



NAME
HOARD

Recently, I decided to count up all the names I've gone by in the past.

Lilith

Eliza

Silas

Frankie

Mariem

Liz

Zoelle

Shadow

PEPPER

Tristan

Raphael

Enya

Ken

Nathaniel

Piper

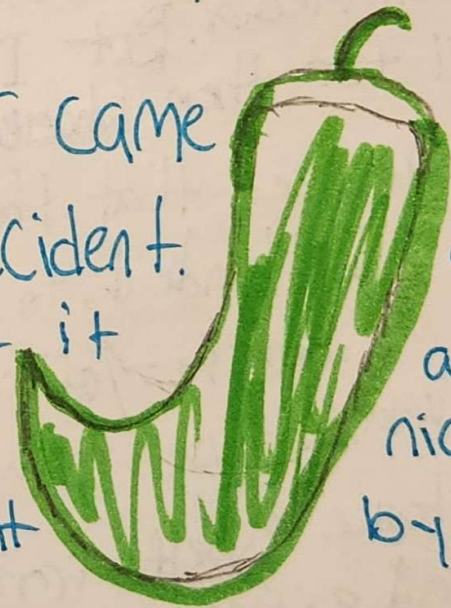
Aydian

There were a lot.

34!

34 names, in fact. It took me so long to find a name I truly identified with.

Pepper came to me on accident. Someone called me it as a joke when I went by Piper. But I liked it.



It was unique, but not confusing. It had character in the same way I had character.

I don't think I'll ever know who called me it first. It was an anonymous message on social media. But I'm so grateful for them, whoever they were.

I also realized that there's a pattern. I tended to change my name - my identity - after some sort of trauma, because I was trying to distance myself from my own life and experiences.

But you know...
I've outlived my traumas.

I'm Pepper.