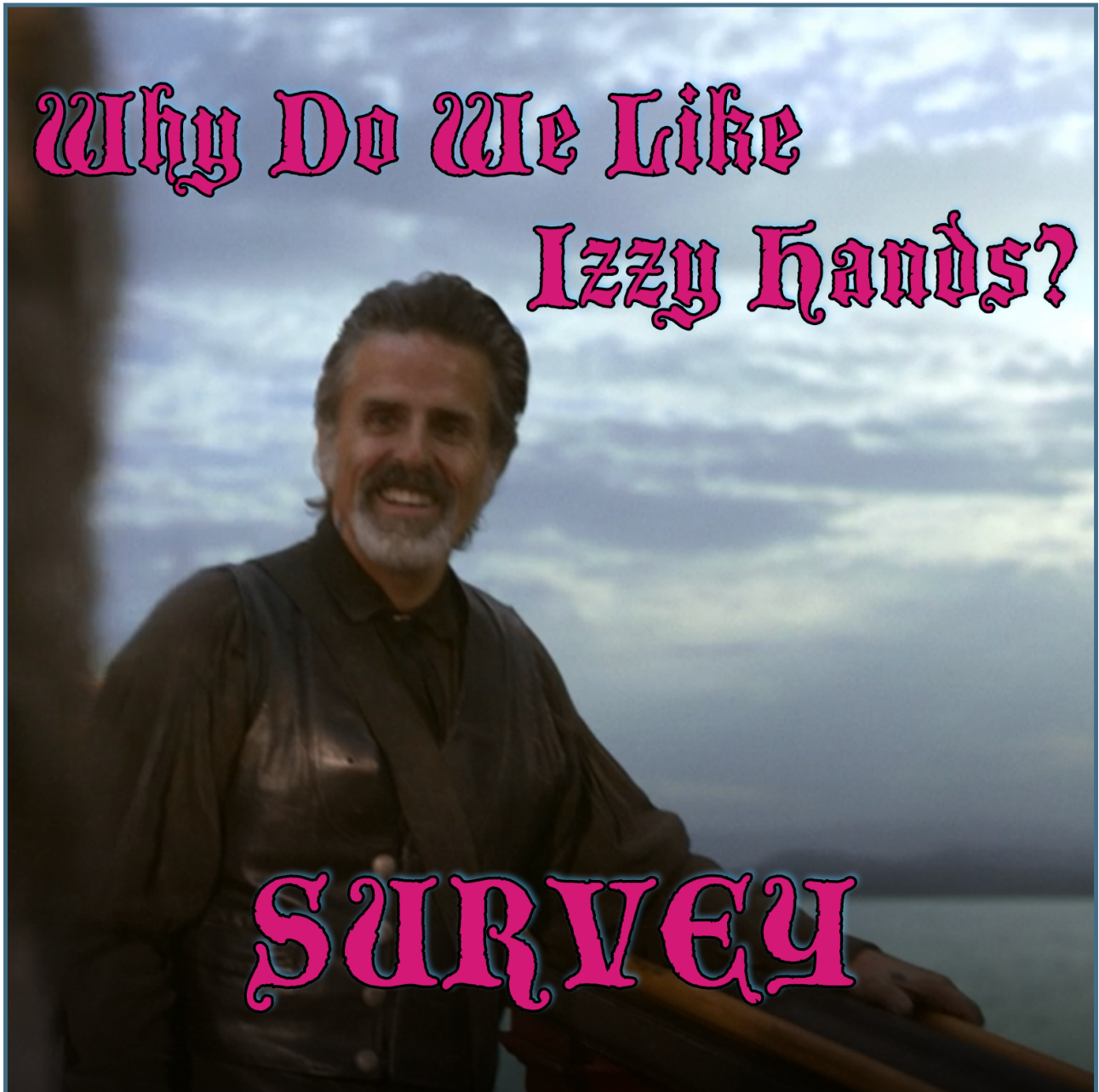


Why Do We Like Izzy Hands?

A Survey Report by Tikli

7 JANUARY 2024



1 Background and Objective

Our Flag Means Death is a historical pirate romantic comedy series created by David Jenkins. The first season was released on HBO Max between 3-24 March 2022. OFMD has garnered a vast following of devoted fans. The second season was released in October 2023.

The story is set in the early 18th century during the Golden Age of Piracy. It focuses on Stede Bonnet, who left his comfy life to become a pirate. He then met the legendary pirate captain Blackbeard, or Edward Teach. The rest of the story is basically historical fanfiction and has very little to do with the actual historical facts or people.

Izzy Hands is a supporting character in OFMD. He is portrayed by English actor Con O'Neill. In the first season he appears in 8/10 episodes.

In the first season, before Stede met Edward, he had a run-in with Izzy, who is Blackbeard's first mate. Since Stede is the protagonist of the story, Izzy plays the part of an antagonist. From the start it is clear that Izzy dislikes Stede. When Edward takes interest in Stede, all three of them eventually end up being aboard the same ship. This rattles the dynamic Izzy has had with Edward. They have a professional Captain & First Mate -relationship, but it is heavily implied that Izzy has some deeper, personal feelings for Edward.

Izzy is a character who divides opinions. He has a loyal fan following (his fans often refer to themselves as Izzy apologists or Izzy enjoyers) but there are also those who don't shy away from telling how much they hate him. The interpretations of his character and motives vary a lot depending on who you ask.

This survey focused on finding out why the fans of Izzy like him. The data was collected in September 2022. It's worth noting that because this survey was conducted before season 2 aired, the current reasons for liking Izzy might be different from what they were after season 1.

2 Methodology

Two sets of survey data were collected using Twitter polls and a survey form hosted on Google Forms. The survey form was promoted through Tikli’s Twitter account and the polls were ran on the same account.

During the data collection period, Tikli’s Twitter account (<https://twitter.com/Ao3Tikli>) had over 1,200 followers.

There was a preliminary survey to map out the different likeable aspects of Izzy Hands. The actual survey questions were designed based on the findings of the preliminary survey.

2.1 The Preliminary Survey

The preliminary survey was conducted through a Twitter thread (<https://twitter.com/Ao3Tikli/status/1538983484081025024>) between 20 June and 15 July 2022.

As shown in Figure 1, the participants were asked why they like Izzy Hands. They could share in their own words why they can’t stop talking about Izzy, why they find him fascinating, why they are drawn to him and what makes him so special.

In addition to the preliminary survey, a similar question (“Why is he your favorite?”) had been asked on 15 June 2022 by TJ (<https://twitter.com/TJQChristian/status/1537097683340611588>). The replies to this tweet were also collected in order to design the survey questions.

40 people answered to the preliminary survey and/or TJ’s question. Their answers were analysed to identify different reasons for liking Izzy.



Figure 1. A screenshot of the preliminary survey tweet thread, posted on 20 June 2022.

2.2 The Actual Survey

After analysing the preliminary answers, 64 reasons were chosen for the actual survey. These reasons were divided into 3 main categories based on the type of reason:

1. Writing and Acting: 10 reasons to like Izzy that are related to the script, plot and acting.
2. Izzy's Characteristics: 36 characteristics, divided into 6 subcategories:
 - 2.1. Physical Appearance
 - 2.2. Personality
 - 2.3. Social Interactions
 - 2.4. Relationships
 - 2.5. Issues
 - 2.6. Sex & Sexuality
3. Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes: 18 descriptions of different feelings Izzy usually evokes in those who like him.

See [Appendix A](#) for the survey form and the individual reasons.

The actual survey was promoted through a masterpost on Twitter (<https://twitter.com/Ao3Tikli/status/1568609326948036611>). The thread had instructions for survey participants (Figure 2). Because Twitter doesn't automatically show all posts in longer threads, separate shorter threads were created for the polls in order to make sure participants didn't miss any questions. The poll threads were linked to the masterpost. The survey form that was hosted on Google Forms was also linked to the masterpost.

In categories 1 and 2, the participants answered based on how relevant each reason was to their feelings. There were 4 levels of relevancy:

- Extremely relevant
- Quite relevant
- Somewhat relevant
- Not relevant

In category 3, the questions were descriptions of feelings and the participants answered on a 1-5 Likert scale (1 = Strongly disagree; 5 = Strongly agree). Since Twitter polls aren't compatible with this type of question, category 3 wasn't included in the Twitter polls at all.



Why Do We Like Izzy Hands?

A survey to determine why a part of the Our Flag Means Death fandom likes Izzy Hands

The survey polls are open from September 10th to 16th 2022
The survey form is open from September 10th to 24th 2022

This survey is aimed at adults who like Izzy.

If you are under 18, you are kindly requested to bugger off.

The survey questions are divided into three groups:

1. Background Information (2 questions)
2. Writing and Acting (10 questions)
3. Izzy's Characteristics (36 questions, divided into six subgroups)

Each group / subgroup has its own thread of polls. There are **eight threads** in the survey, and they are all collected into this masterpost.

Please make sure you don't skip any polls unintentionally!

Figure 2. The instructions given to the participants on Twitter.

2.2.1 Twitter Polls

The Twitter polls were open between 10-16 September 2022.

The participants could choose freely which polls they wanted to vote in.

The total number of voters in individual polls varied between 229-279. The total number of given votes in the survey polls was 11,100.

2.2.2 Survey Form

The survey form was open between 10-24 September 2022.

All background questions and actual survey questions in the form were optional, but participants were encouraged to not skip any of the actual survey questions.

The total number of submitted survey forms was 270.

2.2.3 Dataset Overlap

Because it was likely that some participants would vote on the Twitter polls and also submit a survey form, there was a question to determine this overlap.

On Twitter, people were instructed to vote on the overlap poll only if they had already voted on the Twitter survey polls. This poll got 189 votes. That's 68% of the vote count of the most popular poll in the survey, which means that roughly 1/3 of the participants who voted on the Twitter survey polls skipped voting in the overlap poll.

On the survey form, the question about overlap was mandatory, so all 270 participants answered it. 49% of them said they would not vote on the Twitter polls. These participants formed a subset of data / subgroup that is referred to as *OnlyForms* for short (n=132).

82 form submitters (30%) said they were going to vote on the polls and 56 (21%) had already voted on the polls. These participants formed a subset of data / subgroup that is referred to as *Overlappers* for short (n=138).

On Twitter, 72 participants (38% of those who voted on the overlap poll) had already submitted a survey form and 44 (23%) were going to submit one later. Both of these groups were smaller than the corresponding groups in the survey form dataset. This means that some of the participants who skipped voting on the overlap poll had submitted a survey form or submitted one later.

On Twitter, 73 participants (39% of those who voted on the overlap poll) said they would not submit a survey form. Their actual number is higher and it was estimated to be between 94 and 141, depending on the poll. The estimate was calculated by subtracting the *Overlappers* dataset from the full Twitter polls dataset. This subset of data / subgroup is referred to as *OnlyPolls* for short.

The total number of individual participants in the whole survey is estimated based on the number of submitted forms and the number of votes in the most popular survey poll after subtracting *Overlappers*: $270 + (279-138) = 411$. The three subgroups are almost equal in sample size. Their shares are shown in Figure 3.

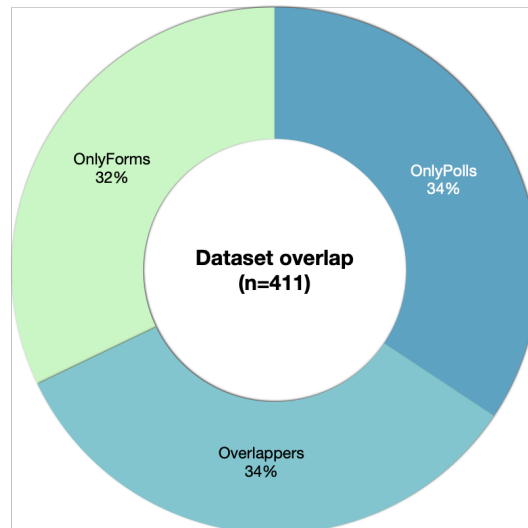


Figure 3. The overlap of the datasets that were collected via the Twitter polls and the survey form. Those who only voted on the Twitter polls were in the minority. Roughly half of those who submitted a survey form also voted on the polls.

2.3 The Data Analysis

In reason categories *1 Writing and Acting* and *2 Izzy's Characteristics* the data from the Twitter polls consisted of percentages of the different levels of relevancy. The number of votes given to each level of relevancy was calculated from the percentages.

In order to get the overall picture of why we like Izzy Hands, categories 1 and 2 were analysed based on the combined dataset. The Twitter dataset was merged with the *OnlyForms* subset of the survey form dataset. The answers from the *Overlappers* subgroup were included in the combined dataset via their Twitter poll participation. The sample size of the combined dataset was not fixed because some polls got less votes than others. The number of individual participants varied between 361 and 411, depending on the reason.

The questions in category *3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes* were asked only on the survey form. The data consisted of 1-5 Likert scale answers to descriptions of feelings Izzy usually evokes in those who like him:

- 1) Strongly disagree
- 2) Disagree
- 3) Neutral / Don't disagree or agree
- 4) Agree
- 5) Strongly agree

2.3.1 Categories 1 Writing and Acting and 2 Izzy's Characteristics

The relevancy of categories, groups of reasons and individual reasons was analysed using the following scores:

- 1) Share of "extremely relevant" answers
- 2) Share of "not relevant" answers
- 3) Relevancy Score (RS)
- 4) Net Relevancy Score (Net RS)
- 5) Ratio score of Extreme Relevancy (Ratio ER)

Comparisons between categories/groups were based on the quartiles of the three scores (RS, Net RS and Ratio ER). Quartiles were calculated with the help of [Quartile Calculator on CalculatorSoup.com](https://www.calculatorSoup.com).

Share of “Extremely Relevant” and “Not Relevant” Answers

The distribution of “extremely relevant” and “not relevant” answers can indicate how relevant a reason or a group of reasons was. High shares of “extremely relevant” and low shares of “not relevant” indicate high relevancy, and the opposite indicates low relevancy.

Relevancy Score (RS)

Relevancy Score (RS) was calculated as the weighed average of how relevant the reason was to the participants.

- Extremely relevant answers: $\times 1$
- Quite relevant answers: $\times 0.5$
- Somewhat relevant answers: $\times 0.25$
- Not relevant answers: $\times 0$

For example, if a reason would have gotten only “extremely relevant” answers, the Relevancy Score of that reason would have been 100. RS of a reason with only “quite relevant” answers would be 50. “Not relevant” answers don’t affect RS.

Net Relevancy Score (Net RS)

Net Relevancy Score (Net RS) was calculated similarly to Relevancy Score, but the “not relevant” answers were subtracted from the “extremely relevant” answers before calculating the score. This was done to acknowledge that some participants didn’t find the reason relevant at all. If there’s no difference between RS and Net RS, all participants found the reason at least somewhat relevant. The bigger the difference between RS and Net RS, the more participants found the reason irrelevant.

Ratio Score of Extreme Relevancy (Ratio ER)

The number of “extremely relevant” answers was divided by the total number of answers with a lower level of relevancy (“quite relevant” + “somewhat relevant”) to calculate the Ratio Score of Extreme Relevancy (Ratio ER). A ratio score that’s below 1 indicates that those who found the reason extremely relevant were in the minority when compared to those who found the reason only quite or somewhat relevant.

Group Net Scores and Relevancy Profiles

The quartiles of RS and Ratio ER were calculated for the pooled data of reasons in categories 1 and 2 in order to compare different groups of reasons (category 1 and subcategories 2.1-2.6). The share of reasons with low scores (Q1 or below) and high scores (Q3 or above) was calculated for each group.

Group Net Scores of High RS and High Ratio ER were calculated for each group by subtracting the share of low score reasons from the share of high score reasons.

Two Relevancy Profiles were constructed for each group of reasons. The first profile uses RS and Net RS of individual reasons and the second profile uses Ratio ER of individual reasons. Profiles were visualised as radar charts. The min-max range of RS and Net RS is shown in the first profile as well as the min-max range of the difference between these scores. The min-max range of Ratio ER is shown in the second profile. Smaller ranges indicate a more balanced profile.

When the shape of the radar chart is symmetrical and closer to a circle, the relevancy of reasons in that group was in balance. When the relevancy of reasons in a group varied a lot, the profile has more spikes and valleys.

2.3.2 Category 3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes

The relevancy of specific feelings that Izzy evokes in his fans was measured using the following scores:

- 1) Share of Agreeing Answers
- 2) Share of Disagreeing Answers
- 3) Net Share of Strong Agreement
- 4) Ratio of Agreement

Share of Agreeing Answers (4 and 5 combined) and Share of Disagreeing Answers (1 and 2 combined) were calculated for each feeling.

The total of Strongly Disagreeing, Disagreeing and Neutral answers (1, 2 and 3) was subtracted from Strongly Agreeing (5) answers to calculate Net Share of Strong Agreement for each feeling. Negative net share indicates that those who strongly agreed with the feeling were in the minority when compared to those who were neutral about it or disagreed with it.

Share of Agreeing Answers was divided by Share of Disagreeing Answers to calculate Ratio of Agreement for each feeling. A ratio score that's below 1 indicates that those who agreed with the feeling were in the minority when compared to those who disagreed with it.

2.4 The Background of the Participants

In addition to the actual survey questions there were also questions about the background information of the participants. See [Appendix B](#) for tables, diagrams and maps related to the background information.

Twitter Poll Background Questions

There were two background questions in the Twitter polls: age and gender. Both questions were divided into three polls because a Twitter poll has a maximum of four options.

The age polls got 292 votes in total and the gender polls got 326 votes in total. The most popular survey question poll got only 279 votes. There are two likely explanations for this. Either some of the background poll votes came from people who stumbled upon these polls and voted on them without realising the context, or none of the survey participants on Twitter voted on all the survey polls.

For the gender polls, it's also possible that some of the survey participants voted on more than one poll because describing your gender by picking from fixed options is not always easy. For some, a combination of two or more options might describe them better than just one option.

Survey Form Background Questions

There were eight optional background questions on the survey form. Participants could answer each question with their own words.

- 1) What is your age?
- 2) What is your gender?
- 3) Does your gender match the sex you were assigned at birth?
- 4) Which gender(s) are you attracted to romantically?
- 5) Which gender(s) are you attracted to sexually?
- 6) What is your ethnicity and/or race?
- 7) Where were you born and where do you live now?
- 8) Are you neurodivergent?

For questions 1 and 2, the data from *OnlyForms* participants was also merged with the Twitter poll data to get the age and gender data for the combined dataset.

For questions 4 and 5, the participants were instructed to answer "none" if they didn't feel attracted to any gender but still wanted to answer the question.

For question 8, the participants were instructed that they could also share their type(s) of neurodivergency if they wanted. They were also asked to mention if they didn't have an official diagnosis.

2.4.1 Age (Combined Dataset and Survey Form Dataset)

The age group distribution of the combined dataset (n=422¹) is shown in Figure B1. 29% of the participants were 23-27 years old. This was the biggest age group. 20% were 18-22 years old and 20% were 28-32 years old. 17% were 33-37 years old, 6% were 38-42 years old and 8% were 43 years or older. The average age of the participants can't be calculated because the Twitter poll data wasn't detailed enough.

The age group distribution of the survey form dataset (n=270) is shown in Figure B2. 25% of the participants in the survey form dataset were 23-27 years old. This was the biggest age group. 24% were 18-22 years old and 23% were 28-32 years old. 14% were 33-37 years old, 6% were 38-42 years old and 6% were 43 years or older. The average age was 29 years (standard deviation 8.5).

2.4.2 Gender (Combined Dataset and Survey Form Dataset)

The gender group distribution of the combined dataset (n=458¹) is shown in Figure B3. 42% of the participants in the combined dataset were in one of the non-binary gender groups², 35% were women and 15% were men. 98% of the women were cis and 96% of the men were trans.

The gender group distribution of the survey form dataset is shown in Figure B4. 45% of the participants in the survey form dataset were in one of the non-binary gender groups², 37% were women and 14% were men. 98% of the women were cis and 95% of the men were trans.

In the survey form dataset, 50% of the participants were transgender and 36% were cisgender. The similar data is not available for the combined dataset because the Twitter poll data wasn't detailed enough.

2.4.3 Romantic and Sexual Orientation (Survey Form Dataset)

Instead of asking the participants about the labels they use to describe their romantic and sexual orientation, they were asked which gender(s) they found romantically and sexually attractive. Some participants replied using a specific label, some answered with the gender(s) they were attracted to. The participants were then grouped based on their gender and the attraction they experienced. The definitions of romantic and sexual orientations are given in Table B1. The distributions of romantic and sexual orientations are shown in Figures B5-B6.

Majority of the participants were bi- or panromantic (67%) and bi- or pansexual (61%)³. 9% were polyromantic and 10% were polysexual. 6% were aromantic and 12% were asexual. The other romantic and sexual orientations had shares of 2-4%.

Based on the participants' answers to questions 4 and 5, it was determined whether they found men romantically/sexually attractive or not (Figure B7). 86% were attracted to men: 67% romantically and sexually attracted, 10% only romantically attracted and 8% only sexually attracted. 9% weren't attracted to men at all and 5% were unsure or didn't disclose this information.

¹Because Twitter age and gender polls got more votes in total than the most popular survey question poll, the sample size is bigger than in the combined dataset of the actual survey questions where it varies between 361 and 411.

²Different non-binary identities are grouped in the graphs because comparing the subcategories isn't that relevant in this context.

³Bi and pan were grouped together because individuals have varying definitions for these labels and that makes it difficult to separate the two.

2.4.4 Racial and/or Ethnic Privilege (Survey Form Dataset)

The ethnicity and race data was used to determine whether the participants belonged to a racial and/or ethnic group that doesn't usually experience racism or racially charged oppression.

Those who described themselves as white or Caucasian and/or American/Canadian/European/Australian were considered to have racial and/or ethnic privilege (with the exception of Jewish, Slavic and Romani participants).

74% were privileged in this sense and 21% were not privileged. 5% didn't disclose this information (Figure B8).

2.4.5 Race, Gender and Sexual Orientation (Survey Form Dataset)

Out of curiosity, the overlap of race, gender and sexual orientation was inspected in order to find out how many of the participants were the dreaded scourge of fandom spaces: white cis het women. Their share was a whopping 4.4%.

2.4.6 Geographical Location (Survey Form Dataset)

Figure B9 shows the geographical distribution of the participants using the statistical subregions as defined by [United Nations geoscheme](#). 53% lived in Northern America and 30% lived in Europe.

The countries where the survey participants were currently living are shown in Figure B10. 31 countries were mentioned and 87% of the participants disclosed this information.

2.4.7 Neurodivergency (Survey Form Dataset)

77% were neurodivergent (55% official diagnosis and 22% self-diagnosed) and 15% were neurotypical. 6% didn't disclose this information.

Since some autistic participants also had ADHD/ADD, the overlap of these two neurodivergent traits was also observed. The distribution is shown in Figure B11. Some participants who were autistic and/or had ADHD/ADD also had other neurodivergent traits. Those who were neurodivergent in some other way than being autistic or having ADHD/ADD and those who didn't disclose details of their neurodivergency were grouped together as "other or unspecified ND".

26% had ADHD/ADD but weren't autistic. 21% were autistic and had ADHD/ADD and 19% were autistic without ADHD/ADD. 11% had other neurodivergent traits or didn't disclose details of their neurodivergency.

2.5 Comparing Answers Between Genders

Some of the reasons for liking Izzy were connected to the popular fan reading of Izzy as a trans man. It was expected that these reasons would be more relevant to fans of Izzy who are trans men or transmasculine than those who are cis women. Non-binary people who aren't transmasc might also find these reasons more relevant than cis women.

The participants who submitted a survey form were divided into three groups based on their gender:

1. trans men and transmasculine non-binary participants (n=51; *trans men & transmascs* for short)
2. cis women (n=93)
3. non-binary participants who weren't transmasculine (n=106, *non-binary participants* for short).

These groups cover 93% of the survey form dataset. Their answers were analysed the same way the complete dataset was analysed.

2.5.1 Dataset Overlap (Comparison Between Genders)

Not voting on the polls was most common among trans men & transmascs: 55% of them said they would not vote on the Twitter polls, compared to 49% of cis women and 43% of non-binary participants.

2.5.2 Age (Comparison Between Genders)

The age group distributions are shown in Figure B12.

18-22 years was the biggest age group among trans men & transmascs (35%) and non-binary participants (27%). 13% of cis women were 18-22 years old.

23-27 years was the second biggest age group among trans men & transmascs (31%) and non-binary participants (26%). 19% of cis women were 23-27 years old.

25% of cis women and non-binary participants were 28-32 years old. This was the biggest age group among cis women. 20% of trans men & transmascs were 28-32 years old.

33-37 years was the second biggest age group among cis women (20%). 17% of non-binary participants and only 2% of trans men and & transmascs were 33-37 years old.

11% of cis women were 38-42 years old and 12% were at least 43 years old. The combined share of these two age groups was 8% among trans men & transmascs and 5% among non-binary participants.

The average age of each group:

- trans men & transmascs 26 years (SD 6.4)
- cis women 32 years (SD 9.4)
- non-binary participants 28 years (SD 6.7)

2.5.3 Attraction to Men (Comparison Between Genders)

The distributions of romantic and sexual attraction to men are shown in Figure B13.

92% of trans men & transmascs were attracted to men: 78% romantically and sexually attracted, 12% only romantically attracted and 2% only sexually attracted. 2% didn't experience attraction to men at all and 6% were unsure or didn't disclose this information.

86% of cis women were attracted to men: 68% romantically and sexually attracted, 11% only romantically attracted and 8% only sexually attracted. 10% didn't experience attraction to men at all and 4% were unsure or didn't disclose this information.

87% of non-binary participants were attracted to men: 64% romantically and sexually attracted, 11% only romantically attracted and 11% only sexually attracted. 11% didn't experience attraction to men at all and 2% were unsure or didn't disclose this information.

2.5.4 Racial and/or Ethnic Privilege (Comparison Between Genders)

The distributions of racial and/or ethnic privilege are shown in Figure B14.

The majority of all groups was racially and/or ethnically privileged. Not having the privilege was most common among non-binary participants (29%) and least common among cis women (15%).

2.5.5 Neurodivergency (Comparison Between Genders)

The distribution of different neurodivergent traits is shown in Figure B15.

30% of cis women were neurotypical, compared to 8% of trans men and 7% of non-binary participants.

The share of those who had ADHD/ADD but weren't autistic was similar in all groups: 26% of cis women and 25% of trans men & transmascs and non-binary participants.

31% of trans men & transmascs were autistic and had ADHD/ADD, compared to 24% of non-binary participants and 13% of cis women.

24% of non-binary participants were autistic without having ADHD/ADD, compared to 16% of trans men & transmascs and 15% of cis women.

14% of trans men & transmascs, 13% of non-binary participants and 9% of cis women had other neurodivergent traits or didn't disclose details of their neurodivergency.

7% of non-binary participants, 6% of trans men & transmascs and 5% of cis women didn't disclose this information.

2.6 Potential Causes of Inaccuracy

The Twitter account that was used for running the survey is a so-called fandom account: it's been used for personal free-time purposes, focusing on relaxation and having fun and connecting with like-minded people. For this reason, the owner of the account has curated their online experience by using Twitter's blocking feature to respect the boundaries of others and to set some boundaries of their own. Because of this, not everyone who's in the "OFMD fandom Twitter" was able to interact with the survey polls or get notified of the survey in the first place. Notable reasons for an account being blocked are:

- It is owned by someone who is under 18 years old.
- It is owned by someone who has expressed that proshippers should not interact with them.
- It has engaged in / condoned / supported harassment, racism, LGBTQIA+ phobia, sexism or any other form of bigotry/discrimination.
- It has posted prominent Izzy Hands hate and/or criticised Izzy fans in a derogatory way.

The first two questions in the subcategory *2.4 Relationships* (in category *2 Izzy's Characteristics*) didn't have the voting option "Not relevant" in the Twitter polls because it was left out by accident. These polls had the same number of votes as the other polls of the same subcategory, so the assumption is that the missing option didn't stop anyone from voting. It's possible that some of the "Somewhat relevant" votes would have been "Not relevant" if that option had been offered.

3 Results

Appendix C presents the diagrams and tables of the main results.

For categories *1 Writing and Acting* and *2 Izzy's Characteristics*, all votes/answers for reasons in the same category were pooled to see how common each level of relevancy was in that category. For both categories, "extremely relevant" was the most common relevancy level, and the lower the relevancy level, the less common of an answer it was. The relevancy distributions are shown in Figure C1.

Category 1 had 61.5% of "extremely relevant" answers and 2.7% of "not relevant" answers.

Category 2 had 54.2% of "extremely relevant" answers and 8.4% of "not relevant" answers.

Based on the median scores, category *1 Writing and Acting* was more relevant than category *2 Izzy's Characteristics*.

The median RS for *1 Writing and Acting* was 79.5 (Q1 71.1, Q3 83.6, Interquartile Range 12.5) and for *2 Izzy's Characteristics* it was 70.5 (Q1 63.3, Q3 80.5, Interquartile Range 17.2).

The median Net RS for *1 Writing and Acting* was 77.4 (Q1 68.8, Q3 82.5, Interquartile Range 13.7) and for *2 Izzy's Characteristics* it was 65.2 (Q1 52.1, Q3 78.4, Interquartile Range 26.3).

The median Ratio ER for *1 Writing and Acting* was 2.0 (Q1 1.2, Q3 2.7, Interquartile Range 1.5) and for *2 Izzy's Characteristics* it was 1.4 (Q1 0.9, Q3 2.5, Interquartile Range 1.6).

All Likert scale answers for reasons in category *3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes* were pooled to see how common each answer was. Almost half of the answers were in strong agreement. The lower the level of agreement, the less common of an answer it was. The distribution of agreement levels is shown in Figure C2.

3.1 Groups of Reasons Related to Writing and Acting and Izzy's Characteristics

The most and least relevant groups of reasons by different methods of analysis are shown in Table C1.

The distribution of answers with different levels of relevancy for groups of reasons is shown in Figure C3. The shares varied between groups as follows:

- Extremely relevant: 48.0-69.6% (range 21.6)
- Quite relevant: 20.3-27.0% (range 6.7)
- Somewhat relevant: 6.9-18.3% (range 11.4)
- Not relevant: 2.6-14.9% (range 12.3)

2.4 Relationships had the biggest share of "extremely relevant" answers and the smallest share of "not relevant" answers.

2.2 Personality had the smallest share of "extremely relevant" answers. *2.6 Sex & Sexuality* had the biggest share of "not relevant" answers.

Median scores of RS, Net RS and Ratio ER for each group are shown in Figure C4.

2.4 Relationships had the highest median scores. RS was 82.0, Net RS was 79.7 and Ratio ER was 2.5.

2.2 Personality had the lowest median RS and median Ratio ER. RS was 64.0 and Ratio ER was 1.1.

2.6 *Sex & Sexuality* had the lowest median Net RS, 54.0.

The Relevancy Profiles that are based on RS and Net RS are shown in Figure C5. The Relevancy Profiles that are based on Ratio ER are shown in Figure C6.

Based on the Group Net Scores of High RS and High Ratio ER, 2.4 *Relationships* was the most relevant group of reasons. It had Net High RS of 50% and Net High Ratio ER of 66%. 1 *Writing and Acting* was the second most relevant group (30% for Net High RS and 10% for Net High Ratio ER). These were the only groups with positive Group Net Scores. The least relevant groups were 2.2 *Personality* and 2.3 *Social Interactions*. For both groups, Net High RS and Net High Ratio ER was -33%.

Based on RS and Net RS, 2.4 *Relationships* was the most balanced group and 2.2 *Personality* was the second most balanced. For 2.4 *Relationships*, RS range was 10 points, Net RS range was 14 points and the difference between the two scores had a range of 4 points. For 2.2 *Personality*, RS range was 11 points, Net RS range was 17 points and the difference between the two scores had a range of 7 points.

Based on Ratio ER, 2.2 *Personality* was the most balanced group and 2.4 *Relationships* was the second most balanced. Range of Ratio ER was 0.7 points for 2.2 *Personality* and 1.7 points for 2.4 *Relationships*.

2.1 *Physical Appearance* had the least balanced Relevancy Profile based on RS and Net RS. RS range was 44 points, Net RS range was 74 points and the difference between the two scores had a range of 30 points.

1 *Writing and Acting* had the least balanced Relevancy Profile based on Ratio ER. Ratio ER range was 5.4 points.

3.2 Individual Reasons Related to Writing and Acting and Izzy's Characteristics

The most and least relevant individual reasons by different methods of analysis are shown in Table C2.

The share of answers with each level of relevancy varied for individual reasons as follows:

- Extremely relevant: 21.9-85.1% (range 63.2)
- Quite relevant: 10.7-35.4% (range 24.7)
- Somewhat relevant: 2.4-28.5% (range 26.1)
- Not relevant: 0.5-31.6% (range 31.1)

3.2.1 Share of “Extremely Relevant” Answers

The distribution of answers with different levels of relevancy for reasons that had the biggest and smallest shares of “extremely relevant” answers is shown in Figure C7.

The following reasons had the biggest shares of “extremely relevant” answers (in descending order):

- 1) 1.1 Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy. (85.1%)
- 2) 2.5.6 Izzy is touch-starved. (79.4%)
- 3) 2.1.4 Izzy's voice / the way he talks and curses. (78.8%)
- 4) 2.1.3 Izzy's body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication. (77.9%)
- 5) 2.4.1 Izzy has an unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward. Even after everything Edward has done, Izzy stays with him, because he's hopelessly devoted to him. (77.0%)

The following reasons had the smallest shares of “extremely relevant” answers (in ascending order):

- 1) 2.6.2 Izzy’s has internalised homophobia. (21.9%)
- 2) 2.3.1 Izzy is a follower, not a leader. He lacks authority and doesn’t garner respect. (28.0%)
- 3) 2.1.2 Izzy’s body type. (29.0%)
- 4) 2.5.4 Izzy has the angry transmasculine energy and he’s clinging to toxic masculinity. (29.6%)
- 5) 2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man. (30.4%)

3.2.2 Share of “Not Relevant” Answers

The distribution of answers with different level of relevancy for reasons that had the biggest and smallest shares of “not relevant” answers is shown in Figure C8.

The following reasons had the smallest shares of “not relevant” answers (in ascending order):

- 1) 1.3 Izzy brings unique tension to the show and the narrative construction around him is fascinating. (0.5%)
- 2) 1.1 Con O’Neill’s performance as Izzy. (0.5%)
- 3) 1.5 Instead of being a one-dimensional antagonist / villain, Izzy has layers that make him into a fully fleshed-out character instead of just a plot device. (0.5%)
- 4) 2.1.3 Izzy’s body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication. (0.5%)
- 5) 2.4.2 Izzy is driven by his loyalty and commitment to Edward. (0.5%)

The following reasons had the biggest shares of “not relevant” answers (in descending order):

- 1) 2.6.2 Izzy’s has internalised homophobia. (31.6%)
- 2) 2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man. (31.0%)
- 3) 2.5.4 Izzy has the angry transmasculine energy and he’s clinging to toxic masculinity. (26.4%)
- 4) 2.6.4 Izzy is a bottom. (23.3%)
- 5) 2.1.2 Izzy’s body type. (18.2%)

3.2.3 Relevancy Score

Relevancy Score of individual reasons varied between 38.6 and 91.7. The median RS was 72.4 (Q1 63.5, Q3 81.6, Interquartile Range 18.1). RS of all reasons is shown in Figure C9.

The following reasons had the highest RS (in descending order):

- 1) 1.1 Con O’Neill’s performance as Izzy. (91.7)
- 2) 2.1.4 Izzy’s voice / the way he talks and curses. (88.1)
- 3) 2.1.3 Izzy’s body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication. (87.3)
- 4) 2.5.6 Izzy is touch-starved. (86.8)
- 5) 2.4.1 Izzy has an unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward. Even after everything Edward has done, Izzy stays with him, because he’s hopelessly devoted to him. (86.5)

The following reasons had the lowest RS (in ascending order):

- 1) 2.6.2 Izzy’s has internalised homophobia. (38.6)
- 2) 2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man. (44.6)
- 3) 2.5.4 Izzy has the angry transmasculine energy and he’s clinging to toxic masculinity. (46.3)
- 4) 2.1.2 Izzy’s body type. (48.3)
- 5) 2.6.4 Izzy is a bottom. (49.5)

3.2.4 Net Relevancy Score

Net RS of individual reasons varied between 7.0 and 91.2. The median Net RS was 69.2 (Q1 54.5, Q3 80.6, Interquartile Range 26.1). Net RS of all reasons is shown in Figure C10.

The following reasons had the highest Net RS (in descending order):

- 1) 1.1 Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy. (91.2)
- 2) 2.1.3 Izzy's body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication. (87.6)
- 3) 2.1.4 Izzy's voice / the way he talks and curses. (86.2)
- 4) 2.4.1 Izzy has an unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward. Even after everything Edward has done, Izzy stays with him, because he's hopelessly devoted to him. (85.7)
- 5) 1.5 Instead of being a one-dimensional antagonist / villain, Izzy has layers that make him into a fully fleshed-out character instead of just a plot device. (84.3)

The following reasons had the lowest Net RS (in ascending order):

- 1) 2.6.2 Izzy's has internalised homophobia. (7.0)
- 2) 2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man. (13.5)
- 3) 2.5.4 Izzy has the angry transmasculine energy and he's clinging to toxic masculinity. (19.9)
- 4) 2.6.4 Izzy is a bottom. (26.1)
- 5) 2.1.2 Izzy's body type. (30.2)

3.2.5 Ratio Score of Extreme Relevancy

Ratio ER of individual reasons varied between 0.4 and 5.9. The median Ratio ER was 1.5 (Q1 1.0, Q3 2.5, Interquartile Range 1.5). Ratio ER of all reasons is shown in Figure C11.

The following reasons had the highest Ratio ER (in descending order):

- 1) 1.1 Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy. (5.9)
- 2) 2.5.6 Izzy is touch-starved. (4.5)
- 3) 2.1.4 Izzy's voice / the way he talks and curses. (3.9)
- 4) 2.1.3 Izzy's body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication. (3.6)
- 5) 2.4.1 Izzy has an unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward. Even after everything Edward has done, Izzy stays with him, because he's hopelessly devoted to him. (3.5)

The following reasons had the lowest Ratio ER (in ascending order):

- 1) 2.3.1 Izzy is a follower, not a leader. He lacks authority and doesn't garner respect. (0.4)
- 2) 2.6.2 Izzy's has internalised homophobia. (0.5)
- 3) 1.8 Izzy's background is only hinted at, we get tiny bits of information, but mostly it stays as a mystery. (0.5)
- 4) 2.1.2 Izzy's body type. (0.6)
- 5) 2.5.4 Izzy has the angry transmasculine energy and he's clinging to toxic masculinity. (0.7)

3.3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes

The most and least relevant feelings by different methods of analysis are shown in Table C3.

The distribution of answers with different levels of agreement varied between feelings as follows:

- Strongly Agree: 23.0-78.1% (range 55.1)
- Agree: 13.7-28.5% (range 14.8)
- Neutral: 4.8-23.4% (range 18.6)
- Disagree: 1.9-21.5% (range 19.6)
- Strongly Disagree: 0.7-17.0% (range 16.3)

3.3.1 Share of Agreeing Answers

Share of Agreeing Answers varied between 41.5% and 91.8% (range 50.3). The median was 64.1% (Q1 58.4%, Q3 78.5%, Interquartile Range 20.1). Share of Agreeing Answers for all feelings is shown in Figure C12.

The following feelings had the biggest shares of Agreeing Answers (in descending order):

- 1) 3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works. (91.8%)
- 2) 3.3 Izzy makes me so curious and I want to know more—about his past, about what he's been through, about how he'll react to future situations. (89.6%)
- 3) 3.7 I need Izzy to be praised and patted on the head. He needs a hug and someone to tell him he's a good boy and give him love and all the good things he doesn't think he deserves. (87.4%)
- 4) 3.2 I want to put Izzy under a microscope and pick him apart in order to understand him better and to find out what is going on inside his brain. (85.2%)
- 5) 3.12 Izzy seems like he'd be fun to destroy in the sexual sense and I want to see him ruined and wrecked in so many ways. (78.5%)

The following feelings had the smallest shares of Agreeing Answers (in ascending order):

- 1) 3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me. (41.5%)
- 2) 3.6 I want to steal Izzy's gender. (52.4%)
- 3) 3.8 Seeing all the things that are wrong with Izzy gives me the urge to fix him. (54.1%)
- 4) 3.14 Izzy is my muse and he provides endless inspiration for (NSFW) fan works. (58.2%)
- 5) 3.1 Izzy is my comfort character and he gives me strength. (58.4%)

3.3.2 Share of Disagreeing Answers

Share of Disagreeing Answers varied between 2.6% and 38.5% (range 35.9). The median was 19.1% (Q1 11.9%, Q3 25.7%, Interquartile Range 13.8). Share of Disagreeing Answers for all feelings is shown in Figure C13.

The following feelings had the smallest shares of Disagreeing Answers (in ascending order):

- 1) 3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works. (2.6%)
- 2) 3.7 I need Izzy to be praised and patted on the head. He needs a hug and someone to tell him he's a good boy and give him love and all the good things he doesn't think he deserves. (3.3%)
- 3) 3.2 I want to put Izzy under a microscope and pick him apart in order to understand him better and to find out what is going on inside his brain. (5.2%)
- 4) 3.3 Izzy makes me so curious and I want to know more—about his past, about what he's been through, about how he'll react to future situations. (5.6%)
- 5) 3.12 Izzy seems like he'd be fun to destroy in the sexual sense and I want to see him ruined and wrecked in so many ways. (11.9%)

The following feelings had the biggest shares of Disagreeing Answers (in descending order):

- 1) 3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me. (38.5%)
- 2) 3.8 Seeing all the things that are wrong with Izzy gives me the urge to fix him. (30.4%)
- 3) 3.6 I want to steal Izzy's gender. (29.0%)
- 4) 3.10 I want to put Izzy in a jar and shake it. (28.1%)
- 5) 3.9 Izzy is so small and pathetic and inefficient at everything he does. He keeps trying so hard and failing at everything and it makes me want to squeeze him like a stress toy. (25.7%)

3.3.3 Net Share of Strong Agreement

Net Share of Strong Agreement varied between -35.6% and 69.9% (range 105.5). The median was 8.7% (Q1 -3.0%, Q3 43.3%, Interquartile Range 46.3). Net Share of Strong Agreement for all feelings is shown in Figure C14.

The following feelings had the biggest Net Share of Strong Agreement (in descending order):

- 1) 3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works. (69.9%)
- 2) 3.3 Izzy makes me so curious and I want to know more—about his past, about what he's been through, about how he'll react to future situations. (59.3%)
- 3) 3.7 I need Izzy to be praised and patted on the head. He needs a hug and someone to tell him he's a good boy and give him love and all the good things he doesn't think he deserves. (54.1%)
- 4) 3.2 I want to put Izzy under a microscope and pick him apart in order to understand him better and to find out what is going on inside his brain. (49.3%)
- 5) 3.12 Izzy seems like he'd be fun to destroy in the sexual sense and I want to see him ruined and wrecked in so many ways. (43.3%)

The following feelings had the smallest Net Share of Strong Agreement (in ascending order):

- 1) 3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me. (-35.6%)
- 2) 3.8 Seeing all the things that are wrong with Izzy gives me the urge to fix him. (-20.4%)
- 3) 3.6 I want to steal Izzy's gender. (-9.7%)
- 4) 3.1 Izzy is my comfort character and he gives me strength. (-5.2%)
- 5) 3.9 Izzy is so small and pathetic and inefficient at everything he does. He keeps trying so hard and failing at everything and it makes me want to squeeze him like a stress toy. (-3.0%)

3.3.4 Ratio of Agreement

Ratio of Agreement varied between 1.1 and 35.3 (range 34.2). The median was 3.3 (Q1 2.3, Q3 6.6, Interquartile Range 4.3). Ratio of Agreement for all feelings is shown in Figure C15.

The following feelings had the highest Ratio of Agreement (in descending order):

- 1) 3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works. (35.3)
- 2) 3.7 I need Izzy to be praised and patted on the head. He needs a hug and someone to tell him he's a good boy and give him love and all the good things he doesn't think he deserves. (26.2)
- 3) 3.2 I want to put Izzy under a microscope and pick him apart in order to understand him better and to find out what is going on inside his brain. (16.4)
- 4) 3.3 Izzy makes me so curious and I want to know more—about his past, about what he's been through, about how he'll react to future situations. (16.1)
- 5) 3.12 Izzy seems like he'd be fun to destroy in the sexual sense and I want to see him ruined and wrecked in so many ways. (6.6)

The following feelings had the lowest Ratio of Agreement (in ascending order):

- 1) 3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me. (1.1)
- 2) 3.8 Seeing all the things that are wrong with Izzy gives me the urge to fix him. (1.8)
- 3) 3.6 I want to steal Izzy's gender. (1.8)
- 4) 3.10 I want to put Izzy in a jar and shake it. (2.1)
- 5) 3.9 Izzy is so small and pathetic and inefficient at everything he does. He keeps trying so hard and failing at everything and it makes me want to squeeze him like a stress toy. (2.3)

4 Comparison Between Genders

The detailed results of the relevancy of different reasons and groups of reasons among trans men & transmascs, cis women and non-binary participants are presented in [Appendix D](#).

The most and least relevant groups of reasons, individual reasons and specific feelings by different methods of analysis are shown in Table D1. The results of the full dataset are included in the table for comparison.

The relevancy distributions of categories *1 Writing and Acting* and *2 Izzy's Characteristics* are shown in Figure D1. In all gender groups, category 1 had a bigger share of “extremely relevant” answers and a smaller share of “not relevant” answers than category 2. The relevancy distributions of the two categories were most similar among trans men & transmascs and least similar among cis women. There was more variance between gender groups in the distribution of category 2 answers.

The distribution of Likert scale agreement levels in category *3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes* is shown in Figure D2. Strongly agreeing answers had the biggest share in all gender groups and the lower the level of agreement, the less common of an answer it was. The share of strongly agreeing answers was the biggest among trans men & transmascs and the smallest among cis women. The share of strongly disagreeing answers was the biggest among cis women and the smallest among trans men & transmascs.

4.1 Groups of Reasons Related to Writing and Acting and Izzy's Characteristics

The distribution of answers with different levels of relevancy for groups of reasons is shown in Figure D3. Median scores of RS, Net RS and Ratio ER for each group of reasons are shown in Figure D4. The Relevancy Profiles that are based on RS and Net RS are shown in Figure D5. The Relevancy Profiles that are based on Ratio ER are shown in Figure D6.

2.4 Relationships was the most relevant group of reasons by all methods of analysis for trans men & transmascs and cis women. For cis women, lowest share of “not relevant” answers tied with *1 Writing and Acting*.

2.4 Relationships was the most relevant group for non-binary participants by 5/7 methods of analysis. *1 Writing and Acting* had the highest median RS and it tied with *2.4 Relationships* on median Net RS. *2.6 Sex & Sexuality* had the highest median Ratio ER.

For trans men & transmascs, *2.2 Personality* was the least relevant group of reasons by 4/7 methods of analysis. *2.1 Physical Appearance* had the lowest median RS and median Net RS and it tied with *2.2 Personality* and *2.6 Sex & Sexuality* on Group Net High RS. *2.6 Sex & Sexuality* had the biggest share of “not relevant” answers.

For cis women, *2.6 Sex & Sexuality* was the least relevant group of reasons by 5/7 methods of analysis. *2.2 Personality* had the lowest median Ratio ER and Group Net High Ratio ER.

4.2 Individual Reasons Related to Writing and Acting and Izzy's Characteristics

The distribution of answers with different levels of relevancy in each gender group is shown in Figure D7 for reasons that had the biggest and smallest shares of “extremely relevant” answers and in Figure D8 for reasons that had the biggest and smallest shares of “not relevant” answers. RS of all reasons in each gender group is shown in Figure D9. Net RS of all reasons in each gender group is shown in Figure D10. Ratio ER of all reasons in each gender group is shown in Figure D11.

1.1 Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy was the most relevant individual reason by all methods of analysis for trans men & transmascs and non-binary participants. There were also other reasons that had the smallest share of "not relevant" answers besides *1.1 Con's performance* (14 reasons for trans men & transmascs and 2 for non-binary participants).

1.1 Con's performance was also the most relevant individual reason for cis women by 4/5 methods of analysis. The following reasons had the smallest share of "not relevant" answers:

- *1.2 Izzy is a complex, well written and nuanced character.*
- *2.1.3 Izzy's body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication.*

2.6.2 Izzy has internalised homophobia was the least relevant individual reason by all methods of analysis for trans men & transmascs and non-binary participants.

For cis women, *2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man* was the least relevant individual reason by 4/5 methods of analysis. *2.1.2 Izzy's body type* had the lowest Ratio ER.

4.2.1 Individual Reasons: Differences in Ranking

Individual reasons in the pooled data of categories 1 and 2 were ranked based on their RS and Ratio ER. The quartiles for these scores were calculated and reasons were considered to have low relevancy ranking when the score was in the bottom quartile (Q1 or below) and high relevancy ranking when the score was in the top quartile (Q3 or above). Reasons that were between Q1 and Q3 had mid-level relevancy ranking.

The ranking of individual reasons was compared between the gender groups to see where the groups differed from each other. Reasons that had a different level of relevancy ranking in one group than in the other two groups were marked on the Relevancy Profiles. Reasons that ranked differently based on both RS and Ratio ER have a modified marker on the Relevancy Profiles.

26 reasons ranked differently in one gender group based on RS (Figure D12): 13 reasons among trans men & transmascs, 10 reasons among cis women and 3 reasons among non-binary participants.

30 reasons ranked differently in one gender group based on Ratio ER (Figure D13): 16 reasons among trans men & transmascs, 4 reasons among cis women and 10 reasons among non-binary participants.

There was one reason that had a different level of relevancy ranking in each gender group based on Ratio ER. *2.3.3 Just because Izzy is being a bitchy grumpy asshole about some things, it doesn't necessarily mean he is WRONG about them or that he's being unreasonable* had high relevancy among trans men & transmascs, low relevancy among cis women and mid-level relevancy among non-binary participants.

There were 14 reasons that ranked differently based on both RS and Ratio ER: 9 among trans men & transmascs, 3 among cis women and 2 among non-binary participants.

Trans men & transmascs

6 reasons ranked higher among trans men & transmascs:

High relevancy:

- 2.3.2 Despite trying so hard, Izzy always ends up failing and losing. Nobody seems to value/appreciate his work or support/defend him.
- 2.4.5 Izzy has the "old married couple" energy with Edward.

Mid-level relevancy:

- 2.1.6 Izzy can be interpreted as a trans man.
- 2.2.6 Izzy is jealous and possessive.
- 2.3.1 Izzy is a follower, not a leader. He lacks authority and doesn't garner respect.
- 2.5.2 Izzy is a pathetic wet sack of negative emotions and thought patterns.

3 reasons ranked lower among trans men & transmascs:

Mid-level relevancy:

- 2.1.3 Izzy's body language, facial expressions and non-verbal communication.

Low relevancy:

- 2.1.1 Izzy's style: the coiffed hair, the goatee, the subtle tattoos, the necktie with the ring, the single leather glove, the tied-up sleeves, the vest, the leather trousers.
- 2.1.5 Izzy's swordsmanship and footwork while sword fighting.

Cis women

3 reasons ranked higher among cis women:

High relevancy:

- 2.2.3 Izzy is a skilled, competent professional and a master of his craft. He is very dedicated to his work and takes his responsibilities seriously.
- 2.3.3 Just because Izzy is being a bitchy grumpy asshole about some things, it doesn't necessarily mean he is WRONG about them or that he's being unreasonable.

Mid-level relevancy:

- 1.4 Izzy is in a different genre than the rest of the characters, and the genre clash gives rise to comedy.

Non-binary participants

1 reason ranked higher and 1 reason ranked lower among non-binary participants:

High relevancy:

- 1.3 Izzy brings unique tension to the show and the narrative construction around him is fascinating.

Mid-level relevancy:

- 2.4.6 Izzy has a strong protective streak, even when he has a horrible way of showing it and some of his actions are misguided.

4.3 Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes

Share of Agreeing Answers for all feelings in each gender group is shown in Figure D14 and share of Disagreeing Answers is shown in Figure D15. Net Share of Strong Agreement for all feelings in each gender group is shown in Figure D16. Ratio of Agreement for all feelings in each gender group is shown in Figure D17.

3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works was the most relevant specific feeling by all methods of analysis for non-binary participants.

For cis women, *3.3 Izzy makes me so curious and I want to know more—about his past, about what he's been through, about how he'll react to future situations* was the most relevant specific feeling by all methods of analysis, but it tied with *3.15 fanfic writers making him go through all the emotions* on the smallest share of Disagreeing Answers.

For trans men & transmascs, *3.15 fanfic writers making him go through all the emotions tied with 3.7 I need Izzy to be praised and patted on the head. He needs a hug and someone to tell him he's a good boy and give him love and all the good things he doesn't think he deserves.* Both of these feelings were the most relevant by 2/4 methods of analysis.

- 3.15 had the biggest share of Agreeing Answers and the biggest Net Share of Strong Agreement.
- 3.7 had the smallest share of Disagreeing Answers and the highest Ratio of Agreement.

3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me was the least relevant specific feeling by all methods of analysis for trans men & transmascs.

3.6 I want to steal Izzy's gender was the least relevant specific feeling by all methods of analysis for cis women, but it tied with *3.17 makes me feel seen and validated* on the biggest share of Disagreeing Answers and the smallest Net Share of Strong Agreement.

3.8 Seeing all the things that are wrong with Izzy gives me the urge to fix him was the least relevant specific feeling by 3/4 methods of analysis for non-binary participants. *3.17 makes me feel seen and validated* had the smallest share of Agreeing Answers.

5 Conclusion

Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy was the most relevant singular reason for liking Izzy. There were other highly relevant reasons that were also tightly connected to Con's performance. Izzy's body language, facial expressions, non-verbal communication and voice are characteristics he has because of Con. It's also quite likely that without Con's dedication to his work, Izzy wouldn't feel as fully fleshed-out, layered character as he does.

Izzy being touch-starved was among the highly relevant reasons. His other issues weren't as relevant.

One of the highly relevant reasons was that Izzy's character arc has a lot of potential and there are several different directions his story could go. Well.

Other highly relevant reasons were connected to Izzy's behaviour in relationships: his unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward, his loyalty and commitment to Edward and his strong protective streak that manifests horribly. Relationships was also the most relevant group of reasons.

Out of all the specific feelings Izzy evokes, "I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works" was most strongly agreed with.

Other feelings with strong agreement were fuelled by either curiosity or wanting to see Izzy in specific situations. Curiosity was about what's going on inside Izzy's brain and how to understand him better, or wanting to know what he's been through and how he'll react to future situations. The specific situations for Izzy were either "give him all the praise and hugs and love and comfort he deserves" or "ruin and wreck him sexually in so many ways".

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Appendix A: The Survey Form

Appendix B: The Background of the Participants

Appendix C: Main Results

Appendix D: Comparison Between Genders

Executive Summary

Izzy Hands is a supporting character in the historical pirate romantic comedy series *Our Flag Means Death* (2022–, HBO Max). He is the first mate to the pirate captain Blackbeard. In season 1, Izzy has an antagonistic role in the story, playing an adversary to the protagonist, Stede Bonnet.

Izzy is a character who divides opinions. He has a loyal fan following (his fans often refer to themselves as Izzy apologists or Izzy enjoyers) but there are also those who don't shy away from telling how much they hate him. The interpretations of his character and motives vary a lot depending on who you ask.

This survey focused on finding out why the fans of Izzy like him. The data was collected in September 2022. It's worth noting that because this survey was conducted before season 2 aired, the current reasons for liking Izzy might be different from what they were after season 1.

Methods

The survey was conducted through Twitter polls and Google Forms in September 2022. The total number of individual participants in the survey is estimated to be 411.

A preliminary survey was carried out to define 64 reasons, divided into 3 main categories based on the type of reason:

1. Writing and Acting: 10 reasons to like Izzy that are related to the script, plot and acting.
2. Izzy's Characteristics: 36 characteristics, divided into 6 subcategories:
 - 2.1. Physical Appearance
 - 2.2. Personality
 - 2.3. Social Interactions
 - 2.4. Relationships
 - 2.5. Issues
 - 2.6. Sex & Sexuality
3. Specific Feelings Izzy Evokes: 18 descriptions of different feelings Izzy usually evokes in those who like him.

In categories 1 and 2, the relevancy of categories, groups of reasons and individual reasons was analysed using the following scores:

- 1) Share of "extremely relevant" answers
- 2) Share of "not relevant" answers
- 3) Relevancy Score (RS)
- 4) Net Relevancy Score (Net RS)
- 5) Ratio score of Extreme Relevancy (Ratio ER)

The data consisted of the percentages of the different relevancy levels. Relevancy Score (RS) was calculated as the weighed average of how relevant the reason was to the participants.

- Extremely relevant answers: $\times 1$
- Quite relevant answers: $\times 0.5$
- Somewhat relevant answers: $\times 0.25$
- Not relevant answers: $\times 0$

Net Relevancy Score (Net RS) was calculated by subtracting "not relevant" answers from "extremely relevant" answers before calculating RS.

The number of "extremely relevant" answers was divided by the total number of answers with a lower level of relevancy ("quite relevant" + "somewhat relevant") to calculate the Ratio Score of Extreme Relevancy (Ratio ER).

The quartiles of RS and Ratio ER were calculated for the pooled data of reasons in categories 1 and 2 in order to compare different groups of reasons. The share of reasons with low scores (Q1 or below) and high scores (Q3 or above) was calculated for each group. Group Net Scores of High

RS and High Ratio ER were calculated for each group by subtracting the share of low score reasons from the share of high score reasons.

Two Relevancy Profiles were constructed for each group of reasons. The first profile uses RS and Net RS of individual reasons and the second profile uses Ratio ER of individual reasons.

In category 3, the relevancy of specific feelings was measured using the following scores:

- 1) Share of Agreeing Answers
- 2) Share of Disagreeing Answers
- 3) Net Share of Strong Agreement
- 4) Ratio of Agreement

The data consisted of 1-5 Likert scale answers where 1 = Strongly disagree and 5 = Strongly agree. Share of Agreeing Answers (4 and 5 combined) and Share of Disagreeing Answers (1 and 2 combined) were calculated for each feeling.

The total of Strongly Disagreeing, Disagreeing and Neutral answers (1, 2 and 3) was subtracted from Strongly Agreeing (5) answers to calculate Net Share of Strong Agreement for each feeling.

Share of Agreeing Answers was divided by Share of Disagreeing Answers to calculate Ratio of Agreement for each feeling.

Results

2.4 Relationships was the most relevant group of reasons by all methods of analysis. *2.2 Personality* was the least relevant group of reasons by 5/7 methods of analysis.

1.1 Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy was the most relevant singular reason by all methods of analysis. *2.6.2 Izzy has internalised homophobia* was the least relevant singular reason by 4/5 methods of analysis.

3.15 I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works was the most important specific feeling by all methods of analysis. The least important specific feeling by all methods of analysis was *3.17 Izzy makes me feel seen and validated, I feel like he represents me*.

Conclusion

Con O'Neill's performance as Izzy was the most relevant singular reason for liking Izzy. There were other highly relevant reasons that were also tightly connected to Con's performance. Izzy's body language, facial expressions, non-verbal communication and voice are characteristics he has because of Con. It's also quite likely that without Con's dedication to his work, Izzy wouldn't feel as fully fleshed-out, layered character as he does.

Other highly relevant reasons were connected to Izzy's behaviour in relationships: his unhealthy, codependent relationship with Edward, his loyalty and commitment to Edward and his strong protective streak that manifests horribly. Relationships was also the most relevant group of reasons.

Out of all the specific feelings Izzy evokes, "I enjoy the way how fanfic writers can make Izzy feel all the emotions and it just works" was most strongly agreed with.

Other feelings with strong agreement were fuelled by either curiosity or wanting to see Izzy in specific situations. Curiosity was about what's going on inside Izzy's brain and how to understand him better, or wanting to know what he's been through and how he'll react to future situations. The specific situations for Izzy were either "give him all the praise and hugs and love and comfort he deserves" or "ruin and wreck him sexually in so many ways".