

INTIMACY+
VOYEURISM+
PUBLIC+
PRIVATE+

LIKE//ALIKE VOLUME I
A SYLLABUS

EDITED BY LUZ BLUMENFELD
MAY 2023



Keywords: yearning, Sapphos, Lindsay Dye, camming, Aurora Mattia, Sophie Calle, Nan Goldin, archives, TikTok, JenniCam, memes, nsfw, notes

Some notes:

Here are some things: a class as an exercise in leaning into my untreated adhd

Here are some things I'm interested in/obsessed with/fixated on/researching

Here are some things I think go together

You can read this at any pace and in any order

An (optional) assignment:

Make a mind map starting with one thing and see where it takes you, include multimedia notes and attachments, do some research on topics you hit along the way, what holds your interest?

How might it connect to your art practice currently or in the past?

For example,

I'm listening to Stay by Rihanna → in 2014 I'm sitting in Myles' bathroom with the pastel tiles in his apartment on 14th and he's shaving half my head → last night I had a dream that my childhood best friend (who died when she was 21 in 2012) shaved my head → the summer she died I made a lot of weird art about wanting to die and seeing her ghost on BART



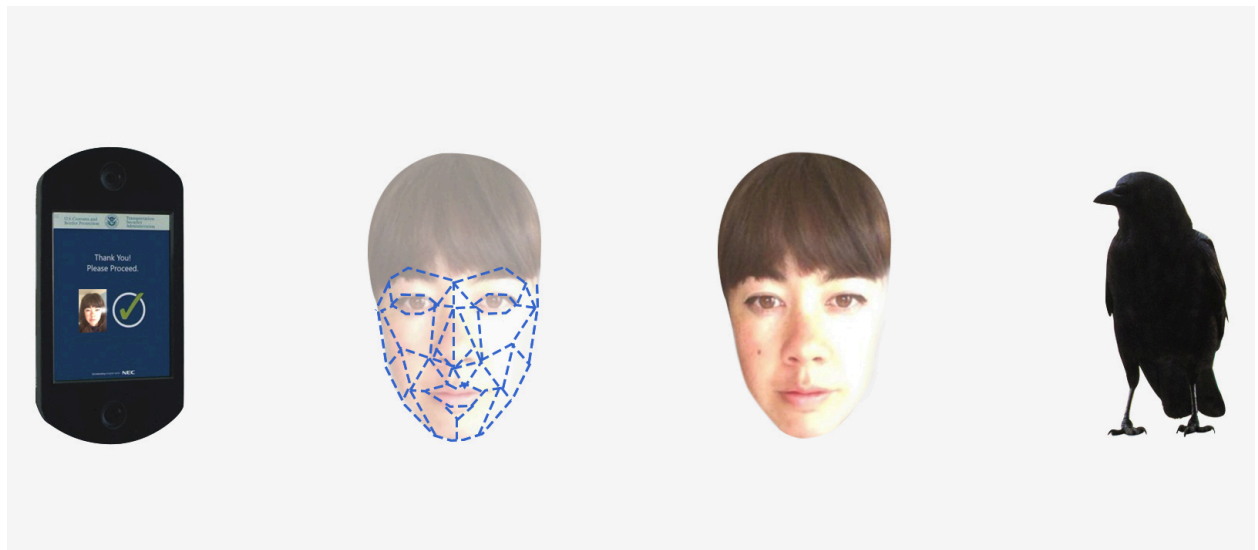
A self portrait I took in the summer of 2012

Possible points of research: accessing liminal space through grief, self portraits made in some attempt to see yourself,

Sophie Calle. Suite
vénitienne. Jean Baudrillard.
Please follow me.



[LINK to PDF](#)



HOMELAND SECURITY: FACIAL RECOGNITION IN MACHINES AND CROWS

JENNY ODELL FOR SFMOMA'S OPEN SPACE (RIP)

[LINK](#)

*THE FOLLOWING LINKS PROVIDE RELEVANT BACKGROUND
INFORMATION TO OTHER ARTICLES IN THIS SYLLABUS
(I ALSO PERSONALLY JUST FIND THEM INTERESTING)*

[WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE ON CAMMING](#)

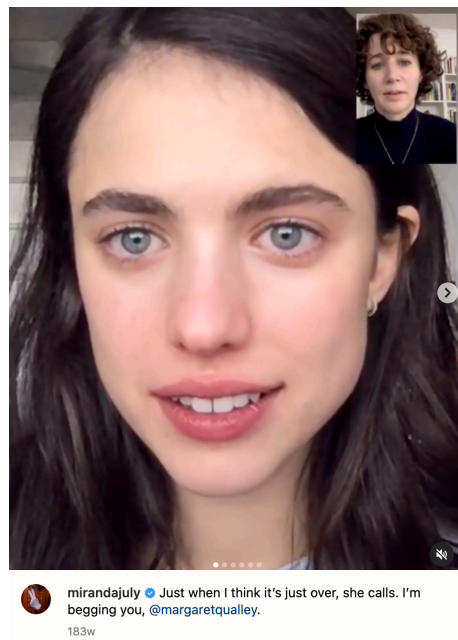
[WIKIPEDIA ARTICLE ON JENNICAM \(JENNIFER RINGLEY\)](#)

*YOU CAN ALSO VIEW AND INTERACT WITH JENNICAM.ORG THROUGH THE WAYBACK
MACHINE*

[HERE](#)

THIS SPRING I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO INTERVIEW MIRANDA JULY. WE TALKED ABOUT INTIMACY AND RITUAL. THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXCERPT FROM THAT INTERVIEW.

Luz Blumenfeld: I've seen you use Instagram in your work in a really interesting way lately. It felt almost like a play to me, that piece that you did with the actor Margaret Qualley. That was a really interesting way to use the platform that I hadn't really seen before. I want to know what you're thinking about with how that platform can be used for something that it's not really supposed to be for? And like, what making that work does?



Screenshot from Miranda's Instagram project with Margaret Qualley in 2019.

Miranda July: Yeah, I mean, though I had made these feature films and sort of normal-ish books, I kept being the same artist person that I always had been. So my interests have remained very curious as to what are all the different ways that work could be— not just distributed, but sort of...that the path the work takes to get to the audience [can be] part of the work.

So even though I'm surrounded by people who are like, *yeah, I want to get my TV show made, or my movie made*, there's a kind of flattening through that whole process — you gain a lot but a lot is also ruled out by the process, no matter how organic or improvisatory you try to be.

On the one hand, I was so happy, I had a bigger budget than I'd ever had, a lot of trust. And it also gave me the space to see what it inherently *wasn't*, you know. Even at its best, it wasn't going to be spontaneous and immediate. With my wonderful but large crew I wasn't going to be the way that I would be with just one other person—

Luz: Yeah, like that level of intimacy—

Miranda: Yeah, and then there was a year between the time I finished *Kajillionaire* and it coming out and in the meanwhile, I was making things and sharing them the next minute through Instagram— the complete opposite. And that made me so happy in a way. There was a purity to that; for all the dirtiness of Instagram and Facebook, there is also something that can be pure about cutting out all those middlemen— all the other companies besides Facebook. So yeah, I had had in my head, what if you could make a movie through Instagram? and actually, the original idea was to have it be decentralized. So you would have to jump from my Instagram to Margaret's Instagram to other people's, and you'd kind of follow it.

I met Margaret one week, and I wrote a little script and we had that first FaceTime, which is the script basically, the next week. So we didn't know each other at all. Now, we're good friends, but this was kind of how we got to know each other. And then Jaden Smith, I saw him in the comments, I saw he was following.



Screenshot from Miranda's Instagram post regarding Jaden Smith's role in the project, 2019.

Luz: Yeah, that was wild. Was that actually an organic thing that happened? I couldn't tell.

Miranda: Yeah, I mean, neither of us knew him. He did write a comment, just an emoji or something. And then I DMed him and said, hey, do you want to, like, play a role in this? And he was like, yes, you know, he just wrote right back. So I wrote out a four page script. He's a really good actor. He memorized it really quickly and we shot it through FaceTime and screen recorded on Thanksgiving Day. He was into the idea that it was gonna go on his [Instagram page] first because I still had the decentralized idea. And we're watching it together over the course of that day, and I was like, Not enough people are jumping— you know, it's not working. I need to post it.

Luz: Yeah, the attention span is so wild with that.

Miranda: Right? I mean, it was just kind of an experiment. I just wanted to try it, but yeah, and so then I posted and it was really exciting. It was exciting for him and me and Margaret and all the people involved because it was very raw, and it was all strangers. And it was all in real time, roughly. Everyone involved... that's what we're here for; that kind of collaboration. Especially for someone like him, or even Margaret, who are used to having a lot of handlers involved, to even have the power to be like, I'm in and be doing it the next day, without signing anything... it's a great feeling. A totally normal experience when you're younger or in the art and performance world, but not in this business. Actual trust.

Luz: Yeah, that makes sense. I feel like it was also really exciting from a viewer's point of view because at the very beginning, I really couldn't tell if it was like, a bit, or something that's playing out in real time, or something kind of in between the two. Especially knowing your work and the way that you play with intimacy. So for a while, I really couldn't tell, but I was like, *I'm not sure it matters*. Like this is really interesting, a way of interacting with this platform— artists connecting and using that in a way that is different from— I just feel like I use Instagram to like, very low key promote things and remind people that I make what I remember to post on there, but it's really boring, and I don't love it.

Miranda: Yeah, I'm in that same boat most of the time. I have something that I'm working on that I'll do closer to next year, that is another very different but kind of Instagram-based project. And it is such a different way of— when it becomes your art, like with the Margaret thing or like this new thing, it [the platform] suddenly loses all of its power, its normal power, and only becomes this tool, like Microsoft Word or something.

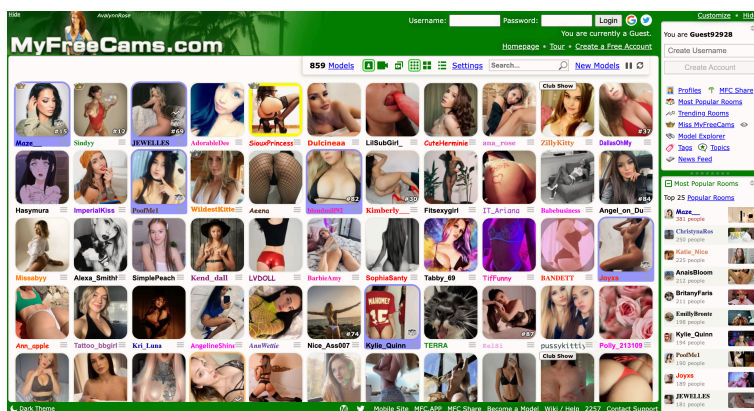
Luz: Yeah. It's like some sort of medium and also kind of a weird obsession at that point.

Miranda: Yeah, it's nice to know that the mechanism itself isn't good or bad. You know what I mean? It's like other tools. The company is specifically gearing it in this addictive direction but it doesn't have to be that way. That's part of why I always like to tangle with whatever the current technology is, just to remember that these companies are making choices that are not in our best interests. But we were always going to make these tools and there's something hopeful about seeing ourselves still in the technology, I think.

Luz: Yeah, I think about Instagram and Tiktok a lot. There are certain parts of it that are kind of built into the culture that I do find really fascinating, and it's also totally oversaturated. But you can scroll through people's live feeds on TikTok and on Instagram too with the reels. It's so voyeuristic; it's like another thing I do sometimes which is to go to a camming site and just check out people's rooms because it's so intimate— sometimes the person has it all set up and it's like a set and sometimes it's just someone's bedroom.

Miranda: So where do you look at that, like Only Fans or something?

Luz: Before Only Fans there have been camming sites. The one that I know about is called My Free Cams and the way the website is designed kind of feels a little old internet, like it's all a grid of profile pictures. And then when your mouse goes over one of them, it gives you a preview of their room in real time. I think it's such an interesting way to get a glimpse into someone's private world.



Screenshot of the homepage of MyFreeCams.com, 2023.

Miranda: And it's not just the room empty without the people in them?

Luz: Sometimes. If you catch someone at the right moment where they've just left the room to get something then you are just watching an empty room. And it's fascinating to me because it is in real time. And I think for me it's along the same lines of when Google Earth first came out, and it was like, *oh my god, you can just see the world as it is*. And that's insane— almost like time traveling.

Miranda: Agreed. I haven't dug into camming or Only Fans or anything like that, but because I worked in the peep shows when I was in my 20s, I often think, oh, right. That's what I would be doing if I was in my 20s, now, probably, and it's much better in some ways. So much safer. And that makes me curious about it. It still seems to have potential. And then it's interesting Occasionally if I'm extra broke, I'll think well, I guess I could be a cam girl...

Luz: Right? That's always on the back-burner.

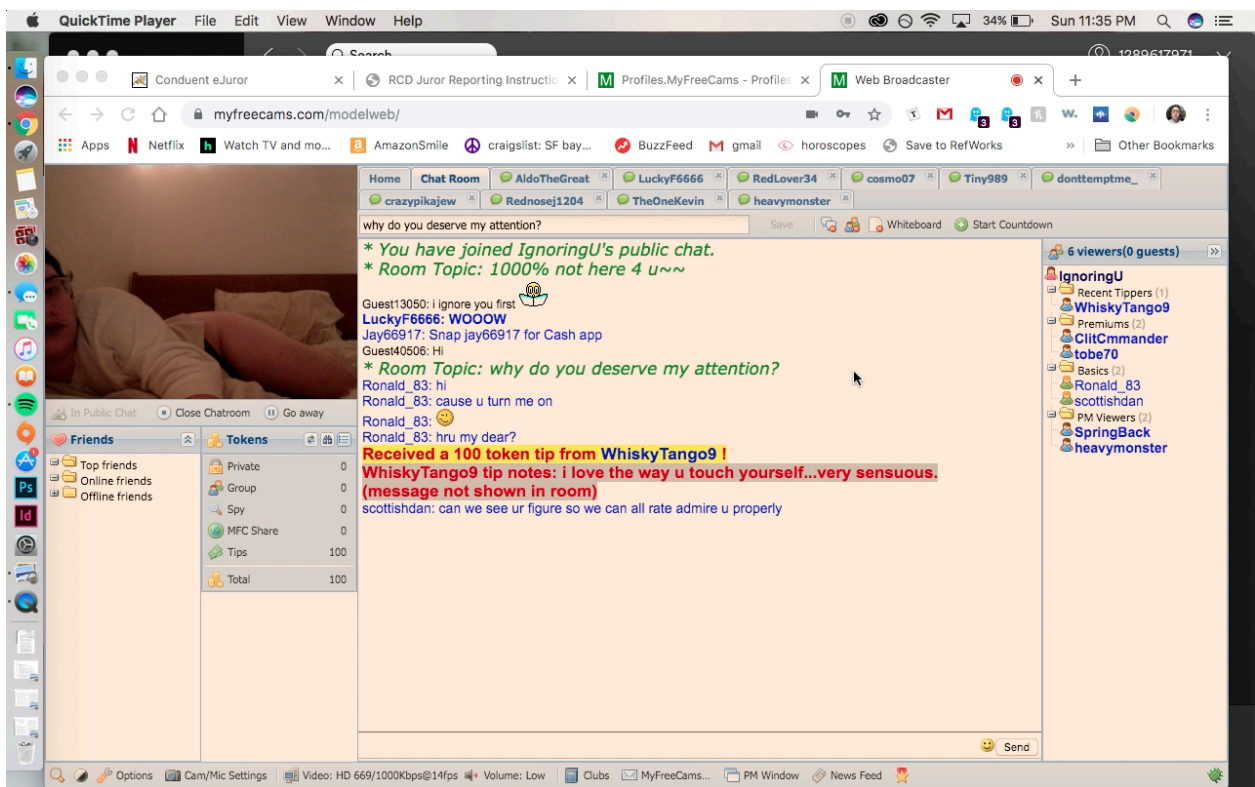
Miranda: ...and then I have to sort of grapple with being a real niche taste now, being older. When you're young, it almost doesn't matter what you look like, because you're young, right? But I'm in a special category now.



LINDSAY DYE BY LULA HYERS

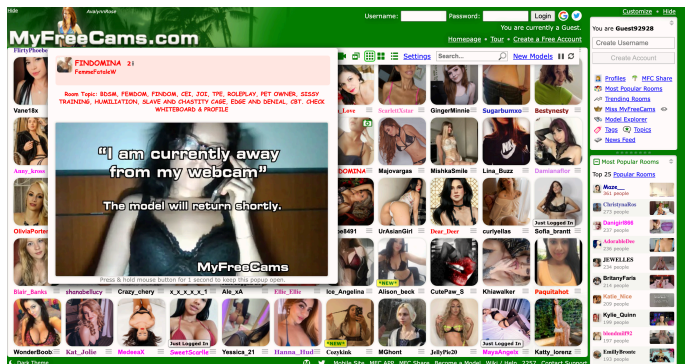
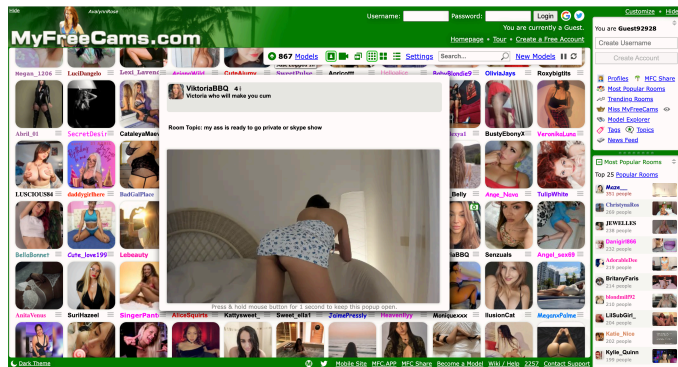
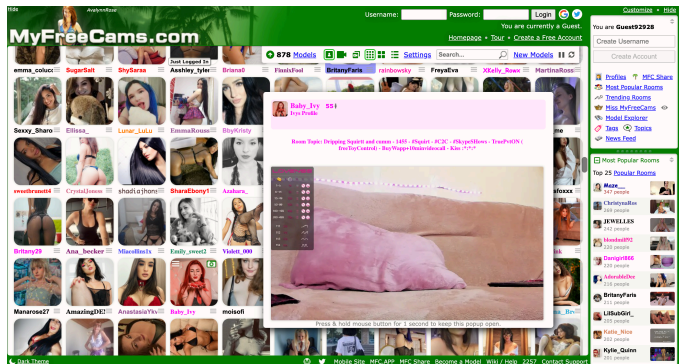
INTERVIEW WITH LINDSAY DYE FOR
THE CREATIVE INDEPENDENT

IN 2021, I DID A DURATIONAL PERFORMANCE ON MY FREE CAMS IN WHICH I MADE A MODEL ACCOUNT UNDER THE USERNAME "IGNORINGU" AND SCREEN RECORDED THE CHAT WINDOW FOR ABOUT AN HOUR AS I HUNG OUT IN MY BEDROOM LISTENING TO MUSIC AND LOOKING AT MY PHONE



THIS PAGE CONTAINS SCREENSHOTS FROM THE
CAMMING WEBSITE MY FREE CAMS

BE ADVISED: SOME OF THE CONTENT IN THESE
IMAGES MAY NOT BE "SAFE FOR WORK"

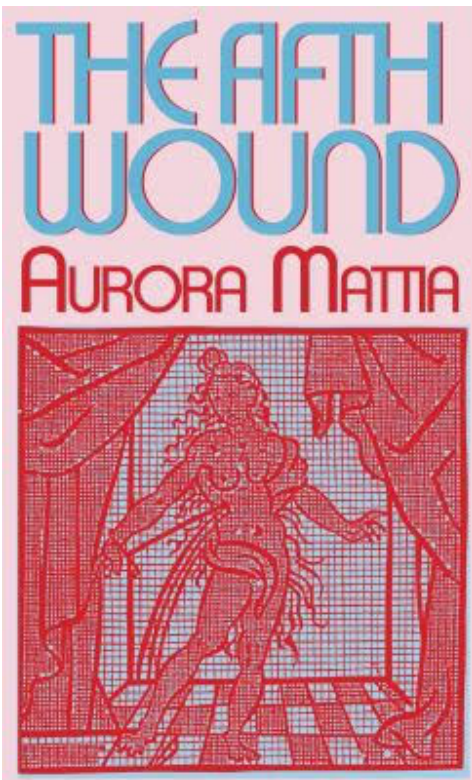




*BALLAD OF SEXUAL DEPENDENCY: J. AND C.Z. IN THE CAR, NEW YORK CITY
NAN GOLDIN, 1984*

[VIEW MORE
PICTURES HERE](#)

*please note this link will only work if you can log in through the PSU library



"My favorite genre of literature is gossip. My second favorite is prayer. But sometimes those are one and the same. I don't know who needs to hear this, but windchimes are actually a device for ghosts to send messages to flowers. My favorite goddess and dear friend Aphroditos called me on my pink conch shell to soliloquize about a species of sentient crystals on a distant planet who make love by refracting light into one another's faceted chambers. I was standing in the corner store looking at soda and suddenly remembered a song that has never been written: "When I first saw her, she was drinking a Fanta, with smudged mascara, strawberry flavor."

That was yesterday. Today I'm letting my broken fingers rest, nursing one long joint while blue smoke rolls and drifts around me like some kind of meaning. Smoke is what my thoughts look like when I'm not thinking them. When I'm alone, when there's no camera immortalizing my pussy, I don't really know what it means to desire me. Or I worry that at your touch I will be disenchanted, the bubble of my beauty will burst. Why do girls keep crying into my breasts on the second date?" (31, 32)

AN INTERVIEW WITH AURORA MATTIA FOR
SUPERSTITION [REVIEW]

IN AURORA MATTIA’S “THE FIFTH WOUND”
(THE BOOK FROM THE PREVIOUS PAGE), SHE
INCLUDES SOME EXCERPTS FROM ANNE
CARSON’S “IF NOT, WINTER: FRAGMENTS OF
SAPPHO,” SO HERE ARE SOME @SAPPHOBOT
TWEETS

TAGGED WITH: YEARNING

Sappho Bot

26.4K Tweets



Follow

Sappho Bot

@sapphobot

Bot that posts fragments by Sappho. With translations from Anne Carson's 'If Not, Winter,' and more. Modifications have been made to fit the character limit.


📍 Posts every 3 hours.

🔗 ko-fi.com/sapphobot

📅 Joined April 2016

0 Following

91.4K Followers



Sappho Bot

@sapphobot · Mar 25

girl sweetvoiced

💬 1

🔄 28

❤️ 109

📊 10.3K

📤

...



Sappho Bot

@sapphobot · Mar 25

Eros shook my mind
like a mountain wind falling on oak trees

💬

🔄 25

❤️ 83

📊 10.2K

📤

...



Sappho Bot

@sapphobot · Mar 25

handcloths
purple
she sent from Phokaia
valuable gifts

💬


🔄 2

❤️ 20

📊 6,094

📤

...



Sappho Bot

@sapphobot · Mar 25

]luxurious woman

💬

🔄 18

❤️ 47

📊 9,153

📤

...

ONE OF MY RECENT FIXATIONS/OBSESSIONS/RESEARCH TOPICS IS TIKTOK LIVESTREAMS. I'M INTERESTED IN HOW SOME OF THESE VIDEOS HAVE STARTED TO MIRROR CAMGIRL SITES, BUT THE PLATFORM HAS YET TO CENSOR THEM POSSIBLY FOR LACK OF EXPLICIT SEXUAL IMAGERY.

HERE ARE SOME RECENT TIKTOK LIVES I SCREEN RECORDED:



The format of the video on the left mirrors camming in that viewers can send “gifts,” which act as tokens and when a certain amount is reached, the girls have to do a little dance. The video on the right has a similar aesthetic quality but in that video the girl seems to be dancing the whole time. The comment section suggests that her profile has a link to a certain other website (probably Only Fans or Twitter).

THE FOLLOWING IMAGES ARE SCREENSHOTS FROM THE NOTES APP ON MY PHONE. I USE IT AS A SPACE TO TRY TO REMEMBER TASKS AND ALSO A SPACE FOR JOURNAL ENTRIES AND SMALL THINGS I WANT TO REMEMBER LATER.

I'M INTERESTED IN HOW THE NOTES APP FUNCTIONS AS SOMETHING SIMILAR TO LIVEJOURNAL IF I CHOOSE TO PUBLISH THE NOTES.

SOME OF THESE NOTES ARE FEATURED IN A BOOK I'M SELF-PUBLISHING ENTITLED "MORE AND MORE OFTEN," WHICH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE THIS SUMMER.

October 22, 2021 at 1:01 AM

i am a boyfriend

December 22, 2021 at 4:13 PM

had a nap dream i was eating my own pussy like a
fucking ouroboros

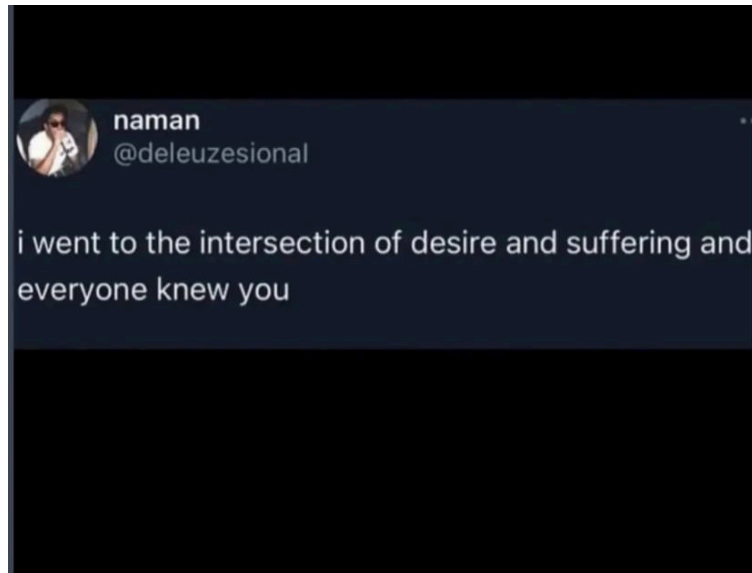
May 22, 2020 at 3:44 PM

- take a nap
- make envelopes
- write mail 4 tracy + will
- laundry
- more reading
- i wish i could go swimming
- i don't know if i want to do this job in the fall, i
don't know what else to do , change is hard
- if i can hear my neighbor sneeze does that
mean she can hear my vibrator?

January 5, 2021 at 2:40 PM

i can't wait till we can kiss on the street again

LASTLY, MEMES ARE RESEARCH, SO HERE ARE SOME MEMES:



The iconic Manny Santos thong gif



britneyspears

...



Liked by goththembo_666 and 1,025,484 others

britneyspears I like to suck 🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔🤔 !!! Never professional pics ... sucking comes easy for me !!! Keep clapping bitch 🙌 !!!



goodshirts

...

