

*21<sup>st</sup> Century Love Song*

**An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)**

**by**

*Austin Russell*

**Thesis Advisor**

*Amanda Ballenger*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Amanda Ballenger', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

**Ball State University**

**Muncie, Indiana**

*May, 2014*

**Expected Date of Graduation**

*July, 2014*

Undergrad  
Thesis  
LD  
2489  
.Z4  
2014  
.R865

## Abstract

One of science fiction's defining elements is its ability to use fantastic scenarios to highlight certain ideas or truths about the human condition. I used my Honors Thesis to accomplish such a feat in the form of a graphic novel called *21<sup>st</sup> Century Love Song*. My subject was the pursuit of equality (in terms of gender, race, and economic class) and the malignant use of identity politics to seize power. I argued that identity itself can be used as a means of dominating a person or group through ideological means. My comic argues that the goal of statist identity politics is a utilitarian assimilation of the individual, allowing the layperson and elite alike to become one with the state, feeding its hunger for power at the expense of their time, talent, and resources.

## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Amanda Ballenger for her helpful advice throughout the creation of various scripts and written drafts of this project, as well as Eric Ballenger, who assisted me in creating and revising the layouts and artistic elements, as well as helping with some of the scripting.