

Story title: [Millennial Heartstrings](#) by: [The Apologetic Pony](#)

Reviewed by: [Shahrazad](#)

Millennial Heartstrings is about what it's like to live forever. It's a fairly realistic look at what happens to a lonely mind as the years grind away at it. The twist is the narrative comes from Philomena instead of a more obvious choice such as Celestia or Luna. It's an excellent choice since we don't really know much about the character and this story fills in those blanks nicely. It fills them in with melancholy, sadness, and a side order of purple prose.

The story could stand for some editorial work as several passages have missing words or words that are swapped from their proper order. These glitches are irritating but do not ruin the story. However, combined with the prose of the narrator, these glitches make some passages muddy at best.

The narration focuses on emotive context over description, a wise choice. Unfortunately, the words of this story have been peppered with more florid synonyms. While the meaning is clear (usually), it makes the story a bit more difficult to read. This is especially true when a grammatical mistake pops up at the same time. Powerful language need not be florid. Emotive language should be especially powerful. It's always best when a narrator sets down the thesaurus and speaks from the heart. In this case, the narrator can be given a bit of leeway as it could be argued that Philomena simply thinks this way. It's less forgivable when such prose occurs in dialogue, and it does here.

The story is told from first person. It couldn't be told any other way. We get to peer into the murky depths of an immortal. While the emotive structure of Philomena is explored, the foundation is sorely lacking. We don't know much about her childhood, nor do we know exactly why being immortal is so depressing. Aside from the obvious reason: you have to watch all of your friends die. This begs the question: why not spend more time cultivating friendships with other immortals? Immortal beings in this story have a maddening tendency to treat each other poorly. The reasons for this aren't entirely clear, but it does make for a sort of internal consistency.

The pacing is slow, but not too slow. Philomena focuses on the more exciting bits of her life and wisely skips past the decades and centuries where little of note occurs. It allows readers to connect with the way time grinds away at her. The inevitable suicide is spoken of like a foregone conclusion. Why all immortals eventually choose to self-terminate is a provocative idea, and the central theme of this story. The narrative never deviates from that idea; there is no glimmer of hope. At no point does Philomena feel that she will not eventually commit suicide, a morbid idea that the story only brushes upon.

As the name, Millennial Heartstrings, implies there will be plenty of attempts to jerk tears out of the reader. It's a rather artistic piece, meant to be evocative rather than entertaining. It's a bit

hit or miss, but for fans of sad or depressing works, this one will fit the bill nicely.

Score: 6.5/10