

## Jonathan Coulton

### "Mandelbrot Set"

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Pathological monsters! cried the terrified  
mathematician  
Every one of them is a splinter in my eye  
I hate the Peano Space and the Koch Curve  
I fear the Cantor Ternary Set And the Sierpinski Gasket  
makes me want to cry  
And a million miles away a butterfly flapped its wings  
On a cold November day a man named Benoit  
Mandelbrot was born

His disdain for pure mathematics and his unique  
geometrical insights  
Left him well equipped to face those demons down  
He saw that infinite complexity could be described by  
simple rules  
He used his giant brain to turn the game around  
And he looked below the storm and saw a vision in his  
head  
A bulbous pointy form  
He picked his pencil up and he wrote his secret down

Take a point called Z in the complex plane  
Let Z1 be Z squared plus C  
And Z2 is Z1 squared plus C  
And Z3 is Z2 squared plus C and so on  
If the series of Z's should always stay  
Close to Z and never trend away  
That point is in the Mandelbrot Set

Mandelbrot Set you're a Rorschach Test on fire  
You're a day-glo pterodactyl  
You're a heart-shaped box of springs and wire  
You're one badass fucking fractal  
And you're just in time to save the day  
Sweeping all our fears away  
You can change the world in a tiny way

Mandelbrot's in heaven, at least he will be when he's  
dead  
Right now he's still alive and teaching math at Yale  
He gave us order out of chaos, he gave us hope where

there was none  
And his geometry succeeds where others fail  
If you ever lose your way, a butterfly will flap its wings  
From a million miles away, a little miracle will come to  
take you home

Just take a point called Z in the complex plane  
Let Z1 be Z squared plus C  
And Z2 is Z1 squared plus C  
And Z3 is Z2 squared plus C and so on  
If the series of Z's should always stay  
Close to Z and never trend away  
That point is in the Mandelbrot Set  
Mandelbrot Set you're a Rorschach Test on fire  
You're a day-glo pterodactyl  
You're a heart-shaped box of springs and wire  
You're one badass fucking fractal  
And you're just in time to save the day  
Sweeping all our fears away  
You can change the world in a tiny way  
And you're just in time to save the day  
Sweeping all our fears away  
You can change the world in a tiny way  
Go on change the world in a tiny way  
Come on change the world in a tiny way

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