



Secret Samol 2019

The 4th Annual Friends at the Table Fandom Holiday Art Exchange

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/secretsamol>

AO3 Collection: <https://archiveofourown.org/collections/secretsamol2019/profile>

E-mail: secretsamolexchange@gmail.com

What is Secret Samol?

Secret Samol is a Secret Santa-style fanwork exchange for the Friends at the Table fandom! To sign up, fill out a form and submit some prompts for fanart/fanfic you'd like to receive as a gift! Then, at the end of the signup period we'll match everyone up based on their prompts and send you someone to create a gift for. Keep it a surprise until the gift posting period at the end of January!

Schedule

All times are in EST.

- Signups Open: Saturday, November 9th 12AM - Saturday, November 16th 11:59PM
- Assignments Issued: By Sunday, November 24th
- Works Due: Sunday, January 19th, 11:59PM
- Collection Goes Live: Sunday, January 26th

Assignments may go out earlier than November 24th if we finish matching early. This gives you at least 8 weeks to complete your assignment!

Rules

- Fic (prose) should be ~1000 words minimum.
- Art should be of a reasonable size and image quality. Artists, use your best judgement and try to make something that you would be pleased to receive as a gift!
- Secret Samol is a safe for work exchange for all ages. Please keep that in mind as you write your prompts and work on your gifts. Submissions should be rated G or T under AO3's rating system.
- Secret Samol is meant to be a fun and inclusive event for the Friends at the Table fandom. Individuals who we are aware have participated in discriminatory or abusive behavior will not be allowed to participate in Secret Samol, at the discretion of the moderators.
 - Any participants requesting or creating discriminatory or abusive content in the exchange will also be immediately removed.
- Secret Samol is not intended for exchange of physical gifts. The work you make is a gift for your assignee, but it is also a fanwork intended for public view from the fandom at large.
- After only accepting fanfic and (drawn) fanart last year, we are experimenting with allowing non-conventional fanwork again this year (e.g. music, textile art, games).
 - Some examples from two years ago include: a song that was custom written and recorded for the recipient, cross-stitch, jewelry, and a page from Bluff City's Alexa Baker's recipe blog.
 - Please keep in mind that even if the gift is a physical object, it must be PRESENTED digitally so that it can be uploaded to AO3 and viewed by other fans. (If you're having trouble conceptualizing this, consider how you might format your art to be included in a zine alongside illustration and writing!) As with drawn artwork, make something that you would be pleased to receive as a gift.

Signing Up _____

SIGN-UPS ARE NOW CLOSED

→ CLICK HERE ←

PLEASE READ THROUGH THE RULES BEFORE
SUBMITTING YOUR SIGN-UP
SIGN-UPS CLOSE NOVEMBER 16th AT 11:59PM EST

You will need an AO3 account.

If you do not have an AO3 account, please sign up for one here:

https://archiveofourown.org/invite_requests

It is invitation based, but you should receive your invitation after one or two days!

What is AO3?

If you aren't already familiar with it, AO3 is an archive primarily for hosting fanfiction. It features a robust system for fandom, character, ship, and content tags that makes it easy to navigate and discover new work.

Why do I need an AO3 account?

AO3 has a built-in system for tracking fanwork exchanges like this one, and makes it much easier to run an exchange from start to finish. Advantages include keeping all the work for the exchange in one place, making it easier to track finished and unfinished assignments and contact participants, and the ability to use AO3's pre-existing ship and character tag system to do matching. So it's mostly beneficial to the organizers... but this will let us run a more efficient exchange and avoid some of the issues from past years!

Isn't AO3 only for posting fic? What if I'm planning to do art?

Art is allowed on AO3, although admittedly AO3 is not a *great* system for it, we still think it's worth using AO3 anyway for the sake of matching and tracking assignments. When you upload your work, please tag it as Fanart so that people browsing through the tag know what to expect. And once the collection is revealed, please feel free to upload your artwork on your social media platform of choice and link to it from your AO3 submission!

How to write your sign-up

AO3 separates the sign-up form into two sections: *requests* and *offers*. Please set the Fandom as “Friends at the Table (Podcast)” for each request and offer you write.

REQUESTS

For each request, you can specify characters and ships and provide a description/prompt.

- **You must submit at least two requests.** You can submit up to 5.
- **Please note that you may receive any type of fanwork (art, fic, etc.) as your gift. Please keep that in mind as you write your request.**
- A request can have between 0 and 5 ships.
- A request can have between 1 and 10 characters.
- Last year, we had an issue where AO3 couldn't find some pairing tags even though they already existed. To get around this, we did not restrict the pairing tags by fandom, so you will see pairings from other fandoms when you fill out the form. Just know that that's intentional and don't submit non-FatT pairings!
- If you still can't find the pairing you want, use the Optional Tags field to specify “Rare Pairings” and put the characters involved in that pairing in the Characters field. If you can't find the character, use the Optional Tag “Rare Characters” and provide additional details in the description field. Try not to make all of your requests about rare characters/pairings. (If one request has all rare characters, the form will force you to submit at least one character, but you may use a placeholder and specify in the text what happened.)
- Even if you would be happy to receive any content for your favorite character or ship, try to give your assignee at least some guidance. Depending on what medium they're working in, a prompt that says “anything is fine” or an abstract one-word prompt like “floating” or “thunder” might be extremely difficult to work with. Usually just a few suggestions of favored tropes or plot seeds will do just fine.
- If you truly, truly would be happy with any character or pairing for a request, you may check off those options for either.
- You may provide your own social media URL alongside your requests if you'd like your assignee to be able to investigate your profile to see what characters/ships/tropes you talk about the most!

Examples of requests:

Ship: Samot/Samothés

Characters: Samot, Samothés, Maelgwyn, Samol

Description: I would love to see something about Samot, Samothés, and Maelgwyn (and maybe Samol if you're feeling up to it?) together as a happy family! Maybe a modern AU where they're embarrassing teen Maelgwyn, or just having family time together at the manor in the woods.

Ship: None

Characters: Cass, Aria, Mako, AuDy, Sokrates, Euanthe

Description: Fix-it content for the end of C/W please... Let Cass have a good time with their family family or their found family or both?? Ships not preferred but mentions of canon ships are fine.

Ships: Adaire/Hella, Alyosha/Arrell, Alyosha/Ephrim, Ephrim/Maelgwyn, Samot/Samoths

Characters: Adaire, Adelaide, Alyosha, Arrell, Ephrim, Hella, Maelgwyn, Samot, Samoths

Description: I would really like a fairy tale AU interpretation for any of the above ships!

Ship: None

Characters: Jake the Jackal, Alexa Baker, Sid Ruiz, Agent Heard, Hector Hu, Florence Nightly

Description: I would love to see some more “behind the scenes” stuff from Bluff City... Letters? Plans? Chatlogs? Journal entries? Or just something with my favorite characters!

OFFERS

The offer is where you specify what you are and aren't willing to create.

- You are required to put in two offers:
 - Use **OFFER 1** to list ships and characters you **DO** want to create for.
 - Use **OFFER 2** to list ships and characters you **DON'T** want to create for.

OFFER 1:

- Use this to list the ships and characters you feel most comfortable writing/drawing for, and use the description field to provide further details. You can provide up to 20 ships and between 1 and 20 characters.
- The offer will only be seen by the organizers.
- If you truly feel comfortable working with any character or pairing, you can check off the “Any” box for either of those fields.
- If you are interested in writing for rare pairings or characters, use the Optional Tags field to add the “Rare Pairings” or “Rare Characters” tag or both.
- Please also specify what kind of fanwork you are planning to create (art, writing, etc.)

OFFER 2:

- Please feel free to put characters/pairings you don't want to work with here. For example, you might have said you could do Hieron characters in general but not want to write about Arrell or Arrell/Alyosha.
- If you have any special terms that you would like the organizers to be aware of, please also put it here. For example, we are generally not allowing people to choose what kind of fanwork they want, but if you would prefer not to receive certain mediums such as writing, audio, or visual art for accessibility/disability reasons you can let us know here.
- If there's nothing you want to specifically exclude here, feel free to leave it blank. (Ao3 may force you to enter something, in which case you can check off “Any Character” and leave the rest blank and we'll know to disregard it.)

If you have any other concerns that you would like the mods to know about with your sign-up, you can include them in one of the offer fields or DM/e-mail us.

Example of an offer:

Ships: Samot/Samothos, Samot/Hadrian, Samot/Samothos/Hadrian, Samol/Tristero

Characters: Samot, Samothos, Samol, Hadrian, Maelgwyn, Tristero, Severe

Description: I'm probably going to draw for my gift but I might write as well if the request inspires me. I have the most experience with Samsam but I could work with any Samot ship as well as the ones I listed. I'd prefer not to fill anything super angsty or dark, and I like doing comfortable domesticity or established relationship stuff. I definitely want to fill a shippy prompt!

What happens after I sign up?

Once the sign-up period closes, we will run our own matching program (thank you @MatthewGuz!!) to do an initial round of matches between requests and offers, and then check the matches by hand to make sure everything looks right.

Invites will go out on AO3 and you should also receive an e-mail through your AO3 associated e-mail account. (In Gmail these might wind up in the Social tab.)

If a sign-up seems to run afoul of our guidelines, we may contact the participant for corrections or discard the sign-up altogether.

During the Exchange

What if I have to drop out?

Sometimes life happens. Go into your AO3 account and go to My Home > My Assignments and choose to default from there. The mods will take care of finding a pinch-hitter to take care of the abandoned assignment.

Note that even if you drop out, the participant who received *your* requests will still have them, and unless they also drop out you will still receive a gift.

How does pinch-hitting work?/I want to become a pinch-hitter!

To all pinch-hitters: thank you, I owe you my life, etc.

We likely won't need pinch-hitters until January. At that time, whenever we are notified of a dropped assignment, we will put out a call via the Secret Samol Twitter.

Finishing the Exchange

How do I complete my assignment on AO3?

Check out AO3's guide here: https://archiveofourown.org/admin_posts/41

If you need help, feel free to contact us!

How do I post an art gift?

Check out AO3's guide here: https://archiveofourown.org/admin_posts/201

I have also written a guide here: [LINDA'S GUIDE TO POSTING IMAGES ON AO3](#)

Make sure to also tag your work with the "Fanart" tag.

If you need a quick and dirty image host for your file(s), I use: <https://postimages.org/>

You don't need to register for an account to host images here, but I recommend making an account anyway to help keep track of your files.

Once the collection goes live, please feel free to also post your work on social media as you normally would and add link outs in your AO3 work!

What is your lateness policy?

If your assignment is not completed by the works due date and we haven't heard from you otherwise, we will check in with you. The week between the works due and collection go-live date is a grace period for participants to finish late assignments, check in with the organizers, or choose to default. If we don't hear from a participant by the collection go-live date, we will automatically re-assign to a pinch-hitter.

If you don't think you'll be able to finish your assignment before the collection go-live date, but you want to keep working on it, please let us know ASAP. We will coordinate with your giftee to keep them updated.

If you still haven't completed it two weeks after the go-live date, the mods will check in with you and the giftee again and you can choose again to keep your assignment or default. A month after the go-live date is our hard cut-off — if you can't finish by then, we will reassign to a pinch-hitter. Please communicate with us and don't torment yourself over being unable to finish a gift; the goal of Secret Samol is for everyone to have fun and it's better if someone who has the bandwidth takes over an assignment than for the giftee to have to wait indefinitely. We won't punish you for having to drop out!

What happens if my gifter dropped out/is late?

If your gifter dropped out of the exchange or is otherwise late, you may not receive a gift on the collection go-live date. In this case, we will contact you to let you know what the status of your gift is: whether it's been reassigned to a pinch-hitter or if the assignee is still working on it.

Other _____

Who's organizing this?

This year's Secret Samol Planning Committee is @imperialhare, @quichekid, and @hellavarawr!

I have more questions!

Feel free to tweet at or DM the @secretsamol Twitter (<https://twitter.com/secretsamol>) or send an email to secretsamolexchange@gmail.com!

Who did the official art for Secret Samol?

Art was commissioned from Twitter user [@dancynrew](#)!