

Diary of a fictional character

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Is fiction really just that, or is there more to it than we realize? We hear about the philosophy of fiction from a fictional character.

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My name is John Smith, and I'm a fictional character. But what does that mean? You're probably thinking "It means you don't exist," but does it really? If I don't exist, how am I talking to you now? You're probably thinking "You're not. Your author just wrote what you say," but again, is that really the case? What would you rather believe? That my moment of philosophy is nothing more than something written by someone else, or that in fact, these are my own words being projected into the mind of someone else? Many of you are thinking "How is that possible?" Well, let me explain to you about the theory of the multiverse.

The multiverse theory is that there isn't just one universe, but an infinite number of universes with limitless possibilities. Comic books use this theory to explain alternate versions of stories and inter-company crossovers. If there really is a multiverse, then perhaps the universes of fiction and your universe co-exist in it. But there's a paradox. If I'm real in some universe out there, why am I saying I'm fictional? Hey! I've just broken the fourth wall about breaking the fourth wall! Anyway, perhaps characters who break the fourth wall like me are people who are aware of the fact that someone somewhere is watching us in some form of entertainment.

But there are more paradoxes about the possibility of the co-existence of fiction with your world. What about worlds where time passing isn't consistent? In cartoons and comics, there are cases of where the world and some people age, but most people don't. How is that possible? Is fiction mis-portrayed events of other universes, or do the writers have some control over what happens in the universe they're writing about? Perhaps writers are the gods of fiction, and the control much of it, but it also has free will. What about plot-holes? How can contradictory events exist in the one universe? Perhaps the writers completely change the universe through the slightest mistakes and everyone in the universe just forgets about it. If fictional worlds do exist out there in some strange way, is it possible for those worlds and the world of the writers to meet up? Or does the nature of fiction make the multiverse of fiction self-contained?

But enough about the theory of how fictional worlds could co-exist with "real" ones. What about the worlds themselves? How much is there to them? Is there only that which has been written, or is there more to them? So far, I'm the only character in this story. Does that mean I'm the only one that exists? Perhaps I should mention a few other people. I have a girlfriend named Nancy. We met at high-school when her friend Patrick introduced her to me. I've met her parents, and they're nice folks. Now, does anyone else apart from me and the people I've mentioned exist? What do we all look like? I haven't said yet. How old are we all? What year is it? Is this even Earth?

I'm sorry. I got a little carried away. But still, the question remains: are there details to fictional words that aren't written about? I'll probably never be able to really think about that, because after this story is over, I may not exist anymore. This is only a one-off short story, so why would I be written about again? What happens to a fictional world after the story is over and nobody writes a sequel? Does it simply vanish from existence? Does the apocalypse happen? Or does it continue to live on if it succeeds in capturing the imagination of its audience?...

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