



The Fifty- Eighth issue of a sort-of letter substitute, kinda thing. Maybe weekly, maybe not. Available from:

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Available via the World Wide Web, or as an email attachment. I recommend the Portable Document Format (pdf) or, if you insist, a word or Rich Text Format (rtf) can also be emailed. Get in touch and we'll sort something out. You are going to [TorCon III](#), aren't you? Dated, already, 01/09/02.

They Made Me Do It

I've always thought that one of the best indications of a good fanzine is that the writing and the articles stick with you long after reading it. For example in *Quasiquote 4* I can distinctly recall the article Laura wrote about her time in fandom, it has kinda stuck with me and made me appreciate James Bacon's article in *TommyWorld 57* even more.

It makes me realise just how much I like "*They Made Me Do It*" when I'm thinking about the zine and its lowly three articles all the time. I'm sure I'm not alone in listening to Z104 at the moment. The fact an article in a zine has made me change the way I listen to music at work, which was never easy at the best of times, makes me carefully evaluate the whole zine.

The article, strangely, is not just about the radio station. Detailing a trip to visit Nic Farey and Bobbie in the States it riffs on a lot of themes and touches on a lot of subjects and ideas. I was particularly taken with the way it seemed to drift along. There was no one idea driving the article, there was no single point being made – it was just a riff.

However it wasn't. A trip along Washington DC's Mall is described in those very same words:

"[...] and the next day we took a trip around the mall."

Max doesn't write about what a wonderful place the mall is but instead concentrates on how everyone in the party was feeling, talking about the people and relaxing with them and giving a drift of what happened. I found this refreshing and hugely enjoyable – though it does help to know some of the participants.

The first article is a gem. It is just a short article on hedgehogs which is hard to describe but just made me feel good after reading it. Strange, but true.

The second just adds more length and quality. It was what made me think of the article in QQ4 from Laura. Here Max describes her introduction into fandom as levels of comfort zones – how as she attended cons and went to the Tun she got more 'comfortable' in fandom. I likened this in my head to trying on a pair of shoes that you're not too sure about, wearing them for a day or two, growing into them, squishing your toes around a bit so that they and you are both comfortable. Wearing them in. You know, those shoes...

The thing about the article, which I'm sure most other people will agree with, is that it resonates so well with my own experience – right down to the "So, you're [insert name]!" exclamation; to which I never had a witty reply. Ever.

This is what it was like for me as well – I'm sure this is what it was like for a lot of people who are now happily ensconced in fandom –else they wouldn't still be there.

That is what is so good about this fanzine in particular. It the recognition of a fellow fan, enjoying the same experiences and the same lifestyle as well. Yes, I know this person and this person knows me as well. Yes, I'm a little weird but that is okay, you're weird too.

After this most writers would get a bye ball and whatever else they wrote about their experiences would be acknowledged, commented upon, filed and forgotten. Max isn't going to let us do that – she is too good a fan writer.

Rules and guidelines of fan writing: drop names. Be funny. Talk about common experiences. These are all done to a tee here and yet there is more. I look forward to reading more from Max – I strongly urge you to check `em out...

They Made Me Do It. Contact Max, 20 Bakers Lane, Woodston, Peterborough, Cambs. PE2 9QW UK

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As the wedding approaches (25 days to go...) and the house still remains in a bombed out condition, my spare time for TommyWorld is getting more rare. I still hope to have a couple of more issues out before the "6 September – which will include Locs – which I've received and have yet to receive (hint, hint) but I can't promise anything. As I work in a college this is also a busy time as students return for the new academic year, so those lazy Friday afternoons of the summer are now long gone. However I hope a few more guest contributions can pull me out of the hole I've dug myself into.

Talk to you all soon.

Tommy

This is being distributed to a whole bunch of friends on the net, if you received this and would NOT like to be on the mailing list please accept my apologies for this intrusion and let me know so that you will not be bothered by further ramblings. If you know someone who would like to be on the mailing drop me a line.