

ON BEING SEEN

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a memoir on the nature of seeing



Unconventionalism:

- The thesis itself brings in some pretty unconventional structural styles... for nonfiction, at least
- My life, in a similar fashion, has been unconventional.
- Specifically speaking, the unconventional aspects include first and third person POV shifts (4), poetry (5), and how-to/ direct address sections (3)..

Family Matters:

- I found it infinitely impossible to write a memoir without talking about how my life has been influenced by my mother. I was afraid she'd drown the text...
- So much so that it'd be more about her than me. However, I found this to be a fallacy...
- The true narrative-monger is my father. His presence is both alive and distant in almost every section of the thesis.
- Both of their presences' is a kind of a haunting for the narrator until she understands how she wishes to be seen.



Influence:

Toni Morrison says-

"We die. That may be the meaning of life. But we do language. That may be the measure of our lives."

The late, great, Ms. Morrison, has taught me so much in representation first. Secondly, her life's work being wide and relevant through the times, by her choice in breaking open the uncomfortability that comes with black narratives, and the plethora of perspectives she uses, specifically in *Jazz*, has taught me that it's possible to do the same.

