

Everybody, welcome to the May 2026 Patreon Q&A. And May is the anniversary month for when I started doing these. So it's been four years of doing monthly Q&A's on the Patreon. So happy anniversary to this. And to get into the actual questions, the first one is:

Hello, apologies if this has been asked before, but I don't recall ever seeing it. My question was: would Tamarack and/or Qiu identify as polyamorous in their adult lives and pursue that on their own, or is the polyamory route in the game more of special circumstances for them? No worries if you can't answer this yet, and thanks in advance.

Right now, I would say it is a special circumstance, and in their usual lives, they wouldn't be pursuing that. However, for one or both, maybe it will change by the time I'm writing more Step Three or Step Four.

Hi GB team! I hope you guys are having a great May. I'm pretty sure a couple of these questions have been answered before, but I haven't been able to find answers. So apologies. 1. do two and Tamarack speak a different language like German or Chinese? And if not, would they want to learn?

Neither of them know another language other than a few words, maybe a phrase or two. And that is because I don't know those languages and would not be able to write a bilingual character genuinely has full understanding of those other languages. So I keep it pretty simple so that I'm not writing anything incorrect, but theoretically I'm sure they would like to be able to learn another language.

2. Where do Tamaracks parents live? I've always wondered how far they have to travel to come see Tammy.

I haven't chosen an exact state, but they do live far enough away that flying is more convenient, but it would be possible to make a drive if you're able to dedicate enough time to it.

3. When did you start questioning their identity, and did they only start being colder the year they turned 14? Thanks so much. We appreciate all the hard work you guys have put into this lovely game.

It was more around 12-13 that they both started questioning their identity and withdrawing from other people. It wasn't right before Step Two started.

Hello. I finally got the courage to say thank you for making the *Our Life* series. OLBA has become a home that I never had and every character grew very dear to me. Thank you. Hope you have a good day, week, month, year, etc. *Thank you too.* Back to schedule programming: 1. Why did you settle on anklets for Cove and were you considering other accessories?

I wasn't considering any other accessories when the thought of him liking an accessory came to mind. It was specifically about anklets. You know, it's a very beachy game and so a lot of beach-themed pictures and styles have people in anklets, and I felt that was very common for like summer and beachy stuff and often not an accessory worn at other times of year. Like you could do it, but it's much more common in summer. And so I just thought it was like a perfect fit and that I could do something with that.

2. Cove moves out from the area even on an indifferent route. Was it something he did decide by his own, or was it just for a job opportunity?

Well, the actual reason is because I didn't want to have to make, like, homes for the MC and Cove as actual backgrounds, because where they could be living could be entirely different based on the life that you have and if you're together or not etcetera, etcetera. And so from a development perspective, it was just easy to have you staying in a hotel and Cove also staying in a hotel because if you lived with him, then you would be at a house with him if he had a house. So since I couldn't do enough alterations for how everybody might want their house with Cove to be, Cove just didn't get to live there either. But the in game universe is that he leaves because it's very expensive, and most of the properties, there are rental properties for tourists, and you can't easily move in there to live long-term.

3. For LIs of both games, pineapple on pizza, yay or nay?

I feel like all the LIs from the first *Our Life* could be into it, and neither of the LIs from *Our Life 2* would want that.

I know the Kickstarter has already finished, but I was wondering if a sneak peek of the list of names that will be voiced will be released? I was definitely too late to donate to the Kickstarter, but it would be awesome to see what names we can expect. Thank you so much! You guys are doing an amazing job and we love everything that you do.

Thank you. We did release a list of the voice names. You can try to find it by searching on Patreon or other social medias. Or you could DM me and I can send you the link, but the list of names is publicly out there.

Hi. I have no idea if these have been asked before, so I apologize if they have. *The first question I did have to skip. And so their second question is:* 2. If Qiu and Tamarack were invited to a wedding as guests, what would each of them like to wear?

It would depend on their age. And if there's a dress code or theme for the wedding that they're going to. Generally Tamarack would probably wear a pretty dress, maybe with some sparkles. Qiu would probably try to go casual if that was allowed in Step Two. And then in Step One, as a kid, they might want to wear a suit to be fancy or something. And then in Step Three or Four, it would really depend on like the vibe and what the people are expecting and what they would feel comfortable doing, depending on the people around.

Not sure if these are good Q&A questions, but: 1. while changing the relationship mid-step be treated differently by the game compared to the Step start? Like if you change from friend to crush mid-Step, will the game recognize/reference that in other Moments, or will it just treat it as going from the friend flag to the crush flag?

In the vast majority of cases, it doesn't matter when you started crushing, it really only changes when the MC is thinking about their feelings overall. And it could note, you know, "I've liked them for so long" or, you know, "These feelings are new", that kind of thing. But in general, MC's crush reactions aren't, you know, stronger if they started at Step, you know, the start of the Step and then less so if it happened more recently. Unfortunately, the script is just too long for there to be alterations for all the interactions based on how recently you started crushing or not

2. Will slash/does the personality, deferring, admiring, etc. of the allies change based on which Step it is? Or will it stay consistent unless the player changes it? I know jealousy requires the player to set it, but for the others like is it Qiu teasing in Step Two just because they were teasing in Step One? Obviously these aren't feature requests. The game is plenty in depth as it is. I'm just curious about how it works.

And the answer is yes. I do eventually plan to go through the steps and add a bunch of points to determine what their dynamic will be in the next Step. Right now, the dynamics are the same in both Steps because that feature hasn't been set up. But in the final version of the game, that is how it will work. But you'll still have the option to change it if you want to. The game will just try to come up with a personalized dynamic based on how your MC reacted to things.

Hello and happy May! 1. During an absolutely devastating scene in a movie, who would be most to least affected of all the LI?

The rest of the questions are about *Our Life 1* leads, so I'm assuming this first question is about them as well. Most affected would be Cove. Least affected would be Baxter; he's not easily sort of moved by fictional content like that. And then Derek would be in the middle where he would get emotional about it, but he'd keep it together more than Cove.

2. I'm sure this has been asked before, but what would Derek and Baxter Step Four dynamic be? I think I vaguely remember you saying they wouldn't get along if they met as kids.

Yes, they would not get along if they met as kids, because Baxter was kind of a mean, bratty kid. But as adults, they could definitely be cordial and eventually even become friends if they spent enough time around each other. Baxter would feel a little awkward around somebody as friendly as Derek, and it'd kind of be like a reverse of how forward Baxter was in Step Three. And it sort of put Cove off because he didn't really vibe with that kind of attitude. And then Baxter, coming around a lot more weakly and meekly in Step Four, can meet somebody like Derek, who's totally fine with getting along and including him. And then Baxter would be a little awkward about that.

3. Since Derek is sticking around after Step Four, do you think he would start getting closer to Terry and Miranda and become part of the larger friend group? I know the three already get along, but I got the impression they were in the "we're cool but not bestie" stage of their relationship lol.

Yes, I do think that can absolutely happen. The main thing is that Derek's story focuses so much on his family, I just couldn't really include a lot of scenes with Terry and Miranda that showed that they were super close friends, but realistically, they definitely

could be very good friends. It's just, you know, the limitation of it only being a DLC story instead of a full scale thing like Cove had.

Hello! Thank you for all your hard work and sorry if my question is too specific. I truly love the *Our Life* series. Thank you. In *Our Life N&F*. At one point we are prompted to choose where we come from (nearby, far, very far, etc.). Later, as we go to the store for the first time in Step One, the MC remarks that it's surprising to see that taxes are included in the price tag. I had imagined my MC to come from another country, which happened to include taxes and got surprised. This made me wonder, is "Very Far" supposed to still be in the US, or is it an isolated case of it being impossible to make the text truly universal? I would love to know so that I can be in the right mindset for this "Where do you come from" question in future playthroughs. Thank you.

You should be allowed to imagine that you've come from another country, but there can be cases where there's not flags for things that should have flags, or things that don't make sense based on the country you're from does come up simply because I wouldn't be able to write the game with every country and how it works in mind for everything that happens, unfortunately. So I usually try to keep it vague on what the MC knows or doesn't, or add a choice on what MC knows or doesn't, but it will never be truly universal. Just, you know, as good as we're able to manage.

Hello and thank you for all your hard work. Here are my questions. Sorry if any of them are too complicated. It's fine if you can't answer some of them. 1. If someone was traveling and didn't know what pronouns Qiu would prefer at the time, would Qiu still prefer to only be referred to with they/them, with mixed they and he, or some other way?

In that case, two would just go with they/them and keep it simple that way for, you know, like a stranger. They don't always explain their entire gender to whoever they happen to meet or be around. So they will just stick with they/them. That's more of their default than he/him is. And this is talking about steps Three and Four.

2. On the supportive ally parent scale, where are Tamarack's parents? I'm getting the vibe that they're way above Baxter's parents, but below everyone else's; that they do love her and are trying, but just don't have the time to be there. Is that right?

Yes, they do really love Tamarack and want her to be happy and want her to be able to do the things that she wants and have a good life, but providing her a good life and everything she needs just wasn't working out how they thought it would, and they needed more help than they thought they would. And so it's a difficult situation, but they do definitely care about her, and it's, you know, not conditional love.

3. You say that it's more common to have primary color/secondary colored hair and eyes that are similar shades. What about a primary and secondary color that are similar shades, like green hair with green eyes or blond hair with yellow eyes? Is that just in general one primary, one secondary category? Also, is that system generally applicable to heterochromia or two toned hair?

So for those who don't know, primary and secondary colors is basically talking about how there are real world colors that people can have for their hair and eyes in the actual reality we live in, and then there are colors in the world of *Our Life* and my other games that happen naturally in that universe, but cannot happen in real life. And so primary is like, you know, brown hair, blue eyes. And secondary colors is like green hair and purple eyes. And the way those combine together has a rarity scale in the universe of *Our Life*. If you are going to have one primary color and one secondary color, it is more common to have shades that are similar. And so you end up matching even though one is a primary and one is secondary. So green eyes and green hair would happen more often than green eyes and blue hair. This also applies to heterochromia and two toned hair, where if the colors are very different from each other, that is more uncommon than if they were similar shades to each other.

4. Do you have an estimate on when Step Two room customization might come? And on the same note, updated hair and eye customization. No rush, but I am very intrigued.

So I don't have any estimates at all, unfortunately. I really would like to have some room customization for Step Two before the early access, but it will not be all of them because Kickstarter backers were able to request specific items, and there's no way all of that will be finished before the early access. So we'll see how much, if any, room customization is in early access, but it will definitely take time for every piece of room customization to come in.

Then there is a fifth question, but I had to skip it because the Q&A limits to four questions.

Hi, don't know if this has been asked before. It's a bit random, but how would Tam and Qiu act if the MC shared the same birthday/birth month as them?

Well, they would likely find out about that in Step One, so I'll answer this based on their Step One versions. And Tamarack would think, "Wow, we're the same!" And especially if you're close, that would be another very important point of how the two of you are the same. While Qiu would think that's kind of cool and interesting, you know, that's a good birthday/birth month to have. And if you were friends, they might even joke about having like a joint party, like birthday party.

Hi, first things first, happy May! Then I have a few questions that I would love for you to answer. And if you can't, then simply don't respond. I don't know if any of these have been answered or not. So sorry about that. 1. What are Tamarack's and Qiu's sexuality? Did they ever come out to their family, and if so, what were the reactions?

So Qiu would have come out to their parents at the same time they came out about not being a boy, and they would have just mentioned in general that they're not straight either. Tamarack, at least by Step Two, never had any kind of official coming out scene, but she doesn't hide the fact that she can like people of all genders. So it's just sort of something she expects her family to have picked up on and be fine with. As for the exact term that they'd use or how they describe it themselves, that's something I'm still working on for Step Three.

2. What was the inspiration for the character Baxter Ward? Any specific trope, aesthetic, an actual person?

So originally I had come up with the concept of this difficult guy who only dresses in black and white for my older game *XOXO Droplets*, but there was already a lot of characters that you could date, and I couldn't add in yet another one. So I just had to put that idea aside and not expand things even more. But I always remembered that concept of some guy who, for whatever reason, insisted on dressing in black and white and had initials that stood for black and white, B, A, W. And then when working on *Our Life 1*, I knew I wanted there to be side romances. And then I decided to go with this ridiculous black and white guy concept because I felt like there might never be another

chance to do this. For all I knew, you know, *Our Life 1* could be the last visual novel I ever made. But I definitely changed the personality. The original Baxter Ward was like a guy in a band who was very self-centered and self-aggrandizing, in a different way that he, you know, thought was this musical genius, whatever. And then instead, I decided to go for this character who comes across as extremely different from the characters in the rest of this world, who feels like an outsider because I wanted to have him be a tourist who's just visiting. And so having him be, you know, a rich boy with a vacation paid for by his parents made sense to me. And things just kept going from there.

3. Is Pran nonverbal? I recently found out about him in the game, but couldn't actually reason as to why he wouldn't speak. Or is he mute?

As a child, Pran is mostly non-verbal. The only people he will occasionally talk to are his parents and grandparents, and it will only be very brief, short replies. But with other people, he just won't talk to them. You can learn more about Pran's backstory and childhood and the things he struggled with by playing his story and Jeremy's story from *XOXO Droplets*. But him being non-verbal isn't a medical condition, and he is sort of gradually able to get past the struggles he has with that to speak more. Although even when he's older, he's still a very quiet person and a man of few words.

4. A strong thing I keep thinking about is why did younger Qiu want so bad to make everyone happy, even though most times it meant leaving behind their own happiness? Was it because they were insecure or just strongly selfless?

There were various reasons. Qiu does want people to be happy and to have a good time, but they also really want to be liked and to be popular and accepted, and to be the one who makes the decisions. Even if the decisions they're making are for other's sake, it still feels more in their control than if they weren't sort of the leader of all the situations. And in some ways, they feel like they can't count on other people to make things fun or have ideas or include everybody, etcetera, etcetera. And only they are able to do all these things. And so they must do these things and various reasons like that.

Then I had to skip questions because of the four question limit. That's all I think.

Looking forward to listening to the podcast. Hehe. Also, as I said, a big amount of times, *Our Life* games help me so much during hard times. I love them so much. Thank you lots for all your work, Gb Patch team.

Thank you.

Hello GB patch! I hope you are recovering well. *Thank you.* I just have a few questions but please feel free to ignore them if you can't answer them. 1. If you set Qiu to being jealous over the MC and being crushes, how would they feel about an MC who is just as popular as them in Step Two?

They would find it pretty eye-rolly to have all these other people who wanted to spend time with them or the MC and you know, they would want to make excuses or butt in to be like, "Oh, you know, we already had plans to do something together. Sorry, you can't come" or whatever. But because they are already so popular and used to that sort of thing, it wouldn't really change their way of acting that much. It would just be directed both towards people trying to hang out with them and the MC.

2. I know you mentioned that Qiu is more grumpy slash/sulky type of jealous in Step Two due to their insecurities. So I was wondering how they would show their jealousy over the MC in Step Three. It's okay if you can't answer this one.

I can't answer specifically, but I will say that it is different. They're not going to be having the same kind of mood-ruining reactions that they do when they get jealous in Step Two.

3. I remember that Cove has a thing for the MC's arms in Step Three if you are in love. So I just wanted to know why it was the MC's arms specifically? Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions!

Well Cove is not at all the kind of man who would make comments on, like somebody's chest or butt or even like, you know, their thighs. So, that does limit it to what he's willing to openly, you know, compliment and praise. And he just likes arms and also hands because he finds that sort of a more safe area to interact with. It's more comforting, rather than gonna set off his nervousness so he can feel pretty comfortable just liking somebody's arms because they are not very sexual. And it can be more touches that are, I guess, more sweet, just like, you know, hugging or just holding hands, things like that. So it just basically comes down to what he's comfortable really boldly commenting on.

Hello GB and David! Sorry if these questions are too spoilery or complicated. 1. I think I've seen this question, but I'm unsure, so sorry if this has already been

answered, but will we be able to have queer platonic relationships with Tamarack or Qiu in Steps Three or Four?

Not really in Step Three. The MC can have very strong attachment and affection for them in a platonic way, and you can choose if it's viewing them as like a sibling or just viewing them, you know, in a platonic way. But you can't really have a relationship that is different from being friends. But in Step Four, you can probably be, you know, actual partners who are making decisions to stay together.

2. Does Qiu have any sort of inkling or suspicion that Ren may be trans in Step Two?

Kind of. Because they are trans and have come out, they feel like, "No, if Ren was trans, you know, she would have told me already." So they kind of sometimes feel like, "Hmm, that's interesting", but they usually, you know, talk themselves out of it and they're more concerned with wondering if maybe Ren is going through a harder time than she's admitting, but without specifically being set on why she's having a difficult time.

3. I really love that there's an intersex option in the OL games. I was wondering if we'd get any more depth on it. If you make your MC intersex in OL2? Since the game didn't go into it much in OL1, besides really choosing your intersex.

Yes, it does come up more than Our Life one. However, it's still pretty limited because in general, the game doesn't really talk about the MC's body and what it's like having the body that they do. And that's true whether you're intersex or not. So it can only really come up when people are generally on the topic of your sex. And then also it can come up if you're talking to Yusuf, who is also intersex.

4. Sorry if this can't be answered, but in the "Homecoming" Moment, is there any way Qiu or Tamrac would ask the MC to go with them?

Maybe. I'm afraid I can't say any more.

Hello! Hope you all are doing well! 1. I think in a tumblr post you said Qiu can call the MC "baby" if they are dating. Does Tamarack have a nickname she calls the MC if they are in a relationship? How does Tamarack feel about pet names in general?

So for that post, I was just giving an example. That's not always what they call the MC. There will be other options. I will likely give each of them one or more nickname that's unique to them, and then more common ones that you can do with either of them. But I have not finalized that list.

2. In Qiu's Step Three artwork, I noticed that their bike has bronze detailing on it. The detailing of their bike in each Step reminds me of trophies for first, second, and third place in Step One, Qiu took pride about being the best at the time they loved gold, but then they liked silver in Step Two. Is this a way to symbolize their character growth? Will bronze be their favorite color in Step Three? Hope you had a good may and have a wonderful June!

Thank you. Yes, the coloring on Qiu's bike and their favorite color of choice is part of the symbolism for the character. In Step Three, they do like bronze, but they also think silver and gold are good too, and they're much more willing to accept not being the best or feeling second best, or even third best or whatever it is. They're not taking that too seriously anymore and feel completely fine riding a bike that's bronze, even though that would stand for a third place trophy.

Okay, I stopped for lunch and now I'm back. So hopefully I can finish the rest of the Q&A in this sitting.

Hello! Hope you guys are doing well. I'm so excited for OL2 and more future projects and so happy to be able to support team! *Thank you.* 1. Do you have any specific patterns you associate with Qiu, Tamarack, and Renee? I would have guessed plaid for Qiu considering they're Step One and Two sprites, but not Step Three as far as I know. And I don't remember anything specific for Tamarack and Renee.

So for Renee, I usually go with like a color block type of pattern where there's like big sections of a single color. And then that happens with pretty clear lines. Tamarack has frilly, lacy, bowy kind of stuff. It's less obvious in Step One, but she does have that cute little scalloped edge to her overalls, and her pajamas and special outfit are very frilly in that way. So that's sort of the main pattern for her. Qiu I don't really have one pattern for they tend to change it up every Step. It's really mainly specific articles of clothing or accessories that they use, mainly the jacket with the fur hood that they always have and often fingerless gloves. But because they always have that jacket, I usually try to make

like the sweater underneath more unique rather than sticking to the same pattern on the shirt, and then they just have pretty plain colored pants, so there's no pattern there either.

2. I'm not sure if this has been asked yet. If yes, this question can just be skipped over. But how would Qiu, Tamarack, and Renee feel about an MC that would want to take care of them and dote on them when they're sick?

As usual, it would depend on their ages and the relationships. I guess since Step Two was the most recent step I finished, I'll talk about that where if your friends, I imagine. Tamarack would be very bashful about it, but would definitely appreciate it. She'd be like, "Oh, MC you know, I don't want you to get sick", but obviously wouldn't really want you to leave. Renee would want you to leave. She'd be like, "No, you can't be here. I'm not going to be taken care of by somebody younger than me. I'm fine", etcetera, etcetera. So that that wouldn't really work out. Qiu would be very happy to have MC come over and take care of them if they were sick, and the two were close. They wouldn't even pretend that they didn't want this or feel bad about it. They'd act like they really need the MC and they can't go, so that's probably how it would go in that circumstance.

3. This is a bit more random, but I'm from a culture that frequently uses henna (for example when getting married or just casually). What would Qiu, Tamarack, and Renee think if an MC that frequently uses it asked them if they wanted to stain their hands with it as well? Would they feel open for it on their wedding? (If this is too specific or weird, feel free to skip this one as well)

They would definitely be interested in trying it, if it was something from the MCs culture and that they understood and wanted to share with them. It's not something they would try to do just randomly, completely on their own unless they knew the MC wanted them to try it. But yeah, they would not be against doing it if invited to, and they would probably think it's very cool.

4. Lastly, what are Qiu's, Tamarack's, and Renee's relationship with makeup? Does it change over time? Do they prefer more bold or natural looks? (And if this doesn't count as a fifth question) Would they let MC do their makeup? Thank you for all your hard work. It really is paying off. The demo is so great. Hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the month!

So their relationship with makeup does change over the years. Really, none of them are interested in makeup in Steps One and Two for different reasons. By Step Three, all of them would have at least some level of interest in makeup. None of them really wear makeup as an everyday kind of thing, and when they do wear it, it would be for a specific reason. And so why they were wearing it would depend on, or the style that they did would depend on why they were wearing it. Like they might wear it on Halloween or to like a formal event. Qiu would probably be the most willing to do something bold. While Tamarack and Renee would both try to go for something that still seems natural but clearly a makeup look. And I will add that maybe one or more of them would have been more interested in makeup if it wouldn't have added a lot of extra complications to the sprite art if they had makeup. Because there will be times when it makes no sense that they have makeup on, like if it's early in the day, but then if they usually have makeup on, there'd need to be alterations with and without makeup for a wide range of expressions and eye layers. So that's secretly a big reason why none of them are interested in makeup on a day to day basis.

Hello! I hope these haven't been asked before. My bad if they have. My questions are relating to Step Two Ren. 1. Under the assumption that MC views her as a friend, does Ren view them the same? I know for the love interest the feelings are always reciprocated, but I was just wondering.

Yes, Ren does think of the MC as a friend. In Step Two, if you are friends with Ren. It's not, you know, the closest friendship you can have, and she still puts a good amount of distance between the MC and her. But she also does that with Qiu, who is her longest friend ever, so don't take it personally. You are still friends.

2. Outside of Moments, if they are friends, do MC and Ren only interact with Qiu and in passing (like we see in the Step Two Prologue)? Would Ren ever actively choose to spend time with MC in Step Two (again, other than just in a passing minute or two)?

The answer is technically yes, but it's not really something that's seen in game. If Ren had been able to get a DLC, then there would have been plenty of scenes where it was just MC and Ren hanging out in Step One and Two and Three, but because that's not happening, all the scenes really do focus on the two leads, and if you see Ren, either the leads are there or the scene will likely bring up the leads. Unfortunately, you don't

get a lot of time just hanging out with Ren and focusing on her only, but you can certainly assume that it happens off screen.

Hello, hope you're having a good evening! 1. Where did Tamarack live before going to Golden Grove?

I answered this above where I haven't actually decided where her parents live, so I can't say specifically, but she would have lived probably several driving hours away, but not too far away if flying.

2. Did Riverview Peak allow for decorated graduation caps?

Yes they did.

3. If so, did Qiu and Tamarack decorate their caps?

Tamarack for sure would have. I'm not entirely sure if Qiu would have. Maybe if they were doing it with other people, or maybe their parents got really excited about it and wanted to, you know, them to decorate and they would help or something, but I don't think it's something that they would have done entirely on their own.

Hi GB! Hi David! This question just randomly popped up in my mind. But does Qiu actually use their computer in their room or is it for decoration?

They do use it Mainly for school stuff. They don't really play a lot of computer games or email people. If they're doing something online, it's usually on their phone, but they will occasionally use their main computer. Their parents just got it for them because they figured as a teenager they could probably use their own computer, but they don't actually need it that much.

Hi GB, I hope you and everyone else on the team are doing well. My question is what led to Cove getting his autism diagnosis?

It wouldn't have really been one thing in general. A lot of it would have come from the fact that in the future, talking about autism and people's general understanding of what autism could be just expands and becomes more well known, and he would just gradually keep learning more about it, and eventually it would click with him that maybe it actually applies to him too. It just would take until he was an adult, because it was something that was never brought up as a possibility. It's something that no adult ever

pointed out or realized. And so he himself never considered it a possibility and just kept going about his life.

2. Also, has Cove ever told a lie about anything?

Yes he has. He was more prone to lying about stuff when he was younger, but he's still willing to lie even as an adult. One early example is in the "Fireflies" Moment, where he will lie and say that the MC won the rolling down the hill race, even though Shiloh won just because Cove likes the MC better.

Happy May, team! Thank you for your collective diligence. *Thank you.* 1. I'm curious as to when Opal's fourth hair texture would be implemented? Early access?

Hopefully it will be sooner than that. Shawna has been very busy getting all the new programmers set up, so it's been difficult for any other types of features to be added, but hopefully we can get to that pretty soon.

2. As a little switcheroo, how do Qiu and Tam feel about the ocean and its inhabitants?

It probably changes to a degree depending on their age, but when they're younger, Tamarack would definitely think it's like an exciting place to visit. Except as a teenager, she would not really want to go there because the expectation is you'd wear a swimsuit and she's very self-conscious and she wouldn't want to get sand on her clothes. For Qiu, they also would be more interested as a kid as like a fun vacation. They'd still prefer their own town better than the beach and the ocean and stuff. Would it be a cool place for a visit. However, they also wouldn't be that into it when they were older. They wouldn't like the heat. They wouldn't want to go swimming. The two would probably come back around on it by Step Three and Four. However, both would still significantly prefer the forest in the mountain town that they are from.

3. Do Qiu and Tam have any favorite scents?

I know that Tamarack would really like the scent of baked goods and vanilla, and Qiu would really love the scent of rain or the scent right after rain has stopped. And there's probably other ones, but those are just a general example.

4. I love Yusuf and I want to know more about that big, beautiful man. What does he do in his free time?

He's a pretty artistic guy, though more like sculpting and making jewelry rather than, you know, painting a picture. He's also very well read.

Hello again! I hope your arm gets better quickly. *Thank you.* 1. In the beginning of Step Two, when picking up clubs, if MC chooses video games, Qiu mentions something about having a Wii. Do they play it alone, or is it only a social thing when friends are around? Because I don't really see them playing it at all in the state they're in during Step Two, and it's just something they have.

Yeah, it's mostly just something they have. They might occasionally play it with friends, but they're not gonna just be sitting around playing a one player video game during Step Two.

2. You've mentioned in the past that Baxter is a pescatarian. Is this something he decided as he got older, or was he raised on it?

It is something he decided for himself as he got older.

3. Near the end of "Sight Seeing" if the MC doesn't meet Baxter at the soirée, he appears briefly, visibly, briefly, visibly upset slash annoyed when told they're both part of the same club. Is there a reason for his reaction?

I'm afraid I'm not 100% sure what line you mean, and I don't know why he would be upset knowing that you're from the same club. Maybe he's just more taken aback or just trying to seriously listen, and it just comes across as kind of seeming unimpressed or unhappy because he has kind of a sharp face.

Hello and happy May, GB Patch team. I hope y'all are having a good month and that everyone is in good health. I've been loving the *Our Life* series. It has been my comfort game ever since I was introduced to it. I can't wait to see more, especially OLNf. *Thank you.* Anyway, here are my questions. 1. I've always wondered why was it necessary for Cliff to give the MC the \$20 when he asked them to befriend Cove?

Because he just thought that would be more effective than simply asking a child to please do this. He wanted them to have more motivation to actually follow through with it, because he really did not want Cove to be without a friend, and he often tries to solve

problems with money. So, you know, it made a lot of sense to him. I'm sure when he was eight years old, if somebody offered him money to be friends with some kid, he would have done it and thought it was a good deal.

2. Is there something you could tell us more about Renee? Any interesting facts about the character?

Well, when initially designing her, the inspiration was a fox. But when it comes to animals she actually likes, Renee is a bit of a horse girl.

3. What does either Tamarack or Qiu do whenever they are jealous?

In Step Two, Qiu can get very bitter and cold about it and not be afraid to make you feel bad for doing something that has upset them. While Tamarack gets more upset at herself and isn't trying to make you feel bad about it, but it can often happen anyways.

Hi! I hope everyone is in good health. Here are my questions. 1. This has been asked for the OL1 LIs before, but what would be the *Mario Kart* mains for the OL2 LIs (plus Renee and Opal? Maybe)?

So Tamarack would generally like the smallest, cutest characters, as well as the biggest, strongest seeming characters, and wouldn't want anything in between. Qiu would like the kind of cool characters, somebody like Shy Guy or Dry Bones. Renee is a purist, and she'd want to be Mario or Luigi and be like, "They're the main guys. Why doesn't everybody want to be them?" Opal would probably just pick Princess Peach or Daisy and be like, "She seems nice."

2. What does Baxter wear on a day where he doesn't leave the house? I think I remember you saying his most casual clothes would be his athletic clothes, but does he still do the whole button up and slacks when he won't be going out?

Usually no. Most days Baxter is going out, so he does dress up. However, he's not entirely against wearing more comfortable clothes at home if he for sure knows he's not going anywhere, because that is quite a rare occasion.

3. This is mostly a joke question, but you said Devin plays WoW and goes on Reddit. He's not an incel, is he? Like I said, mostly joking, but I figured I should ask.

No, Devin is not an incel. He was into those things at the very beginning, early on before gamer culture began to shift. And by the time that was happening, that's when he was sort of growing out of those hobbies. But, you know, he was playing WoW when it was something that actual like nerds who just weren't considered cool did when they were not extremely hostile.

Last minute question 4! Would Baxter listened to K-pop/J-pop/etc.? Or I guess a better question since he likes metal, would he listen to an artist like Ado who does Japanese rock/metal?

Baxter probably wouldn't really look for other language rock/metal, but if he happened to stumble upon it or somebody introduced it to him, I imagine he could definitely like it a lot.

Hello, hello, happy May! And happy birthday month to Baxter Ward, who I'm asking all my questions about this month. 1. Baxter Alexander Ward is such an excellently crafted name to represent black and white. Were their variations to any part of his name you toyed with before settling on the final name?

Not really. I definitely knew Baxter Ward from a long time ago when he was a concept for a totally different game, and then Alexander kind of came to me right away, but then I realized that there was an amazing Alexander in the game already, and I was like, "You know what, I don't care. I'll just have the game acknowledge that it's the same because I think that's a very good fit."

2. Apparently there's an alarm clock app that forces you to solve puzzles in order to hit the snooze button. Of course, my first thought was, how would Baxter handle having something like this on his phone?

He would probably just get up and throw the phone out of his room and then go back to sleep.

3. Based on how Baxter wants to leave without a trace in Step Three, I was curious about how he feels or felt about being in pictures? Would he be the type to avoid being in friend group pictures with the Sunset Bird crew? Or would he be okay being part of a physical memory?

Baxter would prefer not to be in pictures, but he doesn't take it that seriously. He knows at least some people really love to take pictures of every event and everything they do,

and that has nothing to do with him. And he's not going to make it awkward by bringing up how he doesn't want to be in any of their pictures, so he just goes along with it, but never asks to be included in any pictures.

4. Related to the previous question, does Baxter keep pictures of his days in the boys club, family photos or selfies, physical or digital?

He does keep some pictures he's taken himself on his phone, but as an adult he doesn't really have any pictures from when he was younger. Those are all still at his family's home.

This might sound silly, but how did you come up with the math questions for the Step One test? Some of them I was struggling with, as I don't remember learning that terminology at all. Just made me feel like a fool, so I'd like to know how you went about it.

Honestly, I didn't remember some of those things either. I basically just looked for teacher blogs for fifth grade to see what they mentioned were the topics that people were learning at that age. And then I checked to make sure I understood the definitions and such and then included all the different things in the test and just came up with random numbers to apply to these different types of math equations.

Hi! Hope you're doing great. There is a weird little question I'd like to ask about the beloved status in Step Three. The tutorial said that one could keep their feelings a secret if they're at a beloved status, and that makes me wonder, do you have to date at beloved status? Or can you not be dating as well? As in can you be in love without dating? Sorry if this has been asked before, but I can't seem to find an answer to it.

You can be beloveds without being in a relationship. Basically, it's just if you are in love with this person, rather than just having a crush on them. And being in love means that you can't be in denial like you can if you're crushing. And it means that you can't have sort of frivolous crushes on other characters for fun, like the parents and stuff; you won't be doing that anymore. But then sort of on the plus side, it means the MC can have these even stronger, more serious feeling/alterations towards the lead. But being beloveds does not mean you have, you know, a relationship. You can be dating in Step Three, but it mostly just comes down to how you view that character. You think of them

as beloved. Oh, and one more thing is you have to be at beloveds rather than crush in order to propose. So that's a pretty major point for doing beloveds instead of crush.

Hi, I hope the team is all doing well! I really love all the work you guys do. *Thank you.* I'm curious if there are any plans for sticker merch in the future? I'd absolutely love to see Qiu and Tamarack, but I would be super happy with characters from OL1, or any of your past works as well.

Well, there were stickers promised to some people who backed for them on Kickstarter. They could add that as an add-on through backer kit and those are *Our Life 2* themed. So maybe we could possibly get a bigger batch than needed to fulfill the Kickstarter orders, and then sell the stickers to people who didn't get a chance to back the Kickstarter. However, that might not end up happening. It'll depend on how smoothly development and the early access launch end up going, and how many other things we end up having to do in relation to releasing and promoting the game. But it's not impossible, and we will already have some amount of stickers on the way.

So this is a really random question, but when Renee was young (Step One Ren) dressed up as Link. I was on the wiki and it said she would dress up as Zelda in the future. Will we ever be able to see that? (Also, Renee knows ball, *Twilight Princess* is the best *Zelda* game.) Have a great day or night, depending on when you read this.

Thank you. It's unlikely that you will see that because Renee didn't actually dress up as Link. She dressed up as Robin Hood, a copyright free character, public domain character. But she wanted to be Link. So, I don't know if we'll actually put her in the outfit of a copyrighted character. Maybe it's like a guest piece, so there could be art of her dressed as Zelda on social media, but not in the game itself. We'll have to see.

Hello, I was wondering, has Omi ever told Tamarack any German folk tales, and does Tamarack get curious about any folk tales or fairy tales?

Yes, Omi has told Tamarack some old stories and Tamarack thought they were really great. You know, she's a fan of folk tales and fairy tales.

Hello, GB patch team! happy May! 1. If going to a ren faire, what would each LI dress as? Princesses, knights, creatures, etc.?

Since the other questions mentioned Baxter, I assume you mean the *Our Life 1* leads. Cove would probably just dress as a general old timey looking guy. Maybe he'd lean towards being kind of pirate-like. Derek would go for, you know, a knight or ranger or something more complex. While Baxter would have to be told what to do; he wouldn't really be able to pick

2. Considering Baxter's relationship with his parents, if he becomes a father in the future, would he have worries about repeating their mistakes or creating a similarly strained relationship?

He would definitely worry about being a bad father, but it would mostly come from insecurities about himself and feeling like he didn't even really have a proper example from his own father to know what it's like to be a good father. However, he wouldn't think he would do what his parents did. He would do everything he could to not do what his parents did, but he'd be afraid. He'd cause his own unique problems that would ruin the relationship or give his kid a bad life.

3. I remember you saying that Baxter attempted dating again after Step Three. At this point he's in Prism Vista, where did he meet the people he tried dating? At random, dating apps, coworkers?

Baxter mostly kept dating at college. After he graduated and ended up moving to California, he wasn't really dating anymore. He usually would only date if somebody else approached him and asked him out because they were interested, and he would accept and give it a try. So he usually was, you know, more random people or maybe sometimes people he met at a wedding as like a guest of the wedding, and they took an interest in him. And in college, you know, he would just date other people in his classes or that he knew through other people and things like that.

Happy May, GB Patch! 1. So I heard Devon is straight; for purely scientific reasons, what kind of girl would he theoretically like?

He would prefer a girl who is kind of quiet like he is, somebody who would go on hikes with him and play board games with him. He doesn't really have that many requirements.

2. Will the extra full customizations be released in the beta, or will it be official release only?

It probably will come out in the beta first, but it'll be a beta that happens after the early access release. So, you know, maybe sometime next year they will be a beta that has the extra customizations, and then the public won't get it until Step Three is fully released in the middle of next year.

3. Since there's a PE test in OL2, I was wondering how all of the OL leads would place in a race against each other?

It would depend on their ages. Somebody like Qiu could be more of a competitor, depending on if they were a kid or teenager. Derek would always do his best, but he could win as an adult and probably would not win as a kid. Tamarack would also do a lot better as a kid, and she'd be more reserved about it as a teen and not really try to push herself to win. Baxter, he might put in more effort as an adult, but he's really not much of a sprinter at any age. Cove, he could do pretty well, but it would depend on if he ends up more sporty or studious.

What jobs would Qiu and Tamarack like to do when they're older? Apologies if it's been asked before.

So in Step Two, neither of them have any job they'd look forward to doing in the future. They don't have much hope or aspirations for the future. As kids, Tamarack wants to be Santa Claus, and Keogh wants to be a pro biker or a CEO of some important company.

Have you guys ever considered making a coloring book/pages for your game? I'd go crazy for an oh well, coloring book.

I hadn't actually considered that. Maybe that could happen if a lot of people would be interested in it. I've never done anything like that before, but maybe.

Hello GB. Thank you so much for all your hard work, and I'm really sorry if this question has already been answered or it shouldn't have been questioned here. I'm very impressed and like the system which was added to NF that shows what other previous characters have chosen before. Even after NFS development is over, is there any chance that that feature will be added to OLBA? I hope so.

So Shawna, the lead programmer, has considered doing some updates to OL1 to improve certain things. It would just be, you know, programming tweaks, not any new scenes. But I'm not sure if that choice tracking feature could be added retroactively to

Our Life 1 without doing a ton of work. So I'd say don't count on it, but maybe there is a small chance it could be feasible.

Hi there GB and crew, happy (almost) summer, and I hope your arm has been treating you better! *Thank you.* As with every Q&A, if anything has been asked before or needs to be skipped for any reason, please feel free. 1. We all know Cove loves beaches/the ocean, but if by chance he ended up living Lakeside as an adult, would he enjoy that as well? Or is he more strictly saltwater in his preferences?

Cove is very much a saltwater guy. Lakeside would not be nearly as good as beachside. However, he would still appreciate being able to go swimming. But you know, you wouldn't be able to surf and it wouldn't have the same, like tide pools or sea life like dolphins out there. So he would find it significantly less good.

2. Also, I don't know if this has been answered before, but I haven't been able to find it in old transcripts. How does Cove do with an MC who was super fearful of the ocean to a level of getting ankle deep is immediately "no, absolutely not"?

Cove would mostly just not make the MC go to the beach or ocean. He's fine just loving it himself. He doesn't need the MC to also love it. Of course, it's more fun if the two of them can be there and do things together, but if the MC really hates it, he's not going to force them to go there. And it's not going to, you know, depress him or ruin the relationship that he has to enjoy his love of the ocean by himself.

Hi GB team, so excited for *Our Life* and in *F* to fully release, and I loved 1.58 beta. I was wondering if there are any plans to do something similar where there are access routes as DLCs like there was for *Beginnings & Always*. I totally understand if that's really, really far away or even never happens, but I was so curious. And if it's a possibility, would it be any characters you already know? Thank you so much. Hope you get better, GB.

Thank you. Unfortunately, there will not be any side character DLCs for *OLNF*. It's just going to be the Tamarack and Qiu show. The game is too long, even with just, um, two of them.

Hi GB team! I have a question. I understand if it's not answerable at this point. Qiu's journey involves learning that they/he are gender fluid. Cove had a scene

where he realized and shared his pan and demi. I know Tammy's journey is more about acceptance and her family, however, will there be something similar perhaps to Cove scene for her and where she falls into the LGBT community?

Yes, that is something she'll talk about to a degree in Step Two, but more so in Step Three and Four.

Hiya! Absolutely love your work. Thank you. 1. My question is about the potential relationships MC might be able to have with the adults in their life moving forward. I know a bit about Yusuf, but I'm curious about whether you've decided so far (and are willing to share) about the scope of that and other characters? Is it the sort of thing where that relationship might develop into something along parental lines, or is it more of a supportive, friendly adult situation?

So you can view Omi and Opa like your own grandparents, but for people like the Murrys or the Lins, they're not going to cross a boundary with Opal and act like they're actually a parent to you. So it will just be a friendly adult relationship with them.

And then Yusuf also tries to stick to being like an uncle figure. He again doesn't want to make Opal uncomfortable by acting like he's your dad. But of all the other adult figures other than the grandparent figures, he's the one that you can have the closest relationship with.

2. Also, is there something developing between Opal and Yusuf or am I crazy?

I can say that Yusuf does like Opal and is flirting with her when they have those little exchanges, but I can't say anything more than that.

Hello! This is my first time participating in the Q and A's. It's so exciting. My burning important question is what kinds of pie are Qiu and Tamarack's favorites?

Tamarack's is probably pumpkin pie and maybe apple pie as well. While Qiu is probably more into like a chocolate mousse pie or like an Oreo crust type of pie. Though, that's as a kid; I'm not sure they'd really be into pies as a teen or adult. They generally prefer not super sweet desserts.

Okay, so mid-word an alarm just went off to let me know that I have an appointment soon, so, very good that that was the last question, and I wrapped it up before I had to

leave for the night. Thank you everybody who sent in questions. Happy four year anniversary. I'll talk to you again next month for another Q&A. Take care everybody!