

Hi! I'm Jazz/sparklefur :)

This is a continually updating document on all things related to the world I've written (mainly) for the pre-2015 [sparkledogs](#) I've adopted. This includes general lore about the universe, including their in-universe version of the exoplanet Gliese 357 d, and stories which group together a few characters.

To see individual character bios, please view their [toyhouse](#) pages in the linked folder.

This also includes the creator credits of the designs because none of these are my designs. I adopted old characters I found through deviantart, or furaffinity, with **100% their permission!** I *do* have **proof** if needed, usually of me paying money, sometimes me just getting them for free. **These characters officially belong to me, jazz, sparklefur/sparkleanimal on toyhouse and newgrounds respectively, sparkleforever on tumblr. If you see anyone else upload them recently, please contact me for inquiry.**

I am writing this in a note file that i've moved onto this Google document, as I wish for it to be somewhere secure from deletion, but also easily and immediately updated to viewers. If Google docs squeals on me, I will upload it on my personal site.

I am not a professional writer, so this is simply a lax hobby. I am primarily a visual artist and also a fulltime student. I have to write quite a bit, but it is not fiction. My world is very self indulgent and will not be narratively perfect, although I will try to make it at least sensical and interesting (if you spot a *specific* way I can fix something incongruent or insensitive, kindly let me know!) While I do wish to write stories that people can enjoy as much as I do, I don't wish to write perfect ones, and many stories are always actively being worked on/always in draft mode.

This story will also not have perfect grammar nor syntax. Again, I have to write a lot of "high-standard" essays to pass well as a student. I can write in wonderful grammar if need be, but I "mask off" here because this is very streamlined and not connected to any academic career. If something is unintelligible, I will rewrite it at your request.

All in all, you'll have to go somewhere else if you're looking for serious beefy character writing, free of blemishes such as Mary Sues, perma- development, or odd drama. The only thing I'm trying to do here, at large, is to express what I love, have a place to be freely "cringy", and give these old dogs a new life, courtesy of their creators.♥

Well, with all that said, here it is!

My passion for reviving old, dormant 2000s anime dog ocs...

~PACK OF THE PAST~

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## Setting & Universe

This story takes place a few decades or so in the future— as of writing this, the era of this story would be 2060-2080. It is also within an alternate version of our universe. Compared to ours, this one has and has always had fantastical aspects which utilize advanced technology and vice versa. There are a lot of impossible things here, such as wormholes (used to travel between planets), the steady creation of fully artificial yet biological life, Techno Wizards, and a tangible force of creativity which does a whole lot of things which you will see below...

To this story, the most prominent of these fantastical phenomena are a certain physical manifestation of Earth's creativity, the anthropomorphic animals. The ancient creative force has blessed the evolving, still-non sapient animals on a faraway exoplanet with an extra-cerebral structure around their brains which grants human sentience and other traits. Those on Earth are unaware of how they had bestowed such enlightenment! How sad, only reveling in their own technological advancements and eventual hubris...hm, well, sort of!

Those on Earth (*in this universe, not our own!*) are actually viewing other worlds without even knowing the true gravity of it...through their screens! Not only that, but through their own HANDS, creating art and voicing characters!

Anime, cartoons, furies? Those are all tangible and independent somewhere in this world, doing things beyond what they were initially created for and yet existing in a universe which had its laws created by someone else.

By viewing the screen, someone gets a glimpse, simply a looping snapshot, of a [whole other planet...](#)

## Gliese 357 d

[Gliese 357 d](#) is a real exoplanet in our own universe. However, while this "mega-earth" is *theorized* to be habitable here...in the POTP universe, it *is* habitable! And it, in its massive size, is absolutely *teeming* with furies! It is called Gliese by its inhabitants, but I also call it "Furplanet"...I dunno why. Sounds funny. xD

*(note: although all of my characters in this world are old sparkledogs, the planet has many furies, old and new! your oc could technically exist on this planet, and i do allow you to insert your oc because it's easy to do so!♡)*

There is no human life on this planet. All earthly animals on this planet are now anthros, either biped or quadruped (see the *Meta* section for the anatomical split). By the force of this earthly

creativity, they have been granted human-like features, such as hair, expressive eyes, human lifespan, and most of all, *sapience*!

As anything sapient would do, these furies began to build a society. Because they were born many millennia ago, as we have created anthros for so long, they are quite up to speed with our own societal advancements (but not quite perfectly). They have institutions and education, medicine and other drugs, laws (with their flaws), power and resistance, currency (which I still have yet to wonder what it is), and more. So much more, with the existence of wormhole crossovers, too...

In fact...it's so similar to our planet because, as we bestowed life unto them, they have taken inspiration from us as well! They are huge earth fans, and sensing our own teeming life, have developed a way to wormhole down to earth and "scan" our advancements and possessions for reference. This does mean they like human anime and have human sonas and stuff lol (but ofc they also make their own media). A lot of their stuff is our stuff. A lot of our stuff is their stuff! While planets like Pokémon and MLP planets are in tune with us, the anthro one is particularly special due to how deeply it mirrors our world in particular. However, it does have its own quirks.

Races/ethnicities and different languages exist here in their own way, which aren't the same as earth, but similar enough that I would use earthly "coding" to define characters which would not otherwise be humanoid races or speak a human language (english is the vernacular im telling this story in, but they wouldn't speak English! They have all sorts of their own furry languages that may take pieces of earth language and use animal sounds as well). Also, they obviously utilize [furgonomics](#)!

They are not granted names, rather choosing their own (unless they wish to be named when they reach a stage in life to decide so— this is considered very intimate/trusting). Before they are named, they are called by descriptive factors of any sort by anyone around them if needed, ex. Pink wolf, spotted cat, etc. If they are given a personal name without their consent, it is seen as abusive/controlling (*this does not reflect my real views! just a culture quirk*). On record, they just keep a particular generic "code" for inhabitants indexed. The code pulls from species and then is numbers and letters, but always at least one number after the species code (ex- wolf = WF62GH75 ; cat = CT3QS6D5).

They also have different education for specifically fantasy elements (such as majoring in wormhole transportation or psychic martial arts, etc...lots of possibilities). Also, due to their lagging behind us in development their technology is ironically similar to how ours would be in the late 2000s or early 2010s except for the wormhole stuff. But like, computers and schools and shit are all more like the early aughts. They need to catch up lol.

There are pets, but they of course aren't the same pets we would have. They're a bunch of totally alien species that are not sapient and therefore domesticated as companions and livestock.

So...a planet and society of furies. And my contributors- my muses, perhaps -of these stories happen to be sparkledogs. Are *all* furies on this planet sparkledogs...?

Nope.

## Chatoyancy

Not every furry on Gliese is a sparkledog (or other sparkle animal). They may have use of fantasy/magic and humanoid features and hair, but they otherwise stay faithful to their earthly species in color and anatomy.

So, where do sparkle-furies come from...?

The force of creativity does not end at anthropomorphism. Seemingly connected to this force is a gaseous, odorless chemical called *Chatoyan*. This chemical had begun slowly permeating through Gliese overtime since centuries ago, and has rapidly entered once earth was scanned, confirming its connection to earth. Profoundly, it does not affect non-sapient animals nor humans, only seeming to activate upon contact with the extra-cerebral structure of Gliese furies. This has led to more and more furies becoming less faithful to their original species. From the ancient art of dragons (in universe: mutated reptile-cat-dog things), to the sparkledogs of now, Chatoyan mutation has only become more common.

The higher the chatoyan, the less faithful to the original species the furry becomes. This includes the development of unnatural colors, new appendages such as wings and horns, and even hybridism with other species' genetics!

If it were to be on a 1-10 scale, level 1 Chatoyancy would be like just a few unnatural colors here and there, and 10 is like a super complex colored or super hybrid animal. Any level of chatoyancy, even the most mild, is considered to be "sparkle". Some individuals can simply inhale some Chatoyan and then have a stronger genetic immunity to it than others, resulting in the fixed yet varied severity across individuals.

Chatoyancy is genetically carried, and generally turns animals sparkly as they develop, but can only turn animals a little bit sparkly once they are physically 'mature' (by human years, so post-puberty). Rarely, older animals may have onset severe Chatoyant mutations, but it is rare to have any more than small streaks of color once the body has basically entirely developed. This may assume that Ct is only effective during very vulnerable times in development and becomes less effective as the body starts decaying more than it is creating.

is under heavy research, but ultimately there is no predicting exactly what it will do or how/when it will manifest during childhood. It can display millions of different mutations.

Oh yeah I may call chatoyan "Ct" for short sometimes.

This chemical is slowly making its way across more and more of Gliese...but there is a way to stop it. This is both good and bad. The good part is that with developed treatment and ways to ward off the chemicals effects, one can still have control over their own body. The bad part is that sparkle-furries are a marginalized group on this planet (*similar to how even other furries will make fun of sparkledogs in real life*).

Those with noticeable (scale 3-8 usually, 9-10 are rare) chatoyancy have been historically made fun of all the way to being denied access to certain establishments and singled out by authoritarian officials. They are an oppressed group in this society. People have even tried to forcibly de-sparkle them with that same medicine which could be so good...

this all of course, similar to our world, because they're *different*. they're "weird". They're not well understood. And people are afraid of that, and react ignorantly and aggressively on impact to things which they find anywhere from "cringy" to "diseased".

Chatoyancy/sparkle is *not* a race, sex, or orientation, and is *not* meant to resemble a race or racial or sexual injustice; species are not "races" but do include interspecies cultural and physical differences like our own human idea of race, same for gender and orientation.

Sparkleanimals are ostracized in a way that many marginalized people may relate to (or not).

Ct is becoming more common, but natural furries have dominated the planet for a long time and continue to be a large subset of the population. Which isn't bad, but means that they can still overpower chatoyant individuals.

Nowadays, it's a lot more progressive, but there are still two main factions of chatoyancy related politics on Gliese (with a bunch of little micro-positions)- there are Traditionalists, those who want to stop the flow of chatoyancy and go back to when it was more natural colored ALONG with less advanced technology (aka stop scanning earth so much), or Modernists, who embrace scanning earthly material, subsequently letting more chatoyancy into Gliese's atmosphere.

*(these words do not hold or allude to the same meaning they would have on earth.)*

### IMPORTANT NOTE:

Being scene, emo, goth, or any other alt group is NOT caused by chatoyancy or vice versa!!!

There are emo natural animals, and there are sparkle animals who are not of any alternative group! Sparkledogs don't need to be any of these things.

Apply the same to being gay, any (Gliese equivalent to) race, any religion, ETC. it is a subset of physical changes and THAT'S IT. All other things are merely *correlated* with chatoyancy.

For fun, here's a little example of the Chatoyan scale! If you want to rate your own OCs, go for it! It is a SLIDING scale, not to mention the millions of mutations, so these are just some examples from number to number. Also, the examples are **not in-universe**, aka may just be characters who are **not affected by Chatoyan**, simply *resembling* those who are CT affected.

Once again, Chatoyan mutations can be defined, at large, as **mutations which stray the anthro away from its natural animal derivative in any way aside from simply being anthro**. Being anthro and therefore upright, human-haired, and clothed, is *not* Chatoyan, as the animal stays

otherwise entirely faithful to its real world counterpart. Complicated outfits or dyejobs obviously do NOT count as mutations.

Lastly, hybrids that are due to parental mixing that weren't otherwise mixed up don't count. they DO count if the parents had chatoyan hybridism. An example is [Chi-chi's](#) mother just being a natural arctic fox and her dad being a sparkly yet single species maned wolf, so her maned wolf x arctic fox hybridism is not inherently chatoyan. However what IS chatoyan is the fact that she was born exposed to high levels of it, and her dad was already sparkly, hence why she's so rainbow. Overall, hybridism is context dependent!

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|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>0 - No Chatoyancy</b>        | <b>EXAMPLES:</b><br>Most Beastars characters (bipedal)<br><br>Most Disney or LooneyTunes animal characters. (Human hair and eyes but otherwise faithful, quad examples).<br><br>Leafie, a hen into the wild characters (the ducks have humanoid hair and eyes but are otherwise fully faithful to real mallards, avian). | this is just a normal animal except anthro! Naturally colored human hair, natural colored eyes for their species, and all natural markings which may only shift to accommodate a bipedal form.<br><br>Note that melanism and albinism are natural to earthly animals. They are not associated with Chatoyan unless the animal is incapable of these mutations. Apply this logic to other strange yet earthly coat mutations.<br><br>Artistic stylization which is meant to depict an accurate animal for that universe is still a natural animal in-universe. |
| <b>1 - Very Mild Chatoyancy</b> | <b>EXAMPLES:</b><br><br>Greenie/XY, from NOFNA (Syconium).<br><br>Adorozatorumary (sanrio).<br><br><a href="#">Melody</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                | This is the beginning of "sparkle", but it is very hard to notice. There are debates about whether or not this is sparkle, but it is operationally defined as such for this continuity. Natural colored yet dissenting markings, such as some black spots on a tiger, Unnatural eye colors, Light flecks of unnatural                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                           | <p>color, or fullbody dull unnatural color.</p> <p>Hybridism is never present.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>2 - Slightly Mild</p> | <p><b>EXAMPLES:</b></p> <p>Amaterasu (from Okami).</p> <p><a href="#">Juniper</a></p> <p><a href="#">Holli</a></p>                                                                        | <p>More unnatural colors are seen here. The entire body can be a muted unnatural color but that is less common, and it is usually very close to a natural color, such as a gray-blue. Only super bright in VERY small amounts. Only 1-3 unnatural colors.</p> <p><i>Very mild</i> hybridism may be present, such as simple marking mixes that are due to a different species rather than a mutated coat. No more than two animals. Entirely anatomically faithful to species(s).</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>3 - Mild</p>          | <p><a href="#">Kae</a> (mostly natural, but for a shiba inu, she's a little off the mark, and has noticeable rabbit hybridism without being overwhelming).</p> <p><a href="#">max</a></p> | <p>Noticeable BRIGHT unnatural patterning, or unnatural shapes like hearts and stars, but not overwhelming. Still lots of natural color and faith to the original species(s), but may start to see unnatural paw or ear shape. More unnatural colors, but still not usually a full rainbow.</p> <p>Hybridism such as small wings, tiny horns, noticeable marking mixes, eye types, etc, but very minimal. Not many animals at all, at most 2, maybe 3-4 if closely related species. <i>Hybridism is a separate phenomena to unnatural colors, and a natural colored animal with this level of hybridism would still be here. Apply to all levels besides 8-10, which inherently include unnatural color.</i></p> |

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| <p>4 - Mild to Moderate</p>  | <p><a href="#">Ivory</a> (not the most colorful, but very bright red and an unnatural yellow over a big portion of her body. Many tails that sprout over her lifetime, something common of Kitsune and descendants).</p> <p><a href="#">Zooka</a></p> | <p>At least roughly a quarter of the body area is an entirely unnatural color, and can be very saturated. Otherwise generally has a muted or natural color to balance it. Can have a full rainbow only in very small forms, like dots or claws. Otherwise usually just 3-4 unnatural colors that cover the full body. Species faithfulness is greatly lost at this phase but you can still discern what they attempt to be.</p> <p>Hybridism can be noticable and is anywhere from two to five animals. Differing limbs can occur, as well as large horns. You also begin to see extra limbs (an offshoot of hybridism), such as multi tails or ears, but usually never limbs unless natural for the species. In tails/horns etc, very uniform copies and no more than 6.</p> |
| <p>5 - Slightly Moderate</p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <p>6 - Moderate</p>          | <p><a href="#">bella</a></p> <p><a href="#">chi-chi</a> (very rainbow but mostly a simple and natural white/gray!)</p>                                                                                                                                | <p>Noticeably very unnatural and colorful with some natural or dullness still lingering. Can have a full rainbow more presently on the body but is equaled out by more natural colors or simplicity for however more complex it gets. Can be entirely unnatural colors without being overwhelmingly complex at all. Hybridism is about the same as the last level but just a tad more also occurs, like limb differences or non-similar tail copies.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| 7 - Moderate to Severe | <a href="#">nova</a><br><br><a href="#">maurice</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>Similar to the above, but markings begin to get very intricate here and are often at least the whole 6-8 colors of a rainbow (not necessarily in order). They're generally not overwhelming but there can be saturation on top of more saturation.</p> <p>Hybridism can happen at a more illogical rate, such as a gryphon (half mammal, half avian; beforehand, avian parts would have to be more miniscule, like wings).</p>                                                                                                                                                |
| 8 - Severe             | <a href="#">cupcake</a> (perhaps a BIT less muted fur, but the markings are otherwise a perfect example of this level).<br><br><a href="#">ravecore</a>                                                                                                              | <p>Tons of unnatural color, with many different intricate markings. Lots of color, roughly 10-15 different colors or shades, usually, and oftentimes a full rainbow streak is majorly present on the body. Can still retain some natural coloring, but often not.</p> <p>Very vague, cannot tell a species beyond a general descriptor like "canid".</p> <p>Often hybrid and very much so. can also just be a "vague mutt" (so a hybrid of like 10 canines at once, but overall just looks like a whole singular dog still). 5-10 species. Can have 1-2 sets of extra limbs.</p> |
| 9 - Very Severe        | <a href="#">complicated</a> (perhaps less gray fur in those at this level, but otherwise the markings are a perfect example)<br><br><a href="#">killjoy</a><br><br><a href="#">duct tape princess</a><br><br>if the characters above had more hybridism, they may go | <p>Incredible amounts of different intricate colorful markings, and ~20 or more different shades or distinct colors with little to no naturality (although muted colors may be present as long as they don't naturally occur in the real animal!).</p> <p>Heterochromia is more common than not.</p> <p>Usually has multiple copies</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

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|                                 | into level 10.                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p>of limbs– tails and horns are the most common but can be anything.</p> <p>Absolutely unsure of what the original species was ever supposed to be. Really just “canine, I think? maybe feline? uhh”</p> <p>Almost always hybrid, usually 2-3 species or some sort of “vague mutt” sorta thing, but can go on to be any hybrid number under 15, and any limb count under 6 (otherwise goes into level 10).</p> |
| 10 - The Most Severe Chatoyancy | <p><a href="#">scraps</a></p> <p><a href="#">Princess party platter</a><br/>(especially due to the chimera trait; this level is distinct from 9 due to the extreme hybridism).</p> <p><a href="#">emperor yen</a></p> | <p>These aren't common due to just how much chatoyan you must be exposed to at once. Genetic pass down is uncommon due to the low birth rate because of how much the small genetic fractions are lost due to the unlimited hybridism.</p> <p>This would describe the most complex creatures on Gliese (or associated planets) ever found.</p>                                                                   |

## Meta/Miscellaneous

The name "Pack of the Past" is to reference the old sparkledogs I've graciously been able to adopt which inspired this whole thing.

However, there are certainly not just old sparkledogs on Gliese, and there are even two modern sparkledogs I've created myself which have lore significance. Just because Earth has been unaware of sparkles for so long doesn't mean that it can't be sparkled at all....there's an offshoot story with these two.

### Sparkle Heart Labs Inc. and its Nefarious Properties

Not everyone on earth may believe it (especially since Gliese scanners are so stealthy), but there exist two sparkledogs from the same faraway laboratory on yet ANOTHER planet with the *sole purpose* to destructively sparkle the earth and beyond...none other than [Scraps](#) and [Chaos Infection](#).

Will these menaces be stopped...? Will even other sparkledogs fear these forcefully chaotic nu-sparkles? Will they meet again, and perhaps battle for dominance? Yeah probably lol that sounds like a cool story (perhaps a comedic, VERY LIGHTHEARTED take on the state of today's post-snark sparkledogs and "core" culture and what people think the level of chaos a sparkledog must be in order to be "a real sparkledog" and such...idk xP).

Scraps is now living her own life being her own thing, hating the lab's dull and constricting atmosphere, but Infection was created AFTER Scraps in a much more streamlined and proficient way...if Scraps was the failed draft, Infection is the truly formidable weapon of sparkle destruction...they know only their purpose and nothing else...ok, well, maybe *some* things else, I mean come on! Earth is so interesting...but it all loops back to their goals. Chaos Infection seeks to recapture Scraps, who finds such a thing a fate worse than death. When they meet it will be a chaotic battle.

### **The Anatomical Split**

In order to keep the technology accurate across every board and facilitate relations the way I'd like, there are two *meta universe splits*, meaning that the split is not actually in-universe. One has all the Gliese inhabitants as quadrupeds and the other has biped. They don't mix. ...That's it! lol

### **How I describe this entire story**

A self indulgent, fantasy, futuristic, anthro/furry, sparkle and 2000s tribute, fanficky alien MESS! Queer only because I am. I really just wanted to give old sparkledogs a new life, but wanted to pay homage to old, adolescent stories that may contain them, considering I'm a pretty amateur writer.

## **stories!!**

Here are some stories I've written which contain multiple characters that are at least semi-related if not directly.

Again, for specific singular lores, see the toyhouse pages! A lot of these characters are standalone as of now and I do not list those here, only doing so if there is elaborate setup between characters)

also these all have more so placeholder titles since I don't really see them as becoming media outside of art and maybe small comics? It's just so I can refer back to each as something.

Stories may utilize specific anatomical splits. Some may use both, while others may be strictly told through the lens of one split only (it may happen in another split because...why not, but I utilize a particular split for narrative purpose).

It's better to check the singular toyhouse pages first before reading the story! There is no sense of spoiler because it's laid out as if it's all happened in the past.

## FRIENDSHIP IS FUCKING MAGIC (hasbro legally cannot kill me for this placeholder title) [FIFMHLCKMFTPT]

### MAIN:

Chi-Chi (maned wolf/arctic fox mix), Zooka/Bubblegum Bazooka ("red" fox), Kyra (wolf/???)

### OTHER:

Hyde (jackal), Sno-cone (wolf) (these are cameos/bg characters that happen to go to the same university.)

### IN SUM:

Zooka is stubborn and hot-headed from the getgo, with a girly side. Has family troubles relating to her (formerly) secret magical girl duties. Can be overly serious or protective due to these experiences.

ChiChi is very shy and almost cold to strangers, but silly, energetic, and artistic with Zooka, who has been best friends with her since puppyhood. Also girly. And a cat therian, with a fursona named Chitchat.

Kyra is shy, and gives off an intimidating aura, but is really a sensitive and emotional guy who just wishes to be friends with people. He becomes another friend to ChiChi and Zooka, but is often left at a loss at their goofy and girly antics, as a very serious and melancholic guy.

### SPLIT:

Quad or Biped/Can be anything

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A girlydrama mahou shoujo slice of life focusing on the interpersonal drama of friendship rather than a romantic plot...and also themes of "war is bad". You could easily imagine this story as a windows movie maker novella with Kelly Clarkson playing behind it (remember emo love stories? chatroom vids? only real ones do....) in fact, if i make enough art, perhaps someday I'll do it myself.

Taking place in Beowulf University, which is mostly populated by canines, two childhood best friends have now made it to college together: the first-sem sophomore Zooka, and the second-sem Chi-Chi! (Zooka is 19, Chi-Chi has just turned 20).

They've been close as ever for what feels like their entire life up to now, despite their squabbles at times (which are usually played up for laughs), and the fact that Zooka doesn't really understand Chi-Chi's therianism yet. Despite their differences, their shared taste in girly pop,

cartoons and anime, cute dolls, Britney-esque fashion, but most of all their resounding trust and ability to confide in one another goes strong...

...but how strong can it be in the face of a critical secret?

Zooka is not just an average college girl. At night, she transforms into the explosive bazooka-wielding mahou-shoujo BUBBLEGUM BAZOOKA, fighting off shadow beings which are allegedly related to sleep issues and horrible nightmares (mainly getting paralysis with a "demon" figure appearing in front of you) from invading her campus and all that surrounds it. Curiously, no one can hear her warfare except for the shadows, as they fight within a plane that is not reached by sound (which is how she can access the shadows anyways). This is likely due to the fact that Zooka is trying to preserve everyone's sleep by sacrificing her own.

She's doing the right thing....is what her family had always told her, even since she was a kit. She's part of a generation of magical girls (the men usually stay home and do housework, ironically enough..but stereotypes are breakable things), she was trained since age 8 and went out to really fight at age 13...and that's all she really knows. Although Zooka fights gallantly, it is mere instinct. Are the shadows she's fighting truly her enemies, or is she simply displacing her angst upon them, if nowhere else?

As she gets older and older, and more critical and enlightened, one thing becomes clear...she doesn't *really* know what she's fighting for. And she's exhausted.

Her family said it had to be a secret or else there would be accursed consequences, but Zooka wouldn't even want to tell her friend about it anyways.

Things become even more complicated when a new guy, a freshman (18), they've never seen before seems to always be within their line of sight. A shiny black wolf with red streaks, shy and gloomy. Just a brooding edgy kid, right? But Zooka feels so off about him that she acts weird and points him out to Chi-Chi. The latter assumes Zooka is just pointing out some "totes hawt emo guy" and reacts gleefully, saying they should go talk to him! Zooka feels strangely reluctant, but waves it off as intimidation as something else within her draws her to know more about him...and it is genuinely not a crush.

Every time they try to talk to him, he goes the opposite way. Chi-Chi calls it a bust and says he'll come around if he's truly the right one.

Despite them having different reasons for fixating on the guy, Zooka deems Chi-Chi's advice sufficient.

Life continues on for both of them...

Zooka's exhaustion after her late night fighting is easily explained away by her taxing martial arts major (which exists in this college)...but if she didn't want her secret exposed, perhaps she shouldn't have chosen such a nosy friend. Chi-Chi is a night owl, and while she knows Zooka is one too, she can't help but notice (when she stays up late enough to) that Zooka doesn't head back to the dorm like she says she does. She always goes the opposite way ("I just like taking the long way!").

Over the weeks of this happening, Zooka becomes more withdrawn and fidgety, and hangs out with Chi-Chi less. They gradually start to drift more and more and experience more strain and fights due to how cagey and exhausted Zooka is.

Chi-Chi cannot contain herself any longer, and she sets out after Zooka, sneakily.

She almost can't believe her eyes when her friend suddenly transforms mid-air into a j-fashion esque black dress with studded belts, her chibi black wings becoming as large as a dark angel's. And she's utterly decked head to toe with grenades, and a BAZOOKA with a heart on it!! But when she gasps and yells "ZOOKA???", it becomes entirely believable, as Zooka suddenly changes back into her old self and falls to the ground, mortified.

Before Zooka can do anything, Chi-Chi fires a barrage of questions that Zooka cannot answer because they're going by so fast. She instantly recognizes it as a magical girl sequence, asking if any of the anime they've watched is real, asking what Zooka fights, asking how she became a magical girl,
...and then finally, asking why she didn't *tell* her!!

At this point, Zooka, overwhelmed, tells her friend to shut up, shocking the both of them. She explains in a panic that her family says she can't tell anyone about these powers.

Chi-Chi is amazed but not quelled, and wants to come along.

"You can't."

"Why not just sneak me in without your parents knowing? Are they here right now?"

"That's not..."

"Just imagine it, I could totally help you with like...uh, intel! C'mon, at least let me watch!!

Pleaaase—"

"Chi-Chi, this is *dangerous*! You are not strong enough to face this!"

Chi-Chi kinda understands, but she just doesn't know how to handle this situation and reacts emotionally. She threatens Zooka's trust in her for never telling her about this, even a little. She feels offended that Zooka called her weak and apparently does not want even her emotional support, considering it's a hard job. Then she assumes that Zooka really must find her weird. Zooka says that Chi-Chi is way too lighthearted about everything and only cares about her art...all the frustration they keep from each other spills out. They part ways, back to their own dorms, and do not talk the next day...rather, the next *week*.

The black and red wolf catches Zooka walking alone, and finally tries to talk to her.

"...Where's your friend?"

Zooka doesn't answer for a moment, and then without looking at him, claims that there's something seriously off about him and she doesn't know why.

Instead of being offended, the wolf laughs a little and says that's funny, he feels the same way towards her. This perplexes Zooka. He then says his name is Kyra, and they're both off to their classes before any more can be said.

Eventually, realizing that they both feel the same way, and getting close enough to him to see his eyes and feel any aura, she begins to question...is Kyra a shadow?

Instead of fighting later that night, she yells at the shadowy figure to answer a question for her. Who is Kyra?

...This gets a reaction, but only a very vague one.

"You will not stand in the way of our reintegration."

Zooka can't focus on fighting because she's thinking about Chi-Chi, missing her like hell. Her parents reprimand her poor performance, allowing some shadows to get away. Is Zooka at the edge of her will..?

She approaches Kyra once more, and straight up states her theory; she feels weird about him because he is a shadow, and he is to her because she is of the generation of magical girls who fight shadows. It seems they've both realized the same thing...

"Do you hate me?" asks Kyra.

"...I don't understand— no, I...don't."

Kyra senses her confusion.

"I don't really understand either." is all he says.

Silence for a bit as they brood upon it, broken once again by Kyra.

"...Where's your friend?"

"You asked that two days ago." Zooka's response is bitter.

"Well, you were always together beforehand."

Zooka sighs and tells him, their circumstances brewing a strange closeness with the boy, that she found it all out. They fought over it, admitted a lot of annoyance with the other, said some insensitive shit, and they're "ruined", she says. She begins to cry and runs away, but Kyra tells her to wait. She doesn't look back at him, but she does freeze in place, ears pointing to listen.

"...You shouldn't underestimate the power of close bonds."

Time for class thereafter, but Zooka is in no condition to go, and mulls over what Kyra said.

Bonds...emotional support...Chi-Chi *can* help her, can't she? Just like she said. Zooka has been slowly pushing chichi and others away for weeks out of exhaustion, leading to frustration between the two building up. But would Chichi ever listen now...?

...Turns out, Chi-Chi's been skipping class too. This was their spot when they decided to cut class, the far corner of the lunch hall- Chi-Chi was included.

She looks shocked that Zooka is approaching her. She doesn't even look offended. They both look like they've been crying.

Zooka apologizes for snapping and cutting off Chi-Chi. She says she wants her friend to be safe, but she went too far in calling her weak and saying she can't help with anything. She explains that she's been very tired and that's why she's been so off for weeks.

Chi-Chi pretty much glomps Zooka and says she's so so sorry for being too pushy and that she understands it must be, like, totally stressful to be a magical girl. Even if her feelings were hurt, she forgives Zooka and vice versa.

Zooka asks if they're still friends, and Chi-Chi says "OF COURSE we're still friends!!"

They share a hug, not caring about who sees, and then have lunch together. Chi-Chi shows Zooka a sad vent art of her cat fursona to punctuate how sad she was without Zooka, which the latter never really understood in the past, but the tenderness of the situation gives her a new perspective on Chi-Chi's feline therianism. (which Chi-Chi interprets as Zooka also getting a fursona in the future and elbows her, to which Zooka is like HAHA no.)

She thinks...well, Chi-Chi can choose who she wants to be. And she's proud of that.

...What about me?

Later, at a better time, Zooka texts Chi-Chi about how she talked to Kyra again.

chichi: omg girl, you hit on him while i was gone?? sharing is caring!! UmU

zooka: no!! that's not what this is about, be srs

zooka: i...think i found out why i feel so weird abt him. it's not a crush.

zooka: i think he's one of the people im fighting...i think he's a shadow

Chi-Chi is like ZOMG WHAT?? and Zooka is like Ya...idk how to feel.

She opens her heart up to Chi-Chi closer than she ever has, spilling that she doesn't even know why she's fighting besides what her parents told her and that they're apparently causing sleep issues. She doesn't even know Kyra, but she does know that she doesn't want to hate him. He doesn't seem bad...the shadows integrating with the world was always told as a horrible omen, but...hm.

Chi-Chi strongly suggests they go talk to him again, and maybe there's something that they both don't know.

Zooka keeps missing shadows that night and lies to her parents back at home that she doesn't feel well (using the missed class to punctuate it). They are upset but let her off the hook for a few days while her mother goes out to fight the shadows. She now has to be a little bit on the down low so they don't get that she's lying (even being off campus, they're close enough to get that information if she strays too far from said campus), but now she doesn't have to fight the shadows which she now feels so complex about! The only question now is how to permanently stop...how to show her parents the type of person Kyra is, or the forlorn look she saw on that one shadow's face while talking about "reintegration"...

Chi-Chi sees Kyra before Kyra sees the both of them the next day, and she waves at him, not calling out but drawing his attention. He looks surprised that they're together again, and pads up to them. He says he's glad they're okay, a little shy around Chi-Chi who he's never met before. She introduces herself, and then Zooka asks up front for him to tell her more about shadows. Do they really cause sleep disturbances? Are they really so malevolent?

Kyra speaks in a way in that he's not sure if Zooka will believe him, but says they're really, really not. They can control sleep, yes, so some of them could cause sleep issues including the very real paralysis "demons" that so many people reported, but most of them are just those who have always had access to the dream realm and have even *helped* many people sleep, creating the dark and quiet atmosphere which allows for people to drift off by reducing noise and light pollution in highly urban areas. He's a half shadow because they can take a physical form during the day, if not pushed into hiding by the magical girls, and fall in love with others, and have half-shadow children such as Kyra who are also more attuned to the sleep world.

As it turns out, "shadows" are a colloquial term for these people who have had these powers since birth. They're like a naruto clan almost, where it's passed down due to genetics/ethnicities. They tend to come out only at night and have darker colored fur/scales, so they are poorly understood and some smear campaign a long time ago painted them as malevolent despite all that they've done for the world.

Zooka seems really scared, not of shadows, but of how she's going to tell her parents. Kyra looks a little clueless, and says he doesn't know (and that he's sorry), and runs off. Chi-Chi tries to call him back, but he's gone now.

Zooka still has some cheat days (her parents gave her a week off to recover unless she's really sick in which they'd take her to the doctor), but she told them she can go to class at least again, so she does.

There's not really anything to do now, which is frustrating, because she only has a week to stop fighting them forever.

Some time passes...Kyra isn't there...She only has about 3 days left before her parents intervene again. Damn, why didn't she get his number!? He's gotta have one right, he's a regular person too (unlike what she believed about shadows before), albeit EXTREMELY shy and unreliable. He has to help her. She can't even begin to convince her parents without his example.

Turns out, the reason Kyra was so flighty, is because he was thinking to do just that, but was so terrified of the idea of meeting her family that he ran away. When they finally catch up with him to hear this explanation, Chi-Chi offers to go along too, for extra numbers and to give her own perspective on finding people weird. Kyra still looks scared...he honestly really doesn't know if it's going to work, but he understands that this is important.

They go and practice their lines and it's a bit humorous how recited it is, so you begin to see actually lighthearted Zooka finally again...Zooka has to tell Chi-Chi to not be so dramatic in delivering her lines, but they both agree on what to say together. They can barely get Kyra to say his part, but Chi-Chi offers "no omg wait the shy stuttering is actually PERFECT though, it'll tug at their hearts!!". Zooka thinks, entirely internally, about how emotionally cut off her parents have always been, but they've somehow permitted her to stay home this week and also hang out with Chi-Chi their whole life, so...hmm. Maybe this will work.

...to skip some more regular stuff where they just try and chill and hang out, actually integrating Kyra into their friend group, spoilers:

...It doesn't really work.

Zooka manages to have her parents listen a little, even through Kyra's stuttering, but then, her mother blows up. How dare she be making friends with a half-shadow behind their back. Zooka fires back that they're not even trying to humanize him, and the mother retorts that any shadow is less than human and is causing problems for people. The father is just...silent, glaring, so the mother also throws in a jab at Chi-Chi, saying that they were always "worried about her", too (likely figuring out in little assumptions ways that she's Not Straight, and finding out through Zooka that she makes weird anime art and stuff). Chi-Chi is really scared and uncomfortable but also pissed.

The more they bare their teeth, the more they bare themselves as a truly puritanical, prejudiced family. Other magical girls that are Zookas age could be tied into this cultish act as well. She wonders where they are, but only for a second... In a fiery spit of rage, Zooka yells that her parents have always been much more of a shadow than any of the shadows she's ever had to fight. She states that, no matter what they do, she will never fight shadows again. As she stomps out the door, they tell her that this isn't the end, and they will make sure not to lose her.

So...what DO they do? It's a cause for alarm, Zooka doesn't really know her parents at all, so she has no idea to what lengths they'll go to intervene...They definitely don't leave Kyra alone, in case he gets targeted.

Sadly, it seems, with the rest of the world being unaware of the shadows and magical girls, Zooka is going to have to fight her parents and try to find and meet other magical girls to recruit them to her side, the Shadow Protectors.

And...That's about all I have for now! Zooka slowly embarks on her journey to both battle and evade her parents and seek out and inform more magical girls about the truth of the unknown. Explores the sleep realm maybe, and honestly it gets more shounen here? Three of em going on dangerous adventures after school lol.

She may have stress and conflict once again with Chi-Chi, or Kyra, but it is now her secret mission to reach out to the other magical girls. She's not afraid to smack down on some people if they fight her...although Kyra would rather just show them that he isn't so bad (other shadows also begin a makeshift peace treaty, although they don't just wanna let themselves get beaten of course).

Zooka and her friends truly believe that one day they will end this battle for good, and maybe that belief will just be strong enough to make it happen.

Along the way, they just...become friends, and have fun together! Although Kyra is a bit lost over ChiChi and Zookas rather...energetic and girly hobbies, he's so happy to finally have

friends that think he's cool. They do all sorts of stuff together to try and get Kyra out of the house more!

Underwater Adventures

Feat.:

Stripe, Vi, Ivory

OTHER:

Jericho (who otherwise has a lot more of his own standalone story)

SPLIT:

Biped with Digitigrade legs (upright, humanoid torso, cartoonish animal legs and paws. think fursuit!!)

Stripe is a 10 year old gullible catfish who is friendly to everyone he meets. He can go between the water world and the ground world due to his half mammal, half fish nature. His life goal is to use this nature of his to bridge the gap of understanding between the land and the water...and as he finds out, the shallow water vs. the deep water.

Ivory is an 11 year old fox with a lot of energy! She is always trying to humor the situation and can be very silly and sometimes brash. Her penchant for photography gives her an eye for detail, something that serves her and her friends well as they traverse the underwater world.

Vi is a 10 year old fox. A stereotypical nerd, they would rather read than talk to most people...but they care about their friends a lot. They can get fed up with said friends antics, but generally act as a voice of reason and cautionary when exploring the water world– and they also made the blueprint for the scuba equipment!

Jericho is an adult axolotl-esque fish from the twilight zone...He is asocial and foreboding, instantly threatening the kids to leave him alone.

...In his own, separate and more adult themed story, he shows a more wistful side, wishing to have a life partner he can take care of and vice versa. It is clear that Jericho was dealt a bad hand by the aquatic society, along with the rest of the twilight zone creatures.

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A silly little story from the perspective of three friends going on an adventure to understand one of them's world a little better because he is half fish. They find out that even the underwater world itself is divided...