

Hi. This feels weird to be writing.

Since the beginning of this situation, I've tried to keep my head down and hope that it would all just go away with time and distance, but now as I've been made aware that it's still ongoing, and that it's dragging my friends as well as clients into things, I don't want to sit quietly anymore.

Those who have been following me for a while might remember that a handful of years ago, I posted [a tweet](#) with the following statement:

I just wanna take a moment to remind everyone that I don't take kindly to having aspects of my ship that I have worked incredibly hard to craft and give life to copied and used for someone else's. This isn't an opt-in, "if you want to be mutuals" sort of thing, this is a hard rule that copying specific things, such as exact wordings I use, design layouts, compositions of pieces, or details that are clearly drawing from my real personhood (and are a part of *me*) is completely prohibited. Of course I know some coincidences and similar tropes or generic ideas are inevitable and I know how to give the benefit of the doubt, but this isn't about that.

I have been made aware of a legitimate copycat user whose actions disrespect the work, feelings, and very real person attached to my ship, and at this point I'm beyond offering the benefit of the doubt for it. I hope anyone who'd say they support me will regard me with the respect I'm asking for and think less highly of those who continually refuse it, and I'd also

hope the people who see peoples' deeply heartfelt content as something they can steal for their own gain can learn to recognize how short they're selling their own personhood, as well.

If this continues to happen, I don't think it will be beneficial for me to continue sharing what I do here in any format. This breaks my heart, as I've grown to love this space and many of the people who I follow and interact with, and it would be devastating to give it up, but if people are gonna be so obstinate that they can't abide by the basic respect a creator (of any kind, fan works or no) deserves, then I'll go where I feel my rights to my own work are respected.

I'm not a person who likes callout posts or cancelling people or anything like that. It's not my style. However, I also don't like people behaving cruelly to me or to people around me, so I thought this was a fine middle ground method to address a situation that had arisen quite suddenly with another member in the self ship community. I thought that was probably the end of it, but I've recently been made aware by several people of a type of... not-quite-callout post that mentions me and some others I know in all but name that this user has posted. I trust that the Spock yume (hereafter referred to as "Mrs Spock") in question will accept receiving the same level of privacy and respect she's shown me and my friends as I address whatever strange tangle of bad feelings have bubbled up here. (And for

transparency's sake: I don't have opinions or knowledge about *everything* her doc addressed, so I won't speculate on that. The doxxing threats, or whether person A actually stalked her or whatever... I only want to address the things that are specifically linked to me or my friend.)

A couple of months (Spring 2021, and you will note that there's no mention of utapri on her account before this time should you be inclined to look) before I made the statement in the pictures above, I received a follow from Mrs Spock, who I wasn't too familiar with. The only thing I'd heard about her was from a mutual (later the person identified as "A" in this Mrs Spock's not-quite callout post) whose first language isn't English, who Mrs Spock had publicly called out in the past for poor phrasing used in their bio (and again in her recent doc). It was something along the lines of not wanting to hurt themselves by exposing themselves to self ship doubles, but Mrs Spock had instead interpreted it as a direct threat that my mutual would self harm because she liked the same character. I don't know *why* she drew that conclusion, considering it's pretty obvious even with the somewhat clunky English that it was a general rule and not aimed at anyone in particular. It struck me as a bad-faith thing to do—twisting my mutual's words when they are notably not a native English speaker, and in such a way that they can't defend themselves fairly, but I'm also a person who likes to stay open minded and get both sides of a situation before setting my own opinions in stone.

Thus, I didn't follow back right away, but I didn't block either. Moreover, because I had just had some stressful encounters with a pair of people who were stalking me and spreading rumors about me, I was particularly wary of new connections. Still, I really wanted to make sure I was giving Mrs Spock the benefit of the doubt and not immediately reacting as if she was the same as the other people who had done harm to me. She liked a large amount of my yume artworks and posts going back into the previous year at least, including a post that was a type of ship introduction chart where I listed the personal nickname I have for Reiji (probably a foolish thing to do in a public place, in hindsight). Keep that in mind.

I also noticed from the pattern of likes that right when she reached a point on my account where I must have mentioned what series my f/o is from, she went and downloaded the mobile game related to it as well as pointing out characters she was interested in adding to her f/o list. That's fine, whatever. I like when people get into things I think are worthwhile. I was a little nervous, because again, I'd just had some very bad experiences unrelated to her, and I was feeling anxious as someone who had unwillingly inspired doubles to choose to f/o Reiji in the past, which I was particularly sensitive to at the time (no one wants to feel like people have used them to get closer to their own crush, right?) But again, I let it slide. I was still feeling out what she might be like in the event that I wanted to follow back. Then, I noticed she quickly bought merch, including a piece of Reiji merch,

and then she unfollowed me. That was a bit too much for the sensitive state I was in at the time—I took it as her deciding he was up for grabs in the f/o department, and I was scared of seeing what the outcome was, so I blocked her. Almost immediately after, I was informed that she had made Reiji one her main f/os and was posting about him everywhere.

...including calling him by the very personal nickname I'd selected for him. It's not something the fandom calls him, and it's not something common, because it sounds like I'm calling him an old man or grandpa.

This destroyed the then-fragile me. Now, I'm not really the type of person who believes in "stealing f/os" or anything like that. A fictional character is for public engagement, and everyone has an equal right to engage with them... but there is something so dehumanizing to me about a stranger coming to my account which exists as a shrine to my precious feelings, my fragile heart, my dedicated love, and treating my heart and displays of affection as nothing more than a for-sale sign. Picking through my heart to see if they might be interested in eating what I've cooked for myself.

I would not have cared about Mrs Spock in the slightest if they'd just *happened* to get into utapri and *happened* to choose Reiji as an f/o. I know my love is a wonderful, charming man. It was just the greater context of it all, and the added insult of calling him my personal nickname on top of it. It was finding out about the use of that nickname that prompted me to make the statement in the pictures above; I don't care that doubles exist, but I do care if people try to cherry pick parts of things I've developed for myself and my ship with Reiji over years of time to then apply it to the same character (which they discovered from my account) as if they came up with it themselves. I do care if people come to my account, decide they want what I have, and draw attention to them doing it by following me first. It just feels gross to me. It makes me feel used.

This might be a coincidence, but when I vented to a friend about the situation, she blocked Mrs Spock... and lo and behold, was also later informed that Mrs Spock had added *her* f/o to their own list of f/os as well. I can't say for certain, but given the timing, again, it feels bad. I do believe that f/o has since been removed.

(There would later be a great number of instances where it seems Mrs Spock began posting about interests, certain fashion items, pieces of media, and even up to drawing certain things that other users involved in this debacle had posted or drawn first, almost always quite suddenly after never speaking about said topics before, and posted quite rapidly after those users posted it themselves. For

example, tanuki are a major interest of mine. Again, it might be coincidence—I think the only person who could say for sure is Mrs Spock herself, but I find it uncanny that after she began seemingly keeping tabs on me over the years, she also picked up this interest out of the blue, and I’m not the only one it’s happened to. I speak more on the topic of these instances later in this document.)

As I struggled with my emotions on my private account, a friend of mine reached out to me about the situation to soothe me. (This friend would later become “C” in the not-quite callout post Mrs Spock ended up writing and sharing recently.) Mrs Spock had recently befriended her and they were mutuals, if only for a short while. My friend was obviously put off by the overall situation so she decided to take some distance from Mrs Spock, at least on the yume side, so as not to accidentally put their name on my TL out of respect for my boundaries and because she knew the precarious mental state I was in at the time. She later showed me their exchange when we began to notice things were amiss, and while I do believe my friend’s wording may have been clumsy, it was still worded politely, and she would have been okay to clarify that had she been given the opportunity. She said she was unfollowing from the selfship side, but that she might be interested in following Mrs Spock’s other accounts, as she’s an artist for original content as well. This wouldn’t have bothered me! I am capable of separating interests, and allowing friends to have other friends that I might not like. In public communities, civility is key.

This leads to the main point of contention, which is that ever since that awkward interaction in DMs, Mrs Spock has not stopped talking about it at periodic intervals, repeatedly painting my friend as a sneaky backstabber when she was trying to be fair and communicative. She didn’t want to ghost someone who had drawn her gift art; she wanted to let them know what was up and that she wasn’t judging them. And an important detail in all of this is that she *never once* attempted to follow through on it. Instead of following Mrs Spock’s other accounts, she ceased all interaction with her. This is part of why we have been so distressed to see this repeatedly brought up and brought to our attention. Mrs Spock has also repeatedly invoked my discomfort with doubles as a primary reason that my friend—who was actively protecting my boundaries—deserves to still be dragged through the mud now three years after the fact, but Mrs Spock, *you* were the one who trampled over my boundaries and heart in the first place, not my well-meaning friend who was trying to handle things kindly but made a social faux pas. It’s bold to assume that my friend and I haven’t talked about boundaries, that we don’t communicate about what feels okay or not.

Stop speaking for me. Stop using my shadow as a pawn as a way to speak badly about someone I love. Stop using my feelings to further

whatever agenda you have in continuing to bring this up even though it's been three years since any of these interactions have happened. I am tired of it and I am tired of having to turn a blind eye to it in order to keep my peace.

I blocked you, you blocked me, and that *could* have been the end of things, except that you continue to run your mouth in bolder and bolder ways as if this community isn't small, as if word doesn't get around despite us having mutually blocked each other.

Please, for everyone's sake, just let it go. No one has attempted to stop you from self shipping with whatever character you want; no one has stopped you from pursuing the things that make you happy. You say that the streets said I hate you? I have no idea how you came to that conclusion when I haven't spoken about you in public aside from the statement I made in the images at the start of this document, where you were not named. In order to confirm anything close to those feelings, you have either been keeping tabs on the times I update my carrd (why?) or you have been pestering mutual followers to leak information from my private account where I explained the situation initially, or you have to be *very* aware of how strange your behavior in gaining Reiji as an f/o truly is and your guilt is speaking for you. No matter the reason, I'm disturbed by your dedication to keeping tabs on someone who has never had any interaction with you whatsoever beyond blocking you.

You continue to say you want these things to die down so you can move on and heal, but the only person who keeps bringing the interactions up in public spaces is *you*. And I am tired of sitting by while someone stitches together a warped narrative about me and people I love along with innocent bystanders, and who is apparently even holding grudges against people who dare to commission me. Clients have nothing to do with whatever vendetta you have against me, so kindly leave them out of things. You're allowed to block or softblock or curate your space however you wish, but I think the extreme nature of punishing people for buying art from someone who has not done anything except block you for making me uncomfortable speaks volumes. It speaks to me that you must be nursing some sort of ongoing hatred for *me* rather than the other way around.

I understand your life circumstances have been difficult over the past years and that pain can make us act out of character and in extreme ways. But I also think that those hardships apply to everyone. We've all lived through the pandemic. We've all experienced loss. We've all lived through growing political tensions and all kinds of atrocities that never seem to end in this world, from a global scale to an individual one. I'm sorry for whatever hurts you've experienced in your past that have caused you to assume the worst of others to such a degree that you believe

them to be stalking, harassing, and wishing ill on you when most people like me just want to be left alone. If you really want to move on and heal from the experiences you've had, then I hope you can just stop bringing them up in public altogether, as the other involved parties would like to move on and heal as well. We are *all* tired and wounded souls, and we *all* deserve to rest without continuing to spread bad, bitter blood throughout a community that is meant to be founded on love. And we all deserve to find whatever space is made for us within the community without trying to tear it away from others by extrapolating and twisting innocent if socially-awkward interactions into far greater offenses than they need be read as.

In addition to my own statement on this situation, I reached out to the user I suspected as being "B" in Mrs Spock's document.

This is what they shared with me:

"I was asked by Mae to make a statement on the matter. Some may know about this because they have reached out to me about it when events occurred between me and [Mrs Spock] when we were still friends, but to think she would use our conversations that I had no consent to her posting publicly is like a slap to the face because I shared my personal trauma with her.

Now, I know I made a lot of mistakes in my past. I was young and stupid, while I have long since moved past it and begun my healing, my demons still like to pop their nasty heads out. I still get some anons on tumblr because of it, but through a lot of therapy and healing, I've long since moved on. I've learned from my mistakes and with the help of friends, I've become a better person and grow past my mistakes.

I met [Mrs Spock] on Tumblr. Back then she went by [redacted for privacy]. I was just getting into Gravity Falls and I was showing interest in Stanford Pines from the series. I saw her on twitter and I followed her there. I don't remember how we started talking, but I think it was around the time I had unfortunately ended my friendship with a user who also liked Ford and I was trying to find a middle ground involving him which led to ending it on good terms.... or so I thought. [Mrs Spock] told me that [the user] kinda put her on blast when she put her name in her DNI specifically due to liking Ford, but during that time she made OC x Canon art with him. That's when friends dm'd me, asking if I was okay because this person was now trying to paint me as the bad guy not 12 hours AFTER we ended our friendship. I said my peace at the time and also said whatever [the user] said to dig her hole deeper was on her cause those who actually knew me know who I am now.

[Mrs Spock] and I kinda bonded from that, not letting this person get to us because we knew who we were. I was talking about my ship with Ford at the time and she was curious why I made this type of content. I told her and I introduced her to the world of

Self Shipping AKA Yumeship. She loved it and through my connections I had, I had introduced her to a self ship discord group that I'm no longer a part of.

In her document she's saying she blames me for the toxic relationships she had gone through. Honestly, I didn't know the friendships I had were toxic until it reared its ugly head the hard way. I was distraught by it all, but I couldn't even reach out to her cause she had basically ghosted me. Around Easter Time a few years back, I had made a post about me not being really religious due to personal experience and she made a vague post about me before blocking me entirely. I was hurting already because I had lost half my friend group and cut contact with college friends for accusations that I didn't know about until a 3rd party told me. I was spiraling out of control and I was relapsing into old habits. I was hollow and I didn't know what to do, so I went back to therapy to help me get through the hurt and betrayal.

That was a sign that I needed a fresh start. I've long since rebranded my mark on the world and through my healing journey, I've made peace with my trauma. I've said I've embraced my villain era, but I honestly want peace in the space I've built. You don't have to believe me, but know that I've changed for the better and hope that my past doesn't change people's perspective about me because I'm also a victim, but I've learned to move forward."

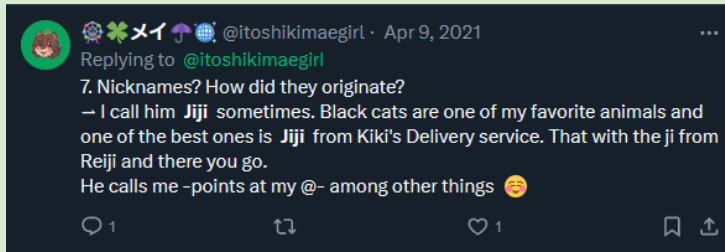
Additional evidence and statements:

- A client gave the statement: "she sbled me everywhere after I commissioned you then proceeded to write up a tweet about holding her tongue"
- I posted art of a friend of mine with her f/o, and shortly after, she was blocked on even private accounts she did not advertise by Mrs Spock, and Mrs Spock began posting in earnest about my friend's f/o despite not mentioning him before, if at all (at least on twitter). We have no knowledge as to how her quiet alts were discovered short of someone being *extremely* dedicated to tracking her whereabouts.
- This is the [ship meme](#) Mrs Spock liked when she first followed me which revealed my nickname for him, "Jiji." Note the date from when I originally posted it:

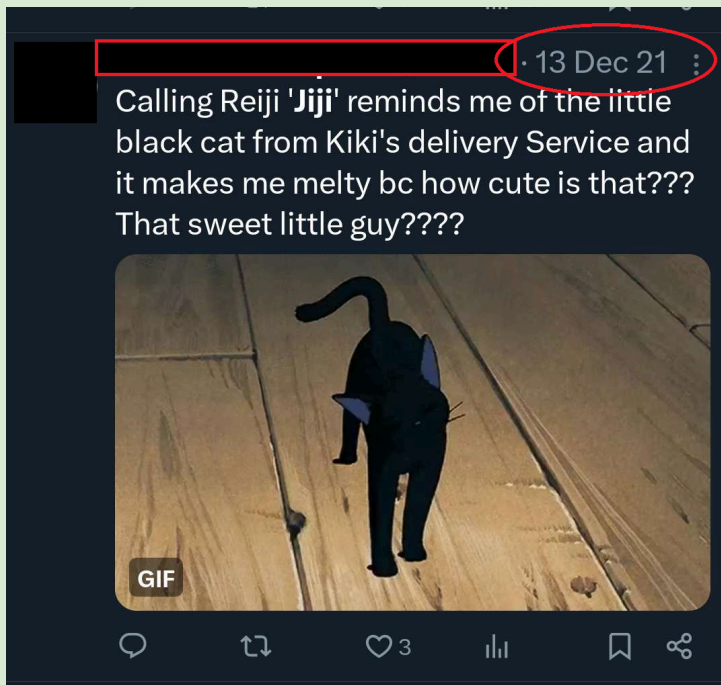
MAE WHYTE		on the subject of:	REIJI KOTOBUKI	☆ ☆
		FAVORITE...		
		physical features:	HIS SMILE - HIS EYES - HANDS/FORDRESSES!!! [SHE CONTINUES FOR SEVERAL MINUTES]	
		personality trait:	KIND - OBSEQUIOUS - RESOURCEFUL - TEARFUL [SHE, ONCE AGAIN, CONTINUES FOR A WHILE.]	
		habit/mannerism:	THE WAY HE SCRATCHES HIS CHEEK WHEN THOUGHTFUL - MAKING UP HIS OWN WORDS - VERBALIZING SOUND EFFECTS.	
SOMETHING ANNOYING?				
I GET SO FED UP WHEN HE LETS PEOPLE WALK ALL OVER HIM BUT HE SAYS IT'S USEFUL AT TIMES SO I JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT SOMETIMES <				
YOUR NICKNAMES/ PET NAMES FOR THEM?		YOUR FIRST IMPRESSION OF THEM?		DESCRIBE THEM IN 5 WORDS OR LESS:
~ MY BOY! ~ JI, JI ~ REI-CHAN ~ MY LOVE ~ MY MONEY ~ LITERALLY ANY CHEESY, OLD-SCHOOL PET NAME		"HIS HAIR IS FUNNY? HE LOOKS SO NORMAL COMPARED TO ALL THESE FUNKY GUYS. HE FEELS REALLY KIND AND APPROACHABLE. ALWAYS HAS A GOOD WORD FOR OTHERS... I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS!"		THE LOVE I STRIVE FOR!!



Further evidence to support that this nickname was stolen from me—she even ripped off the reasoning behind it:



My tweet, mentioning my reason for it.

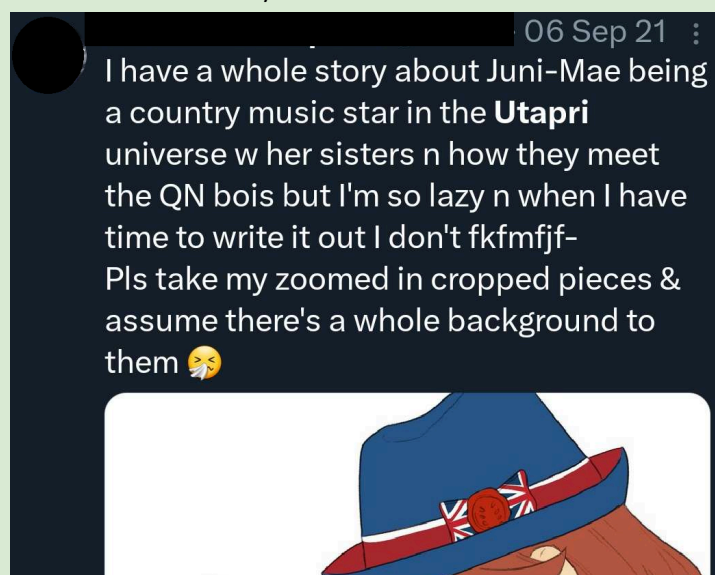


Her tweet, made months after she first followed me and then took Reiji as an f/o.



The earliest use by Mrs Spock of "Jiji." Note the date, which coincides with me being later informed and making the statement at the start of this document. Again, could be a coincidence if it happened in a vacuum.

- Later that year, she also shipped an OC with Reiji, and you will note the strange name choice. Hm, seems kind of familiar:



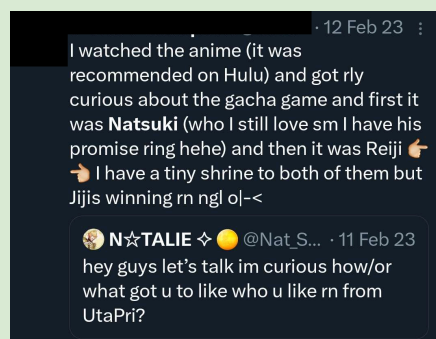
Of course, a self-insert or OC's name can be anything the creator chooses, but given that she found me first, followed me first, and has clearly been soft and hard blocking anyone who mentions, interacts with, or even buys art from me, it is safe to conclude she knows exactly what my name is and that I am not an unknown presence in either the yume or utapri community and still chose to give that name to her OC. It just strikes me as noticeably strange. Furthermore, one would assume that someone with a history of being accused of copying minor details in others' personas (as she mentions happened with A) would be particularly sensitive to the way something like this could be perceived; one would also assume that if you had blocked someone who runs in the same circles as you, you would probably not want to choose a name so similar to theirs while shipping the s/i or OC with the same character as them to avoid potential conflict. Even within the parameters of the most charitable, good-faith interpretations, this is an inconsiderate move. However, given the sheer volume of other instances that make me raise an eyebrow (I can't even fit all of them in this document), it is just one more thing that makes me feel ripped off.

- This suspiciously identical story that seems to mirror [this post](#) (made in 2020) on my tumblr account:

28. How did you get into Utapri?

Oh geez uh... around 6-7 years ago I lived at my parents' house and the only TV was in a main room and they were SUPER strict about what media I could watch. I was desperate for anime, but back then Netflix's catalog was pretty uhhhh ecchi LMAO so I turned to Hulu... and Hulu had utapri and I decided to give it a shot since it seemed pretty safe. It was NOT my thing by any means but I kept coming back to it? And watched it every year like clockwork... I've been lurking in the fandom for years but I only got very into it when Shining Live released and I had my in (this was before I had spent time learning any Japanese, so it was my shoe in the door as it were until I could better understand the language to navigate the series)

My answer...



...vs hers.

Once again, it's something that could totally be coincidence on paper! No one's experiences are 100% unique to them. However, again, given the amount of potential coincidences involved in this situation coming from someone who clearly has an amount of vitriol stored up against me and people who are close to me, it stands out.

Honestly, that's all the stamina I have to find right now. I know there's more. Art concepts, small details like fashion accessories. Stuff that doesn't involve me but that has been pointed out to be similar to other members of the community. I'm too unsettled to look for more.

When I started writing this document, it was only the words of her not-callout post that was motivating me, along with our initial encounter and the whole nickname thing. The more I've dug into it, the more I've found, and now it has reached a point where I'm deeply, deeply disturbed by this individual's seeming obsession with me, my ship, and anyone in the community who interacts with me. I just want it to stop. I want her to keep her name out of my mouth and quit talking about my friend as if she did anything more than be a bit awkward one time.

Thanks to the people willing to read all this. I know it's a lot, and it's messy and the whole thing honestly feels ridiculous to me. But... I think it's fair I get to speak up to give clarity to a situation that involves my name as well as my friends. I haven't named names because I don't wish anyone to harass her, but I do want to provide as much clarity for those who are interested in coming to their own conclusions about this situation and doing with this info what they will. I also want to spread awareness about these interactions so that others who might be wary of experiencing the same thing can protect themselves as they see fit. If you have further questions or anything, feel free to DM me. Thanks for your time and understanding. I'm gonna go try to relax and forget about this.

- Mae

(Edit: As of 5/3/2024, I'll be updating this doc with any future evidence I happen to come across, because I don't think this person is going to stop.)

- A commission she drew for a client recently which came across my TL naturally where I believe the tail shape has been lifted from my art (why not make a more enclosed heart? Why copy the exact way I draw my tail?)



Don't even know what to say about this one because it's so egregious:

March winds and April showers... 🌧️

#ocxcanon #yumetwt



10:34 PM · Apr 1, 2024

S

“...Bring forth May flowers 🌸”

Happy Birthday, Sidak ❤️

#startrekoc



My art which I posted 2 years ago:



april showers ☔



9:58 AM · Apr 4, 2022



may flowers 🌻



12:27 PM · May 31, 2022

- Even her reference sheet seems to have lifted several things from mine including general layouts for colors, text, accessories (and she even picked up my gold heart earrings, as well as drawing herself in the outfit I used in my example on my sheet lol), font, font color,



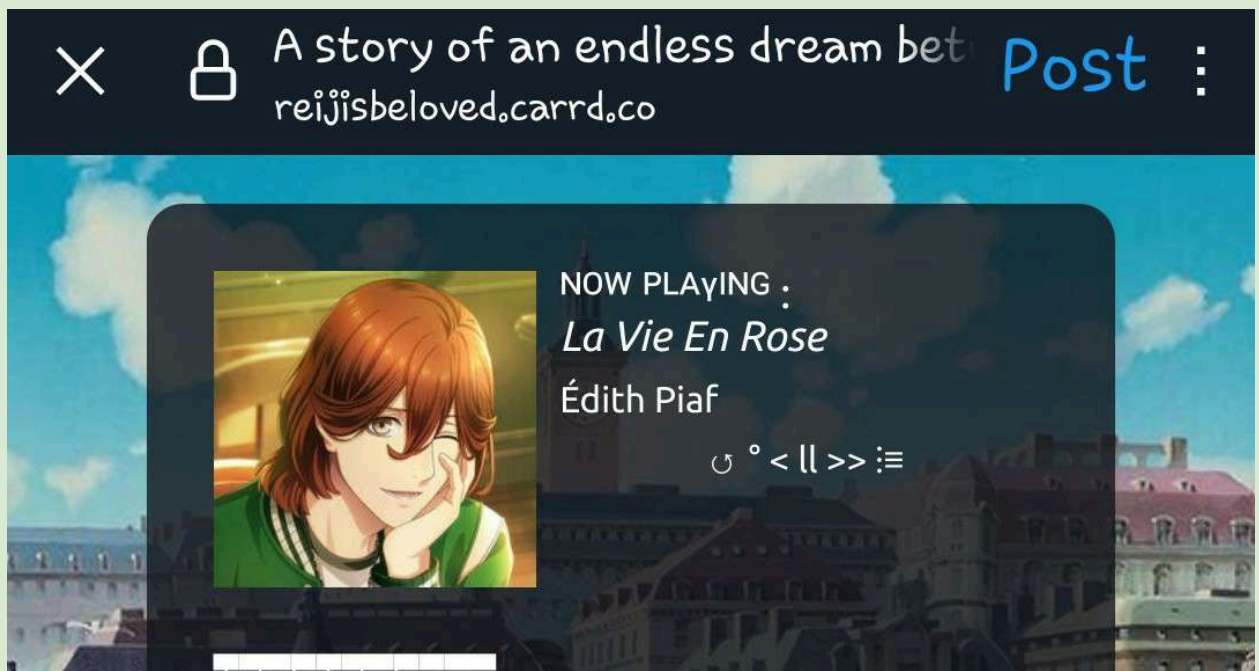


- Here's my carrd that I've had for years at this point...



- The lyrics to La Vie en Rose, which I've also discussed at length as being a core song for our ship.

- And here's her carrd on her new Reiji-centric account



- Mine again...

✧

Hi! I'm Mae! I'm a bit of an oddball hobby artist, a hardcore introvert, a lover of tanuki, and a connoisseur of all things retro and vintage!

This here is just a little space I keep mainly for posting art of my relationship with my one-and-only red thread, Reiji, and also frequently chatting about what our relationship is like and other musings.

I wouldn't consider myself a part of any fandom or community exactly, I mostly just flit between a handful of my interests at a time and I prefer to keep to myself and my friends. Feel free to talk to me about whatever! I'm quite busy so sometimes I'm not very responsive, but I'll do my best to get back to you!

✧

- And hers again:



A story of an endless dream bet
reijisbeloved.carrd.co

Post :

Whichever is cool with me :3 I'm a bit of an eclectic goober with a passion for many things. Welcome to my not so secret space where I gush about *Uta No Prince Sama* and more importantly, Reiji Kotobuki; local Maracas player and beloved idol (n goof) from Quartet Night.

Most of my content here is self-ship art with Reiji Kotobuki.

Selfshipping, or also the term, *yumejoshi*, is something I do for fun and to cope with the chaotic day to day. However, it is a serious declaration of love and one of my favorite ways to express *myself*. Especially when the word lose me and the way I feel is indescribable.

I'm quite wary about how I feel/share about him. Having dealt with my fair share of Reiji fans/shippers/simps who've been far too overzealous has left me quite jaded. So I'm only interested in sharing my feelings and art for him of us with the few and inbetween.

For that reason as well I try to avoid outside Reiji selfshippers/simps as much as possible and their friends. Strangers, if you will. In both the literal definition and in strange being. I'm not keen on knowing what someone else is doing with him (unless we're already friends) or feeling about me *with* him, and I intend on keeping it that way.

I'm here for a good time not a long time, baby. 🍒

Thank you very very macho~ 🍌🍌🍌

- Which like. I don't want to say 100% "hey this is lifted from me" but again, with the amount of eyebrow-raising similarities committed thus far, it's hard to believe it's not lifting from me in some way.