

Welcome to another obscure and very specific AU.

I'm going to try to write down some thoughts for once instead of making random comics with no context xD and I'll also try to explain some things, in case people aren't familiar with the lore of Dragon Age (I also took some liberties and bent things for the purpose of my story).

- Templars: military order in charge of hunting abominations, apostates and watch over the Circles of Magi
- Circle of Magi: organization that trains mages, supervised by Templars (experience in the Circle can be very different depending which one a person ends in, some are more permissive, others are like a prison)
- Gray Wardens: an Order of warriors of exceptional ability dedicated to fighting darkspawn
- Veil: invisible barrier that divides the real world from the Fade
- Fade: dimension from which mages draw their powers, it's populated by spirits and demons; all creatures access it through dreams (except dwarves)
- Ostwick, Kirkwall, Frostback Basin, Dales, are all locations around Thedas, the main continent

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In this AU, Jayce becomes a Templar in the Ostwick Circle of Magi, thanks to the Kieramans who sponsored him when he was young. He's the adopted son of the smith affiliated with the Templar Order, and for this reason he's always been around templars and mages.

Jayce is born as a member of the Avvar tribe, in the Frostback Basin. He spends his first years here, with his mom, until she falls in love with a merchant from the Free Marches and decides to follow him, bringing Jayce with them. Since he was little Jayce was fascinated by magic, as for Avvar, magic is seen way differently and more freely than in the Chantry, spirits are worshiped and consulted and he witnessed them often when he was little. But once he's around Templars, it becomes his dream to be a Templar too one day, as he is convinced, as most around Thedas, that Templars help mages and keep people safe. He will quickly realize that is not quite the case, once he joins the Order and enters the Circle.

Templars aren't just great warriors and protectors, they are guard dogs, expected to maintain control and order over the mages, following the Chantry doctrines, which don't even apply to Jayce who grew up worshiping the old gods, like his mother. But once he's in, Jayce finds himself pretty much incapable of leaving, having to observe the Order principles and feeling the expectations of everyone who favored him during his education. More so once he officially becomes a Templar and is initiated to Lyrium, an addictive substance that enhances Templars and makes them immune to magic and able to block magic.

Jayce resolves to try to actually protect mages from inside the Order and also use his position to conduct personal research on a particular artifact in his possession since he was little. During one of his travels as a Templar in the Dales, he stumbled upon some ancient scripts that sparked back his curiosity about the object.

Because of this artifact he meets Viktor in the Circle. Viktor was born in Kirkwall, from a poor family that hardly made it out of slavery. His mother helped him keep his magic hidden until he was a teen, but when his

father discovered it, he called the Templars on him and got him taken away to the Circle to be educated (and in exchange of some money).

He was lucky enough to be taken to Ostwick, instead of the Gallows, in Kirkwall. Still he never fully accepted being dragged away, but life in the Circle isn't too bad either, coming from a place where he had nothing and couldn't really work in the mines because of his condition. Here he's taken care of, he is educated and let free to study magic, with the only restriction that he cannot leave the Circle unless he has a Templar escort. During his education he is drawn to the study of the Spirit School, which is a very complicated and often misunderstood kind of magic that only few people manage to master well. And it's why Jayce will turn to him for help.

Or better, one night, while Jayce is messing with the artifact without any magical knowledge he makes it unstable and Viktor finds him in time before the tear in the Veil that he just opened becomes big enough for anything to come out. At first, Viktor is reluctant to help him, accusing Jayce of heresy and threatening to turn him in, but in reality he is very intrigued by Jayce's artifact and once he's sure Jayce is simply as insane as they come (a perfect match for Viktor) and not trying to fuck him over he accepts to take part in this research. They start working in secret over this artifact, first in the Circles, meeting at night, then travelling together under the false pretence of Viktor carrying out his personal studies, hence being in need of a Templar body guard.

They discover that the artifact can allow non magical creatures to access the Fade outside of dreams and therefore it might make it possible for ordinary people to use magic, ideally to help them in ordinary tasks. At least this is what Jayce and Viktor have in mind, keyword being 'ideally'.

During their travels the two become quite close, but they try to ignore the tension between them in favor of their work. Also because relationships between Templars and Mages are prohibited in their Circle. But despite their good intentions to at least respect one rule of the thousands they disregard daily, they end up crossing the line a few times. After all, they finally met someone who understands completely how they think, they share both a dream and a dangerous secret, and they trust each other with literally their life. So it's only natural that this deep respect and sense of safety make them also fall into each other's arms.

Initially Jayce tries to resist his attraction to the mage, after all he has been raised to follow the Order rules. But Viktor is a magnet for all his thoughts. He's not just a mage, which automatically makes it interesting for him, but also incredibly smart, witty and beautiful. For the first time, Jayce feels understood and that he can be himself with no filter, and can sense that Viktor feels the same way, and only wishes to make him feel as comfortable and accepted as possible.

After everything he has witnessed in the Circle, Viktor has never imagined fraternising with a Templar. Let alone, letting one as close as in his bed. But with Jayce it's different, he knows this man would never hurt him and he knows first hand that he'd rather let Viktor's magic hurt him than use his Templar power to stop him. Viktor sees Jayce's will and need to do something great for humanity through their research. He shares the sentiment, even though he quickly realizes their discoveries might soon fall in the wrong hands and could be used for a completely different purpose.

It doesn't take long before their studies become known to some other less generous mages and Order members, who see magic both as a privilege and a danger, so the chances that ordinary people might have access to it even in a very feeble way is too much of an inconvenience, and threatens to shift the power balance in all of Thedas.

So Jayce and Viktor quickly become the targets of sabotages and mercenaries sent to get rid of them and for a battle for this mysterious artifact. Unfortunately for everyone, both Jayce and Viktor are great at both hiding and fighting, and work pretty damn well together so they manage to keep them at bay for the most. Soon it becomes clear that they cannot go back to the Circle, having been discovered meddling with powerful magic. They become fugitives of the Chantry.

While all this happens, they do not realize that the artifact is also not entirely harmless to them either. In fact, as long as the artifact was in Jayce's drawer for half his life and never once touched by magic, it had stayed dormant. Now, close to Viktor, it has somehow become sentient in a way. Being connected with the Fade, it is also a point of contact for demons and spirits, and even though these are Viktor's expertise, he gets tricked by an entity on the other side of the Veil and slowly corrupts his mind until he accidentally opens a tear in the Veil for it to escape.

It all happens during a mean fight with some mercenaries sent to kill them and retrieve the artifact. While they are fighting, Viktor witnesses Jayce getting badly injured, and in a surge of rage his magic triggers the artifact, opening a tear in the Fade that releases a bunch of demons around them. While they kill the mercenaries and Jayce desperately fights them on the verge of passing out, Viktor is shoved in the Fade by the Pride Demon that was manipulating him. Before losing consciousness Jayce sees the demon close the tear in the Veil and possess one of the corpses, then take off with the artifact.

When he opens his eyes again, his wounds have been mended but he has also been jailed by the Order for his crimes against the Chantry and for breaking his vows as a Templar. While Jayce was unconscious he was also momentarily in the Fade, where some spirits who knew him from his childhood and kept in touch through Viktor, reveal to him that the mage is no longer trapped in the Fade. So while he waits for his sentence (most likely an execution), Mel helps him to escape the Circle, stealing the vial of Viktor's blood in possession of the Templars, so that Jayce can use his Templar abilities to look for the mage. He doesn't have much time, as his supply of Lyrium is quickly running out and soon he'll start suffering withdrawal. Jayce believes he will not survive quitting Lyrium and he has been told of the great sufferings that come with it, but accepts the risk as his only goal is to find Viktor and make sure he's safe.

He does eventually find the mage, while the abstinence from Lyrium has become almost unbearable. Jayce is tormented by hallucinations and night terrors, and it's both affecting his body and mind, but he's strong-willed and is trying to pull through. When he finds Viktor, he's convinced it must be another hallucination and after a desperate kisses him, he passing out in his arms.

Viktor proceeds to take care of him for a bit, while Jayce gets back on his feet. He does eventually, but not without remaining forever scarred. Viktor is not unscratched either. His trip to the Fade, as quickly as it was, was dangerous and insidious, but thanks to his knowledge and magical skills, he managed to open another tear in the

Veil and run out, almost killing him and causing some more disturbance in the world that he's now trying to make up for.

They have been separated for some months but they are so fundamentally changed that it takes them a long while to learn to be together again. In Jayce's absence, Viktor decided to join the Gray Warden, both for his sense of guilt for what their actions caused, and for protection because of his fugitive status.

Jayce obviously stays with Viktor and follows him in his travels around Thedas, resuming his role of guard and companion, the two of them in pursuit of the demon that stole their artifact and is now causing havoc by opening tears in the Veil for more demons to spill out. They know the artifact needs to be destroyed at all costs.

The two soon realize their path is to defend the people from the insidious creatures that spread destruction, being that demons or darkspawn, and Jayce decides to join the Gray Wardens as well, finally finding the purpose he so desperately looked for all his life.

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Wow, these are a LOT OF WOOOORDS for my standard. Anyway i hope someone made it all the way down here and will let me know what they think <3 I took many liberties but i tried to make them make sense with the general lore xD I'm sorry I might have skipped explaining some concepts but I was afraid to make it way too boring.

I wish I could write fanfictions (and in a better English) so that I could expand on a bunch of scenes that pollute my mind.