

Myself
Logan, Utah
April 14, 2013

“Overly Attached Meg”
Meme

Informant:

My name is Stephanie Parker and I am a sophomore at Utah State University, majoring in History and minoring in American Studies. I was born in Bountiful, Utah, but my family moved to Stockton, CA, when I was 9, and I moved back to Utah for college last year. I work in the writing center at USU, and I volunteer with Aggie Blue Bikes. I am a big fan of the Internet (I hang out on Facebook and Twitch), and also of TV (I like to hang out in fan forums online). I typically spend most nights hanging out in the Internet, chatting with friends and reading what’s going on or watching Netflix. I’ve seen all seasons of *Family Guy*, so I got this joke immediately when it came through my newsfeed.

Context:

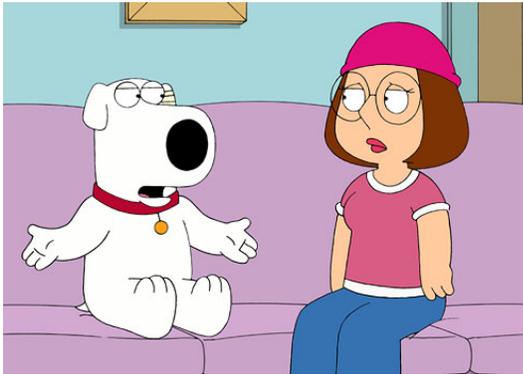
I found this meme while browsing my Facebook newsfeed a few months ago. I was on my computer, not my phone, so I was likely at home, on the couch, just hanging out with my roommate and chatting. My good friend from highschool had posted it, but when I wrote to him to ask for an interview, he never wrote back. He didn’t make it—it looked like it was made by someone else (I don’t remember the name or the account—it could have been a comedy site or something) and he shared it (and I saved it to my computer because I thought it was so funny).

There are two references going on in this meme. The first is to a classic meme known as “Overly Attached Girlfriend”. This is the girl pictured in the meme. She’s considered an “advice animal” type meme (knowyourmeme.com), and first appeared online in 2012. The image is typically used with captions that reflect a girlfriend who is way too clingy or possessive. Here’s a typical OAG meme:



The implication in the above meme is that the girl in the photo changed her facebook status to show that she’s “in a relationship” before she even friended the guy on Facebook. This is typical of an “overly attached” person—jumping to proclaim intimacy way too fast.

The second reference in the meme I'm documenting, made evident by the pink hat that's been photoshopped onto the over attached girl, is to the character of Meg Griffin from the TV show *Family Guy*. Meg is never seen without her pink hat, and the show features lots of jokes about it. There's an episode in the 5th season of the show called "Barely Legal" where Meg, the teenaged daughter of the family, becomes obsessed with Brian (the family dog who is generally anthropomorphized, so it's not too weird that a girl would be in love with a dog—Brian regularly has human girlfriends on the show). Meg and Brian:



In the episode, Meg is depicted having baked a pie for Brian and put her own hair into it, so that a part of her would be in him after he ate it. The meme's caption is a direct quote from the episode. On the show, Meg is pretty normal (in the audience's view), but is generally hated (or treated very poorly, at least) by the rest of the characters on the show, as if she were really horrible or something. It's a good representation of how it feels being a teenager. The pairing up of the Overly Attached Girlfriend meme and a quote from Meg in this episode was just waiting to happen—it's a perfect double-whammy of clinginess.

Text:



Texture:

The general attitude of this meme is funny, though I suppose there is an undercurrent of worry in there, too, in that it's creepy if this were to actually happen to you. I think this meme is generally used humorously, though there's a critique of girls in there, clearly. There's also an Overly Attached Boyfriend meme, though it's definitely not as popular (which is annoying—boys can be just as clingy as girls):



According to knowyourmeme.com, this one basically was a response to the girl one.

I couldn't get ahold of my friend who posted this, but I wonder if he posted it because someone was a bit too clingy in a relationship. Posting a meme like this in a public place like Facebook could be a subtle way to tell someone to back off a bit (if they're on Facebook, too, at least). If I were dating someone who posted this meme, I'd totally wonder if it was a message to me, and I'd probably try to be less clingy. Then again, it's possible that this is just posted because it's funny, or because the person who shared it knows someone who is dealing with a clingy girlfriend right now and wanted to show solidarity.

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