

Call Me By Y/N
Created by Katie Dickens
Preliminary Pitch Document

Emmy and Jem's first year at college is stranger than fanfiction.

Emmy is nervous about her transition to college, but with her best friend Jem by her side, she feels a little more at ease. But when former child star Cory Kyler Jackson ends up in her romantic poetry class and starts to woo Emmy, an uninterested lesbian, with words and actions only a 12 year old could have written, she realizes everything happening feels a little too familiar. She logs into Botpad, looks up her old projects, and finds her debut story, *Tuesdays with Cory*. Everything she'd written is starting to come true.

THE REST IS STILL UNWRITTEN.... Everything happens as written until it gets to the point where Emmy abandoned her project. Middle schoolers are busy, you know. Priorities change. When they find Cory frozen in time, the two friends realize they have to finish what Emmy started. Meanwhile, Jem develops a physical attraction to Cory and persuades Emmy to write in a love triangle plot point, and once the writing is played out, vague wording turns into an ugly fight between previously inseparable best friends. Emmy must now tackle this beast of a story on her own while fighting to get her best friend back, reckoning with her own ethics as she realizes her own power over other peoples' lives, and discovering what is truly important to her.

This story is comedic. It's silly and stupid and lovable. But it's also about control- when to use it, when it's okay to lose it, and learning not to abuse it. It's a love letter to fandoms, to writing in general, and to the friends who change our lives.

Call Me By Y/N is intended for anyone who knows what it's like to be a die-hard fan of anything- anyone who's ever read a fanfic and misses the pure joy that simply comes from loving something.

Main Characters

EMMY

Emmy is an 18 year old writer and the protagonist of our story. She is nervous yet excited about the fresh start and the changes that starting college will usher into her life, especially as she has grown more comfortable in her identity as a lesbian and is ready to try expressing herself more freely. At the age of 12, through a YouTube deep-dive, she discovered local pop sensation Cory Kyler Jackson and knew he would be her new muse for her fanfiction masterpiece, *Tuesdays with Cory*. As a former fangirl, she is a little bit on the nerdy side since her experience as a Cory Kyler Jackson stan rendered her a phenomenal researcher and a passionate writer. While she can easily express the emotions of her characters through writing, she struggles with expressing her true feelings with the people she loves most. Despite this struggle with vulnerability, she loves deeply.

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Emmy takes pride in her work- she has amassed a sizable following on Botpad, a website for writers to post their work, and is a true perfectionist when it comes to delivering content. She deeply fears disappointing her readers and wants to live up to a reputation she has created for herself in her own mind. She is self driven and motivated almost to a fault, and absolutely has to maintain control over her own life. It becomes a challenge, then, in romantic poetry class when she cannot control her words or actions, and an ethical dilemma arises when she starts controlling Cory's life. As she does not remember immediately what she says once she fades out of the world of the fanfic, she is deeply uncomfortable not having known what she said or did until she goes back and reads her old writing. Regaining this control while keeping her "fans" happy becomes her biggest goal.

JEM

Jem is a fiery Leo who has lived with Emmy since their sophomore year of high school when Jem came out to their family as bisexual and was faced with disapproval and rejection. Emmy's family accepted them with open arms, but the situation left Jem with a lot of anger, and while they trust Emmy in the beginning of the story, they struggle with relationships and trust. They are also non-binary, but realized this after moving in with Emmy.

Jem is much more impulsive than Emmy and is more outgoing. They are not afraid to speak their mind and will go to lengths to get what they want so long as they're at least pretty sure that no one will get hurt, though they have a tendency to underestimate the consequences of their actions. They have a strong sense of self and don't care what other people think about them. Jem, not having known Emmy when the fanfic was written, is not a character in the story and is therefore not sucked into the world of the fanfic at first. They witness Emmy and Cory's strange behavior first hand. Jem is the reason Emmy is able to become aware of what is going on.

CORY

Cory Kyler Jackson is a former teen pop idol who, in his heyday, did not have a particularly large following outside of his home state. He had fun while it lasted, but now he just wants to lead a relatively normal life and go to college just like everyone else. A political science major, his presence in a romantic poetry class is...questioned. But not even he knows he is there. The entire time he is in class with Emmy and Jem, he exists as 12-year-old Emmy's fictionalized version of himself with no remnants of his real self left behind until each chapter ends. In this dreamworld tween dreamboat version of himself, his dialogue is corny and unnatural *because it was written by a 12 year old*. He romanticizes and hones in on menial descriptions: "I'm sorry, Professor, I didn't hear your question. I was too distracted by Emmy's sexy chocolate brown eyes and her navy blue high tops with golden aglets and 'DREAMER' written on the soles in red Sharpie."

Outside of each chapter of the fic, he's a pretty normal guy- kind, naturally charismatic, standard sense of humor, and he aspires to become a civil rights lawyer. He likes to party on the weekends but is serious about school. He does not remember his actions of the fanfic when he is out of it, and he does not know Jem or Emmy outside of that world.

VISUAL STYLE

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The style of *Call Me By Y/N* is distinct in that our fanfic world being lived out is soft and dreamy; light edges and soft colors lending to the dreamworld Emmy created. Outside of this world, things are clearer and brighter. There is a sort of comfort in the boldness of this world to lend to both its realismness and the excitement of starting college and creating a new home as Emmy and Jem enter this new era of their lives. The real world feels electric, but one they are connected to. It feels exciting, but universal, such as that of Bo Burnham's *Eighth Grade*. As the worlds get muddled when Jem and Emmy continue writing the story, they slowly combine styles and become as difficult to differentiate to viewers as it is for the characters to understand what is real and what is not.

PRINCIPAL LOCATIONS

- Emmy and Jem's dorm room
- Romantic poetry class room
- Student center- study lounge, dining hall
- Campus Quad