



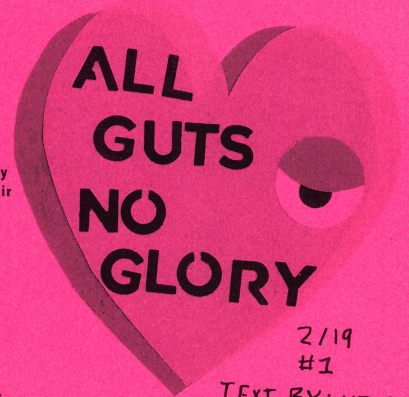
# in defense of the rom-com

okay so as i'm sure we all know, 2018 was The Year Of The Rom Com Revival. You could not go two weeks without another one popping up on your timeline - some, like the always classic 13 Going On 30, as timely revivals (Ben Affleck apparently forbade Jennifer Garner from being friends with Mark Ruffalo because their chemistry in this movie was so good it made him, her husband, feel threatened? Unbelievable. Big ups to the Overinvested Podcast for that tidbit, and to my friend BB for sitting me down with a whole lot of franzia and making me watch this movie.)

ok, i've led myself astray. Some came to us in the form of a revival - and some came to us all fresh and new, like my personal favorite, To All The Boys I've Loved Before, (based off of a 2014 novel by Jenny Han, and distributed by Netflix) which takes the "write letters you'll never send" therapeutic concept to the horrifying worst case scenario you always hope will never happen. Surprise, in this movie it does, and it rocks so hard I can't cope. It's such a masterful combination of both insufferable teenage miscommunications and completely, ardently honest expressions of emotion. I'm convinced that 16 is like, the year teenagers really begin to feel things, and being 16 they just don't know fuckall about handling it. This might explain why the miscommunications in Love, Simon, also a 2018 rom-com that ripped my entire soul out of my body and put a pink bow on it, frustrated and enchanted me. The lengths I went to in high school to disguise my rapidly evolving capacity to feel as deeply as i do from my boyfriend have never been so seen in their lifetime, and it's infuriating. (Though that is not at all an endorsement of the borderline manipulative behavior Simon exhibits, under recourse of blackmail, as a result of trying to prevent his friends from unraveling the thread of his sexuality. All I'm saying is, all he needed to do was mention the blackmail to the friend eh came out to and everything coulda been hunky-dory. Bye.) As I stated so eloquently on twitter back in oct 2018, "love simon was quite cute but that notion of DESERVING someone to share your love story with mugged me in broad daylight."

I'm struggling to put into concise words how I feel about this genre. The romcom is such a specific slice of life - both excessively urgent and delightfully dragged out. see also: the entirety of Joe Wright's 2005 take on Pride and Prejudice, which set the entire internet on fire with a single scene: Darcy helping Elizabeth up into a carriage, then tensing his hand as he lets her go as if he's been burned. I die. It's a genre that spans across entire intersections of life. You've got teen stories, period pieces, adult takes on mundane situations turned frightening (my recommendation here? The Switch, which got so-so reviews but captures the neuroticism of the various characters alarmingly well. Also, Jeff Goldblum, say no more.) and they all evoke a larger, primal reaction that seems to swell up from deep inside. I don't want love until I'm knee deep in a slow burn piece and crying.

It's perhaps a limiting statement, so please feel free to correct me, but representation exists in almost every corner of the rom-com spectrum. It's simply worth noting that TATBILB and Love, Simon exist as large and in charge frontrunners for their respective groups - Asian and LGBT representation. We can all cry a little at the aching, the yearning, the missed connections and the missed communications. Rom-coms have the same energy as boy bands and girl groups. I'm not going to comment on that statement, I just feel it in my gut.



## HOROSCOPES

**ARIES:** you keep wanting for your time, and you're so close, stay patient, but don't hold your breath, it's coming, whatever it is, and you'll know it.

**TAURUS:** it may seem like the world is spinning, are you strapped in, or are you the one controlling the merry-go-round? which one do you wanna be? seems like you'd benefit from someone else taking the reins.

**GEMINI:** you're hot and you're cold, you're yes and you're no, and you're really pissing me off, take a walk.

**CANCER:** don't give in to overwhelming instinct just yet, admitting is the first step towards relaxing, but also the first step towards becoming even more overwhelmed, tread carefully.

**LEO:** you've spent a long time away, but perhaps been too close, where's your middle ground? take a nap there.

**VIRGO:** the past isn't supposed to haunt you, so don't let it, go haunt it for a change, or better yet, take a vacation, you sick workaholic.

**LIBRA:** the pursuit of fairness is almost never fair, which is why you've got such a stick up your ass, you've gone all the way round and yet seem to be doing alright, good job.

**SCORPIO:** you ever think about how some bees die once they've delivered their sting? keep that in mind next time you unveil yourself - your stinger remains whole, and word travels.

**SAGITTARIUS:** eat it up while you can, something is hot on your heels, in disguise, and you ought to be mindful.

**CAPRICORN:** being right on the year change, it must feel easy to hand off the future, too bad! tag, you're it.

**AQUARIUS:** is distance your thing? feels like i haven't heard from you in a while, who's missing out?

**PISCES:** does it hurt, feeling like you're melting under the weight of the world? forgetting where your power lies is the first step towards forgetting how to sleep at night.

FIND US ON  
APPLE MUSIC  
OR  
SPOTIFY!

LOVERS  
CONFIDENTIAL  
(WHO NEEDS IT?)

- DEAR MARIA, COUNT ME IN - all time low
- RADAR - britney spears
- CARAMELO DURO - miguel ft. kali uchis
- WHITE ROSES - charlie xcx
- ALL MY STARS ALIGNED - st. vincent
- MYSTERY OF LOVE - sufjan stevens
- SEXTAPE - deftones
- ROCKET RIDE - felix da housecat
- CHECK YES JULIET - we the kings
- I REALLY LIKE YOU - carly rae jepsen
- SEE YOU AGAIN - tyler, the creator ft. kali uchis
- THE ONLY HIGH - the veronicas
- WHAT'S LUV? - fat joe ft. ja-rule & ashanti
- ROMANCE LANGUAGES #1 - cold war kids
- EVERYTHING ALWAYS GOES WRONG - a place to bury strangers
- SHE'S THUNDERSTORMS - arctic monkeys
- BLOOD IN THE CUT - k.flay
- LONELY NO MORE - rob thomas
- TAINTED LOVE - soft cell
- I DON'T WANT TO FALL IN LOVE - she wants revenge

