

No Really Though

And no I didn't party all night, share mascara, have one night stands. (There were a couple two night stands, like the sweet boy so surprised he never got AIDs what with all the gay porn/intravenous stuff who I met at Animethon when I wore my fishnet top still rolled up in my drawer, as difficult to wear as it is to donate.)

I swore I'd survive as long as it took to hear one of my songs on the radio. Thirteen years later I sat in front of my laptop at that DJ's place who let me crash in exchange for doing his laundry while you and I texted jokes to each other sitting through an hour of swampy music until it finally got to the song, *my* song, the one about being a broke whore and sad about it (being broke, not being a whore.)

That feels just as long ago as the time I went to a show in short sleeves, decided to go to school the same way, and definitely regretted that decision.

If I knew then what I know now, I would wear bikinis all summer, every summer, chop off my hair sooner, grow it out longer, get more tattoos and suck less dicks.

I don't know if I'd give up the cuts, because they remind me how much youth is killed by the young, how few coping mechanisms we had back then, and how many more I have now.

I would go to every concert. Press my boney chest against every stage. Scream for every song that made my ugliest feelings beautiful, because it's always me alone, in someone's basement, someone's apartment, someone's Airbnb, cranking my personal anthems, the songs I can still recite, the verses that became home.

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Their #OwnVoices collection SLUTS AND WHORES is available via Thurston Howl Publications, and their chapbook BLOOD, BOOZE, AND OTHER THINGS IN NATURE is out from Alien Buddha Press. Find more weirdness at cehoffman.net and follow them on Twitter @CEHoffman2.