



Features

The Double-Edged Authenticity of “Snotgirl”

By [Guest](#) | May 9, 2019 | [0 Comments](#)

By Gabriella Tutino

In today’s day and age, where social media has turned platforms of sharing and community into platforms of fame and popularity, keeping up appearances can take a hell of a toll on a person.

Just ask Lottie Person of *Snotgirl*, the comic series drawn by Leslie Hung and written by Bryan Lee O’Malley. Labelled as a contemporary fantasy-romance-mystery-comedy, the series revolves around Lottie, an L.A. fashion blogger, and her seemingly-perfect blogger life.

Keyword seemingly. From combating her allergies and working through relationships with her small circle of friends, to navigating blogger fame and unwittingly being a person of interest in a police investigation, Lottie’s life is actually a mess. While *Snotgirl* explores the glamorous bubble of people living the good life, it also has an underlying message of living authentically and not getting swept up in the digital lifestyle.



In the very first few pages of *Snotgirl* #1, we see a snot-nosed Lottie, sitting in the dark on her laptop, lamenting about her day gone horribly wrong, and criticizing other bloggers. Contrasted with the brightly colored pages of Lottie out and about town, it's an indication of the "double-life" Lottie leads. It's also a spot-on representation of social media today and the various influences it has on its users in terms of reality perception, FOMO, and mental health.

In the world of social media, it's common to curate a feed and only share the good and the positive – it's the pursuit of happiness on a much more global, interconnected scale. And with the rise of Influencers who not only look good, but live these curated, aesthetically-pleasing lives in whatever industry they focus on it gets harder to separate reality from fantasy. Influencers have reached the point where they have celebrity status and are seen as role models to their fans.

The creators of *Snotgirl* know this, and they both poke fun at the fantasy and reveal the not-so-glamorous truth of it. The relationship between Charlene and Lottie is the perfect example of this. Charlene, a former intern of Lottie, emulates her. She buys her old clothes, and admits to following Lottie's blog since high school, calling her a "a guiding light." "Everything your blog said, I did... and I'm not even remotely happy," Charlene confesses. Lottie then confides that she, too, is lost and struggling.

One of Lottie's biggest insecurities, for example, is her allergies. It's something she works at keeping invisible, letting no trace of it be prominent on any of her feeds, and even keeping it a secret from her friends. Fashion and allergies don't mix, especially for someone whose job it is to portray a perfectly curated, beautiful world. Lottie is dependent on her allergy medication, and when she ends up not using it, it draws attention to her in a negative way. So when Caroline and her friends start calling her Snottie, she's horrified and embarrassed that what she considers to be ugly is being used to identify her.

Aside from her allergies, Lottie also struggles with being herself and standing up for herself. Her relationship with Caroline exhibits this best. Lottie thinks Caroline is the ultimate Cool girl, with a strong sense of style and self, and strives to be her friend, and to be just as cool. This usually ends up with Lottie pushing her feelings aside, or pretending to go along with the situation, rather than addressing it in the moment. There are times Lottie does stand up for herself – like when she refused a gross drink Caroline ordered for her at a bar. It's a minor incident compared to all the drama that's present in *Snotgirl*, but it's pivotal for Lottie, leading

to a realization of being more upfront and real. "That's all I had to do?!" she asks herself. Yes, girl.

The double-edged sword of Lottie's career as a fashion blogger is her influence and relatability. As Lottie continues to figure out her goals and what she wants, her relationship with blogging and how she presents herself will change, for better or for worse. In setting the series around the life of a fashion blogger, *Snotgirl* both celebrates and critiques the way in which social media shapes its users lives, by allowing self-expression, but also by creating an impossible standard of fantasy maintenance.

For more from Gabriella, find her on Twitter here!

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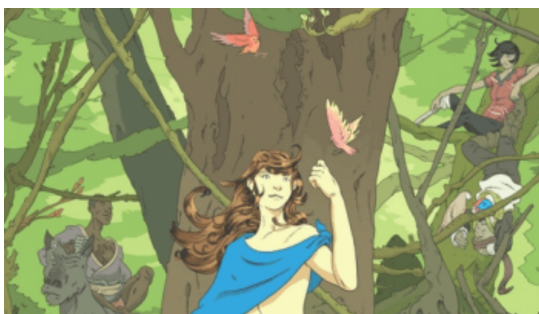
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