

Chapter recaps for [Dog's Life](#), separated with blank spoiler guard pages.

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Chapters 1-3 - [Sparks](#), [Embers](#), [Flicker](#)

The Last Life cast came together to play Dog's Life, where the gimmicks are "stealing traits from the last mob you killed" and "if you get boosted a color above green, you're on your purple life."

Grian joined the server first to do a few admin things, including making a summoning circle with candles for Impulse (though Impulse told him the candles were unnecessary). Grian also sent a message to his perma-AFK wife (HoneyLuna), who lives on their shared AFK server.

- Honey's server doesn't have PVP and Grian hasn't admitted that he and his friends get together to kill each other for fun.
- Grian struggles with feeling unloved by his wife, as their betrothal was technically an arranged marriage; he has tried many times to throw away his ring, but it always reappears on his finger. He stays with Honey out of guilt, but hasn't told her this.

Players gathered and Grian relayed the rules; Impulse revealed the cam accounts are people.

- [Joel and Impulse](#) - Went mining
- [Martyn, Mumbo, and Lizzie](#) - Went mining
- [Etho, Ren, and Tango](#) - Killed zombies under spawn
 - [BigB](#) watched
- [Pearl and Jimmy](#) - Killed chickens and gathered resources; started the Lush Cave alliance
 - Joined by [Cleo and Tango](#)
- [Skizz and Scott](#) - Started an alliance (Interrupted)
- [Bdubs](#) - Scar kicked him off a cliff; later joined Grian
- [Grian and Bdubs](#) - Found a jungle temple and chopped jungle wood

Scar killed a creeper, but his code (which is glitchy and awkward to work with) crashed the server, kicking all players into the dimension they were born: Between.

- All players are hybrids and live in New Star Station- an underground server hub that hides them from anarchy players and raiders.

HALO Aqua (a government entity with unknown levels of authority) came in to reboot the server. Grian scrambled to hide the books and papers on his desk.

Scar was wiped out (deleted and rebooted). Grian and Etho spent two hours fixing Scar's code so Scar could play Dog's Life with them; BigB offered Grian (his boyfriend) hot chocolate and moral support.

Grian and BigB had a quick talk about their relationship, with Grian telling BigB he “didn’t get his love hearts up” when they ate golden carrots together, and asking BigB if eating carrots changed their relationship at all. BigB offered him comfort, but seemed confused.

End of Chapters 1-3 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 4 - [Simmer](#)

Scott took Scar to the HALO office for a check-up. He revealed to the reader he's a closeted allay hybrid and expressed discomfort with Scar's vex biology; he fears Scar might corrupt his code, turning him into a vex too.

Scott says he resents being perceived as a "fragile endangered species" and that he doesn't want Scar to find out he's an allay because he knows Scar would choose to stop playing with him. Scott feels it isn't fair if Scar suffers, so he stays hidden.

- Several people who've been in New Star a long time do know Scott's an allay (namely his twin Sminor5991, Bdubs, Cleo, Etho, and Tango, with Joel, Lizzie, Martyn, and Pearl learning recently).
- Apparently Scott has trauma from a raid on the city of First Moon, his old home

Scott and Skizz worked on their base. They create the Sushi Boys, plan to build a boardwalk and enjoy a summer fling romance roleplay, and they're annoyed when Impulse kills their chicken.

They ran on the beach and we saw Etho and Scar have teamed up, though their alliance was unnamed.

End of Chapter 4 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 5 - [Crackle](#)

Impulse killed his quarry (Joel) by taking on enderman traits and griefing a block under Joel, dropping him into a giant hole. This dropped Joel to yellow life and boosted Impulse to purple.

Joel respawned at spawn, bid Ren good-bye while Ren worked on a farm, and killed a creeper. He spooked Tango, then joined the jungle duo (Grian and Bdubs) as they chopped wood.

Grian and Bdubs bragged about how much iron they had by throwing some at Joel, which helped him get some better armor after his diamond armor got picked up by the Lush Cave Alliance.

- Joel shared descriptions of his and Lizzie's intimacy with the reader (i.e. he and Lizzie chase each other around their AFK server and hack each other with weapons; Joel claims this is the ultimate form of trust and intimacy)

Mumbo, Lizzie, and Martyn died off-screen.

Joel used his creeper traits to blow up Grian, dropping Grian to yellow life. In the process, Joel died and dropped to red life. This was unexpected.

The explosion severely damaged Joel's vessel and source code... possibly due to faulty code after the mod was tweaked to better fit Scar and not tested on other players.

Etho (de facto medic) took charge.

End of Chapter 5 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 6 - [Charred](#)

The Spelunkers (Mumbo, Martyn, and Lizzie) explored a giant lush cave. They carved a small base and went mining. Mumbo told Lizzie his quarry was Tango. When new arrivals showed up in the cave, Jimmy claimed he was also hunting Tango, making Lizzie uneasy since she didn't know who to trust. A fight broke out between the Lush Cave Alliance and the Spelunkers, leading to the deaths of Mumbo, Lizzie, and Martyn (Mumbo to Martyn trying to push him to safety; Lizzie and Martyn died to cave spiders).

- Cleo is hunting Mumbo. Lizzie is hunting Jimmy. Jimmy is hunting Martyn.
- Jimmy claimed Cleo is his mentor teaching him how to be cool

Etho and Lizzie appealed to Joel's camera twin (Lazybeans26, recently under the new identity PiglinMyNose) in the hopes that he would act as a model for Joel's new code and/or donate some of his code for a graft to repair Joel's vessel. He refused, saying he feels like no one cares about him as a person and he's scared of being mistreated.

Lizzie picked up Joel's player file from Scott (who had to unplug it from his office). She comforted Scar (who blamed himself for Joel's injury); she and Scar bonded over the fact they both want to see the world outside the perimeter, which Scar has never seen and Lizzie left.

Lizzie suggested Scar put wool sweaters on the shriekers to stop them from signaling Scott. Scar revealed it upsets him that his chronic glitch (and unthreading in general) is treated as scary. They parted ways and Lizzie realized BigB overheard their conversation.

BigB taunts Lizzie a bit, claiming he "should've known" she'd be sneaking around. He also suggests she try to find out what the raiders are doing with him. She asks why she'd even want to, which seems to catch him off guard; BigB likes to be nosy.

End of Chapter 6 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 7 - [Firebreak](#)

Etho took Pig to the Disney store, then dropped him off at Jimmy's game night. He asked Bdubs to keep an eye on Pig and mentioned feeling uneasy about Martyn, who might try to eat him. Bdubs assured Etho that “Martyn follows protocol” and wouldn’t step out of line.

Under pressure to be the hero everyone seems to think he is, Etho then bent the rules, asking Grian to unthread SnifferMyFeet (a perma-AFK newbie) who - like Pig - has character bleed from Joel's boss and is therefore very similar to Joel. Grian agreed, but only if Etho went on Sniff’s server to ask his permission (as Grian has no desire to unthread Sniff against his will and he needs to stay outside the server to unthread Sniff).

Etho hopped on Sniff's server and found out Sniff considers him and Scar his exes. Sniff attacked him, but (after a spat) calmed down and wanted to be unthreaded, even knowing it would irreversibly turn him into a vex. The option to freely leave his server was too tempting.

Etho walked Sniff back to the Team Canada apartment, which he shares with VintageBeef and PauseUnpause. With code from Sniff and TwoMuchGrian, he hoped to edit Joel’s player file. Lizzie stayed for moral support.

End of Chapter 7 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 8 - [Flash](#)

Unthreading always turns a player into a vex. Vex are anivores, meaning they only refill their hunger bar by eating souls. Becoming a vex left Sniff with an empty stomach. While waiting for Etho to finish with Joel's code, Sniff felt so hungry, he pounced on Joel's firefly free-cam and tried to eat him; Etho tackled him, then apologized for making Sniff sit around hungry. Etho promised Sniff he could eat his soul when he was finished fixing Joel.

Scar found BigB's free-cam form at his penthouse, looking over the balcony at the perimeter wall. After watching for a bit, Scar realized some people were sneaking around. He traveled to HALO HQ to report this to Scott and HALO Aqua, who were having a meeting at the time.

While using vex powers to swim through the walls, Scar overheard Aqua asking Scott to sign a paper reporting someone for researching unthreading (so they could get a warning / reminder that it's illegal in New Star).

Etho started sending Scar whispers, asking how much vex feed (presumably so he could take care of Sniff). Scar became suspicious because vex hunt once a month, under the full moon. Worried that someone was trying to trick or hurt Etho, he tried to ask what was going on and urged Etho to stay inside. Etho stopped responding, so Scar panicked and ran to his apartment.

- In this chapter, Scar mentioned it's common for his glitchy code to crash servers, delete him, and "respawn" him. He says it doesn't matter if he's a "new version" of Scar because Jellie always recognizes him

End of Chapter 8 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 9 - [Smoke](#)

Taking a step back in time, before Etho started texting Scar. Becoming a vex left Sniff with an empty stomach, but if Sniff went out to hunt, chances were high he'd be seen. Grian would be in trouble for unthreading and Sniff might be pulled away for paperwork.

Lizzie let Sniff eat her (i.e. bite her to kick her from Between to her AFK server) to prevent him from starving to death. Afterwards, Sniff started flirting with Etho. In Sniff's memories, they were married and used to cuddle; he asked Etho if he'd like to do so. After pausing, Etho admitted he'd be interested, but they should probably wait.

Sniff also asked if he was going to live and if Etho would've sacrificed him for Joel. Etho said he wouldn't, but Sniff was still anxious and asked again for a cuddle. Etho started texting Scar, asking how often vex feed. Sniff grew increasingly impatient, so Etho stopped replying to Scar and put his communicator away.

Etho snuggled Sniff on the couch (while Joel was still under surgery, demo rendering). Scar arrived soon after, sussed Etho out (after a few red herrings) and called him on it.

Etho mentally broke as he feels he works hard and people don't respect his personal time. Once Joel was okay, Etho snuggled up to Sniff again, only getting up to shoo off phantom hybrid Bdubs (who came to eat Etho's soul because Etho was getting tired and it's their tradition that Bdubs visits Etho last on his shift and kicks him AFK). Etho turned him down.

- Etho seems to feel there's a disconnect between him and Bdubs: Etho wants snuggles, but feels that Bdubs just wants to eat his soul

As promised, Etho let Sniff eat his soul as thanks for helping him save Joel.

End of Chapter 9 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 10 - [Watcher 1](#)

Grian and Joel had A Talk about intimacy; Grian revealed to the reader that he's a Grian from another world who swapped places with the one born in this universe. He's from a world where Life series roleplay is literal.

Joel confirmed golden carrots are a player's breeding food. Grian discovered kisses and sex don't exist in the Pixels Imperfect world; Joel shared some details.

Grian insulted Joel's relationships with Etho and Lizzie (specifically, saying if Joel wasn't physical with Etho then he can't claim it's intimacy and asking why Joel and Lizzie bothered to get married if they're not having sex); Joel slapped him so hard, Grian's free-cam left his body for a moment.

- Joel considers his relationship with Lizzie romantic even though they're not as snuggly as Grian expects a married couple to be.
- His relationship with Etho is ambiguous, but Joel described it as “intimate” when showing flashbacks of Etho taking care of his injuries during Double Life (and talking politics with him); Joel said he understands Grian's confusion because from the outside, it may not look like he and Etho care about each other. He feels they do.

Grian expressed surprise when Joel implied Hermes was alive and sentient. Reluctantly, Joel agreed to take Grian to Empires to see Hermes.

End of Chapter 10 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 11 - [Phantom Hour](#)

Martyn's betrothed (Netty) disappeared 288 years ago. Martyn paid her dead portal a visit to let her know he wants to see other people. Bdubs then called him and Scar to the perimeter to handle some raiders trying to breach New Star. Martyn and Scott met for a quick talk where Scott recapped what HALO Aqua told him during the meeting in Chapter 8 (Namely that Grian was caught with books and papers about unthreading on his desk).

- Grian is a biology student studying to become a HALO and get his unthreading license, but he won't receive it for a few more months (after *Dog's Life* is over). In Etho's opinion, that's close enough; he's basically a HALO anyway and surely allowed to supervise

Martyn asked Scott if he was okay teaming with Skizz on Dog's Life and implied Skizz killed the Allay Dragon (Scott's mom) about 2,000 years ago. According to Scott, Skizz claimed her death was an accident and Scott believed him.

Joel brought Grian to Empires, then worried Grian was threatening to hurt Hermes (to "prove he's an armor stand"); Joel lashed out at Grian and shooed him away. Despite fighting, Joel and Grian made up; they're still friends.

- While Joel and Grian were talking, Martyn was kicked AFK by a vex named VultureCu1ture, who was then kicked by Scar.

Joel returned home to Lizzie. They received a video call from Impulse and his wife (Julienne); Jewel showed Impulse whining and kicking on the floor, seemingly in pain. They suspected a glitch may have wrecked his code, which may line up with Bdubs telling Etho that Impulse attacked him before his arrival in Chapter 10.

End of Chapter 11 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 12 - [Intermission Boogie](#)

Sniff left Etho's apartment and explored New Star, keeping low- Since his unthreading was illegal, he didn't want to get caught by HALO. He ran into Scar and Grian (just after Scar and Grian crossed his path after an off-screen discussion about sex and golden carrots; it seems they gave each other the basics, but not details).

Martyn and Cleo were out in the perimeter tunnels when they accidentally attracted a raid and the Silverfish Dragon (Millie). Scott locked the perimeter down, shutting Martyn and Cleo outside it. They bit each other at the same time to log each other.

Scott and Bdubs went out to Fox Dragon territory to scout for raiders. While they studied the ruined landscape, the Bat Dragon (Stella) swooped Bdubs. Bdubs used all his energy to help Scott get extra height and speed. Scott (who has the Allay Dragon's star on his hand) turned into the Allay Dragon and startled the Bat Dragon and raiders.

Bdubs burned out his wing pixels; making him wingless until further notice.

End of Chapter 12 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 13 - [Blaze](#)

Scar brought Sniff home to the penthouse he shares with Cub. Here, Sniff struggled against Etho taking brief control of his body. He also found NPC_Grian in the closet (building rustic houses with gingerbread).

Tango gave an overview of blaze culture, hinting that blazes and slimes rule the streets while phantoms rule the sky (and that he thinks phantoms are violent brutes with holier-than-thou attitudes). He comforted Pearl, who (as a bat hybrid) was dealing with weird feelings about her mom (the Bat Dragon) attacking Scott and Bdubs.

Since Bdubs burned out his wing pixels, Martyn is now the acting captain of New Star's phantom flock until further notice. The Fox Dragon, her foxes, eggs, and phantoms moved underground to New Star as refugees.

Also, we learned Etho hasn't yet completed his cycle through Sniff's system. Seems like he'll miss Session 2.

End of Chapter 13 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 14 - [Kindle](#)

Scott called Pearl, Ren, and Martyn out of the game to meet Rhetoric: a fox hybrid refugee who's also the Fox Dragon's personal attendant (and son). Rhetoric was assigned to stay with Pearl, Ren took in 4 young fox hybrids, and Martyn (the new captain of the phantom flock since Bdubs burned out his wing pixels) will watch the Fox Dragon's eggs after they're done recording.

- Rhetoric is accountless; he doesn't exist in the eyes of the game. He's technically disabled and can't interact with real objects in a way that would change their state. He can't eat, drink, use the bathroom, or similar since his vessel doesn't connect to the game
- Rhetoric's birth name was EthoCam; he's Etho's twin brother. Dragons still call him this because he doesn't have a real username, so he can't change it to his preferred name

The gang began Session 2. Pearl returned to her team; she, Tango, and Jimmy hid in the wall while a group of miners passed by. Also, Impulse revealed he'd been mining for resources, including gold to make a clock (presumably for Bdubs).

End of Chapter 14 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 15 - [Scald](#)

Joel and Ren formed the Spawn Protectors. The Lush Cave alliance shooed off a pillager patrol, who crossed paths with a mining group consisting of Scar, Mumbo, Lizzie, Scott, and BigB. Notably, Scar was flying solo in the absence of his ally Etho and Martyn made several attempts to kill his quarry (Lizzie).

Scott froze up while trying to shoot a pillager. Scar killed his quarry (BigB) and Mumbo died to fall damage after throwing an ender pearl while his health was low (dropping him to red).

End of Chapter 15 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 16 - [Flare](#)

Sniff talked to NPC_Grian (who can't speak) and monologued about his life plans, which mostly centered around breaking up with Etho and Scar. He continued struggling against Etho, whose influence keeps leaking into Sniff and taking control of his body in spurts.

Lizzie had now lost her entire alliance, so Scott and Skizz offered to let her join the Sushi Boys. The Jungle Duo (Grian and Bdubs) paid the Sushi Boys a visit, trying to get kills on them, but were shooed off.

Also, Sniff held Jellie while glitching, then ran from the penthouse to cover it up. She squirmed free and ran off.

End of Chapter 16 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 17 - [Broil](#)

Grian spent Session 2 sending messages to his wife, HoneyLuna. Meanwhile, blaze hybrid BigB explored the Nether and befriended some striders.

Martyn successfully killed Lizzie with llama spit, getting him back up to green life and dropping Lizzie to red. Martyn became a pillager.

Grian paid Martyn a visit to ask about intimacy and his missing betrothed, Netty; Grian suspects Netty left Martyn to play Sims and that the Simmers might hold the secrets of sex even though the Minecrafters seem oblivious. Martyn was evasive, turning down Grian's offers of a foursome with him, BigB, and Ren.

Grian clocked Martyn as being into Cleo, which Martyn denied.

End of Chapter 17 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 18 - [Snap](#)

Scar tried to form an alliance with the red Mumbo. Grian almost died from falling in a hole; he saved himself with enderman abilities, then ran when his hunter (Joel) started chasing him.

Martyn tried to join Ren and Joel's flock, but Joel rejected him unless Martyn could nail a bucket clutch in the same giant hole where Joel died in Session 1. Martyn agreed to jump, but Jimmy (his hunter) threw down leaves, which waterlogged and killed Martyn; this made Jimmy a pillager and boosted him to purple life.

Martyn decided his next move will be resource gathering; he would rather let Lizzie steal lives from her quarry (Jimmy) so he can steal them from her (instead of knocking Lizzie out early and leaving Jimmy powerful).

Sniff began searching the city for Jellie. He ran into a group of slimes, who shooed him off. He also crashed into a mysterious figure in blue robes, but ran without staying to talk.

Apparently, Impulse spent the session setting a trap for Bdubs.

Jimmy turned on his alliance, startling Cleo and Tango out of bed. They protested that he can't attack during Truce Night, though Cleo pointed out technically, Jimmy's new pillager gang was doing the attacking. Cleo and Tango fended off the pillagers and ran, but Jimmy continued hunting for them for the rest of Session 2; he had the raid flag and the pillagers considered him captain.

End of Chapter 18 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 19 - [Extinguish](#)

Grian and BigB had a break-up talk (or at least a "let's pause the relationship" talk).

Impulse gave Bdubs a dog-shaped clock and vented about Bdubs betraying him in 3rd Life. Bdubs refused to apologize and instead taunted Impulse for not letting it go, so Impulse tackled him off a cliff. Impulse died (dropping to green life), but Bdubs survived due to his chicken traits.

Back in the Between dimension post-session, Martyn planned to flirt because it's a full moon: the time mob traits are at their strongest and traditionally the phantom courtship period. Bdubs taunted him by reminding him that as the acting captain for New Star's phantom flock, Martyn's assigned to watch the Fox Dragon's eggs tonight.

Scott promised to bring Martyn a dessert to make up for it.

End of Chapter 19 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 20 - [Sizzle](#)

Grian wandered New Star, watching people flirt and fight according to their mob instincts. Since BigB gave permission to pause their relationship, Grian decided to try flirting. He denied the moon affects him since he was born in a different universe. He flirted with Cleo by feeding them bread.

Meanwhile, Scar ran into a stranger in a shiny blue robe, who asked for directions to HQ. After parting ways, he returned home and found Sniff had run away and Jellie was missing.

NPC_Grian taunted Scar, claiming Scar's has jealousy issues that have led him to spawn a Helsian version of himself. NPC_Grian threw Sniff under the bus for hurting Jellie (i.e. via glitch) and claimed Sniff, not him, should be locked in the closet.

NPC_Grian also told Scar that Grian will perma-die if he dies in Between since he was on his red life when he switched out of the universe where Life series roleplay is literal. Scar had never heard this and was startled, but kept pressing NPC_Grian for answers about Jellie and Sniff's whereabouts. NPC_Grian claimed to have answers, so Scar released him from the closet.

- NPC_Grian's voice has been muted. He communicates by pushing his thoughts to nearby communicators
- He was unable to talk to SnifferMyFeet because Sniff wasn't plugged into the system yet; his communicator wasn't active

NPC_Grian first grumbled that Scar should ask Cub's permission to let him out of the closet (as Scar and Cub have an evoker-vex bond), but when he found out Cub allows Scar to make his own choices, he yelled at Scar. They met Grian in the park after his "kiss" with Cleo

End of Chapter 20 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 21 - [Heat](#)

A mokey Martyn kept the Fox Dragon's eggs warm, texting several people (Grian, Cleo, Scott, Mumbo, and Ren) to keep entertained. Cleo agreed to hunt souls for him since he couldn't leave the nest. Also, Mumbo replied to Martyn's shirtless pics by telling him they broke up 100 years ago, which was news to Martyn.

Martyn tried to barter Cleo's stolen cluckshroom shell back from Rhetoric; Rhetoric agreed to trade it back if Martyn returned a multi-account endermite soul that used to live in the Fox Dragon's museum (i.e. SnifferMyFeet) plus an allay spawn egg shell, so Martyn made dinner plans with Mumbo (a wandering trader who kept an eggshell as a post-delivery memento).

Cleo fed Martyn a meerkat soul, which annoyed Bdubs who considered this below Martyn's status; Martyn and Cleo retreated to their secret gem cave in the perimeter's bedrock wall and indulged in their favorite game: burying each other alive (since they're both undead hybrids).

Also, Impulse finished building an iron farm and BigB started looking for a mural artist.

End of Chapter 21 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 22 - [Fizzle](#)

Bdubs took on soul delivery responsibilities (i.e. feeding people who can't or don't hunt). However, he grew too tempted and ended up eating the entire bag of souls he was meant to deliver.

Grian found Mumbo eating pizza (and dumping Martyn over comm) and roped him into helping him and Scar find Sniff and Jellie.

Mumbo ran into a stranger in a shiny blue robe - presumably the same one Sniff and Scar ran into earlier - and the stranger returned Jellie to him. Jellie coughed up a red feather. Mumbo returned her to Scar and Grian brought back Sniff.

Scar and Grian discussed relationships. Grian (badly) attempted to seduce Scar into a one-night stand and/or a QPR... His contradictory nature waffled back and forth as he tried to balance his lack of attraction for Scar with his desire to understand the appeal of golden carrots.

Scar rejected both; Grian was embarrassed and fled.

End of Chapter 22 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 23 - [Cooldown](#)

Pearl returned to her apartment with some library books about countless individuals, which she picked up to understand more about Rhetoric. Rhetoric smelled loose threads on her and asked if she was expecting a new arrival to the station.

Lizzie and Joel danced and flirted the night away, with Joel announcing he'd like to renew their wedding vows and stay with Lizzie even if she leaves New Star one day.

Scott visited the Fox Dragon, found out she hasn't started terraforming her damaged turf, and she's been relaxing in the bath. He was called away by a HALO member to look into the blue-robed stranger they found wandering around.

Scott met with the stranger, refused to let him leave New Star, and went over a basic residency contract with him. The stranger flipped a table and ran, so Scott chased him across New Star and trapped him in a box using commands. The man burst through the box using commands and revealed his cluckshroom feathers. Scott recognized him as Herobrine, holder of the late Cluckshroom Dragon's star (like Scott holds the Allay Dragon's star).

Herobrine knocked Scott off the clock tower.

End of Chapter 23 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 24 - [Jolt](#)

Herobrine and Scott had a heart to heart about dragons and politics. When Scott requested advice, Herobrine told him it might be wise to become a vex in a safe environment, as it was sure to happen sooner or later. He also scolded Scott for banning unthreading in New Star; Scott defended his decision by claiming New Star's enclosed perimeter can't support a large population of anivores and unthreading too many vex would leave them overwhelmed.

- Scott revealed he's aware of rumors that he's a cult leader who tortures phantoms and prevents species from engaging with their instincts. He denies this, though it's worth noting that in Chapter 21, Martyn mentioned New Star reminds him in some ways of the EVO hub (Enclosed, lots of rules, and forbidden to contact the outside world)

Scott chased Herobrine out of New Star. Also, instead of watching the Fox Dragon's eggs, Martyn snuck out with Cleo to bury and unbury her in the dirt cave. They received comm messages that Scott was looking for them and planning to bring Martyn dessert.

Martyn uncrouched, signaling raiders that he and Cleo were in the tunnels. The shriekers went off, so Scott locked the perimeter down again. Martyn and Cleo, unable to think of a way in that didn't involve logging each other out again - something that would've gotten them both in trouble since they would be blowing off Scott's search messages and Martyn was supposed to be babysitting eggs - planned a fake dating scheme that might explain why they snuck off to the tunnels.

End of Chapter 24 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 25 - [Reheat](#)

Martyn and Cleo faked a relationship as best they could as Scott grew nearer. Martyn, who's had a crush on Cleo for years, realized that maybe dating her isn't what he actually wants unless she wants him back. Cleo seemed to be figuring things out, waffling on their feelings, but determined to roleplay whatever Martyn asked of them.

Martyn set a few limits, unable to bring himself to touch Cleo in certain ways that reminded him of Netty. However, they successfully flaunted their species' courtship signals enough to convince Scott they were out snuggling and flirting.

- Cleo spiraled into memories about Martyn, including one where he claimed he helps her cross the bullet path to her secret gem cave because he can relate; he used to need “a way out” of EVO

As Cleo exits the cave, they feel uneasy that Scott didn't clock them as faking; Cleo feels unhappy about their reputation as “the person who's always dating someone.”

BigB, who was texting updates about Scott's approach to Martyn and Cleo, sees them exit the cave.

End of Chapter 25 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 26 - [Ignite](#)

BigB confronted Cleo and Martyn about faking a relationship to avoid punishment; they denied it. BigB said he wouldn't report them, but seemed disappointed that Cleo "forgave" Martyn for killing her during a season, but holds a grudge against him.

Martyn and Cleo had one last talk about their relationship; Martyn said he'd probably have to stop joining her in the dirt cave, which saddened Cleo, who enjoyed his company. Martyn urged her to think about a relationship with him, stating that they may as well try, and that if she didn't want a relationship with him after 100 days, he'd move on to a real relationship. Cleo agreed, telling him that her rejection isn't a "Never," but it's a "Not right now"- the same thing Martyn told Netty. Martyn feels he and Cleo are in sync as soulmates- they "get each other."

Returning to the clock tower, they realized the Fox Dragon's eggs had gotten cold and hatched a load of fox mobs (no hybrids). The fox mobs ran wild and tore into things; Martyn and Cleo scrambled to fix the situation. Bdubs returned from "delivery" and Martyn gave him a letter that a secret admirer (Grian) had dropped off. Bdubs felt it might be fun to flirt with Grian.

Scar brought Sniff and NPC_Grian to meet Scott to discuss paperwork and NPC_Grian's demands about being allowed to wander and speak again. Scott said he needed Sniff to sign a paper confirming he was unthreaded so the unthreader can be given a warning. Sniff refused, claiming unthreading was the best thing to ever happen to him.

While trying to answer questions and calm everyone down, Scott revealed Grian was the person he and Aqua discussed in their meeting in Chapter 8. Scar was shocked to learn Grian's studying unthreading. He realized Grian was probably planning to unthread Honey and flew off. Scott took off his jacket to spread his wings and chase him (lacking energy to use command to force him down). Scar is not convinced Grian will care for Honey once she becomes a vex

End of Chapter 26 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 27 - [Boil Over](#)

Bdubs visited Grian's apartment to discuss their Jungle Duo roleplay plans as requested. He reminded Grian they're playing Session 3 early next week. Grian grew nervous, wondering if his creator might ditch him (as Season 9 of Hermitcraft was also drawing to a close). Going perma-AFK with Honey would land him AFK with Honey forever, no more chances to see other people. His fear of losing his chance to wander Between underscores Grian's desire to flirt.

Mostly, the Jungle Duo discussed basic roleplay dynamics, things like base design, and whether to move their cows. They began discussing their relationship; Grian brought up some fantasies and an apparent lack of respect for queerplatonic relationships; Bdubs scolded him

- Bdubs is sore and sad from losing his wings to the Bat Dragon; he feels overlooked and unappreciated now that Martyn's captain

Scott catches up to Scar and calms him enough that Scar lands on a roof (instead of flying out of the perimeter and into the raiders). Scar realizes Scott is a vex and is shocked. As Scott predicted in Chapter 4, Scar tried to back out of playing Dog's Life and pointed out it's dangerous for Scott to play with him. After a spat, Scott allowed Scar to touch his arm and hand, assuring him that he never thought Scar was dangerous and he still wanted to play with him. Scar had wiped his nose with that hand and his glitchy snot starts corrupting Scott's code.

Scott became increasingly sick, taking damage as his system tried to reject the vex code (contagious to allay hybrids). Scott, Sniff, and NPC_Grian helped him descend the stairs to his office so Scott could unplug his file and take it to a medic (programmer); unfortunately, Etho (everybody's hero programmer) still hadn't returned, so they were banking on Tango (who was out doing turf war things with the other blaze hybrids on full moon night).

End of Chapter 27 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 28 - [Slow Burn](#)

Grian asked Bdubs why being romantic never worked out for him and Etho. Bdubs explained a bit about their QPR and implied past drama over Etho wanting kids / sparks; Bdubs is only willing to commit to raising his player's kids, so he and Etho don't share golden carrots

While Grian and Bdubs flirted and tried to work out their dynamic, Scar tried to help Scott fight off the vex code. Scar's help involved trying to yank Etho to the forefront of Sniff's body, which scared Sniff.

Etho (in Sniff's body) evaluated Scott and told him he'd have to chop off his hand. Scott refused. Etho gave Scar instructions, then rested. Scar and NPC_Grian tried to help again as Scott panicked.

Scar suspected Scott gathered memories from other allay during the First Moon City raids, which may be why he's so scared of raiders and vex (many memories of being hurt and turned).

Scott became a vex, draining his hunger. He aggro'd on Sniff; NPC_Grian broke line of sight to stop him, but taunted Scott. Scott lashed out and accidentally gave NPC_Grian permission to wander New Star.

To stop him from causing chaos, Scar ripped out NPC_Grian's wires. Then he and Scott stuffed the broken robot demon in a closet.

Also, the Fox Dragon killed Martyn for running out on her eggs; he respawned in Duskfell Caves (Phantom Dragon territory; he's never been there since he was adopted as an egg).

End of Chapter 28 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 29 - [Melt](#)

Pearl and Rhetoric went to Mumbo's to borrow his llamas (to move Scott). Rhetoric claimed to smell cluckshroom (Herobrine).

They found Mumbo attacked in his bathtub, missing memories. Pearl suspected Herobrine while Rhetoric defended him and accused Scott (an allay hybrid, apparently known for gathering memories).

Tango arrived to take Scott's file and study his code. Also, Scar and Sniff talked about Sniff's glitch and canes; Scar revealed his cane is a sword. The two flirted and touched foreheads before Sniff asked him to tone back.

Sniff explained his issues with his memories (i.e. BigB drama in Double Life). Scar insisted Grian cheated and Sniff is innocent, which Sniff found offensive since Scar was denying Sniff remembered being Grian.

To prove his point that Sniff is a vessel full of memories, Scar put a new memory in Sniff's head, then hugged Sniff when it scared him. Sniff threw a tantrum about how he needs closure as much as Grian, then calmed down. He and Scar went separate ways; Sniff went home with Beef and Pause and collapsed on Etho's bed.

End of Chapter 29 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 30 - [Scintillate](#)

Grian and Bdubs had a fling at the farm server. Bdubs tackled an overwhelmed Grian to the floor, preventing him from spawning sparks with random strangers, and held him until Grian calmed down.

When Grian was able to consent, he and Bdubs played with golden carrots; Grian got the achievement for doing so.

End of Chapter 30 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 31 - [Flame](#)

Scar filed paperwork with HALO; it was revealed that Skizz is a HALO member. Scar reported Scott for microaggressions against vex hybrids and expressed concern Scott might try to eat Sniff. After Scar left, Skizz went to Mumbo's, met Rhetoric, and moved Mumbo to safety.

Pearl met Scott and helped him on Mumbo's llama. He tried to give her a pride sticker, which she turned down. Scott complained she was being rude. Pearl told him she was rejecting his behaviors, not him personally.

Sniff reunited with Etho. They flirted quite a bit as Sniff looked over Etho's new body (fresh skin, sharp talons, etc.) Sniff expressed concerns, resisting Etho's flirting. However, he gave in (after taking two breaks to leave the room and think).

Sniff asked Etho what he finds attractive about him, causing Etho to get evasive. Etho turned it around, pointing out Sniff only likes him because of Joel memories. Sniff said he likes Etho because he looks out for him, lets him take breaks, and stops when Sniff freezes up.

Etho revealed Joel started freezing up and refusing to safeword for him (which may be related to Joel freezing up when Grian prompted him to safeword if he should back away from Hermes in Chapter 11). Etho also said he finds Sniff's rings attractive as they imply commitment / deep desire.

Implication: Etho and Sniff both want a committed, long-term relationship, but the Joel-Sniff memory issue is a problem.

Also, Sniff asked why Etho and Joel aren't together. Etho said it "wasn't his thing to share."

End of Chapter 31 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 32 - [Starve](#)

Etho cleans Sniff's code with a special comb (Mostly brushing his hair)

He and Sniff flirted, touched, and talked about “the Joel problem.” Sniff said he “used to be Joel” but that’s his deadname now; however, Etho has permission to pretend he’s Joel. Etho refused, assuring him he would see him as Sniff (and apologized again for calling Sniff Joel last week).

- Sniff wants to take time to think about who he is, separating his identity from Grian and Joel. He frets that if he flirts with Etho and then leaves to take time for himself, Etho will make things weird. Sniff wants to un-complicate his relationships

They touched their foreheads and cuddled. With no collision, their bodies blended, allowing them control of the other's body (as it's one body). Sniff freaked out due to possession trauma.

After a break, Sniff asked Etho to finish cleaning his code.

End of Chapter 32 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 33 - [Cinders](#)

Etho groomed Sniff's code with his tongue, then asked Sniff if he'd like to eat his soul again over the weekend. Sniff turned him down and explained he was insulted and scared that Etho took control of his body without his permission.

Sniff expressed confusion about having memories that "shouldn't exist;" he accused Etho of lying to him about his relationship with Joel... and asked if Etho only sees him as Joel 2.0.

Also, Etho realized that he and Sniff just had a break-up fling, as he had assumed Sniff was moving forward with him and didn't grasp the "break-up" part.

Interrupting Sniff, Etho broke and shared the truth: Joel won't date him because he's monogamous and with Lizzie. Sniff was surprised, then compared Joel and Etho's relationship to his platonic relationship with Pig.

- In Chapter 10, Joel basically told the reader this same thing: that he's only into Lizzie. He also said he cares about Etho, though it's unclear if Etho believes he cares.

Sniff asked Etho to remove his rings, thus breaking ties with Etho and Scar.

End of Chapter 33 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 34 - [Ashes](#)

Ren appealed to Debbie the Slime Dragon for a favor: a ride to Phantom Dragon territory to rescue Martyn. She agreed in exchange for him washing / pampering her. Also, PiglinMyNose bottle-fed baby foxes. Charlotte (the Fox Dragon) resisted Debbie's request to watch her babies. Debbie stormed off in a huff.

Ren and Pig journeyed to the icy epic peaks biome in search of Duskfell Caves (phantom territory). Debbie stopped outside Linda's borders to avoid upsetting her sister. Ren and Pig mined for a while, but couldn't pass the polluted bullet path.

A semi-deleted vessel body floating in the bullet path reared up and grabbed Ren's hands, which erased them from existence. Ren gave up, prepared to head home, but then had the idea to text Martyn (since Martyn was still on their hub's chat system). Pig accidentally sent their coordinates to public chat. Martyn met up with them and they headed home.

Also, Scott met SnifferMyFeet in the lobby of Etho's apartment building and invited him to his office to complete some paperwork. Scott gave him a pride sticker and told Sniff about New Star's competitive camming league (a sport that Pig plays).

Scott moved in to eat Sniff, main reason being that they were both offline, so no one would see the death message (allowing Scott to deny it happened while also having no obligation to bring Sniff back to New Star since Sniff didn't sign the residency contract).

A horrified Sniff realized he had no way to escape the office, as it was surrounded by amethyst blocks and Scott locked the door. Fade to black.

End of Chapter 34 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 35 - [Incendiary](#)

We learned Pearl assigned BigB to keep an eye on Scott in case he needed anything while she returned Mumbo's llamas and went offline. Scott crawled out through a window and snuck through the city, so BigB tailed him (Scott thought BigB might be following him in "Cinders"). When Scott led Sniff into HALO HQ, BigB landed on Beef's card shop roof (where Scar was drinking at the bar) and reflected on his relationships with Ren and Grian. BigB revealed he:

- Felt insecure in his relationship with Ren, who (to put it politely) has a thing for monsters... Not so much soft moth men
- Still wants Grian because Grian chose him and made him feel wanted.

BigB then asked Scar what Grian told him about sex last week. Scar told BigB sex is "people taking off their clothes and punching each other until they're down to one heart." ... Close enough. BigB reflected on Grian's signals and preferences and decided to pursue this concept of sex in the hopes it will make Grian happy.

A sudden sense of having souls ripped out prompted BigB (and HALO Cobalt / Skizz, who was dropping off papers) to search Scott's office. They found Scott in the process of getting his soul sucked out by the hub flower that keeps the station running. They rescued him, then warned the soul-eaters that hunting was off limits while everyone was offline.

Scar, believing Scott lured Sniff away to eat him, sought Etho for advice... walking in on Etho, who was flopped on the floor thinking that his creator snapped his sync out of revenge for Etho flirting with Sniff. Scar begged Etho to accompany him to Scott so he could find out if Sniff was okay and Etho would hold him back from killing him (as Scar had been drinking).

Etho and Scar headed to Pearl's. A drunk Scar lashed out at Etho before Etho calmed him down. Also, Scott ate several souls plugged into his office. No one needs to know.

End of Chapter 35 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 36 - [Watcher 2](#)

BigB and Jimmy watched the Fox Dragon's phantom flock captain try to lure Bdubs' phantoms into her flock and/or aboveground. Bdubs charged up with Grian close behind; he tackled False (acting captain in Martyn's absence), making False look weak in front of the other captain.

Grian kissed Bdubs good-bye and "walked home" with BigB (leaving Bdubs seemingly disappointed that Grian didn't stay to watch the phantoms scuffle). Grian and BigB spoke about their relationship, with Grian begging BigB to take him back. Highlights include:

- Grian revealing he's only into chilly souls, but feels ashamed. In his original universe (Neighborhood Watch), temperature preference was a big deal and Grian was expected to be "good and proper" and only like cool souls (as he himself is warm)
- Grian wanting to share servers with BigB, and BigB reminding him that's not an option while he's working things out with his betrothed, Rubycat. A frustrated Grian wants a relationship full of cuddles and kisses, not long-distance with long periods between visits

BigB kept trying to tell Grian that a purple soul (Herobrine) was seen in New Star. A distracted Grian scrambled off to talk to some figures, who were later revealed to be his parents: cod hybrid Finn and parrot hybrid Bridget... or rather, his parents in the NW universe.

BigB listened in while Scott, Martyn, and Bdubs conferred about the hub being unplugged (since the hub flower was yanked out). Martyn asked permission to take the phantom flock aboveground to hunt the patrolling illagers, as phantoms are obligate anivores and need to eat every 3 days. Scott assured Martyn the flower would get fixed, and Martyn reluctantly agreed.

BigB warns Scott that New Star doesn't have the soul-eating population to support the hub flower if the phantoms leave. Also, he negotiated a chance to speak to the illagers, whom he believes are his old companions from his illusioner days.

End of Chapter 36 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 37 - [Allay Flower](#)

Scott walked from his office back to Pearl's apartment. She confronted him about sending her to borrow Mumbo's llamas, having her pick him up at HQ, assuring her he was fine, and then sneaking back to HQ (meaning her efforts were for nothing). Scott was confused as to how she was still here, as she was supposed to be heading AFK for the night. She didn't; the hub flower was yanked out (presumably by either Sniff or Scott), making the jump between Between and servers impossible.

Etho, Scar, and Rhetoric were also present at the apartment. Conversation ensued:

- Debating the attack on Mumbo, with Scott privately wondering if he lost control of his magic while glitching
- Sensitivity discussions (Ex: racial profiling); Skizz had assigned Scott to sensitivity training (following a report made by Scar)
- Discussion of Sniff's mystery disappearance, with Scar very agitated

Also, Scott was nervous because he'd smuggled souls from his office, planning to eat them. He hid them in Pearl's bathroom. He also washed his glitchy hand, which swelled as though filled with water.

The chapter ended with Pearl assuring Scott that he can't be blamed for trying to eat Sniff when he has no experience resisting those vex instincts and while Sniff was there doing paperwork. Scott hugged Pearl, sobbing that he misses his mom.

End of Chapter 37 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 38 - [Tango's Long Night](#)

Pearl passes time with Scott and Rhetoric in her home. She and Rhetoric plan to go to the market to get tools to clean their code with (so they don't set off phantom aggro; phantoms aren't supposed to hunt while people are off the system).

Pearl and Scott start a talk about feelings. Pearl is uncomfortable, worried that they're straying into "Never do this" territory (based on what she read online). She tries to deflect by encouraging Scott to talk to Cleo instead. Also, she mentions Scott brought their break-up in front of their friends and she wasn't happy he did that. Scott is unphased, insisting they'd find out anyway and he wanted to be honest to prevent rumors.

Grian interrupts them; it ends their budding argument. Grian starts talking to Scott, but quickly breaks into screaming that Scott lied to him about his parents living in New Star. Scott reminds Grian confidentiality is important (and that if he harasses his parent parallels, he'll get in trouble). Grian cries, missing the parents he used to have (who went Red when he was 4... and nearly killed him as a baby, but chose not to).

Tango works on Scott's file. Etho arrives and comments on Tango's books. Tango mentions he's running for mayor, his platform being to allow Netherkin (who don't have sleep cycles) to stay in Between instead of getting kicked by phantoms (Currently, phantoms can eat them because of the phantom hour contract). He then notices a page about First Moon City is missing from one of his history texts.

Tango joins the other blaze (and his wildfire, Welsknight) to rest in a cuddle heap. While there, Tango reflects on how nice it is that the phantoms aren't hunting. It could be like this every night if he wins the election...

End of Chapter 38 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 39 - [Squall Hospital](#)

Mumbo wakes in the hospital. James Turner (a Sims Youtuber with occasional Minecraft content) happily greets him and catches him up on why he's there. Etho arrives. He confirms there's nothing he can do for Mumbo's memories- They'll have to give it time.

Etho then asks Mumbo if he can commission him to retrieve a dragon egg (wandering trader style). He claims he's done with romance and wants to make his own family; he wants a baby. Specifically, a species with allogrooming or cuddle tendencies, but isn't a species likely to leave him or cause tension (like a phantom leaving him for Bdubs, or the Slime & Fox dragons upset he took their egg). They discuss details such as preferred species and how Mumbo gets out of New Star. They agree Mumbo will try to retrieve a breeze hybrid egg.

A scene change shows us Impulse and his wife watching the phantoms engage in monthly wrestle play for dominance. Martyn and Bdubs taunt each other and spar (for show). However, Impulse realizes Bdubs didn't throw the fight- Full moon respawn Martyn is big, strong, and actually beat him. It's possible Martyn doesn't realize that since he expected Bdubs to throw the fight, but time will tell.

- As acting captain, everyone defers to Martyn. He scolds Bdubs for eating all the souls in the delivery pouch.

Rosejoy - the captain of Lone Spruce (Fox hub; refugee) - demands to fight Impulse. Awkward silence falls since Impulse was... politely dismissed from the flock years ago (as far as we know). We soon see why, as he's very large and strong and takes Rosejoy out in a single hit (breaking the stage in the process). Impulse apologizes, begging Martyn to give him another chance - he'll be so gentle! - but Martyn tells him no. Impulse sulks, but receives comfort from his wife (and Bdubs... sort of).

End of Chapter 39 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 40 - [Melting Cookies](#)

Grian and BigB spent the night together (since neither could go offline). They snuggled and flirted all night. Now it's morning and they're still being intimate with cuddles and touch (BigB kissing several places on Grian's skin while Grian lies there soaking it up).

Grian's very anxious, seemingly feeling guilty for running off with Bdubs when all he really wants is BigB. They exchange flirty talk and a more serious talk about their relationship.

- Notably, Grian is coasting the edge of tipping into his flared state- signs of his purple soul are leaking through as he gets turned on.

Also, BigB found a mark on Grian that could only have been left on him by someone with his corresponding soul temperature- Grian is a warm soul, so the mark came from a cool soul. BigB and Bdubs are both chilly souls (which Grian's into, but feels ashamed because that was considered "queer and non-normative" in his former world).

BigB realizes Grian's been cheating on him. He's hurt, but tries to tell Grian it's okay and they'll work it out. They talk about it and Grian finally admits he got the mark from his wife... and that she might touch him more than he lets on (but "only on double full moon nights," i.e. when the moon is full in both Between and on their AFK server). BigB's hesitant to believe him.

They both want to work things out, but BigB feels pretty hurt and Grian's chronic cheating isn't likely to stop anytime soon...

End of Chapter 40 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 41 - [Patience Zero](#)

Martyn and Ren watch the phantom squall; Martyn feeds his injured friend (since Ren lost his hands in Chapter 34). BigB interrupts to ask for help. He successfully flared Grian (i.e. turned him on enough that Grian tipped over the mental edge).

Because the full moon is up - and mob behavior is at its strongest - Grian has now flipped into his mob mindset. BigB is frightened, not knowing why Grian's acting this way- Ren suddenly realizes BigB, Grian, and Martyn don't have a clear understanding of flaring because they got their Education in the EVO hub (In Chapter 26, we learned EVO withheld reproductive info).

According to Ren, Grian's stuck in his parrot brain until he either jumps on a server without a full moon or until Between's full moon fades. Unfortunately, all the servers are down, so Grian's stuck like this until the flower is restored (or until it wanes on Friday- whichever comes first). Ren tries asking BigB if he's never seen a flare before and BigB breaks. He snaps that of course he hasn't seen one- No matter what he did, he never turned Ren on.

After some discussion, it's agreed Impulse will watch Grian (BigB needs to visit Scott, Martyn's overseeing the phantom sparring match, and Ren has no hands). On the way to Grian's flat, Impulse overhears Martyn and Rosejoy gossiping about him (and feels upset).

A scene change shows us BigB, Mumbo, and Etho preparing to go aboveground to face the raiders. Their cover story is that they're a "found family" group, so Scott offers them an old patrol flag. BigB turns it down because he can tell it's "still in use" and everyone who is bonded to that patrol flag will sense him equip it. He notices the captain's name is missing from the back of the flag, which is odd. He, Etho, and Mumbo then climb a ladder, heading aboveground.

Another scene changes brings us back to Impulse, who's now in his own apartment. He changes skins and realizes weird purple goop is covering one of his hearts... and spreading its roots.

End of Chapter 41 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 42 - [Raider Reunion](#)

Martyn and Rosejoy head to the wool farm to pick up blankets for the phantom roost (where they'll be dropping off a phantom child who was getting overstimulated at the squall); we see the gossip about Impulse from Martyn's perspective. He gets Rosejoy and the child settled in. Before he jumps off the clock tower platform, Rosejoy tries to sway him into touching foreheads (to help tamp down the flirting instinct she's feeling under the full moon). Martyn turns her down.

Etho sees the wreckage of his homeland, though he's more caught up in his thoughts of becoming a mentor/father soon (if Mumbo smuggles him the breeze egg they discussed in Chapter 39) and doesn't seem too disappointed. BigB and Mumbo ask his advice about Grian (in regards to the claiming bond Grian had around his neck in Chapter 36). BigB is worried Scar is abusing Grian, insisting that he knows those two fight, that Grian came from another world and may not have known what he was getting into, and he's in trouble. Etho hears him out patiently, but thinks BigB's dating life emotions (i.e. jealousy towards Scar) are clouding his judgment.

Since Zed's and Cleo's apartments are near each other, Impulse and Martyn run into each other. Impulse confronts Martyn about the gossip and Martyn apologizes very quickly and easily (Interesting detail compared to his general refusal to apologize to Cleo for his Double Life behavior). They patch things up and Martyn taste-tests the purple goop Impulse is leaking. He suggests it's a mod; Impulse confirms he never washed the Dog's Life mod off. They wash sticky goop off in Cleo's sink, but midway through, Impulse hears Martyn panic. He steps out to find Martyn is now flared in his mod mindset (like Grian in the previous chapter)

Meanwhile, BigB speaks to the illager patrol. He reunites with a few people from his past (one of whom now has a daughter). The patrol captain is an enderman (based on YouTuber Josh | LetsGameItOut) who invites BigB, Mumbo, and Etho to play his new *Is There a Limit to How Many People We Can Have Waterskiing Behind a Dragon?* game). Puzzled, the gang agrees.

End of Chapter 42 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 43 - [Wanderfoot](#)

Scott finds himself wanting to get close to Bdubs, who has a pouch full of souls; vex have a tendency to steal food from others. He reads a library book about various hybrid courtship practices (searching for info about phantoms). As an allay hybrids, Scott had no “courtship instincts” (as allays duplicate and hybrids don’t reproduce, so all his flirting comes from social skills). He’s feeling new sensations now that he’s a vex.

Meanwhile, BigB talks to his raider friends while Mumbo talks with his long-distance girlfriend (Vee the evoker hybrid; she appeared in the story “Criminal Experience”). Vee reveals she’s been looking after a warden egg the patrol found in their travels; it’s currently with bat eggs (as Stella the Bat Dragon brought hers along).

Vee suggests she move into Mumbo’s hub so they can be together and asks if he’d be interested in raising the warden egg with her. Mumbo confesses he can’t see himself being a mentor / father figure and points to Grumbot as a large responsibility in his life right now. He and Vee discuss potential options, but Mumbo gets increasingly anxious as he thinks about his future and the risks of losing Vee (or his relationship changing).

Josh finally interrupts them, again prompting them to prepare for waterskiing fun. When Vee and Mumbo separate, Mumbo notices Etho slipping towards his fox instincts (staring blankly, panting, looking tense and ready to flee). Etho says he’s struggling now that they’re aboveground (i.e. nearer to an exposed full moon) and that he saw something in one of the patrol camp huts that’s setting off his instincts.

Mumbo realizes Etho’s standing next to Vee’s hut and accuses him of wanting to flirt with Vee; he slips to speaking like a wandering trader and Etho barks back at him. BigB interferes, pushing them apart and urging them to remember they’re friends (and to walk their tension off).

End of Chapter 43 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 44 - [Rule of the Roost](#)

Scott watches Scar lek. Bdubs' twin WellsGlazes [phantom] flirts with Scar; Scott is surprised when Scar doesn't seem to return her interest (though Scar admits he might ask her out when the moon wanes). Ren approaches; Scott attempts to flirt with him before he's interrupted by Martyn's arrival (Impulse hard on his heels).

Martyn pounces on Bdubs and pursues Scott across the courtyard. Several people try to stop him; Impulse confronts him (revealing he can use some enderman and warden abilities through his soul-share bond with Skizz & his modded body)... It's no surprise the other phantoms are wary of his strength. Impulse herds Martyn into Rose House; Skizz gets them a private room (It's like a hotel). They chill until the hub comes back on. Mob-brained Martyn is very restless; Impulse reveals he's sad Cleo shows no interest in him when she seems interested in wide-winged, high-ranking Bdubs and Martyn. Impulse doesn't know what his wife could see in him if Cleo (who's "always dating someone") doesn't seem to think he qualifies. Body dysphoria over "not passing as a phantom" when she seems to like two other phantoms.

Impulse tackles Martyn through a portal, launching them into the Skyblock world Imp and Skizz AFK on. Martyn tries to flee, then tries to stand his ground against Impulse's attempts to make him submit. Martyn is extremely stressed, yelling about how he wants to escape his relationship with Cleo and that they lied to him. Martyn finally submits to Impulse, but he's very unhappy Impulse didn't force him; Martyn has to swallow his pride and submit on his own.

Martyn reluctantly shares what's going on, including how he misses Netty and is upset Mumbo "dumped him over comm." We learn Martyn saw a picture of young Cleo on the wall (at her place) and it seems to reveal she's a villager soul turned zombie rather than a natural zombie spawn. Martyn is upset he didn't know and feels Cleo was testing him; his inability to recognize what she is may play into why she keeps him at arm's length. He feels he's told her everything about his past while she seemingly lied about hers.

End of Chapter 44 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 45 - [Stormy Eyes](#)

BigB reflects on the tension between him and Grian, especially in regards to Grian's neck claim mark & the possibility of him flirting with his wife. He tries to enjoy his time aboveground with the patrol, but is plagued by these thoughts as well as concerns about Etho, who seems to be slipping deeper into fox behavior.

Meanwhile (at the squall), Scar platonically courts Bdubs into another 100 days of Clocker family roleplay... by ditching his skin and nipping at him while in his vex free-cam form. Bdubs joins his play as a phantom free-cam. After returning to his body, Scar reflects on his current situation:

- Went home with Etho last night. Woke up hungover
- Missing Cub (His evoker) and SnifferMyFeet
- Roof is still busted, penthouse full of rubble... and his wheelchair is still up there

Scar wishes someone would reach out and ask him how he's doing, as he feels a bit helpless without Cub to give him instructions. He's doing his best to have a good attitude and get by, but is aware he's relying on Etho for assistance... and hopes that SnifferMyFeet drama hasn't come between their friendship. He has a talk with PiglinMyNose, who admits that - since Sniff is now a vex - he and his partner TwoMuchGrian discussed what that might mean. Though no plans are official, Pig might move out, which he knows will sadden Sniff. He asks Scar's advice; Scar assures him that while friendships are important, there's nothing wrong with choosing your partner. Sniff will be okay... if he's even still around.

Etho, losing the fight against his fox instincts and the full moon, discards his skin and wanders the landscape in his free-cam form. He crawls down a tunnel to a fox den, but flees when the fox inside snaps at him. After waking in his body, he wonders why he's just done that... as control slips further and further from his grasp.

End of Chapter 45 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 46 - [Scatter By Sunset](#)

BigB enjoys his ability to fly in the sunlight and reminisces on his past... and things he knows about the other players. He's forbidden from eating with the other patrol members (due to Bad Omen making him an outcast among illagers), so he sits with Etho, who's tipping towards his mod state. A patrol member confronts BigB about what he's been doing. Josh | LetsGameItOut overhears BigB mention he's often in Roblox (and brings him some food).

BigB and Josh discuss other worlds, with BigB defensive and Josh probing for info on BigB's dual citizenship in Roblox (when Minecraft - allegedly - hasn't permitted dual citizenship for a long time). In this conversation, Josh reveals his desperation to return to Sims (where his wife AFKs) and shows BigB a map, revealing Half Moon Lake was built where an old build called Half Moon Station once stood. BigB is tense, fretting that Josh may be able to identify New Star nearby. He can't think of any place in New Star that could have a train, so surely it's not the replacement station... just a coincidental name.

Meanwhile, Jimmy muses to the reader about his plans to spark his "right hand man" (pillager) on Dog's Life... He intends to spark her AI so she'll believe she's his daughter and not betray him for the captain banner. Typical Minecraft fanfic stuff. He searches the library for a book on sparks, then attacks a librarian.

Later, Jimmy climbs the clock tower with his book. He's very uneasy about there being phantoms on the roosting platform (Rosejoy and Lucky). He takes Rosejoy down with his axe, then looks for Lucky (and finds him in the roosting rafters).

While BigB and Josh discuss luxury train tickets to Sims and Roblox - and BigB debates searching Scott's office for train paperwork - Etho sneaks inside Vee's hut, where the Bat Dragon left her eggs. It can't hurt to take just one... (Spoilers: He eats three of them).

End of Chapter 46 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 47 - Foxhunt

Scott, who mistakenly believes his vex corruption will make him more attractive to Ren, flirts with Ren in the shower house. Ren gently turns him down as Scott isn't "monster" enough for him, then realizes that of the things Scott could claim for him as punishment for sneaking outside New Star, one night of flirting isn't so bad. Scott and Ren snuggle in among some blankets in Rose House, and Scott is jealous of how "easy" flirting seems to be for Scar, who's snuggling with WellsGlazes (Glaze) nearby. Scott wants to believe his vex data will be removed eventually, but wonders what his life might be like if he stays a vex. Will he bite like Scar does too?

Meanwhile, Vee catches Etho eating bat eggs. He bolts from the illager camp and Mumbo chases him to the museum. Stella (Bat Dragon) pursues and begins to tear the museum down while Etho and Mumbo try to hide. They find the chorus vine dead, meaning they don't have chorus fruit to get back into New Star. Mumbo notices the servers have come online again and sends Scott a request to help. Scott makes plans to rescue them in person since he can't tp them (Moving them around would violate the contract; otherwise, nothing would stop Scott from setting a time limit on a task and then teleporting them away when they get close to completing it).

Bdubs teases his twin WellsGlazes for her crush on Scar. False assigns him to stand guard outside Rose House. He does (grumpily) and is surprised when Impulse and Martyn step out, seeming quite friendly towards each other. When Bdubs realizes Impulse "claimed Martyn as flock," he's extremely jealous and taunts Martyn about how he used to be married to Cleo and Martyn doesn't seem to be that close (Ex: No Martyn scent around Cleo's bedroom). Duon it while also ring this goading, Bdubs lets slip that being eaten is - apparently - a total turn-on for Cleo. Martyn is stunned by the implication that she's probably been "getting off on it" for ages while not being in a relationship with him.

Seeing Martyn shocked and hurt, Bdubs tries to backpedal and assure him that Cleo "isn't cheating" when she meets with the Clockers. He explains no one else can get her up because she doesn't let them eat her and "It's only Martyn" who makes her feel that way. Martyn feels worse.

End of Chapter 47 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 48 - [O Dragon, My Dragon](#)

Cleo checks her communicator messages, disappointed to find none from Martyn (though she does see a note from Pearl informing her Scott stayed at her place). Cleo then discovers an origami flower and a note from Martyn on their kitchen table, where he says he's sorry and that he'd like to come over and talk. Cleo, believing Martyn has apologized for Double Life, happily accepts the flower. The two message back and forth, with Martyn planning to come over.

Mumbo and Etho hide in an Employees Only room, but Etho is killed by the Bat Dragon. The Fox Dragon, Scott, Bdubs, and Ren arrive shortly after; the Fox Dragon confronts the Bat Dragon, Bdubs attempts to rescue BigB and confronts patrol captain Josh in the process, and Scott gives Ren amethyst hands so he can hold a sword and fight. Meanwhile, Mumbo slips back underground and hides the spawnling in his room.

Bdubs' encounter with Josh proves difficult due to Josh's enderman teleport ability. He drops Bdubs into the museum lobby (through a hole in the roof) and Bdubs uses the display elytra to craft himself a working pair. He "borrows" some rockets and hurries outside, where Scott (in Allay Dragon form) is trying to bite Josh

Josh grabs his tail and Scott flies away from the museum. Bdubs, recognizing that Scott has slipped into the "Alice" mindset, chases after and steers him back. Alice seems to be a different (much younger) entity than Scott, but she agrees to meet with Bdubs later to play ponies. Bdubs seems to handle the situation very well, implying he's experienced at working with "Alice." The fight wraps up (with Josh retreating).

Underground, Mumbo and BigB discuss the magic bond around Grian's neck. BigB seems stressed by the possibility that Grian is cheating on him. Mumbo navigates that situation as best he can, stating that he doesn't agree with Grian's decisions. BigB seems puzzled by Grian's past explanation that Honey left a mark on his neck, as Mumbo appears unconvinced.

End of Chapter 48 recap

Chapter 49 - [Rotting Deals](#)

Martyn reflects on his past with Mumbo, especially regarding his missing player sync. He visits Cleo and is shocked when she answers the door wearing a long-sleeved jacket. This really has an affect on his phantom brain- Because Cleo's wearing that, the code strings she naturally sheds while walking around won't fall to the floor and despawn, and will instead remain part of her for a while. Martyn's interested in eating more of Cleo than usual, though this is in conflict with the frustration he felt towards her in previous chapters.

Cleo and Martyn discuss Martyn's concerns- Namely, Martyn asks how Cleo feels about eating souls and exclusivity. She's annoyed that Bdubs seems to have riled him up on purpose and assures Martyn that while she wouldn't mind exclusivity, she won't hold him to it; that was never part of the agreement. Martyn keeps pressing due to Bdubs implying that getting eaten is a turn-on or kink for Cleo, which hurt his feelings (because she hadn't told him this; he feels led on). Cleo clarifies that she has a different kink - unspecified - which feels different from her feelings towards being eaten; she describes being eaten as a sense of control over when and how she gets logged out (as opposed to being taken down at random on the street).

Martyn's still unsure about things, but Cleo says she doesn't fault him for being confused about where their fake dating relationship stands. She hugs Martyn, even nuzzling at his neck, and he's quite surprised. After all... he came here out of anger, to break up with her. Why is she being so flirty...? Also, Cleo told Martyn it wouldn't bother her if Netty returned and he flirted with her.

Meanwhile, BigB raids Scott's office for information. He finds a booklet that lists Martyn and Jimmy as two people waiting for invites to Sims... Or more specifically, Jimmy has a ticket and Martyn doesn't, and Netty invited both of them. BigB realizes Scott updated the file recently (inviting Simmers to this weekend's MCC) and theorizes Scott's trying to exit Minecraft so he can live in the Animal Crossing world, but can't because he's the Allay Dragon's host.

Throughout this, BigB's mind gets blurrier. Finally, he leaves the office - flared and mob-brained - and seeks Ren (Pig follows him). BigB makes moves on Ren, Pig interferes, but Ren assures him it's fine. Pig leaves them to their own devices...

End of Chapter 49 recap

Chapter 50 - Split Condition

Etho and Rhetoric are trapped in the spawn room: their player file is still plugged into New Star, but they respawned in Lone Spruce (fox hub), so they can't get out until their player file is nearby or their mom lets them out. Etho is upset to be separated from the spawnling he stole; he and Rhetoric argue. We learn that when Etho was young, he designed a machine to feed fox kits so the Fox Dragon wouldn't have to, but it upset Rhetoric (who believes in a softer approach with hugs and affection). Etho feels guilty over his past treatment of his mom's kits, which may play into his desire to be a caretaker now. After more arguing (over Etho's relationship with Sniff, Grian's kidnapping, Rhetoric's battery pack, etc.), the fox twins bond over being friends with Pearl, and interesting experiences with gender. Etho reveals he's been exploring his identity through Clockers roleplay and that he sees himself in the nurse (caretaker) role rather than the sire role (i.e. the one he was assigned by Clockers roleplay). Rhet is an anoboy.

Bdubs, Scott | Alice | Allay Dragon, and Ren pick up plush toys from the museum gift shop; Bdubs makes a point of buying a large weighted llama for Grian. He also has to tell Scott that Cleo won't be able to make it to the tea party, which disappoints him. Meanwhile, Lizzie takes care of Joel, who's feeling ill due to his tightened stomach code, combined with the full moon. He fights his firefly instincts while Lizzie rubs potion on him and makes food.

Martyn is shocked to realize Cleo took down her childhood picture (where she's a villager); it seems she's hiding her past on purpose. He also picks up Scott's scent (Scott moved into Cleo's room last week). Cleo pulls Martyn into play (telling him to get on his knees, pulling his hair, teasing him) and pries a Double Life-themed apology out of him. Martyn realizes Cleo thinks the card he left on the table (where he said "I'm sorry") was meant to be an apology for Double Life; he's frustrated that she's "won" the stubborn game of him refusing to apologize. He decides to play along, but he's not happy. He's confused- His feelings towards Cleo are fading due to her hiding her past.

End of Chapter 50 recap

Chapter 51 - [Softly Stepping](#)

Bdubs, Scott, and Ren get Etho and Rhetoric out of their spawn room (Skizz | HALO Cobalt brought their player file up the tunnels to the museum). After fixing a small amount of museum damage, everyone goes underground. Scott and Bdubs meet Etho and Mumbo on the border road, and Scott points out that they're not technically "in New Star" by sunset (as per contract agreement) because they didn't make it through the bailey wall. Mumbo and Etho share a look. Implied: Scott doesn't realize Mumbo brought an extra person (Etho's smuggled spawnling) into New Star because Scott has decided the reason he can claim is because they're outside.

Scott attempts to "gather" from Etho (as per the contract that he can take something of choice from Mumbo, Etho, and BigB if they don't uphold their end of the deal to return by sunset). Scott fails to claim and - after a small scuffle - Etho theorizes Scott's lost his ability to "gather" because he's converting to a vex. Scott is distraught, mentioning Scar can still gather, and Bdubs points out that Scar's "mostly allay" because he's unthreaded. Etho encourages Scott to seek Tango for medical advice and Mumbo questions why Scott's afraid of being a vex (because at the end of the day, is a vex that different from any other hybrid? Why cut off your glitchy hand to avoid becoming one?)

The gang part ways, leaving Scott and Bdubs to discuss New Star. Bdubs emphasizes he's annoyed Cleo's been feeding Martyn (as Martyn's essentially telling Bdubs that Cleo's a better provider and he'll follow her orders, not his captain's). We learn about Bdubs' role in New Star, Scott's fears about the election (and Alice taking control of his body), and some things about their past together. Notably, Bdubs shares info about "the canal" (A new term this chapter) and assures Scott that even if Scott loses his ability to gather (and enforce residency contracts), it will be okay, because "they still have the canal." Bdubs seems disgusted by the canal and the role he plays in "keeping New Star safe" by using it, but is relieved it's "Only used in emergencies."

Many mysteries surround the canal, but Bdubs tells Scott he'll "sneak down and press a button to play a message" so Scott can rest assured Bdubs is capable of managing the canal on his own, without Scott. **End of Chapter 51 recap**

Chapter 52 - [True and Faults](#)

Tango takes a look at Scott's code; Alice (Allay Dragon in Scott's body) asks him to increase the size of her (Scott's) breasts. Meanwhile, Martyn and Cleo are back at it: prepping for flirty scenes. We see them brushing their teeth (in Cleo's bathroom). They discuss Martyn's new form. At one point, Cleo moves too fast; Martyn's phantom brain kicks in and he bites her. He's embarrassed and hides under Cleo's coffee table while she bandages her ankle (We play safe, sane, consensual around here and that's not the kind of bite she's looking for!)

While under the table, Martyn thinks about himself and his attraction for Cleo and Netty. He starts to wish he could toggle off his attraction for cool and chilly souls and toggle on attraction to warm- Netty was warm. After thinking about this, Martyn realizes he doesn't want to change himself: he likes being the way he is [Martyn's exclusive attraction to cool & chilly, not warm and hot, is a parallel of IRL Martyn's gynosexuality, but played in a way that lets him be attracted to Mumbo in this AU].

Cleo and Martyn spend a lot of time talking about feelings, and Martyn reflecting on his concerns... particularly regarding Cleo withholding the fact that she's a zombie villager, not just a zombie. He looks at the photos on Cleo's bedroom wall and wonders why BigB's been removed from them, but Bdubs is still there; he shares some difficult feelings about Mumbo and the Ahasbands divorce. The two engage in some roleplay where Cleo scratches sharp nails down Martyn's cheek and slaps him. There's flirting and allofeeding; Martyn starts tipping towards a flare, but Cleo grounds him by putting his shirt on him again.

Martyn makes a comment that he likes Cleo's jacket and doesn't want her to "waste that fit on Grian." When Cleo is surprised, he reveals he knows that she ate bread from Grian's mouth because Grian was bragging in chat. This is Cleo's (and the reader's) first time learning there's a "first-hearts" chat for people who like to ask people out. Cleo isn't happy...

End of Chapter 52 recap

Chapter 53 - Night Guard

TBA

End of Chapter 53 recap

Chapter 54 - Emblems of Embalming

TBA

End of Chapter 54 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 55 - Flower Ex-Husbands

TBA

End of Chapter 55 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 56 - Allay Poison #9

TBA

End of Chapter 56 recap

Spoiler guard

Chapter 57 - Honey At Home

TBA

End of Chapter 57 recap

Spoiler guard