

Intersecting With Fact

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Content Warnings:

- Written during a bad disorganised thinking episode, may be clunky in some parts. Sorry!
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I think it's interesting how fictionfolk and factfolk are kind of seen as things that are entirely divorced from each other in the alterhuman community. Which, yeah, of course they are, those identities are rooted in different things, there's *bound* to be a divide, just like how human fictionfolk and nonhumans tend to share a lot less in common with each other despite being similar concepts--the experiences can vary so, so much.

But what makes it interesting is that it *does* and *can* overlap. Specifically it's most often talked about in the sense of fictives who are also factives or somewhere inbetween. A common example would be a fictive of a person who plays the role of their real world self (even if fictionalised) in a movie, such as Michael Jordan from Space Jam. There's a blurring of fiction and reality there, and that blur tends to be called a faitive or fuck/fcktive depending on your preferred term. These are things that, in our experience and from what we've seen of others, aren't entirely uncommon!

I'm personally a character (Dazai from Bungo Stray Dogs specifically) who is based on and has the name of an author in this world. It's written into my source deliberately and purposefully. I am sourced from fiction, but without the this-world Dazai to inspire those who made my source, there is no *me*. I as myself would not *exist* in that same way, at least here in this body and world. Maybe I lived in another timeline before getting here and what's written and turned into a series would have no effect on me back there, but there's still important context to who I am that would be missing. I am both a fictive and a factive, at least in part. And that's just my own experience!

A few examples of similar intersectiony stuff:

- We have headmates who are factives of other people we once knew and simultaneously, they're also fictives of their fictotypes.
- We have fictives who split and formed another version of themselves, creating someone who is a fictive of their source + a factive of themselves in one.
- We have people who are factives of our friends systemmates who are also fictionfolk and both identities transferred.

- We have people who are fictives of fursonas and similar things, thus in part being factbased.
- We have headmates who are factives of fictives, which makes them both.
- We have others like me, who are in a way, factbased in their own fictional source.

And this is *just* in a plural sense, *just* in our own system, and *just* intersections between fictionfolk and factfolk. Some of these things aren't seen as factbased identities often--specifically, we see a lot of systems with headmates who are "me, but if I was xyz" or "me, but younger/older/angrier" and similar things. This is a pretty common type of system and especially subsystem to have, from what we've seen around us! But they're not very likely to be labelled as factives even though in some cases, they could absolutely be labelled as such if they felt it fit. We have so many subsystems where people have split different "versions" of themselves, and not many people seem to even realise that this even *could* be considered as those people being part factive.

It's all a matter of personal perspective, but if you think about it... It wouldn't be entirely *wrong* of someone who feels they are Balto from the movie to feel like they are also at least in part, Balto from real life. Hell, a therian who feels they were a specific wolf on a specific nature reserve may easily consider themselves factfolk. I mean, a lot of therians identify as one specific instance of an animal and a lot of them believe that animal to have truly existed here physically at some point or that animal to be factual in some sense... Even if they can't pinpoint the exact animal they believe themselves to be and have no way of doing so or proving it exists. The proof doesn't even necessarily need to be included--how would a factive/factkin of a long dead random person who did nothing remarkable find proof of themselves existing? We've seen a few factfolk who identify as a, well, unidentifiable this-world person. But yes, the therian example can easily be considered a type of factfolk too if it felt fitting for some!

Generally these things aren't usually described as factfolk, but they *could be*. And man, it's so interesting to think about. The way it all blurs together and intersects. I get why it's not often described, because in these cases, there tends to be less personal emphasis on the factual feel of the identity as opposed to the fictional or nonhuman aspects. That plus all the stigma would definitely be contributing. But it's interesting to think about anyway, how factbased identity could technically tie into so many places people don't seem to think about.

I've thought about it before, what I'd rather label myself. I'm technically *just* sourced personally from Bungo Stray Dogs, not the this-world person. And I mean sure, I could easily call myself just a fictive because I only have memories and feelings and ideas from the Dazai that comes from the fictional series. It wouldn't be entirely incorrect to call myself a fictive and nothing else. But that aspect of fact in my identity plays a role too important to write out, for me. I'm not myself without the this-world version of him. There is no *me* without the Dazai that once lived here. One directly influenced the creation of the other, you can't write him out of this identity in a way that doesn't change me fundamentally.

These two things are separate a lot of the time, but they do blur. And in all honesty, identity that stems at least in part from a factual identity really seems more common than people give it credit for. There's so much stigma around factbased identity, yet it is so (potentially!!) much more common than you'd think. This isn't to say that if there's a tiny factfolk-esque aspect to your identity you need to label yourself as such--you choose your own labels of course! You are the sole dictator on what you feel within your own identity and how to label it. But I wanted to bring to discussion the idea that sometimes, more than what we generally think about *could* be considered factfolk, or at least factfolk adjacent. Maybe it'd help some people figure out some feelings they have.