

A plea for footnotes in fanfiction

by mazaher

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Fanfiction writers don't usually write footnotes.

I wish they did. (I do.)

I have only recently discovered in Roddenberry's novel "Star Trek: The Motion Picture" the probable source of a few tropes recurring in Star Trek: TOS fanfiction, e.g. neural implants on humans and humanoids, New Humans as a faction opposed to xeno-contacts, Starfleet families as a traditionalist subculture...

Footnotes mentioning sources would be a powerful help in keeping track of the history of the fandom, and making such bodies of references as Fanlore Wiki

(http://fanlore.org/wiki/Main_Page) even more exhaustive.

I am sure none of us fanfic writers underrate themselves to the point of feeling that mentioning sources may detract from the creativity of their writings. Quite the opposite, in fact: creativity in every field is remodeling in unique ways all sorts of cultural inputs, life experiences, and imagination, giving birth to something unique yet recognizable.

Footnotes would allow the readers to follow the mental processes of the writer. A self-meta-gift, added to the gift of the writing itself.

What do you think?

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