Discord Tutorial

If you already have a Discord account, follow this link to join our server. If you don't have an account, read on.

What is Discord?
Discord is a platform that allows you to connect to others via text, voice, and video chat. It's similar to Skype, Slack, and older instant messaging programs. It's also free and fairly easy to use.
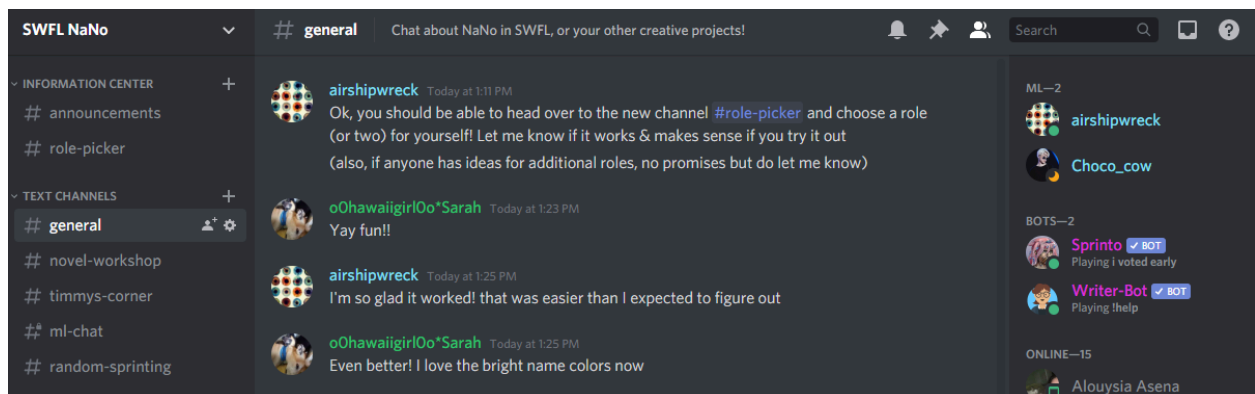
How Do I Get Started?
To get started right away, click the following link, or copy and paste it into your browser. It's an invitation to the Gray House Discord server: **https://discord.gg/zyR7Pmg**

After you click, you'll be walked through the process of creating an account. You'll need to provide an email address and choose a username (which you can change later on). Then our server will open right in your browser! You can continue using Discord in your browser after that, or you can download the app for your computer or phone.

What is a Discord Server?
A Discord server is an invite-only place where communities and friend groups gather. Here's a screenshot from one of my other servers.

On the right, you'll see the list of members. (The server pictured has separate sections for admins, bots, and other roles, but we don't have that set up right now.) On the left is a list of channels, which are kind of like forum threads in that they're dedicated to certain topics. In the middle you'll see your current channel displayed.

Here are the channels you'll find in the Gray House server as of 12/14/20:

#notice-boards: For announcements. Our server is small enough at the moment that it's mostly used to announce when a new member joins.

#canteen: Spoiler-free general chat. This doesn't get used a ton since most of the current members have read the book several times. So, if you're new, please introduce yourself so we don't overlook you!

#book-club: A channel reserved for future book club-style discussion. Spoilers are allowed up to whatever section is being discussed. Spoilers from beyond that point in the book must be covered with a spoiler tag. (See below for how to do this!)

#coffeepot: General chat with spoilers permitted. This is where the majority of conversations take place.

#forest: For sharing artwork, fanfic, etc, whether it's something you found online or something you created yourself.

#diner: Off-topic chat. We often go off-topic in #coffeepot, and that's fine! #diner is mainly for those moments when you want to share something not House-related out of the blue, or when you want to have an extended off-topic conversation while #coffeepot is in use.

#fairy-tale-nights: Our RP channel, maintained by Faible. Not yet active (as of 12/14/20) but accepting applications!

That's about all you need to know to get started! If you'd like to learn more, you can check out the [beginner's guide to Discord](#) or the [Help Center](#). If you run into any urgent issues, you can also type **@leaders** into the message field to notify the server admins that you need help.

Spoiler Tagging

You can highlight the text that contains spoilers and select the icon that looks like an eye, or you can manually type || on either side of your message, like so: **||Insert spoilers here||**

Don't stress too much about spoiler tagging. If you're not sure whether something counts as a spoiler, it's nice to cover it anyway or mention that you may be about to say something spoiler-y, but as long as you aren't going around deliberately spoiling major plot points you're probably fine. See [this link](#) for more information.

Bonus: FAQ for the Socially Anxious

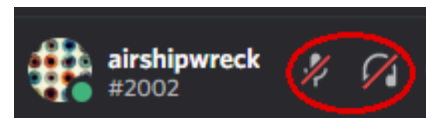**Q: What happens when I join? Will I be expected to start talking and participating right away?**
A: When you join, an automated message will greet you, and it's possible that existing members will say hello. However, you don't have to say anything! We have plenty of members who are on the shy side, as well as some members who may not always be totally confident chatting in English. While I'd like to encourage you to jump in as soon as you feel comfortable, you're welcome to quietly watch the conversation unfold for as long as you like.

Q: Will my microphone or camera automatically turn on when I join?
A: No, thank goodness. If you're paranoid like me, you'll be glad to know that you have to manually click on the voice channel in order to join it, and you'll have to hit the button labeled "video" after that if you want to activate your webcam.

You can mute yourself to make extra-sure no one can hear you. See the image to the right? Click the microphone icon to mute yourself (you can even do this while in voice chat, so you can listen in without others hearing you), and click on the headphones icon to mute others.

Q: I'm nervous about others seeing what I'm up to online. What are the privacy settings like?
A: Here are some articles that might help:
- [How to appear offline](#) (or idle, etc). If you set your online status this way, it should stick until you manually change it, even if you switch to a different device. We have several members who almost always appear offline even while chatting, and this is totally ok.
- [How to opt out of direct messages & friend requests](#)
- [How to stop Discord from displaying the game you're playing](#)
- [How to edit messages when you've already hit 'send'](#)

There's one feature you can't currently disable—Discord shows you who's currently typing in the message field. It's ok to change your mind about typing a message (I do it a lot; the worst that'll happen is there may be a pause while others wait to make sure they're not talking over you), but if this bugs you, consider typing in a document and pasting your message into Discord.

Also, though we hope you'll choose to stick around, you should know that Discord doesn't announce that you've left a server. (Some servers may use bots with this functionality, but we believe in your right to peace out peacefully.)