



## A day in the life of a K-pop fangirl

AYSHA ZAHEEN

6:00 AM

I've been unceremoniously awoken on a Friday morning by a nightmare. My bias (favourite member of a group) has been rushed to the hospital after an ankle injury. He's so pretty, I can't help but imagine his pained face and tear up. In cold sweat, I take my phone and turn on my Wi-Fi, immediately getting flooded with notifications. There are only pictures of him arriving at the music show. My bias group (favourite group) is supposed to perform their new song that was released yesterday, and I am very excited.

9:00 AM

I am now having my breakfast and streaming my bias group's new music video. We have to reach the 2-million-view mark in six hours and I'm awfully worried. I've already used the phones of every member of my family to add to the views, but they remain stagnant. I go to the SNS group dedicated to simply stanning (following) our ults (favourites), "The views are stuck guys!!! We need to reach our goal before 3 PM, toil away!"

12:00 PM

All my Friday engagements have been cancelled. I can finally devote my weekend to my favourites! Suddenly, my phone buzzes violently and I realise that all my K-POP friends have texted me. "OMG, did you see that X is dating Y?" I stop for a moment, taking a while to register the information. I decided to check the online unreliable news portals. The rumour has not yet been confirmed by either party and whilst I will be glad if they are indeed dating, it is still a lot to take in.

3:00 PM

I sigh in content as I see the 2,348,420th view on the screen. I had the fifth view yes-

terday when the music video was released. I am into numerology, and I realise that if I add the numbers I get twenty-three, and  $2+3=5$ . The coincidence gives me chills. I go to the required streaming site to stream the show live, dying to watch my ults perform. My bias looks great in his newly-styled hair! After the show ends, I check the comments and upvote whichever is appreciating my bias group's effort, taking notes of criticisms, and fighting those who dare disrespect them.

6:00 PM

My tutor is here to teach me school stuff and I'm bored, but I can't afford to score below 80% this term. My father has promised to buy me a K-POP album if I do well, so this is worth it. I hum my favourite track from the new album to myself and my tutor shakes his head and I realise my passion is being belittled, but say nothing.

9:00 PM

It's one my friend's bias's birthday and I put up the pre-planned display picture, using proper hashtags and emoji. I start watching the idol's live broadcast as they thank all their fans for their love and support, looking forward to my own bias's birthday.

12:00 PM

I settle down in bed with my cell phone after having watched some K-drama, opening up the bookmarked fanfic stories planned for tonight. There are fanfics of different genres and I have no intention to sleep before reading them all. It may not be another three hours before I can finally fall asleep, but it does not matter. My bias has just brought me hot chocolate in the fanfic and that is way more fulfilling.

Aysha overthinks about quitting overthinking. Help her stop at zaheenaysha@gmail.com.

# AN UNJUST TRIBUTE TO RUTH BADER GINSBURG

FARIHA S. KHAN

Although it lacked the informative and emotive content from the 2018 documentary "RBG," and strayed far from the dynamic persona that Ruth Bader Ginsburg (RBG) encompasses, the biopic depicting the Supreme Justices' early career remains prodigious. It tells the story of a fighter that rises from the ashes and stays in the midst of politics, law and morality, fighting tooth and nail to introduce to the US Constitution the subject of equality. It brings to light the importance of cases such as *Roe v. Wade*, *Reed v. Reed* and even *Moritz v. Commissioner*. Rather than tracing her full career, the movie showcases the first sex-discrimination case that she fought for in federal court, and the fight that she had to put up as a woman in the 50s.

It starts off as RBG (portrayed by Felicity Jones) walks into Harvard, in the midst of some 500 men clad in well-polished suits, pointing to one of the most important parts of the movie – that 1956 was only the sixth year in which Harvard allowed women to earn a law degree. This is merely the starting point in showing the lowly status in which women had to live – having to issue credit cards in the name of their husbands, not being allowed to work overtime, or in the mines. The movie follows the astonishingly brilliant Ginsburg as she asserts her intelligence in a "man's world.", fighting for a place in the heart of a profession that was deemed to be fit only for men.

As the movie proceeds, Ginsburg moves to New York City and eventually finishes her last two years at Columbia, the audience slowly gets to see the supportive, warm and loving Martin Ginsburg (played by the lovely Armie Hammer). It is in fact her husband Martin who brings to her attention *Moritz v. Commissioner*, a tax case that is the first of many successful cases in Ginsburg's half-century-long fight for gender equality. The case was filed by a caregiver who was denied a deduction usually given to others, and what sets the case apart from others is that while the plaintiff is a man, his win would set a precedent that would apply to women as well.

Jones' portrayal of Ginsburg is certainly one for the ages, as she stands tall and proud in all her eccentric glory, speaking with the kind of confidence that cannot be faked. However, the real Justice had remarked that the only thing the movie got wrong is the portrayal of her in court for the first time at a loss for words. The dialogues from one particular scene in the movie will definitely leave you with chills.

"The word woman does not appear even once in the US Constitution."

"Nor does the word freedom, your honour."

It cannot be stressed enough what a small fragment of Ginsburg's inordinate life the movie captures, and yet, it left me with chills running through my bones. Essentially aimed for an audience whose heart and soul aches for equality, it ends on an emotive note as Justice Ginsburg is pictured walking up the steps of the US Supreme Court (where she was voted into on a 96-3 majority) on the present day. The best of movies are those that leave the audience wanting more, and I don't know about you, but this movie resulted in me researching the internet to find out more about the extraordinary that is Ruth Bader Ginsburg.

Fariha enjoys binge-watching movies in the dark vicinity of her bedroom. Strike up a conversation with her at fariha.safa@gmail.com

