

The Future Echo—Fantasy Self in *Dollhouse*

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Dollhouse (2009-2010) was a short-lived series partly due to its controversial theme. The SF series starring Eliza Dushku deals with personality manipulations for the purpose of providing services that fulfill people's fantasies. Although the series presents many problems in its theme and its treatment, it allows a glimpse into a new idea of "self," which has become an illusion in contemporary science and philosophy.

This paper refers to one of the earliest SF novels about an "android," *L'Eve future* (The Future Eve) by Villiers de L'Isle Adam. Villiers' work is interesting in that the major character wants a soul in a beautiful android of his dream. However, the ideal soul in that android is a reflection of the man's own, suggesting what he wants is the woman's body and his own soul after all. The android's soul and body are a copy and duplication; her original self is not desired. In a similar way, an "active" of *Dollhouse*, whose "self" is wiped out to create space for a desirable self to enter, serves as a reflection of the other's fantasy. However, Echo, who starts out as an emptied-out doll, develops a new and innovative self, which allows her to manipulate various selves that have been imprinted on her. By referring to philosophical and scientific studies on self, I will argue that her hero-self is not a traditional unified single self that people have believed humans to have, but a single self that governs multiplied, fragmented, duplicated selves, and a singular self that we all want ourselves to have. Despite Echo being a copy and duplication and the object of others' fantasies, she is the female hero that reflects back our illusion we have about ourselves.