



# *BITTERSWEET MEMORIES: A HIGH-CLOUD QUINTET ZINE*

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## ☁ PROJECT INFO

### ABOUT

*Bittersweet Memories* is an unofficial for-charity *Honkai: Star Rail* fanzine centered around the High-Cloud Quintet. All profits above the breakeven point will be donated to Médecins Sans Frontières, also known as Doctors Without Borders. More information about the charity can be found here: <https://www.msf.org/>

The zine will contain content about the High-Cloud Quintet from both their past, when they were together, and their present, when they are separated.

Content will be gen and safe for work. While lightly implied ships may be permitted, they are not to be overt or the central point of a piece.

### ZINE SPECS

The zine will be A5 and perfect-bound with approximately 100-120 pages. Merch items are still being finalised; once decided, merch items will be listed.



## SCHEDULE

PHASE	DATE
Interest Check	7th August - 30th August
Contributor Applications	9th October - 9th November
Application Results	16th November
Check in 1	28th December
Check in 2	18th January
Check in 3	8th February
Final Submission	28th February
Preorders	End of April - End of May
Production	May - June
Shipping	June - July
Leftover Sales	TBA



## ☁ MODERATORS

**DUNIYA @sylvixmania** | *head, finance, social media*

Chronically addicted to the 'in another life' trope.

- Multimedia editor/Marketing Manager for university zine
- Political editor of The Writer's Summit
- Financial experience from handling family's small business

**KEI @keiyeyee** | *graphics, layout*

My wallet needs reinforcements.

- Graphic designer for Star Rail Station Server
- Layout designer for 4+ zines

**MICAH @apricitous** | *writing, organization, production*

I love bittersweet tales about the bygone days.

- Head, Writing Mod for *IN/FINITE: Renheng Zine*
- Writing Mod for *Ode to Teyvat: A Genshin Poetry Anthology*

**Kit @kitsatik** | *art*

Average renheng enjoyer with a severe gacha addiction

- General intern/art mod for *Queen of the Night: Hutao Zine*
- Page artist for 10+ completed zines

**YUE @yueeelii** | *merch*

Hello I am whale, indie pop and angst enjoyer

- Independently creating merch for ~1 year



- Created graphics for various projects

Natsumi @Toki\_Natsumi | *shipping*

RIP wallet-kun

- Head, finance, shipping for *Adventurer's Handbook: Genshin Theorycrafting Zine*
- Finance and shipping for *To Celestia: Genshin Esports Zine*
- Finance and shipping for *Dive Back in Time: Link Click Zine*

## ☁ EXPECTATIONS

### GENERAL

All contributors to the zine must be age 16 by 9th November, 2023. Anyone who is at or above the minimum age is free to apply to this fanzine, regardless of prior experience or social media presence.

Contributors must have Discord or be willing to create one, as the primary avenue of communication will be through a Discord server. They must also be willing to check the Discord on a regular basis for important information and updates. Within the server, contributors are expected to treat fellow contributors and moderators with respect. Additionally, if it is found that a contributor has produced or promoted content that encourages hateful, harmful, or otherwise exclusionary sentiments against real-life communities, they will be removed from the zine.

All check ins and final submissions are expected to be submitted in a timely manner. However, we understand that life happens and there may be reasons why someone may not be able to finish a piece on time. If a contributor cannot



complete a check in or submission on time, we request that they communicate this with a mod so they can be granted an extension.

We request that all contributors create new, original work for the zine. **Plagiarism, AI, and other forms of theft will not be tolerated.**

While contributors' work is their own, we request that they do not post any part of their work during the creation period. During pre orders, we will provide previews for contributors to post on social media. The full work may be posted after leftover sales begin.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Page Artists are expected to create one (1) fully rendered page or spread piece.

Writers are expected to create one (1) prose piece around 1k - 2k words in length.

Merch Artists will be assigned two (2) to three (3) pieces of merchandise to design based on the given specifications.



## ☁ CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

*Bittersweet Memories* will be accepting page artists, merch artists, and prose writers. The contributor spread is tentatively 1 cover artist, 30 page artists, 5 merch artists, and 10 writers, including guests, but this is subject to change based on contributor applications.

Contributor applications will be open from 9th October to 9th November. All applicants, regardless of role, are expected to provide **three (3) samples** that best represent the work they would like to create for the zine, as well as a portfolio with additional work that can include any or all of the three samples.

Please provide content warnings when applicable to samples and ensure that all links are set to everyone can view so that moderators can review your application. You can ensure a link is viewable by trying to open it in incognito mode. Mods are highly unlikely to contact applicants about broken links or other related issues.

All applicants will receive a copy of their application through email once they have submitted, and are permitted to edit their application. Please note that moderators may not consider edits if they are made long after the original form is submitted.

### PAGE ARTISTS

Please submit:

- Three (3) individual samples that best represent the work you would like to create for the zine.
- A portfolio containing between five (5) to seven (7) pieces containing additional work that you would like the moderator team to consider. The portfolio may contain any or all of your samples.



- All provided samples must be fully illustrated, completed pieces in a similar art style and quality that you would produce for the zine.
- At least one sample must include a rendered, complex background.
- At least one (1) sample must feature *Honkai: Star Rail* characters. Samples featuring any members of the High-Cloud-Quintet are preferred but not required.

## MERCH ARTISTS

Please submit:

- Three (3) individual samples that best represent the work you would like to create for the zine. These can be photos of physical merch or mockups.
- A portfolio containing between five (5) to seven (7) pieces containing additional work that you would like the moderator team to consider. The portfolio may contain any or all of your samples.
- All provided samples must be completed pieces in a similar art style and quality that you would produce for the zine.
- At least one sample must include a complex background if you are interested in making a print. Backgrounds are not required for artists who wish to create charms and stickers.
- At least one (1) sample must feature *Honkai: Star Rail* characters. Samples featuring any members of the High-Cloud-Quintet are preferred but not required.

## WRITERS

Please submit:



- Three (3) individual samples that best represent the work you would like to create for the zine.
- A portfolio containing between five (5) to seven (7) pieces containing additional work that you would like the moderator team to consider. The portfolio may contain any or all of your samples.
- All provided samples must be between 1k to 2k words long, with 300 words of leeway on either side. At least one sample must be a completed piece within the word count; for other samples, excerpts are permitted.
- The portfolio may include other works of any length as long as the word count remains under 15k words.
- At least one (1) sample must feature *Honkai: Star Rail* characters. Samples featuring any members of the High-Cloud-Quintet are preferred but not required.



## FAQ

### WHAT IS A ZINE?

Zines are fan-made collections of artwork and writings focused on a particular theme. In the case of *Bittersweet Memories*, the chosen focus is the High-Cloud Quintet, famed warriors of the Xianzhou Luofu from the game *Honkai: Star Rail*.

### WHAT WILL BE COVERED IN THE HIGH-CLOUD QUINTET ZINE?

The zine will focus on two key aspects of the High Cloud Quintet: their time spent together as a group in the past, and their time spent apart in the present. The section of the zine focused on the group's past will largely centre on their relationships with one another and how they came to rise. The section of the zine focused on the present will focus on their downfall, and how each of the members are presented currently in the game.

### WILL THE ZINE BE PHYSICAL OR DIGITAL?

The zine will be available in both physical and digital forms. Physical merchandise will also be an option for purchase.

### WHAT IS THE COMPENSATION MODEL FOR THE ZINE?

*Bittersweet Memories* is for charity. Our goal is to compensate contributors with a full bundle of the zine if possible, and at minimum, all contributors will be guaranteed a free digital copy of the zine. All remaining profits will be donated to a pending charity.

### IS THIS ZINE SFW?

Yes, the zine will be completely SFW, with a content rating of 16+.



## **A LOT OF CONTENT ABOUT THE HCQ IS CURRENTLY OBTAINED FROM DATAMINES. WILL LEAKED CONTENT BE INCLUDED IN THE ZINE?**

Much of the available content for the High Cloud Quintet has not been officially released in game as of yet. This is especially the case for Jingliu and Baiheng, of whom most if not all of our current information is being pulled from datamines. However, it can be assumed that most if not all of said leaked content will be released in game before the release of the zine. As such, the zine will likely allow contributors to use information from leaks in order to ensure the correct characterisations of Jingliu and Baiheng, as well as the proper writing of their dynamic with the other 3 members. The use of leaked information will extend **only** to the High Cloud Quintet. Any leaks not directly associated with them will not be included in the zine.

## **BAIHENG IS A DECEASED CHARACTER. HOW WILL WE INCLUDE HER IN THE ZINE?**

Baiheng's appearance can be determined from the animated short 'Ichor of Two Dragons', a teaser released for Dan Heng IL's release. We additionally have information as to Baiheng's character from various sources in the game, including but not limited to Dan Heng IL's character story and various books. With Jingliu's release coinciding with the contributor creation period of the zine, we will undoubtedly obtain more information. Moderators will ensure that the presentation of Baiheng sticks as closely as possible to the available canon.

As Baiheng is assumed to be deceased in the current timeline and all information about her current identity or presence is speculative, we will not have content with her living character in the present section of the zine. She may, however, be present in flashbacks and related content. This is subject to change if new information is revealed about her in the coming months.



## ARE CHARACTERS OTHER THAN THE HIGH-CLOUD QUINTET ALLOWED?

Yes, characters that have ties to characters within the High-Cloud Quintet will be allowed in zine content. However, these characters should not be the main focus of the piece.

## WILL SHIPS BE INCLUDED?

*Bittersweet Memories* will not include explicit ship content. We will allow lightly implied ship art, but this will be light enough to be perceived platonically also. We have decided against explicit ship art in order to ensure that the focus remains on the High Cloud Quintet's dynamic as a group, rather than romantic pairings which could lead to the sidelining of other characters not included in the ships.

## IS AU CONTENT ALLOWED?

All speculative content must be inherently tied to canon; for instance, characters in the zine may speculate about alternate timelines or universes. Strictly alternate universe content is not allowed.

## CAN I APPLY TO MORE THAN ONE POSITION?

Yes, but you can only be accepted for one. Your applications for other positions will not affect one another.

## DO I NEED ZINE EXPERIENCE TO APPLY?

Not at all! All applications will be considered regardless of experience.

If you have additional questions, you may ask them through our [Retrospring](#).