

Hey there!! This is a super “quick” run-through of what I have planned for my story SO FAR. This doesn't really touch on character backstories as for most of them I'm still working on them. There's probably some subplots I could have added but they don't really contribute to the main story a whole ton so ?????????? ALSO PLEASE DO NOT BE INTIMIDATED BY THE PAGE COUNT THE STORY IS ONLY 10 PAGES THERE'S A GALLERY OF CONCEPT ART UNDERNEATH IT

Mini announcement: Primary's official written story is being worked on!! You can find the first chapter [here!](#) If you don't want to spoil yourself on what happens in the story and want to read the fully fleshed out chapters as they release, don't read this document!

CONTENT WARNING: This story contains some triggering subject matter. Subject matter will be tagged before being mentioned in the story, but there are themes of **parental abuse (emotional abuse/neglect/one instance of physical abuse)**, **abduction**, **severe mental illness**, **terminal illnesses**, **death**, **elements of horror** and **life-threatening injuries**. Please proceed with that in mind.

Before the story

My current timeline layout doesn't match Splatoon's timeline exactly. There's different gaps in time between the story events of each game (which are important to the story I swear). Splatoon keeps track of time the same way we do, just in the “Mollusk Era” (I will be abbreviating it as ME for convenience). In this story, Splatoon 1's events take place in Summer 2017 ME, Octo Expansion's in Winter 2019 ME, and Splatoon 2's in February 2020 ME. Splatoon 3's events still take place in September 2022 ME.

PROLOGUE: A minicomic taking place roughly 2-3 months before the start of season 1 can be found [here](#). The things covered in it are briefly mentioned within the story proper, but it goes into more detail.

PRIMARY - Season 1

TW: Abduction, Parental abuse

I divide the plot into seasons because I'm a nerd. The story starts in June 2020 Mollusk Era, and it follows August Harper, a 17 year old runaway. After a pretty shaky childhood and rough patch of teenage years, August ran away from his underground city to live on the surface. He's an octoling living in Inkopolis, though most people don't even notice. Quiet-mannered and not a people person (he would deliberately wear headphones in public just so people wouldn't speak to him), he lived day-to-day life by making money through Turf Wars and enjoying his independence. Before running away, he was enrolled in a school of weaponry training, which gave him the upper hand in combat on the surface. During a day of earning cash for rent, though, he met an inexperienced player on the field. One of his assigned teammates, Wren, was struggling with the basic mechanics of her gun. At first, he was quite frustrated, since his other two teammates went dashing off to get immediately splatted, leaving him to help her out. He found she was quite a quick learner, though, and they were able to win the match. Wren

wanted to know more about this kind stranger, but he ran off so quickly after the match that she couldn't even get a word in.

While August continues his normal life, Wren plays a LOT of games to build her skill. She ends up getting scouted by two other people after playing a really good match with them. These two people? Ciel and Roob, best friends who were looking to build a team to compete in beginner level ranked tournaments. Ciel was the "leader" of the group, Roob tagging along for the thrill. They already had a third member, Zephyr (or Z for short), a tall and mysterious friend of Ciel's, and Wren seemed like a perfect final fit to their team. Wren initially declines this offer, not seeing herself as good enough, but gets roped in after some convincing (Ciel bribes her with lunch). This newly formed unnamed team (their working title was just "*The Team*") began practicing with each other in regular matches a few times a week.

Fast forward to July 2020 ME, and *The Team* is playing a few matches for practice. On their final match of the day, however, Wren spots a familiar face on the battlefield; the guy that helped her with her weapon on her first day. She had learned a lot in only a month, and though she couldn't sneak past his watchful eye, her team won the match. Remembering what had happened last time, she ran up to him before he had a chance to leave. She ran up too quickly though, standing there without anything to say for a few seconds. Wren and August formally met, and the two decided to keep in contact, August impressed by her improvement since they had first run into each other.

Over the weeks, August became part of the "friend group" that was *The Team*. He wasn't part of the team itself, but would occasionally drop in on them to hang out for little bits of time. At this same time, Ciel mustered up the courage to ask out Roob, after seeking advice from Z. She had had a crush on her for quite a while (around 3 months), and never was able to find the words to say anything until one day after practice. It was successful, Roob reciprocated, and the relationship set sail. The new relationship in the group made Wren start to think. She was a hopeless romantic, so effectively becoming a third wheel for Ciel and Roob made her think about what life would be like if she had a partner. She shelved the thought for a while, not really interested in anyone, but after August offered to help her out with practicing one day while the others were out, she could feel herself start to gravitate towards him more. Again, she tried to deny this fact, but ended up with a full-blown crush in only a matter of time.

Over the next few months (like half a year but it's all kind of just filler arc stuff) the gang grew closer and closer. Arlo, Roob's older brother, got introduced to the group as well. Wren and August became best friends, and were practically inseparable. August wasn't that close with most of the other members of the group, but really connected with Wren, who showed interest in some of the same hobbies (namely history and cooking). I would love to go more in depth to this part of the story but I have nothing written down in my bullet points for this area and it's just a 5 month period of "character development" where the characters just all become closer friends I guess.

Minor timeskip! January 2021 hits. August was always too absorbed in his own little world to pay attention to his surroundings, which came at quite the cost on one fateful day early in the month. He was walking out of the subway on his way to his apartment, which was in a bit of a lower-income area. The streetlights didn't illuminate the ground very well, and he couldn't see very well around him. After walking past a dimly lit corner, a hand grabbed his arm and a bag covered his head. Some sort of fucked up chemical (I didn't think very hard about it 10/10

writing) knocked him out and he woke up in the morning, somewhere in the woods in Mt. Nantai. He wasn't restrained at all, but he might as well have been as he froze upon seeing his mom in front of him. She hugged him, telling him how worried she was after he went missing. He was too stunned to speak, turning instead to look at the bounty hunter she had paid to collect him. She asked him to come home with her, back to his old life, but he was finally able to shake off his fear and tell her no. (Didn't really know where to put this but Auggie has HUGE mommy issues. His mom tried to force him to live the life she wanted but threw away, as a high ranking soldier. She's not the greatest mom, she has some issues that she took out on him. He started to rebel as a teen and discovered inklings on the internet. His mom found out and was livid, breaking his things, so he ran away.) She didn't budge, beginning to plead with him to come back with her. He sat for a moment to think, and if she sent a bounty hunter after him after he'd been gone for 9 months, he probably didn't have a say. In order to not cause additional conflict, he reluctantly agreed, and they headed towards the entrance to the underground city they lived in. He was able to send out a few texts to the gang before losing cell service, but couldn't fully explain his situation in time. The bounty hunter left, August and his mom heading back home.

August was filled with immediate dread walking into his childhood home again. His breathing began to get shaky, his mom noticing and insisting there's nothing to worry about. She smothered him with attention that first day, taking him out to eat, but he couldn't focus on anything. He was stuck in his old living situation, forced to go back to school to finish his education and enroll in the military. It also didn't help that upon his return, his room was scrubbed clean of his belongings besides clothing and furniture. His phone got taken by his mom, with her deeming it "unnecessary inkling garbage" that was "rotting his brain". Somewhat fearing his mom because of the lengths she went to bring him home (and the way she had treated him and his interests in the past), he tried his best to just work through it. And he had a rough time doing so. He was stuck living at home with his mom again for about a month. Going back to school after being absent made him an outcast, and he only grew more and more hateful of his life and situation. He let his hair grow out, sporting a more shaggy hairstyle over time. Being away from his friends for so long made him realize how much he cared for them, and he kept finding himself daydreaming about Wren. Dreaming of getting back to the surface was what kept him going through the month. He kept up a facade in front of his mom that everything was fine, but she caught him crying one night, about 2 weeks after bringing him back to the house. He came clean about wanting to go back to Inkopolis, and she got upset. Letting her own facade down, she convinced him to stay by scaring him into cooperation. She basically threatened to send a hitman after him if he left again. Obviously that thought fucked with him, and he continued to stay with her.

Meanwhile, up on the surface, the gang didn't know the extent of what was going on with August. All that they knew was that he was going to live with his mom again and wouldn't see them for a while. Being secretive about himself, August didn't tell them about his home life before moving, so nobody really had a point of reference and thought he had just abandoned them. Wren knew the most, and also knew it wasn't like him to spontaneously decide to do that, so she was worried, but had to write the thought out of her mind to focus on her practice. *The Team*, first going by Hexcode and then settling on the team name Primary (roll credits), won their first intermediate-level tourney while August was gone. They were excited to see

themselves rising through the ranks, as Ciel, Roob, Wren and Z all aspired to be top-level players in the ranked tournament scene. This is where season 1 concludes.

PRIMARY - Season 2

TW: Parental abuse, severe mental illness, terminal illness, death

February 4th, 2021. Auggie's 18th birthday. His mom was very excited, but him? Not so much. She surprised him with a trip to the military entrance processing station instead of going to school that day. She wanted to lock him into that career path. The two walked there together, August panicking internally the whole way, trying to figure out a way to get himself out of this. They were talking to the receptionist, as August was told to sign some paperwork. His mom wasn't paying attention, and he wrote that he didn't want to do this on the page before giving it to the receptionist. August's mom saw the page being handed off and instead took August right outside the building to have a "private chat". She came unglued, yelling at him for being so ungrateful. This made August finally snap. He yelled right back at her, finally letting out his feelings about all the things she had said to him in the past and how messed up he felt because of it. They got into an intense argument, but things got physical once August admitted he never truly felt loved by her. In a fit of anger, she tried to throw a punch and missed, but tried again with her other fist and connected with August's shoulder. He tried to defend himself, but failed as she then grabbed onto his neck, forcing him to listen. She lectured him, but her hand was too tight around his neck and he briefly lost consciousness. At this point, the receptionist heard the yelling and security officers inside the building assembled outside to see the events taking place. August's mom was restrained, as August regained consciousness, surrounded by people asking him all sorts of questions. He asked to be left alone for a moment before they came back to file a police report for assault, but by the time they had gotten back, he had bolted. He ran back to the house, quickly running around with a backpack and grabbing stuff his mom had confiscated, along with some old photos and valuables. He didn't ever want to come back. He knew it was only a matter of time before the people from the military office would come looking, so he made haste to sneak back outside of one of the city's portholes.

Miraculously, he made it back out to the mountain in one piece. He made it back down to the city, but it was already sundown by that point and all he wanted to do was get home and rest. He made it back into his apartment after getting a meal, collapsing onto his bed with a sigh of relief. He accidentally fell asleep until the next morning, waking up in another panic. He forgot to tell his friends he was back. He scrambled to find his phone charger as his phone was dead, but it didn't work when he plugged it in. He had to go out to buy a new one, but as he prepared to leave, he had a lightbulb fire off in his brain. He could just go say hi in person. Making his way to Wren's house, he knocked on the door, gambling on if she was even home or not. She was; and she was overjoyed to see him again. Of course, she was confused as to what happened while he was gone, but nonetheless excited to see him. She notified the rest of the gang about his return, and spent the rest of the day hanging out. Though doubting it before, seeing Wren again confirmed August's suspicions. He definitely had a crush on her. He tried to open up to her and tell her everything that happened, but stopped himself before diving into the latter half of his stay with his mom. He shelved those memories in hopes the negative feelings they gave him would go away.

By the time it was March, everything returned to normal. Of course, August was still paranoid about news regarding his mom and if she got in trouble for what she did. His paranoia grew worse by the day, and eventually, he hit his limit. During a day of hanging out with Wren at his apartment, they got on the topic again and suddenly everything spiraled out of control. He had an anxiety attack, overwhelmed by everything he had kept to himself. Wren tried to comfort him, and he calmed down, but in trying to calm him down further, she confessed her love to him. Immediately feeling overwhelmed again, he asked her to leave. She didn't understand why, and was hurt by this, but August could barely think straight.

A few days passed and nobody had heard from August since he shut Wren out. The gang was worried, as he wasn't returning any texts either, though he would read them. Arlo got tired of everyone sitting around and took matters into his own hands, heading to his apartment himself. He knocked on the door, and heard shuffling, but no answer. He kept knocking for a few more minutes until August finally opened the door. He looked like an absolute mess. Arlo was thankful that he answered the door, but August still didn't speak. Arlo sat the both of them down on the couch and told him how worried everyone was, and how they thought maybe it was time he sought therapy. August finally spoke, though it was only a little. He was worried about how he had messed things up with Wren. Arlo eventually cheered him up with some more talking and convinced him to go to therapy, as long as the gang made sure he stuck to it.

And so begins the therapy arc. Managing to get an appointment rather quickly, August saw a psychiatrist and then a therapist. Afterward, he bumped into Wren at a nearby restaurant. The two sat together, and August explained himself, as he had been too afraid to talk to her since the confession. He was honest about his own feelings, but decided it would be best to hold off on a relationship until after he was more mentally stable, and she agreed.

He took things day by day and was able to recover over time. He got officially diagnosed with autism, which answered a lot of his questions, as well as a handful of other things. He got prescribed medications, and was on the road to recovery. After about a month of everything, he finally reached back out to Wren, and they went on their first date (A&W CANON LETS GOOOO). Everything was perfect. For them, at least.

Being the most stoic and quiet of the group, Z was usually the person to be depended on when others needed it. They were the older sibling figure to the whole gang. Nobody seemed to really know much about them, though, besides one person. Z was a former employee at Kamabo Co., who escaped to the surface alongside test subject 10,008, also known as Ciel. Being part of the staff unsanitized, however, was not something easy. Z was regularly chosen to be given small doses of sanitized ink, and seemed to be fine at first. The procedures used, however, weren't ethical, and put Z's safety at risk. After venturing to the surface, they began to notice pale green patches begin to form on their legs, where shots were administered. The patches slowly began to spread over the course of the next few months, and before they knew it, patches were strewn all across their legs and lower back. Knowing full well what this was, but not wanting to alarm anyone, Z kept it a secret for as long as possible. After their legs briefly gave out during practice one day in July, however, they were forced to come clean. The gang was reasonably concerned about their wellbeing, but they insisted they could keep playing. They were about to become an X-ranked team, after all. This didn't shake everyone else's worries though. August stepped up to start training alongside the team in case anything went wrong and Z needed a stand-in.

Another month passed, and Z was having trouble traversing the maps, and decided it was time to resign, instead becoming a coach for the team. They also started teaching Ciel how to use the charger, since she'd been using dualies all this time, and they needed a new backliner. As the new year, 2022 ME, passed over, Z became fully paralyzed from the waist down. The sanitized patches on their body had spread across their torso and parts of their arms, and Z was beginning to fear the worst. Doctors couldn't figure out any solution to the problem either, so they had to wait it out. Primary's new team comp with Z coaching at the helm was becoming quite popular in the tournament community, however, and the team started gaining fans quite rapidly. They used this attention to raise money for charity and research into the medical field in hopes of helping Z, but unfortunately, nothing was working.

The months continued to pass, Z growing more and more sick as time went on. Primary was reaching immense success, winning some high-level competitions, but with their coach's declining health, the team pulled back a little from entering tournaments to focus more on sponsorships and brand growth to raise more money. By the time it hit June, Z had become paralyzed from the neck down. Primary put themselves on hiatus, knowing that the end was nearing and wanted to focus their attention on being there for Z while they could. The next few weeks were rather quiet. The team had to watch their dear friend and mentor figure slowly give up fighting their battle against the sanitization.

About 3 weeks after full-body paralysis, Z succumbed to poisoning via sanitized ink. The gang was devastated. Ciel was especially torn up. Being Z's closest friend and the one to grant Z their freedom, she felt guilty that she couldn't do more. The horrors of what had happened in the deepsea metro took a toll on the both of them, but Ciel felt like she wasted too much time and missed out on being there for them even more. She couldn't remember anything before ending up there besides her own name, and to her it felt like Z had been there all her life. Bearing the weight of the situation felt like so much. Planning the funeral felt like torture. The team was there for her, Roob especially, but Ciel had to let herself grieve. After the funeral, she couldn't stop viewing herself as inferior to everyone. She stopped coming to practice, putting the team on a hiatus, and started pulling away from the friend group. Recognizing this as similar to himself, August stepped in to help. He had a long conversation with Ciel about how she felt about Z being gone. Roob also stepped in to help, and with some time, Ciel was able to get through the grieving process (mostly).

In August 2022 ME, Primary returned from their hiatus and competed in their first tournament without Z. It was scary, as the team wasn't used to playing without their coach, but they managed to win. Although, part of that was because many of the top level teams were migrating to Splatsville out west, where the battle scene was developing a lot more. With a bit of prior planning, the team decided to move to the more bustling city themselves. By the time it hit early September, everyone on the team (plus Arlo) were settling into their new living arrangements. Ciel, Roob, and Arlo all shared an apartment, while August and Wren also moved in together in a different complex. The new chapter of their lives had begun.

PRIMARY - Season 3

TW: Life-threatening injuries

Splatsville was a blast to explore. August thoroughly enjoyed walking around and checking out the main square of the city, but only a few days into living there, he noticed a little

smallfry eating garbage out of a trash can. He offered it some of his leftovers he was bringing home, and it instantly warmed up to him. It wouldn't stop following him, partly because he kept feeding it, but on their way walking, the little guy fell into an open manhole. Without thinking, August jumped down it as well, ending up in the crater. He was greeted by Cuttlefish, who decided to recruit him as the new Agent 3 of the *New New Squidbeak Splatoon*, alongside his new smallfry friend. August agreed to help Cuttlefish with securing zapfish, but insisted on going home for the night first and then coming back tomorrow. The smallfry was left with Cuttlefish, and upon returning the next morning, August found out that Cuttlefish had named the little guy Carl. He went with it. He was able to knock out the crater kettles rather quickly, Carl getting to chew on the delicious dangerous masses of ink while he was at it. Octavio appeared soon after, but August had no issue taking him out. The crater caved in, with Octavio, Cuttlefish, Carl, and August all getting jostled around in the fall.

Carl and August ended up on the first site of Alterna, where Agents 1, 2, and the captain were waiting for him. August had to do a double-take upon seeing them, recognizing the agents as Callie and Marie of the Squid Sisters. It did take a second, but he also recognized the captain to be Nadia, the former leader of a competitive team Primary had fought in the past. He was happy to find familiar faces, but realized it was getting late and he needed to head back home. The only problem was that when the crater collapsed, so did Alterna's route to the surface. They were stuck until they could find a different way out. August worked hard to go through kettles, clean up the fuzzy ooze, and locate Cuttlefish. Deep Cut, who were also rummaging around Alterna, seemed to have their own ways out of the place, so August was even more determined to catch up to them.

Up in the city, it didn't take long for Wren to realize something was wrong. She filed a missing persons report after a couple days, and the team started spreading awareness on social media platforms. At the same time, Arlo managed to snag a job at the clothing store, working under Jel La Fleur at Man-o'-Wardrobe. Of course, he was worried about August being missing too, but he tried not to dwell on it and instead try to make more friends. He met Dani, an eccentric inkling, and the self-proclaimed king of tableturf battles. He was able to beat them in his very first match, which set Dani off, but the whole experience made the two become great friends.

August spent a little over two weeks in Alterna, eventually making his way to the rocket in the middle of the area to try and rescue Cuttlefish. The agents had befriended Deep Cut after defeating them all in battle, and August had the option of exiting Alterna now, but he felt like the mission was too urgent at this point to take a break. He made his way to the top of the rocket, where he found a dehydrated Cuttlefish and Mr. Grizz, a literal massive bear. Grizz launches the rocket before anyone could stop him, and August (and Carl) head into space after him in hopes of stopping him from ruining literally the entire world. After hitting Grizz's weak points with the help of Carl, however, things go south. Part of the ship explodes, August and Carl getting launched into free-float. A sharp piece of ship debris flew past August, giving him a large wound on his side. Octavio and his mech came barreling up from Earth, however, saving him and Carl. August wasn't done yet; he still had to pilot the mech's ink vac to stop Grizz while Carl, transformed into a hugefry, fought Grizz to help distract him. August was successful in stopping Grizz's plan, but lost consciousness from blood loss inside the cockpit of the mech.

Once back in Alterna, everyone rushed to get August medical help. Taking him back to the surface, Nadia managed to call an ambulance and get him to the hospital. Getting emergency surgeries, he survived, but any hesitation bringing him to help may have cost him his life. He woke up in the hospital room, disoriented as all hell. Nadia and Wren were both waiting for him when he woke up. Normally, for members of the Squidbeak Splatoon, their identities would have to be kept secret. Because this was such a life-threatening emergency, however, the hospital had to be informed of what happened, and in turn, his friends would be too. (there's also some goofy hospital shenanigans but that's not super plot relevant).

August spends a few weeks in the hospital recovering from his injury. Still being secretive of his identity as an agent in the public eye, he claims to simply not remember what happened. He gets in-house therapy at the hospital to help cope with his near death experience, and eventually gets discharged in late October. He takes a few more weeks off from doing any sort of battling to let his wound heal more before returning to Primary work. Arlo, meanwhile, is becoming best friends with Dani. They became an inseparable pair, and Dani got introduced to Primary by proxy. Once August got out of the hospital, he met Dani and then realized the two had already known each other for years. Before August initially ran away from home, Dani was his online best friend that he would talk to constantly on chat forums. Cool coincidence (this sentence is not foreshadowing i literally am just trying to fill out words)

Everything is all fine and dandy and Splatsville shenanigans ensue until December. Wahoo World gets overrun by salmonids in the Big Run. Citizens are called to help Grizzco in pushing the salmonids out of the area, and naturally, more publicly known figures like competitive ranked teams are also called to action, including Primary. (Ok. So UMMMMMM I actually have like nothing written down for this arc but it's a whole arc that I had planned and that was supposed to be important to the story. Basically the team (plus Arlo and Dani too because they need more relevance) go down to Wahoo World to fight the guys and August gets all panicked about it because Mr Grizz basically almost killed him and it's unethical and shit right? (And Arlo and Dani don't really know the extent of what's going on since he did kinda lie to them a little about why he was hospitalized. Why? UHHHH GOOD QUESTION.). The arc was supposed to be about like an internal moral battle August has with himself while he's there but after big run ended I completely forgot about it whoops. It exists though I guess. Might get scrapped later idk idk.... was also supposed to be the ender arc to season 3 lmao)

PRIMARY - Season 4

TW: death, severe mental illness, life-threatening injuries, elements of horror

(This season is still a work in progress, things are definitely going to be changing around in the future especially once S3's DLC comes out. If the DLC directly contradicts anything from this arc then it's probably going to get scrapped or very heavily reworked.)

Mollusk Era May 2023. Primary is more popular than ever in the Splatlands, becoming somewhat of a household name in the area. Nadia became closer with August after what happened after exploring Alterna, and the other two agents, Ciel (who wasn't officially an agent but became sort of an honorary one) and Roob (haha wow what a coincidence it's almost like they were my first OCs or something) also sort of joined in on the group. Everyone's getting along, shenanigans ensue, your general run of the mill stuff. Dani gets closer in the group,

mainly still only spending time with Arlo but the rest of the gang knows Dani pretty well. During one of August's visits to Alterna for general research and checking up, he notices that everyone is just gone. Callie, Marie and Cuttlefish had been gone on a vacation for a little while, but Nadia was nowhere to be found. He couldn't get a hold of her, and started to panic. He told Ciel and Roob, who also couldn't get through. Roob feels a sense of déjà vu, with this feeling awfully similar to what happened during her missions as Agent 4. August gets a hold of a signal that seemed to be pointing them in the direction of Inkopolis. He figures it's connected to Nadia (plot hole moment like I said this is unfinished) and the trio decide to get some help. Wren, Arlo, and Dani are all summoned to be of help on the mission, as August figures having more people working together can minimize risk of injury, in turn preventing something like what happened to him from happening again.

The 6 of them head towards Inkopolis together (insert subplot about Arlo trying to get PTO from his job here) and the signal gets stronger. They were headed in the right direction. Roob suggests they set up camp in Octo Canyon, since the cabin was still up there. August, Ciel and Roob take up jobs as the "scouters" (idk what to call them but basically like taking the role of guiding the others like Callie and Marie did) while Wren, Arlo and Dani all venture out to reach the end of the signal. Story mode shenanigans ensue, but instead of fighting octarians, the team is fighting these unidentifiable creatures covered in ink with strange properties. It acts almost as a non-newtonian fluid, hardening at some points and being liquid at others. They keep moving forward, and eventually end up at Mt. Nantai. The ink monsters that they'd been fighting before have mostly disappeared, but the ink is appearing on the ground more plentifully. The stuff burns skin on contact, but luckily with the protective gear they were wearing, the gang doesn't get harmed. They get higher up on the mountain and something's wrong. There's more than just ink on the ground. There's... Bodies. August freezes in place. There's an open entrance to his home city in the distance. These were octarian bodies. He immediately leaves Octo Canyon to trail the team, and Ciel and Roob stay back to continue watching from a distance. Wren, Arlo, and Dani finally get to the root of the ink, and the signal.

Lo and behold, Nadia is there, but she's surrounded by the ink, unable to escape without hurting herself. She's too stunned to even say anything to the team when they arrive, because next to her is a giant mass of ink. The ink suddenly moves, revealing a person inside the now discovered to be hollow mass. It's a young boy. Nadia finally speaks up, pleading to help save the boy. It's her younger brother, Luca. With a motion of his hand, Luca creates stairs made of the strange ink, walking down them to greet the 3 recruits. Half of his body is covered with the ink, Ciel noticing it to be eerily similar to how Nadia looked being mind-controlled in the metro. He asks what they're here for. Dani says they're here for Nadia, Arlo immediately shushing them, and he gets upset, returning to the mass of ink. He refuses to let Nadia go at any cost, and starts attacking them. They attack back, of course, and the battle ensues. The ink slowly wears away at their clothes as well, making it more and more risky to get hit. The fight goes on and Arlo's up close and personal with the ink, as his splatana does the most damage point-blank. Luca readied an attack to hit him, but Dani pushed him out of the way, taking the hit instead. They got hit directly in the right leg by the sharp object conjured up. Arlo wastes no time picking them up and bringing them somewhere safer, trying to keep his cool. Dani screaming out in pain made Luca hesitate.

(Okay so at this point in the actual storytelling there'd be like. A flashback for exposition. Basically Luca is Nadia's younger brother and he's like 14 while Nadia's 22. Luca looked up to Nadia as a role model but when they started doing agent stuff and coming home less and less often he got really upset. He spent more and more time wanting to be like his sister, and explored places he probably shouldn't have. On Mt. Nantai, he discovered a telephone device. Basically my plan for it was that it was some fucked up older model of Commander Tartar's programming and it became like a parasite to him. The ink somehow happened, still no explanation for that yet oops, but Nadia goes looking for him since her parents called about him going missing. She finds him all fucked up and corrupted by the ink and he traps her with him. Because Luca knew about Nadia's role, tartar gained this information as well. He held Nadia hostage, forcing her to reveal the locations of various octarian settlements to try and build another system like Kamabo's test subject system. It's a shaky cliché as hell backstory and that's because half of this I just came up with on the spot for this document.... Again WORK IN PROGRESS MOMENT)

Just in time, August catches up to them, splatting in hand, ready to fight. Arlo's trying to comfort Dani, as their leg is now very clearly fucked up and they're struggling to handle the pain. Being able to break a hole in the mass of ink, Wren and August aim for the ink clinging to Luca's body, which slowly starts to dissolve the ink around him. They're able to get it all off, but once they do, Luca collapses in place. Nadia rushes over to him, her hand touching the ink briefly as she gets there, brushing it off as it leaves a scar. She picks him up to find help, following Arlo, who's already carrying Dani out of the place. August stays behind a second, against his better judgment, to see the damage to the city. He finds his mother, barely alive, near the city's porthole. In her dying breaths, she apologizes to him for everything, but he simply replies that it's too late now. Leaving her for the city to handle, August rejoins Wren to return to the canyon. He had no idea how to feel about any of what just happened.

Dani, who is now in the hospital seeking treatment, gets transferred out of Inkopolis and to Splatsville, and Arlo accompanies them the whole way through. (I did not mention it earlier but with Arlo and Dani's writing in the filler arcs there's like a subtle romantic subtext to it and I forgot to mention it... They do be likin each other a little bit) In the end, the doctors can't save Dani's leg and it gets amputated below the knee. They're not doing so great getting used to it, but Arlo has to go back to work as he's out of vacation days. He becomes stressed as all hell and tries to invite August and Wren over to talk about the situation more. August is dealing with his own internal battle of trying to deal with his mom's death and how to feel about it, and has a breakdown during his visit. Arlo snaps and gets upset, not thinking rationally. The two get into an argument, Arlo accusing August of being at fault for Dani's injury. August can't handle this and leaves. Wren slaps Arlo, trying to make him get a grip, before leaving to follow August. Auggie is NOT having a good time right now, feeling more mentally clouded than ever before. Wren catches up to him, as he had fled to their apartment, and luckily, is able to comfort him. He ends up checking himself into the psych ward for a little while in hopes of recuperating, and Arlo decides it's high time *he* went to therapy.

August gets out of the psych ward about a week after entering, and luckily, feels better. He starts going back to normal therapy regularly again too. Arlo's also going to therapy WOOOO EVERYONE GETS THERAPY!!!! Speaking of therapy Dani begins physical therapy to learn how to function with only one and a half legs. Shortly after Arlo starts therapy, he

confesses to Dani in the hospital and they become a couple. After a few months Dani does get a prosthetic leg, but obviously that does take a bit (gotta keep that realism). As for Luca, he was sent into a coma after the battle, which he stayed in for 3 or 4 months. Nadia visited him tons during this time, and was able to help him recover after he woke up. He lost vision in one eye, and sensation in the half of his body that was covered in ink, but he was still able to recover in other aspects.

And (mostly) everyone lived happily ever after YAAAAAY THAT'S THE END FOR NOW
YEAH WOOOOOOOOO WOOOOOOOOO

Sorry that this ended up becoming such a long project. I didn't realize how much I like to fucking write Jesus..... Kinda funny how the writing starts to drop off at the end too like you can tell I had so much less planned for the later arcs.... Also sorry season 4 is such a downer I started coming up with most of the concepts while I was sick with some wacky anxiety madness over Christmas and didn't realize how fucked up and evil it was until later on Imao shrug emoji.....

There are backstories for the characters! They exist! Some in more detail than others! They just weren't relevant to the main story a ton and served as more passive character development (with some side arcs within the story including some backstory exclusive characters appearing) so they weren't talked about here. You want backstories condensed into a couple sentences? Okay.

August - already explained in the minicomic linked in page 1

Wren - lived with just her mom most of her life. Had an older brother she didn't remember, who went missing when she was 6. Her mom let her kinda forget in hopes of not letting her suffer through grief. Probably not a great idea?

Ciel - doesn't remember anything from before the deepsea metro. Has a family still looking for her somewhere, but she has no idea.

Roob and Arlo - kicked out in their late teens by their bigoted parents because Roob's a lesbian. Their dad overheard a conversation about it. Joke's on you, Mr. Cousteau, Arlo's bi too! You lost the gay kid lottery!

Z - backstory mostly explained in-story, but was an exceptional soldier from a young age that got hired by Kamabo Co.

Dani - Lonely internet kid who spent too much time online in their teen years. Was Auggie's internet best friend before getting ghosted one day (Auggie's laptop was destroyed) and taking it very personally.

Nadia - Recruited to the squidbeak splatoon at a young age, and turned out to be an exceptional fighter. Discovered herself along the way, transitioning into a girl. Had a competitive team of her own, RockRoller (that Primary fought in season 1) that eventually disbanded.

Luca - explained in-story

Want visuals for these characters? WELL YOU'RE IN LUCK THERE'S A GALLERY OF CHARACTER/CONCEPT ART BELOW YEEHAWWWWW (it was made for desktop so i'm sorry if the formatting goes wacky on mobile)

The Gallery

Hi there I'm surprised you stuck around for this long!!! Welcome to the gallery!! I just wanted an excuse to add in some concept art that's contextual to the story that I haven't really been able to share otherwise!! Most of it is for the later seasons and some art is MUCH older than others but that's OKAY because it's all still fun to look at

Season One



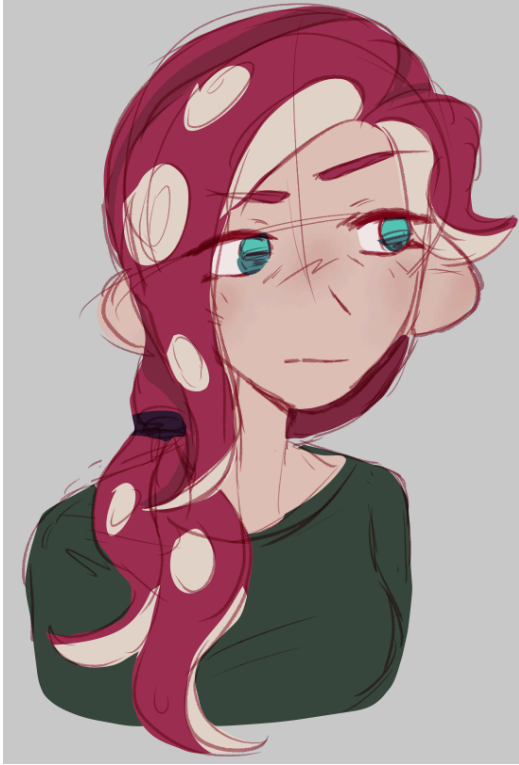
August's appearance in season one



Ciel, Roob, and Wren's appearance in season one



Z and Arlo's appearance in seasons one and two



August's mom (Holly Harper)



August after being sent back to school

Season Two



August's appearance in season two, three, and four



Roob and Ciel's appearance in the second half of season two



August during the breakdown arc of season two



August and Wren's first kiss



Team poster for Primary (end of season two)

Season Three



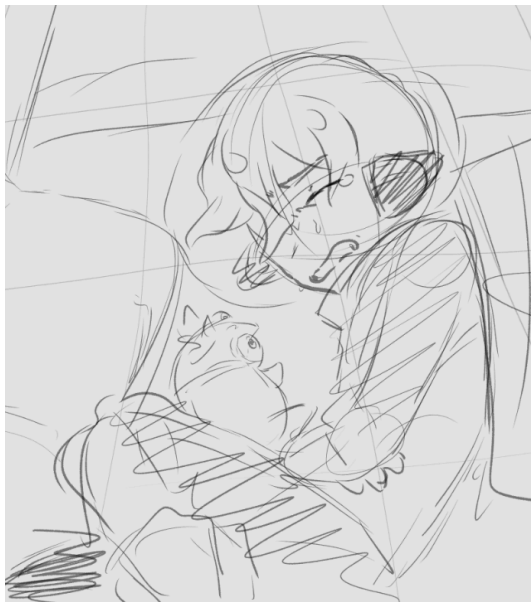
Ciel, Arlo, and Wren's appearance in season three



Dani and Nadia's appearance in season three



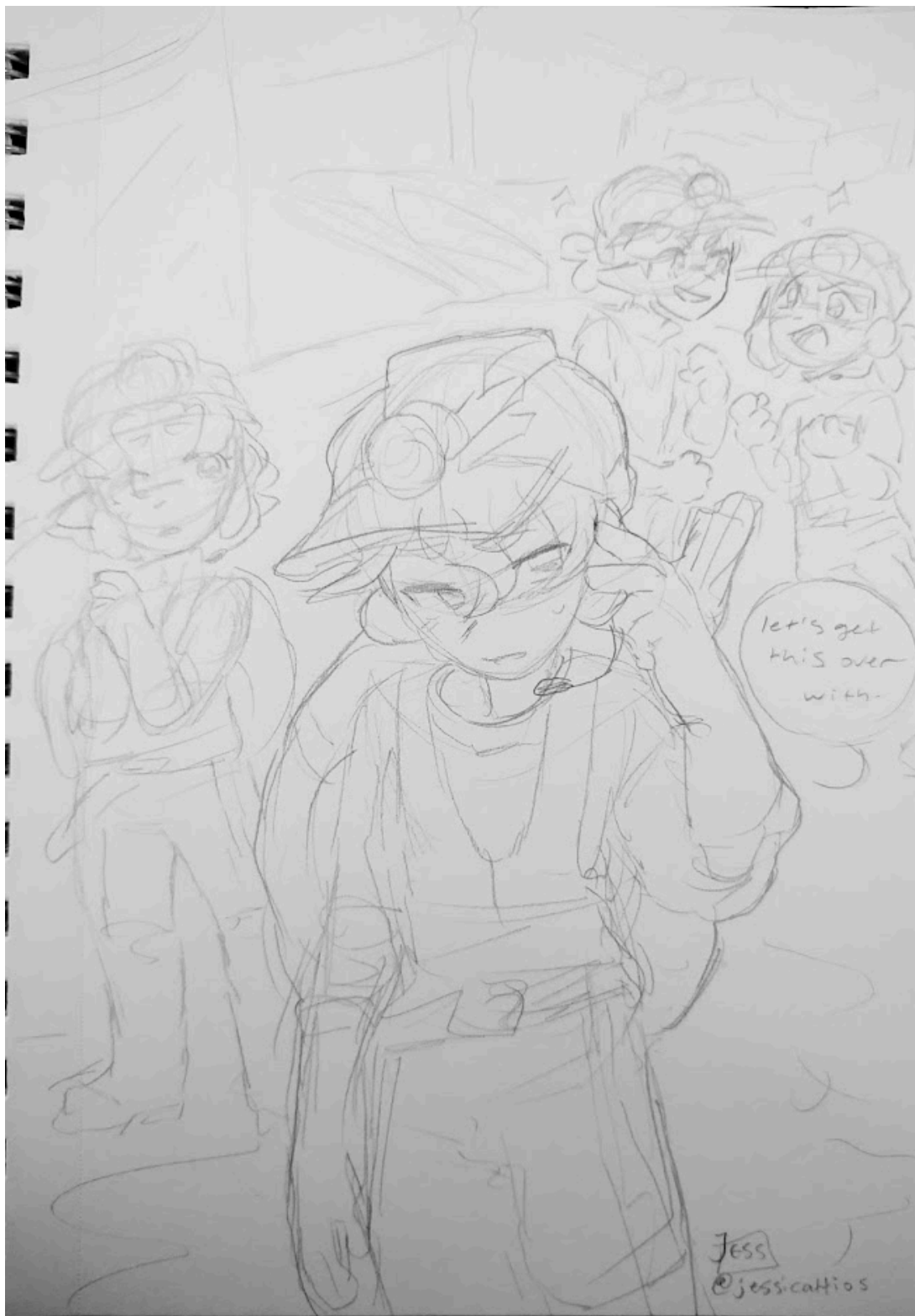
Auggie and Carl in Alterna



August wounded after defeating Grizz

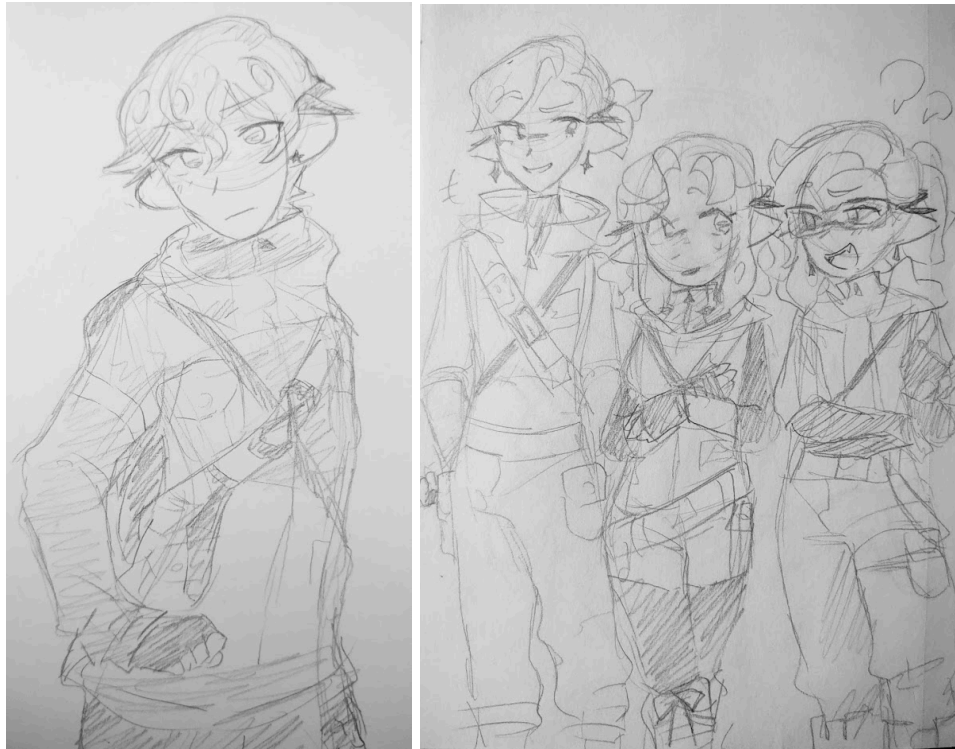


August during the hospital arc



Concept art for the Big Run arc (CC: "Let's get this over with.")

Season Four



August, Arlo, Wren, and Dani's next gen hero outfits (Below: Ciel and Roob's outfits)



(CC: "Why do we have to be the ones staying behind?" "Because if I have to fight more horrific beings I'm going to snap.")



Luca



Arlo carrying Dani after the battle (greyscaled to "censor" blood)



Wren and Roob's appearance in season four



Concept art for Arlo and August's argument



Arlo and Dani's first kiss



Dani post-amputation

End of Gallery

Thank you for looking through the concept art gallery for Primary! The images are very scattered in both quality and quantity as the development of the plot and character designs progressed, so my apologies for the lack of consistency, but for a one-person passion project it ain't too bad.

I don't have anything else to share here, but feel free to ask me on twitter or whatever any questions you might have regarding the series. I probably have a very long-winded answer for you. This document barely scratches the surface for some of the character development I've given to some of these characters and I'm itching to spill more details about them WITHOUT having to turn the 10 page wall of text into a 50 page wall of text.

Thanks for reading!!

