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CW 463

[My body \(A Wunderkammer\) by Shelley Jackson](#)

### Multisequential Web Fiction Review

For my choice in Multisequential web fiction, I chose Shelley Jackson's "My Body (A Wunderkammer)". In this interactive web fiction, we get a story about our main character told from their perspective looking back at their life. What makes this work interactive is that you can navigate different segments of their life by exploring the stories behind this character's different body parts. The main character compares themselves to Frankenstein throughout their narrative and how they never fit perfectly into society's binary gender stereotypes. As a child being feminine presenting and being mocked for being both taller and stronger than all the other children, our main character has many experiences tied to these characteristics about their body. They also continue with the Frankenstein imagery by referring to their skin condition as scaly, developing wings, or the imagery around their tale which is a stand-in for their hermaphrodite identity. Though there may be different interpretations to this imagery this was my conclusion. This was a very personal story with lots of vivid imagery and a story about learning to deal with our bodies, and the insecurities that come with not fitting into the cookie-cutter mold that society tries to fit us in. From my perspective as a writer trying to make interactive stories, one thought that comes to mind is the medium I'm communicating to the reader/player of my interactive fiction enhancing the storytelling experience. For this specific work, I think it does. You are almost being placed in the perspective of the main character as you follow the body parts and explore the story of this individual through their body. Much like how the main character lived through their body and all the stories that come from their body parts.



The story is enhanced greatly for the web fiction format and gives lots of interpretations by how you choose to do the reading order. I do wish that there was a way to explore the stories in chronological order. It's hard to follow what stage the character is in their life when the timeline jumps around as much as it does. Also some of the hyperlinks embedded into different text, I wish took you to the exact story that text alluded to.

There were a few instances like on the eyebrows page, there would be a hyperlink to their make-up experience and would take you to a story that wasn't relating to makeup. Also it's hard to tell in the story what's real and what's not. The main character compares themselves to Frankenstein's monster and talks about having wings, a "tail", and scaly skin but it's not clear in the writing if these are real developments in their body or metaphors for something else. Also the work doesn't tell a coherent story with there being no resolution or clear meaning to what the author is trying to say through this character. Overall 3.5 stars, since the story is interestingly told through the web format but has issues with the coherency and overall message of the overall story.