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Welcome to our page!

The early 2000s were a crazy time. For Melissa and I, these were the best years of our childhood. Born in 1997 and 2000, we were girls who loved music, fashion and tech, and spent a lot of our time daydreaming that we were teenagers. We were young enough to be easily influenced by all that was happening in the world but too young to be self-conscious as we explored our identities.

So much was happening in the 2000s!

POP CULTURE was EVERYTHING. TV shows like Lizzie McGuire and The Simple Life introduced us to cool-girl trendsetters, while tween magazines like Seventeen and Girl's Life kept us up to date on all the coolest trends. Plus, the career of Britney Spears was at its peak, providing us with televised antics, denim award show ensembles, and the Oscar-snubbed film *Crossroads*.

THE INTERNET was a new, fascinating thing for us and it existed only within our bulky computers, unable to consume our whole lives like it does today. Sites like Allykatz and Makeoutclub connected us to other kids from all over the country while Webkinz, Neopets and Club Penguin kept us entertained for hours.

FASHION allowed us to try on new identities everyday as we experimented with who we thought we were and who we wanted to be. Blending pieces from Roxy, Justice (or Limited Too), Wet Seal and Hot Topic helped us stitch together the fabric of ourselves, as we grew into the women that we are today.

MUSIC was dominated by brash teens who didn't give a damn, showing us sheltered suburban kids that it was cool to defy conformity. Anthems from artists like Avril Lavigne, Built to Spill, Sum 41 and Green Day opened us up to a whole angst world outside of our orderly households. Pop was also at its peak and blessed us with so many hits to illegally download for our mix CDs.



Looking back, the 2000s weren't totally perfect. As a mixed-race person, I struggled to find toys or role models that looked anything like me. Archetypes in all the popular media solidified heteronormativity and a gender binary, making it difficult to figure out our identities without feeling pressure to conform. And in schools and educational systems there was virtually no discussion about many issues of injustice.

Still, the 2000s were pretty damn cool. We are **products of this era**, raised on the good, the bad and everything in between.

HOW DID THE 2000'S MAKE YOU WHO YOU ARE TODAY?



Digital Glory 2000

Digital Glory

The world didn't end with Y2K,
 The computers went on, time had begun
 9 months + 18 days later
 no disaster yet,
 only me, coming into the flesh

THE GROWTH PROCESS

Your Tamagotchi can evolve in different stages depending on how you care for it.



As a child, I had
 1 hour on the computer per day
 1 hour of playing outside
 1 secret hour sneaking OS w/ the lights off
 Digital glory, born invincible
 Can life be coded into
 pixels on a screen?

I don't have a computer in me yet,
 but they're around me all the time.
 I wouldn't even want one really
 I like living in humanity:
 Flesh, blood, maybe a tear
 Short circuit
 Wires Crossed

But it's evolution, baby
 I have to keep up
 Put a chip in my brain,
 and wires in my arms, future visions
 What makes you a person is not
 always human...

CLICK ON ME.



MIA'S CHILDHOOD MEMORIES



I remember playing my new mix CD for my brother and his friends on my pink Barbie boombox.
Their favorite song was Beverly Hills by Weezer.

I remember my neighbor taking me shopping at Justice for my birthday.
She bought me camo cargo pants and a purple top.

I remember using a bedazzled Hello Kitty text messenger to text my best friend while she was sitting 10 feet away in a Barnes and Noble.
I messaged her the name of my new crush.

I remember getting into the back seat of my parents' car after picking up our new puppy and asking if I could play Nintendo DS on the drive home.
The answer was no.

I remember my dad taking me surfing, pushing me into the whitewash.
I wore my brother's Quiksilver wetsuit.
I was terrified.

I remember playing Guitar Hero with my family.
One time I played Eye of the Tiger on expert.

I remember the first time I got dropped off at the mall with my friends.
We went to Victoria's Secret.
I didn't buy anything.

I remember my dad showing me an album he thought I would like.
It was Tragic Kingdom by No Doubt. I loved it.

I remember playing Barbie with my older brother.
His Bionicles crash landed and destroyed her whole dream house.

I remember losing my first tooth on the playground.
We all looked for it so the nurse would give me a little plastic treasure chest to hold it.
It never was found.

I remember telling my mom I never wanted to grow up.
I was six years old.



Internet Explorer

by Melissa



Being born in '97, my childhood existed in a space of technological transition. There was a novelty to the Internet when I was a kid, and an excitement about every kind of gadget and platform that came from it. I think about those big Mac computers that came in different colors, like something from a Disney Channel Zenon movie. I remember wanting every single toy Girl Tech created, even though they hardly ever seemed to work. Just the look and feel of these things held a special power that made my youthful daydreams of becoming a popstar/actress/international spy all the more possible.

Of course, periods of transition are usually a blend of good, bad and confusing – my technological journey as a kid was no different. There was the undeniably fun side: spending hours on Club Penguin, creating a blog where I posted badly written short stories, giving virtual makeovers to the MyScene girls, and peering over my sister's shoulder when she went on MySpace. However, I was quite young during these discovery years of the Internet and there were many instances where I learned the Internet wasn't always a happy place.

There was a chatroom website called Preteen Planet back in the day, and somehow a very, very preteen 8-year-old me convinced my parents to let me make an account. Like any chatroom, the conversation was all over the place to the point where I don't remember what we discussed, but I found it exciting that I was supposedly talking to different kids from throughout the country. There is one night, though, that I remember very well...

I was in the chatroom typing along when one of the other users asked me if I was a virgin. At 8, I had no idea what being a virgin meant, but nobody had ever called me one before, so I said that I wasn't. After that, the chat got weird-- I can't fully remember, but I didn't like what was being said. Though I didn't understand it, I knew something was wrong. So 8-year-old me darted out of the computer room and into the kitchen where my parents were. I can only imagine how disconcerting-yet-funny it was for my parents to see their 8-year-old daughter anxiously standing in the hallway and then blurting out,

"Mom, dad...am I a virgin?"

My parents did not let me go back on Preteen Planet after that night.

continued...

← continued

I wasn't even mad that they wouldn't let me, because I swore off touching the computer for months. Even though I didn't fully understand what happened that night on Preteen Planet, I no longer felt excited about the Internet. Rather, I felt scared and confused by it. This uncertainty went up-and-down throughout my childhood. It probably wasn't until I got an iPhone in sophomore year of high school that I started to grow more accustomed to the modern sense of the Internet and how integrated it is in our daily lives.



Now in my 20s with multiple social media accounts, I'm far past the point of my childhood fear, but I also don't know if the excitement I lost ever fully returned. If anything, I can't help but feel a bit jaded about the Internet now, as many other people my age do. It makes sense when I think about my generation; since the technological transition of society paralleled our growing up, it's natural that we experienced growing pains along with it. It's almost like we all went through an additional puberty with the Internet, and while we've come to accept the virtual world,

we don't always know
our right place within it.



Be
mine
always

I HAVE
SO MUCH
I NEED
TO SHOW
YOU...

...MY
LOVE...



But is he a zombie? Or is just
high-end malls that she likes



I will
love you
forever

Earth Signs
(Capricorn, Taurus,
Virgo)

Midwest Goth

Comes off as cold but is really
a big crybaby, sees bedroom as a
sanctuary to quietly scream into
pillow, kinky on the DL, listens
to American Football and Cap 'n
Jazz.

**2000s GOTH
ZODIAC**

find out what kind of
goth u r based on ur
star sign



Fire Signs
(Aries, Leo
Sagittarius)

Water Signs
(Cancer, Scorpio, Pisces)

New Wave Goth

Worships Robert Smith, enjoys
hanging out in cemeteries, has
toyed with the idea of having
a pet raven, cries in the
shower just to feel something.

Mall Goth

Fun and bold, makes
"rawr xD" edits for
their MySpace profile
pic, runs into the
pit at warped tour,
jams to MCR and
Pierce the Veil.

Air Sign (Libra, Aquarius,
Gemini)

Cyber Goth

Bleached eyebrows and colored
hair extensions, attends
industrial house parties on
Tuesdays at 2 am when they
have work at Wetzel's
Pretzels at 9am,
cartoons are
fave shows.



I'm changing my naughty ways.
To naughtier ones.

rawr XD





DESIGN YOUR 2005 SKATER BEDROOM

PICK 5 ITEMS



PICK YOUR POISON: Which guy will you date?




Congrats, you're probably gay!
Even though LGBTQ+ representation was not great during the 2000s, you can still be proud of who you are!




CHAD - overt misogynist, plays high school baseball, Monster energy drink always in hand, uses words he's not supposed to for "humor," loves Eminem.



DARREN - Hair gel enthusiast, begged his mom for Jnco jeans so he would look "tough" but isn't tough enough to ask you to the Winter Dance, will make you listen to his terrible covers of Strokes songs.



BROCK - Surfed one time on vacation in Florida and won't let you forget it, puka shell necklace, trying really hard to get a RVCA sponsorship, works at Blockbuster and gives you a discount



KYLE - Claims to have modeled for Abercrombie but no one has ever seen proof, steals money from his little sister, condescendingly asks if you know who Coldplay are, Axe body spray





NOKIA

9:13

telephonic invasion

Looking back on my childhood, I can see that I was about as materially privileged as could be. While we weren't exorbitantly wealthy, my dad worked a well-paying computer job and we lived in a pristine suburb by the beach. Between my parents, grandparents and extended family, I almost always had someone with some cash to spare when I wanted a new Lego or Littlest Pet Shop set.

I was a child with everything I could have wanted-- toys, art supplies, a Ripstik, my dad's old iPod, a Nintendo DS-- but one thing was and would remain missing-- a cell phone. I asked, I yearned, I ached, I begged but no matter what I did, the answer was still no. They presented me with every reason why I didn't need one: "You're too young for that," "Who would you even call anyways?," "Are you gonna pay for it? I didn't think so..."

I can see now that my parents were being completely reasonable. I was too young, I had nobody important to call and most of my friends didn't have cell phones anyway. But my parents' logic was not enough to silence the ringing in my heart. There was something they weren't understanding: I didn't want a cell phone to make calls. I wanted one because phones were the ultimate pop cultural symbol of coolness at the time. While most people didn't even have phones in real life, every fashionable and trendy teenage character on TV did. Kim Possible had that crazy secret agent phone that she used to talk to Wade, Sharpay Evans had a pink bedazzled sidekick to message her worshippers and Paris and Nicole were seldom seen without them, except when the cameras were rolling on The Simple Life. (CONTINUED -->)

MIA

(<-- CONTINUED)

Cell phones were the embodiment of cool culture; if I wanted to be an It girl like the stars on TV, then I needed one too.

In reality, there were a lot of other (more significant) things holding me back from being like the girls on the screen-- I wasn't blond, I wasn't white and I certainly didn't fit the European beauty standards that defined an It girl in the 2000s. Only a very specific kind of body and appearance was allowed to take on that role, and it never once looked like me. But in my child-mind, I believed a cell phone was the key to unlocking this exclusive other world that I wanted so badly to be a part of. I didn't see the difference between myself and them like I do now, I just thought clacking my french manicured nails all over a slide-up keyboard would fulfill my desires.

The 2000s were a particularly materialistic era, which caused kids like me to internalize a cultural belief system that relies heavily on consumption. With every other page of tween magazines featuring an ad sponsored by whatever teen star was hot at the moment, it's pretty easy to understand how kids like me absorbed the belief that material possessions could define us. This understanding of the world was what made me think that having a cell phone would make me Paris Hilton; what made the mall a holy land for 2000s kids; what made us drool at the mouth at the toys in TV infomercials; and in many ways what makes us who we are today.



2000*s FaSHion
HOT or NOT

HOT

a. Lip Smackers- waxy and melty but tasted delish!

b. Shrug sweaters- bonus points if you got it at Limited Too!

c. Paul Frank- way cooler than Bobby Jack

d. Roll-on Body Glitter- makeup for before you were allowed to wear makeup

e. Gauchos- you paired these with lace trim camis to look "mature"

f. Claire's clip-in hair extensions- you'd never admit that these weren't your real hair

g. Stuff by Hilary Duff- you could dress your Stardoll in Hil's cute designs online

h. Jeans Under Dresses- looked cool on Disney Channel, but your classmates didn't get it

i. Proactiv skincare- smells like a pyramid scheme to me...

j. Ballet Flats- sensible to your mom but not cool enough 4 the mall

k. Xtina's braids and dreadlocks- girl... ..NO!

l. Bump Its!- bumped your hair higher than Mount Everest

m. Rimless shield sunglasses- save them for another day Kim K!



FaSHion HOT OR NOT



NOT



GiRLS rULE.

NO
bOYs
ALLOWED

hello KITTY APPR0ves 0F THESE M3SSAgEs*.

GiRLz
r0ck!



M.A.S.H.

Mansion, Apartment, Shack, House.



Love

Chad Michael Murray
 Shogo from Kim Possible
 Corbin Bleu
 Danny Phantom
 Britney Spears

Job

Popstar
 Paris Hilton's Assistant
 Stylist at Libby Lu
 Pro Skater
 Video Game Tester

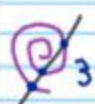
Kids

1
 2
 3
 12

Gadget

Zoey 101 Tek Mate
 Nintendo DS
 Motorola Razer
 Girl Tech Password Journal
 iDog

HOW TO PLAY MASH



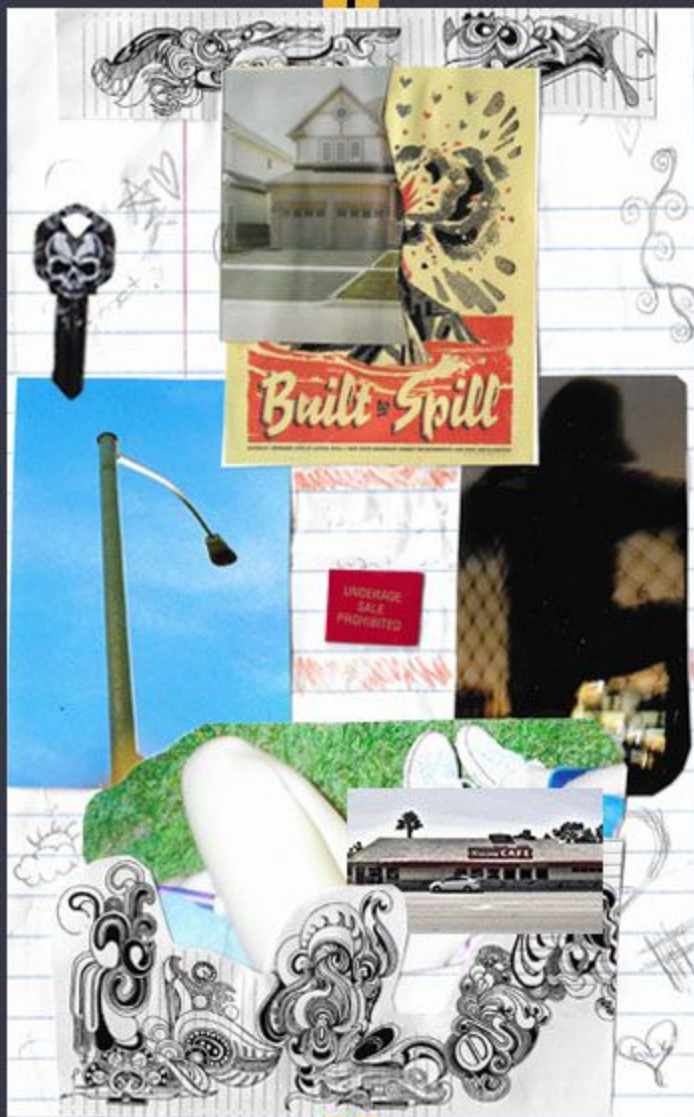
1. Draw a spiral on a piece of paper! Draw a straight line through your spiral and count how many times the line crosses it. This is your magic number.

2. Starting at the M in MASH on top of the page, move clockwise and count each option (M, A, S, H, each job, each gadget, etc) until you've reached your magic number.

1 { ~~M~~ 3. Cross out the word that you land on and keep counting
 2 { ~~A~~ your magic number out clockwise around the page,
 3 { ~~S~~ skipping words you already crossed out.

~~H~~ 4. Continue making laps around the page until you have
 crossed out all but one option in each category.

M 5. Circle the remaining options to find out your future!!



It doesn't matter I guess.

I'm lying saying that though. But I say it all the time.

I think I don't know how else I can deal with everything. It's easier to pretend it isn't real sometimes.

It kind of doesn't feel real. Everyday feels like I'm making it up as I go along, like I'm waiting for the day that it'll just click, and everything will make sense. That I will make sense.

But I'm starting to worry. Maybe I'm waiting for something that won't come.





most of us watched Y2K teen movies growing up that made us feel like our adolescence was gonna be a time of drama, romance, and fun. in actuality, most of us probably just felt sad and had too deeply side parted hair that left you relatively awkward and undatable for yrs. And no, that was definitely not about me at all.

Anywayz, to make up for the hole in ur heart teen screen plotlines may have left you, I present to you this mix CD made with and a story to go with it!

Listen along to the playlist as u read!

1. Kids in America - The Muffs

It's the classic waking up sequence! You've woken up late but still have time to conduct an outfit changing montage. After that, you run downstairs and eat one bite of the massive pancake feast your mom made before you jet out the door. You narrowly make it onto the bus, and being the quirky, unnoticed 2000s main character girl, you sit in the back mysteriously with your nose in a book.

2. Bring It All to Me - Blaque feat. N Sync

Oh but sweetie girl, you might be quirky, but not even you are immune to the charms of popular, athletic, hot boy Cody. Ugh, the way he sits there on his Jeep with the boys, extremely plain haircut and baseball tee...irresistible. You gaze upon him longingly, knowing he'd never notice you because you wear glasses.

3. Show Stopper - Danity Kane

Uh oh, better look away because here comes hot boy Cody's even hotter GF, Amber. Yes, she is pulling up in a Cadillac with all her friends. Yes, they all have spaghetti straps on. You sigh as your friend who is also quirky (but more outgoing with colored hair strips) tells you that you can do SO much better than Cody anyway. Your friend does have a name, but the writers seem to have forgotten to tell us what it is.

4. Take Me Away - Pefe Dobson

Your home after school being angry and singing into a hairbrush to cope with your feelings, as we all do. Suddenly, your phone (a landline) rings. You pick it up, and to your disbelief, it's hot boy Cody. Nervous and stammering, you ask what's up. Cody says your English teacher suggested he get tutored by you, and wants to know if you can get together at The Grind (local hip coffee joint) tomorrow. While a little sad Cody is only hitting your line for homework help, you're still excited enough to say yes!

5. Minneapolis - that dog.

Oh wow oh wow, what a day you've had with Cody. In the middle of you explaining the overt symbolism of 1984 for the 15th time, he tells you he's distracted because he and Amber broke up that morning. You're shocked, but he tells you it's for the best. He says he wants someone more down-to-earth: someone like you. Your heart skips a beat when he says this, but you try to play it cool. Cody then tells you he's having a party on Saturday that you should come to. You go home feeling like you're in a dream; you, a girl with glasses, invited to a party by hot boy Cody! Totally unreal.



with melissa



6. Let Me Blow Ya Mind - Eve feat. Gwen Stefani

You arrive at the party, which is inexplicably in a mansion. Cody sees you and offers to grab you a drink (a little too eager if you ask me, ahem). After hanging with you for a cool five minutes, he says he has to go check on his friend, but will be right back. You sit alone in the corner for a while before going to look for Cody, and when you do finally find him, it ain't good. Amber's with him, and they're smooching. Embarrassed and disappointed, you run out of the party.

7. Friend of Mine - Liz Phair

Crying montage time! You arrive home from the party and dramatically throw yourself onto your bed. You then dramatically stare at yourself in the mirror, maybe take a dramatic shower as well. The next week at school, you walk off the bus and see Amber and Cody together. You dramatically look at them, and Cody notices, linking eyes with you. Of course, you swiftly and dramatically look away.

8. My Happy Ending - Avril Lavigne

Later in the week, you're walking to the bus to go home when you hear someone call out your name. To your surprise, it's Amber. She says she wants to talk to you and offers you a ride. You're hesitant and weirded out, but you say yes. Amber tells you Cody admitted to her that he only invited you to the party to make her jealous. You feel even more crushed than before, but then Amber tells you she broke up with Cody because it was totally uncool that he used you, and he's a cheating asshole anyway. Somehow you guys end up hanging out all day and go to a karaoke bar where you sing angry girl songs and just let it all out.

9. She's Crushing My Mind - Team Dresch

You and Amber have become friends, which is cool. Like, really cool! Amber is so pretty, and she does makeup on you for fun, and you guys start sharing clothes and CDs and like, everything. Also, Amber is really pretty and cool.

10. Torn - Natalie Imbruglia

You and Amber have plans to hang after school one day, but as you walk to her car, you see she and Cody are talking. You feel confused and kind of angry, and this only escalates when you see Cody get touchy-feely with her. Amber sees you and runs over to say that her and Cody are still good friends, but things sometimes get complicated. You're not sure what to say, and you feel oddly embarrassed, so you quickly walk away to head home.

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MIA'S CHILDHOOD

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(part 1 &2)

GOTH HOROSCOPE

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BOYS DROOL

BEEP ME

(part 1&2)

HOT OR NOT

M.A.S.H.

SUBURBAN ANGST

MIX CD STORYTIME

REFERENCE GUIDE....

We pulled from various inspirations for the design of each page, check them out!

AllyKatzz.....INTERNET EXPLORER (pt. 1)

GirlTech Password Journal.....INTERNET
EXPLORER (pt. 2)

Nokia 3390 & 5110.....BEEP ME

Girl's Life, Seventeen, Teen Vogue

Magazines, etc.BOYS DROOLS

Delia's Catalogs..... HOT OR NOT

Hit Clips..... SUBURBAN ANGST



SPECIAL THX 2....

Lily Frankel 4 editing

Jacob Sawley 4 ideas

Julia Greene 4 contributing

♥ and to everyone who has read ♥
the zine & inspired and supported
us on this project!

The 2000s were such a memorable time, and the culture has undoubtedly shaped us into the people we are today. Whether you were a skater boi or an emo kid, a mall rat or a prepster or something in between, there's no doubt that we were experimenting with our identities in the 2000s and pulling inspiration from the world around us to figure out who we wanted to be. While we look back on these times with a mixture of nostalgia, reverence and embarrassment, we must recognize how much y2k culture and the dawn of the computer age have left a lasting imprint on us.

The 2000s have been saved to our hard drives-- No matter how the world changes, we will forever be
YOUTH CULTURE 2000.