

Afterword

You've reached the end! Congratulations!

Much thanks are in order to many people, for helping me get this far in many ways:

To Doc EK-senpai (*EKmisao*) themselves, for all the wise words and encouragement and hugs throughout all my whiny and sad and frustrated episodes. (*Hi again, Doc! I hope you didn't suspect anything back then, oops!*) Also, the mere fact that they were my giftee had given me so much energy to push through with this big thing, and gave me something to look forward to doing despite IRL circumstances being horrible. Back when I was questioning whether I still wanted to be a doctor after I'd been badly betrayed by career circumstances, a friend told me to find a new passion / role model that might rekindle my love for medicine and appreciation for my current specialty. I think I've already found that person. Thank you very much.

To the gracious Event Mod, Ami-san, for organizing this event and for the kind consideration and encouragement during check-ins when I was unsure of how to proceed with my piece. I really appreciated the vote of confidence you've given me back then, and it helped bolster my own that I may come up with a finished product.

To Ate Athina (*setosdarkness*), for being my secret keeper after suspecting and quickly finding out who my giftee was all on her own. (Was I really *that* obvious last time? Haha!) She's both a supportive friend and a great inspiration, and I daresay a huge part of how I viewed the SKK dynamic during the creation of this project came mostly from her works. Your mileage may vary on this one, but the pet name "*chibikko*" definitely came from her. (Apparently, it's canon. Thanks for clearing that up, too, Ate!) I can't wait for the three of us to meet and have our food trip soon!

To the awesome people at the Buko server, for being my virtual home since the start of this quarantine situation, for the camaraderie and the support, for being the ears that listen and the shoulders to cry on, and for being amazing champs all around. I only asked my friend Ate Nagi for servers to join to help with my boredom and unease, but what I found was a community I love so much and cannot imagine without now. (Also, yes, this is where I met Doc EK— not in the hospital / department events, not in the promised *#romanceclass* meetup, but here. How awesome is that?!)

To everyone whom I messaged at random times of the day to fangirl and whine and ask for advice for all sorts of things— to my cousin Ge, whom I can be myself with away from my family; to Eloise (*fluffy_ridet*) and Valerie, my IRL med + fandom Buraiha, with whom I share 1/3 a brain cell at times lols; to Doc Leslie-senpai (*luckychan*) and Nina (*by-nina*), who are absolute goals in everything huhu I STAN so hard; to Aegis (*eternal_aegis*), Alexis (*SapientesGladio*) and Shara (*cylencia*), who are so supportive in all things, and are also super amazing writers whom I

absolutely love; to the entire international BSD server, for being absolute troopers, and for the words of encouragement and support when I first started writing for BSD; and so many, many more! I'm super, super sorry if I might have missed some names, but know that I love you all so much, and you are all in my thoughts and in my heart, always.

I guess you could say I got too ambitious for this project? IRL/work-related issues aside, there have been some major bumps along the way (the most major one being a dropped fic currently at 2,100 words), but that's been ironed out with a lot of debriefing and support and writing out other stuff. (I *will* finish that fic one day, and it'll be my first foray into explicit NSFW/sexual content, if ever! I've always been dreaming of breaking that great wall of mine, and I hope I can make it happen.)

This has actually been my first time writing something this long— like, Bigbang levels, and I don't even know if half of this makes any sense at all because How Do You Plot? (*cries in war flashbacks*) That said, though, I am so glad I was able to challenge myself and my own writing in this manner, and after working on this, I can say that I've grown a bit, though I still have a long way to go, of course. But I guess that's what writing is— you suffer through it because you love it so much. I certainly did, and it was so, so worth it.

Again, thank you so much for reading. Much love!

Sincerely,
Dani (cyanoscarlet)