that she
49:20 works by channeling the Archangel Michael, and works closely with the
angelic realm - which is why it was easy
49:27 for Sephiroth to contact her." The psychic would teach her the ability to
commune with angels in her day-to-day
49:32 Life. Over the course of a month, the psychic cleared Julia of the mental
block that
49:38 had stopped her from hearing inaudible sounds. "On Friday, December
11, I was still
49:44 asleep [...]... and I woke up to a cool, tingling sensation on my neck -
where Sephiroth frequently kisses me. Then it started
49:50 happening on my hand. I can't truly explain it, I just knew that it was
contact of some kind...and
49:57 Then, I heard his voice, telling me to wake up. After four months of
effort, finally, I had
50:05 opened up to this form of communication...and now, I can speak to him
whenever I want - I can feel him touching me...and I no
50:11 longer feel so alone during my waking life. Words can't describe how
happy I am with this development."
50:16 After December, her Blurty and DeviantArt ceased updating, and Julia
disappeared from the internet for two years.
50:20 [Music]

50:22 All the Other Nonconformists

50:25 Julia returned to Blurty in December, 2011. she had taken an extended hiatus to
50:31 focus on her spiritual development and, at some point, had adopted three cats. She
50:37 had begun pursuing careers as a model, psychic, and martial arts instructor.
50:43 Her return had come with changes to her belief system, "I've spent all this time away, striving
50:48 still to understand my life [...] I've been studying privately under a highly-respected local psychic. [...] She offered to
50:54 help me in my inner journey toward understanding my reality [...] and using my gifts as a way to assist others.
51:00 Honestly, the end of 2011 has left me at yet another total reassessment of everything I believe true of the
51:05 Universe. I think it's about time I just accept that I'll never know all there is to know, not even about myself and why this
51:12 has happened to me. What does it all mean? All, as in, everything? What defines reality?
51:18 Truth be told, I'm not sure I know at all anymore. A lifelong rejection of the notion of past lives and reincarnation
51:25 is on very, very shaky ground these days. Why? That would be experiences with other
51:30 Psychics: people that I did not know, and that did not know me. And, people who ended up telling me things that, frankly,
51:38 no one else could have possibly known. Two encounters in particular stood out. Both were in public classes / lectures I

51:44 was attending. [...] I found myself first in a sitting with a medium from
out of town. [...] I expected she would identify Sephiroth. of
51:51 Course...as he's always been closest. This medium absolutely floored
me, as she went around the room, identifying spirits
51:58 near to the sitter, and giving messages to them from those on the other
side. As she got to me, as I said, I expected she
52:04 would identify Sephiroth. I had little reason to think anyone other would
step forward, assuming this medium was
52:09 legitimately talented. But, the first thing she said, was that it was a
woman, that wanted to deliver a
52:14 message to me. She went on to identify a couple of physical traits, her
favorite color, and the first letter of her name.
52:21 the message this spirit wanted to deliver to me was very simple. And,
that much, I can share with all of you. The
52:27 Woman, who will remain anonymous (because I've gotten that much
smarter), had this to say to me:
52:32 'I love you, I accept you, and I thank you.'" The other presenter was a
past life
52:38 regression specialist, which caused a crisis for Julia. She was unsure
how she
52:44 felt about reincarnation, but eventually decided that she preferred the
concept of an afterlife, stating that eternal
52:51 damnation was preferable, so long as she did not forget about
Sephiroth, but conceded it was possible she and
52:58 Sephiroth had known each other in a past life. The female spirit
identified by the first presenter was only one of Julia's

53:05 three new spirit guides. "My motherly guide is the only female guide I
work regularly with. Obviously,
53:12 her voice stands out as female...and also has a very, very peaceful,
calm tone.
53:17 The teacher guide has a distinctly foreign accent, and his phrasing isn't
what we consider typical in America. And
53:23 the friend guide has a very brash, 'take it or leave it' sort of attitude. He's
outspoken, and generally does not care
53:29 what you think about his opinion." The three spirits had names, but Julia
refused to share them out of respect for
53:36 their privacy. It has been argued that this is because her three new spirit
guides are representative of other Final
53:43 Fantasy characters: Tseng, Reno and Lucrecia Crescent. Outside
53:48 of their introduction, nothing else was learned about these new guides
as Julia's focus remained squarely on
53:55 Sephiroth. "It's always been unbelievably difficult for me to see the
point of engaging in
54:00 anything here on Earth. Lacking the support of my family here, and with
very, very few friends, my life is lonely here.
54:07 If I'm not at work, I'm probably home with three cats for physical
company. I found myself asking why I was here at
54:13 All, being so unhappy here, but content and at peace so long as I was
with Sephiroth."
54:19 She continued to bemoan the treatment from sources such as
Encyclopedia Dramatica

54:25 but had also found herself at odds with two specific internet users, the
original writer of her ED page, Iscariot, and LifeJournal
54:33 User, Lian Hu. The two had dedicated themselves to sporking *Shinra*
High and *SOLDIER*. Sporking is the practice
54:40 of mocking bad fan fiction by re-uploading it with added commentary.
Julia had long since denounced her
54:46 stories as being of, quote, "insufficient quality," but seemed to take the
sporkings
54:52 of her writing personally; expressing a wish to meet, and possibly fight,
Iscariot,
54:57 who she often described as having a primitive mind, and a general
annoyance with Lian Hu,
55:03 who she only vaguely referred to as "the female." Almost all of her
encounters around 2012
55:09 followed this similar pattern. Starting with Julia stating that she found
her dissenters amusing, and that
55:15 she did not care what they said, before she would write paragraph long
rebuttals of her critics.
55:20 For example, this Blurty discussing cyber bullying: "I'm emotionally
untouchable, inclined
55:26 either to laugh at my critics, pity them for the life they're, squandering or
ponder their motives.
55:32 But, what about other people who have been victims of this
phenomena? What effect does such baseless, mindless
55:37 Cruelty, a deliberate attack to bring someone down, have on...the
twelve-year-old kid posting their very first Twilight fanfic

55:44 Online? So, all of you, tell me: what makes more sense, when critiquing
a story? Viciously
55:50 ripping it to shreds, and telling the author to go jump off a bridge? Or
being constructive, and helpful in your review?
55:57 No one has ever benefited at all from someone vicious bully (who, [by
the way], doesn't even have published fanfiction,
56:04 or art) telling a fledgling talent that they're terrible, and should kill
themselves. In the age of social networking we've
56:10 entered into, superstars are being discovered on YouTube. Success
stories like Justin Bieber have sparked a wave
56:16 of kids (and adults), with dreams of stardom are following that trail,
hoping to be discovered.
56:21 Tell me, if you've never sung a note in your life, and can't carry a tune in a
bucket, as they say, do you have the right
56:28 to tell that really shy girl with a tiny, meek voice, that she's awful,
talentless, and should never sing again?
56:34 Perhaps it'd be more prudent to find dreams of your own?" On her
birthday,
56:39 she would make an introspective post. "Today is my 24th birthday, and,
at long
56:44 Last, the time has come to make an announcement I should have been
prepared to make a long time ago.
56:50 In the two plus years that I was away, off the internet, working on
learning, and growing on my spiritual path, one of the
56:55 things I had to spend a lot of time thinking about was *Final Fantasy 7*,
and how it figured into my future. And, I'm

57:02 finally ready to say that it doesn't. I finally realized this was no longer
'fun' for me. At the point that these games
57:09 are making me punch holes in things (like the nearest wall...), the
entertainment value of these games wasn't providing the
57:15 satisfying escape of something else to focus on. And, so, it finally
comes time to announce
57:20 Openly: my fascination with *Final Fantasy 7* served purpose in my life
only as a
57:26 Distraction - a convenient escape that I could call on to hide from the
pain I was living with in my life. The
57:31 intricacies of the plot and characters left me never needing to seek
another source of distraction [...] I was not prepared
57:37 to fully face, and live my life, such as it is here. I finally made my
decision, that, I will
57:43 live my life here, and fulfill the purpose I was placed here for." Soon
after retiring from the Final
57:49 Fantasy community, Julia would purge her fanfiction.net account of all
of its
57:54 Content. This left the sporkings of her work as the only way to read the
majority of her
58:00 Writing. It has been this way for a decade. Julia had been an amateur
model for a
58:05 few years but, outside of a few photo shoots, nothing had come from it.
Now, she was
58:10 actively trying to make a career of it, with frequent photo shoots and
fashion shows.

58:18 [Music]
58:28 In hopes of gaining notoriety, she created profiles on websites such as
Stage 32 and Reality Wanted. She was
58:36 particularly active on reality wanted often signing up on casting calls
where
58:41 she would often manage to receive hundreds of votes. Most notably,
she posted four audition
58:47 Videos, which no one thought to download. Supposedly the first two
showcased her weapons collection, and the other two
58:54 were auditions for the US version of the reality television show, *Big
Brother*,
58:59 which she had previously expressed interest in participating in. Her *Big
Brother* audition managed to receive 1,000
59:05 votes in favor of her. She said she had signed with a company called Via
Entertainment, claiming she only had to
59:12 work three to four times a month, and that she was making 75 dollars an
hour.
59:17 Via Entertainment, as a company, is commonly agreed to be a scam.
Julia's most prominent activity from this time
59:24 was on DeviantArt, where she would clash in the comments over any
criticism leveled at her.
59:30 Such as her post, The Death of Cloud Strife, featuring a photo of her
personally murdering Cloud. She was quick
59:36 to argue with anyone who questioned her decision to post herself
pretending to murder a mannequin. In August, she opened

59:43 up a short-lived twitter account, where she would post about her love of
reality television, such as *Big Brother* or
59:49 *Survivor*. Despite being set for a resurgence, Sephirothslave instead
fizzled out.
59:55 It is unknown when she abandoned Blurty, as the archives do not go out
that far, but it is known that she abandoned her
1:00:01 DeviantArt on November 26, effectively retiring the Sephirothslave
persona.
1:00:07 Julia's legacy would live on as a prime example of bad fanfiction and
delusional
1:00:12 Fangirls. Discussions of her occasionally pop up on forums, usually
brought up in tandem
1:00:17 with similar, infamous characters. In an unexpected turn of events,
author Venetia
1:00:23 Robertson would write an academic paper, for the religious studies
department of the University of Sydney. The paper was
1:00:30 published in the book *Fiction, Invention and Hyper-reality: from popular
culture*
1:00:35 *to religion*. Sephirothslave is mentioned, though is not the focus of the
paper. Encyclopedia Dramatica made some
1:00:41 half-hearted attempts to follow her after the shuddering of her
DeviantArt, but quickly lost interest.
1:00:48 There are several claims listed on the page that I've not had room to
mention, but I would like to cover:
1:00:53 So, either she was, or is, employed by Psychic Source, basically, a
psychic

1:00:58 Hotline. I wouldn't be able to check without paying actual money to
become a member. ED also claims she dropped out of
1:01:05 College, an assumption with a little basis and most evidence seems to
contradict. It also makes a big deal
1:01:11 about her burning a doujinshi, presumably a yaoi featuring Sephiroth. It
really seems like she was joking and
1:01:17 didn't literally burn a doujinshi. Iscaiot and Lian Hu ended up finishing
their sporking of her two
1:01:23 completed novels, as well as pretty much every single body of work Julia
ever wrote.
1:01:30 Julia rebranded. She still has several active profiles across the internet.
While still branding herself as an
1:01:36 occult scholar, she makes no reference to a marriage with Sephiroth.
She also runs
1:01:41 a gameplay channel, fairly consistently uploading gameplay for over half
a decade. Her life as Sephirothslave is
1:01:47 long behind her. Julia has moved on to franchises such as Destiny and
Monster Hunter but seems to have re-found a bit
1:01:54 of her love for Final Fantasy.
1:02:05 [Music]
1:02:33 [End]