*Self Made:* Ren Audition Side

 *REN watches herself in the bedroom mirror.*

REN

My mom used to tell me I was too sensitive about “negligible details of life”

Like

When I’d get emotional over which clothes I had to wear or could wear or whatever

It’d really piss her off, actually

The worst was on my First Communion

I threw this massive tantrum because I had to wear this ridiculous dress—

Which like

There’s a reading of that which uses this dress tantrum to prove that I was a brilliant subversive child genius—

But my mom had none of it

When it happened she just got super quiet and

Small for a minute

Which was strange because she’s usually

*Very* out there

So I knew I’d crossed some line

.

And then she looked me up and down

And told me, for the first time,

What would become a kind of refrain between the two of us:

“You worry too much about your appearance.”

To which I was like

I mean

She paid a hundred dollars to get her hair dyed every month

.

*(reminiscing; she has fun with this)*

I was explaining all this to this girl Jen I met doing middle school theatre

I was in sixth grade and she was in eighth and I was like

Obsessed with her

And so I told her this whole thing

I was like

“My mom tells me I worry too much about my appearance

But the thing is *she* pays a hundred dollars to get her hair dyed every month”

Jen was just like

“Did she make that money?”
I was like

“Yeah ?”

And Jen was like

“Then she can do whatever the fuck she wants with it”

Then she told me I had ~~~internalized misogyny~~~

And when I asked her what that meant she said

“Ask your father”

So I asked him

Who asked if I’d heard that phrase from a

LESBIAN (*AAAAAAAAAA!!!!*)

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Which, I mean, Jen and I made out two weeks later in the middle school parking lot, so.

I started going by Ren like a year after that

I mean, Lorena was always a nauseating name anyways so

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*(circling back)* I guess my mom’s point with the whole appearance thing

Was that clothes weren’t supposed to say anything about who you were or

What you liked

They were just clothes

You wore them to stay warm or

Not naked

 *REN is fully dressed. She looks at herself in the mirror.*

*(smugly)* Not bad.