

Almost, Always

A SYLVIX AU ANTHOLOGY

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USEFUL LINKS

- ★ Twitter: [@SylvixAUZine](https://twitter.com/SylvixAUZine)
- ★ CuriousCat: <https://curiouscat.me/SylvixAUZine>
- ★ Carrd: <https://almostalways.carrd.co>
- ★ Interest check form: [Click here!](#) CLOSED
- ★ Page artist application form: [Click here!](#)
- ★ Merch artist application form: [Click here!](#)
- ★ Writer application form: [Click here!](#)

GENERAL INFORMATION

THEME

Almost, Always is a project that will feature **collaborations between artists and writers, with the goal of showcasing Sylvain & Felix in alternate universes**. From historical AUs to modern AUs, from fantasy AUs to science-fiction AUs — this project aims at celebrating Sylvain & Felix's love in any and all possible scenarios, bound by time and fate even when they should pass each other by.

BOOK & BUNDLE FORMATS

- ★ **A5 Physical book** (SFW, hardcover — stretch goal dependent)
- ★ **Merch:** Charms, Stickers, Sticker Sheet, Bookmark, Tote Bag (subject to change)

CONTRIBUTOR COMPENSATION & FINANCE MODEL

- ★ A **free PDF** of the main book;
- ★ A **physical copy of the main book** if the project breaks even + the possibility to buy the merch at wholesale price;
- ★ A **full merch bundle** if the project breaks even for one bundle per contributor.

The proceeds for this project will go to **a charity of the contributors' choice**, which will be decided by a majority vote. We will prioritize giving each of our contributors a full merch bundle before donating to the charity.

IN-ZINE COMMUNICATION

We will create a **zine-specific Discord server** for artists and writers to interact. As such, we require participants to have or create a Discord account, as we will be making announcements, communicating deadlines, and keeping a general eye on the progress of each piece through Discord.

MODERATOR TEAM

Cha @akhikosanada - *head mod, finance mod, writer mod*: Hi everyone! I'm Cha, 28, translator and content writer by day, fanfic author by night, Sylvix stan 24/7! I was the head, writer, and finance mod for *Lost & Found: a FE3H zine*, which raised \$3000+ for charity, and am the finance and writer mod on *Fell Stars, Fated Skies: a FE3H astrology book*, currently in production stage! I'm also currently the finance mod for the 2022 Sylvix Fan Calendar, and the JJK Gojo Satoru zine. This project has been on my mind ever since I was working on *L&F*, and I'm so glad and grateful to once again be working with an incredible team to bring this beautiful project to life for my favorite ship.

Jodie @missdurianne - *artist mod, production & shipping mod*: Hi friends! I'm Jodie, this zine's artist mod and shipping mod! I was Artist and Merch Mod for *Lost & Found: A FE3H zine* and Head Mod for *Fell Stars, Fated Skies: A FE3H Astrology Book*. I absolutely love these losers... and yes, I mean Sylvain and Felix but I also mean this mod team. My other credentials are my successful Languages of Love Kickstarter, which was fully funded an hour after launch. I also run my own group order server, where I correspond with manufacturers to produce merchandise for myself and other artists. When I'm not moderating or running my store, I'm suffering.

Shim @shim_loo - *artist mod, graphics mod*: I'm Shim, this book's graphics mod and artist mod! This is my second time modding for a zine, but I have years of editing and feedback experience to bring to the table. I currently work at an art gallery and am always looking to discover new artists, but in my freetime, I'm still procrastinating on finishing the Blue Lions path. My favorite AU is single dads and I'm not afraid to admit it. Other notable AU's I enjoy are restaurant AU, enemies-to-friends-to-lovers AU, and of course, obviously, exes AU.

Eth @gautired - *writer & beta mod*: I'm Eth and I think Sylvix is pretty neat! I was the writer/social media mod for *Long Live, A Faerghus Four Zine*, which raised \$8,212 for Yemen Aid, and am the writer/social media mod for *Cavalier: A Sylvain/Ingrid Charity Zine*. Catch me committing multiship crimes! In my free time I like to pet Yampers, write about OCs, and think about *13 Sentinels: Aegis Rim*, a video game developed by Vanillaware and published by Atlus for the PlayStation 4. It was released in Japan in November 2019 and worldwide in Septe— [I am promptly dragged off the stage]

Vibird @Feroxai_ - *social media mod*: Hi, I'm Bird! I've been a Sylvix fan for a looong time; I founded the Sylvix Squad Discord Server way back in August 2019 (we're still around!). I'm also the social media mod for *Lost & Found* and *Fell Stars, Fated Skies* zines and the admin for @calendarfe3h, a FE3H event and project bulletin. My other projects include Felix Bday

Bash 2020, FE3H Sibling Week and Sylvix Week 2020. When I'm not modding, I'm spreading the message of our lord and saviour, Carl-bot, the superior discord management bot.

Kayt @replikayt - *intern mod*: Hello! I'm Kayt, I'm 27, and I never learned how to mod a zine! Sooo... that's why I'm here! I'm excited to use this opportunity to learn! I've been a page and/or merch artist for a few zines, including *Lost & Found* and *Fell Stars, Fated Skies* run by this team!

Pear @itspearbae - *intern mod*: I'm Pear, a chronic overworker who enjoys tackling an assortment of creative endeavors. In *Almost, Always*, my role is to be the best coffee bringer, playlist maker, and emotional support fruit that Fódlan has ever seen.

SCHEDULE

Interest check	May 12th - June 4th
Contributor Apps	June 7th - June 30th
Application Results	July 15th
Pitch check-in	July 30th - August 1st
First check-in	September 10th - September 13th
Second check-in	October 30th - November 1st
Third check-in	December 17th - December 19th
Final submissions deadline	December 31st
Preorders	February 14th, 2022
Production & Shipping	Spring 2022

GUIDELINES

THEME GUIDELINES

- ★ This project seeks to explore settings outside of FE3H canon. **Canon-divergent settings or fix-it fics will NOT be considered AUs** (ex: Sylvain has no crest, Felix is a Black Eagle, the Duscur war never happens...).
- ★ **References to the canon setting** inside an AU (ex: city/country names, religion, etc) are allowed.
- ★ **Reincarnation AUs are welcome** as long as the main setting of the piece is an alternate universe. Characters can have memories of their past lives in the canon setting, but they shouldn't be too prominent.
- ★ **Crossovers with universes** from other media and franchises are welcome (ex: MCU AU, AUs of other video games or anime, etc.), as long as the setting is clearly recognizable.
- ★ While mild liberties in characterization are accepted since this is an AU project, **the characters must all still be recognizable and feel true to their canon selves**, both in voicing and patterns of behavior. Any character-bashing will also be strictly prohibited.

MAIN BOOK CONTENT GUIDELINES

- ★ Anything from fluff to angst will be allowed. MCD (Major Character Death) will be allowed on a case-by-case basis, as long as it serves a purpose (thematically and/or narratively).
- ★ Since this is first and foremost a Sylvix project, this book will **not feature any polyships involving Sylvix**.
- ★ Background ships will be allowed as long as they are not the focal point of the piece.
- ★ The **main book will be strictly SFW**: we will allow no depiction of sex scenes and no extreme violence. Mild nudity, suggestive scenes, and non-graphic violence (including non-gorey or stylized depictions of blood) are permitted.
- ★ Trans and nonbinary headcanons are welcome for both Sylvain & Felix.

COLLABS

This project will exclusively feature collaborations between writers and artists.

Artists and writers will apply alone, and **will be assigned a collab partner** upon acceptance. These partnerships will be decided through the application process: we will ask you to tell us what kind of AU categories you'd prefer to depict, and will assign collab partners according to their similarities in taste.

You can find **our current, non-exhaustive AU category list** [under this link](#). Please do tell us if we've missed any obvious ones! Applicants will have to **list some rough AU concepts** they'd like to depict in their application for contribution assignments.

The collaboration partners will then **collaborate on pitches** they would like to draw and write for, which will be reviewed and accepted by the mods after the pitch check-in.

CONTRIBUTION EXPECTATIONS

PAGE ARTISTS:

Page artists will be asked to provide **one drawing or painting, as well as two small spot illustrations** to accompany the fic. They can draw either a single page or a spread. The book is intended to be edited/printed in A5, so do keep this in mind when contemplating your designs. We're currently planning for a printed book, so we recommend working in CMYK.

MERCH ARTISTS:

Merch artists will be asked to design **one to two pieces of merch** each. The exact formats we will feature remain to be decided, but they will include at least some stickers, a sticker sheet, a charm, some prints, and a tote bag!

WRITERS:

Writers will be asked to provide **one piece ranging from 1.000 to 2.500 words** maximum. They will be allowed to write in whichever tense they prefer; however, we would like to keep the written pieces in third-person POV limited.

The project will have designated **feedback periods** (usually a couple of weeks) after each check-in period, where the mods will give detailed feedback on the contributors' pieces. As such, we require our contributors to be **open to feedback** and constructive criticism.

APPLICATIONS

APPLICATION PROCESS

Applications for this zine will **open on June 7th**, and will be sent through Google forms. **Writer applications will be blind**, and judged by our writing mods, who will be helped by a jury of three other writers: our social media mod and two other writers and editors external to the zine, who have already worked as writer mods for other zines. **Artist applications will be semi-blind**: artists will be allowed to have their signatures on their pieces, but names will be hidden.

This zine will have **36 contributors for the main book**: 1 cover artist, 15 artists, 15 writers, and 5 merch artists (including guests and participating mods);

You can also apply for more than one position; however, you will only be accepted for one. For example, if you fill up both application forms for page artists and writers, if you're accepted, you will only be accepted as either a page artist or a writer.

Artists and writers will apply alone. If you'd like to **apply with a partner as an existing collaboration**, there will be an option in the form where you'll be able to mention each other's name / social media handles. **If both partners are accepted into the project, they will be automatically assigned to each other.** Do keep in mind that your partner may not be accepted into the project even if you are — in that case, you'll be assigned another person who's been accepted.

APP QUALIFICATIONS AND PORTFOLIOS

Here is what we expect from portfolios:

PAGE ARTISTS:

- ★ **6 to 8 drawings or paintings**, featuring both portraits and full-body designs, including at least one sample featuring Felix or Sylvain;
- ★ At least **two pieces with finished, illustrated backgrounds**;
- ★ **No sketch or progress piece**;
- ★ Portfolio pieces may be digital, traditional, or a mixture of both.
- ★ The artist mods will pay close attention to backgrounds, composition, anatomy, and color work.

MERCH ARTISTS:

- ★ **6 to 8 digital files of merchandise designs**. These designs can be stickers, enamel pins, washi tape, whatever merchandise examples you have.
- ★ Please turn in examples that are plain images like .jpegs, .pngs, or .pdfs so they can be easily opened.
- ★ **Product photos welcome!** We would love to see examples of your finished products. We will not judge the photography.
- ★ The artist mods will be looking for pieces that demonstrate an understanding of merch design. Legibility, design choices, and style are all things that will be considered.

WRITERS:

- ★ **Three PDF samples of your best works** in a Google Drive folder, including **at least one Sylvix sample (or Sylvain-focused / Felix-focused pieces if you do not have Sylvix samples)**. Including samples featuring AU settings is highly recommended but not mandatory.
- ★ **At least one “one-shot” piece**. Excerpts from large stories/chaptered stories are acceptable for the two other samples, as long as they can read in a self-contained manner.
- ★ Each sample must be **strictly 3,000 words or less**.
- ★ If applying to the SFW book, please keep all your samples SFW.
- ★ Please add a heading to all your samples with the **total word count and content warnings** appropriate for each sample, especially for any NSFW samples (ex: 2,850 words - CW: light BDSM, choking, knife play...). Don't hesitate to tag liberally!

- ★ Make sure not to leave any way to identify you in your samples: no signature, AO3 account, Twitter username... If the Google Drive file automatically renames your folder to include your name, we will remove it before the writer evaluations.
- ★ The writer mods and the writer jury will pay close attention to characterization, grammar and syntax, pacing, and style consistency.

FAQ

Q: I'm afraid to be assigned a person I absolutely do not want to work with.

No worries — the application forms will feature an informal “block list”, where you’ll be able to mention the names or Twitter accounts of people you would prefer not to be partnered with. This will be kept completely anonymous.

Q: Will I be able to post / sell my finished piece?

All the contributors will be allowed to post their finished piece on social media, as well as use them for their portfolios, two months after physical orders have been sent out. The contributors will only be allowed to sell their finished piece after the book has been fully published and shipped, including leftover sales.

Q: I have a question that was not answered in this document.

Please send us a message on our CuriousCat, or send us a DM on Twitter!