

Hiya! Welcome to the rough notes doc for where I see the universe of Fading Lights going! First off I'd like to be clear and emphatic that I am not going to write either one of these books. I've transitioned to professional writing more or less full time, and I'm not currently at a level where I can write more than one book at a time!

Secondly, I'd like to emphasize this is where I see the story going and this is what feels complete to me, but if you disagree, that's totally fine. However that does not give leeway to be ugly or rude simply because we disagree. At the end of the day, this is just a story, and you're allowed to have whatever headcanons you want. This is just how I see the series concluding.

Rough tag list precedes each notes section, and while I won't be going into too much detail, as always, if anything is an issue for you, please read with caution.

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## **Fading Lights 2: Electric Boogaloo**

TW// Major character death, idk the Hub does that count

Alright so I think I've maybe talked about this a bit? But this fic would almost immediately follow FL and would be Ranboo POV. I'm gonna kinda do bullet points to highlight big scenes and then add some notes here and there to explain some ideas but this was the rough concept for the second installment!

- Picks up pretty much as soon as Ranboo gets back to the Hub. He goes looking for Karl who he knows has formed attachments with other beings before (Fiancés) and once attempted to break his tether. Sadly this has not ended well for Karl and fearing for the lives of his partners, he fled through the cosmos looking for a way to break his tether, but was eventually hunted down. Once he returned to the Hub, he was promptly reset since the Arbiters knew he'd been compromised.
  - The Arbiters are kinda like the policing force of the Hub. They keep all the Minute Men in line and are next up in the chain of command. C!Sam is an Arbiter
- Anyway, this version of Karl acts like he doesn't remember what Ranboo's talking about (he's afraid of bringing retributions down on C!Snap and C!Quackity) and refuses to help him try and break his tether. He thinks its futile and that there's nothing they can do, but Ranboo manages to convince him through his sheer determination and dedication to return to Tubbo, so off they set on their trans dimensional quest.
- This would be lots of middle bits of them traveling to different worlds and times and learning pieces of lore about the Hub and the Minute Men and ultimately the god thing that represents XD.

- o I typically come up with this stuff as I write so I do not have much lore, but if you wanna get a taste of where I would go with it, I wrote a zine piece about XD that's on my ao3 yaknow what im just gonna link it plz mind tags
  - <https://archiveofourown.org/works/45756604>
- o Also fun fact but the Minute Men's disguises can change depending on what the native life is of the planet they're on. They do still retain the characteristics of what their 'physical' bodies look like though, just however that would manifest on that alien's body. Which is why Ranboob seems like he has poliosis as a human. Idk about Karl, Mister colorful blob. Maybe he just has dyed hair
- o Ranboo, once out of the Hub, does mostly keep his human form up because he likes being able to see his tattoo (only present in human body)
- Alright so not all fun and games for long because Sam is on their trail. Karl has tried outrunning him and the other Arbiters in the past and knows this isnt going to be easy. There'd be some sick ass fight/chase scenes as they jump between planets and times and dimensions, because Sam can always find them no matter what.
  - o He follows the threads of their jumps, it leaves a path behind kinda like boat wake.
- Eventually building to the climax where Karl and Ranboo are closing in on an ancient and defunct Minute Man base. It's from a time before XD lost its fucking mind, and there's a device there that might be able to reform their tethers. Unfortunately Sam is right on their heels and a massive climatic fight breaks out. Karl sacrifices himself to try and give Ranboo more time to get away, and he thinks he'll just get reset, but having deviated *twice* now, he is not offered the mercy of a reset. Sam destroys him completely and then comes after Ranboo who is so very close to his goal, and the scene would end with him just reaching the device right as a sword point comes straight through his chest
- It'd cut there and then the next chapter would start with two speakers, where one is leading the other in a series of questions.
  - o "What is your designation?" "Minute Man, class R." – "What is your function?" "To serve the Hub and fulfill my duties." – "What do you serve?" "Creation."
- And it's clear Ranboo's been reset, doesn't remember anything and seems fine to return to his duties, but he looks down at his wrist (still in human form because reasons) and feels like something is supposed to be there even though its bare, and he gets incredibly furious over it.
- It'd cut there, but you'd get the feeling its not over, which brings us to the third and final full installment!

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**Fading Lights 3: Furious and Fast 3 (idk Im just making up shit)**

TW// Discussion of major character death, idk the Hub does that count, depression, divorce?

Back to Tubbo POV! It's been two years since Ranboo left and he's trying to move on with his life as much as possible. He's got a job at a local mechanic shop run by this dimensions Quackity, and has some fun quirky coworkers like C!Slime and C!Connor. Overall he's doing pretty well, but he's kinda making peace with the fact that Ranboo isn't coming back. He figures that since Ranboo can time travel, if he was coming back, he would've come back by now/almost immediately after he left.

- So Tubbo's just working and trying to manage his addiction issues, attempting to be a person again. He's living with Tommy rn, but needs to find a place on his own soon since Tommy's gonna be graduating soon. As always, Phil keeps taking in wayward kids, and he's currently looking after a cousin's kid who can't take care of him anymore (hi its Michael he's like 7-8) and Tubbo spends a lot of time babysitting/looking after the little guy.
  - ATP, Tubbo doesn't feel like he'd be a great parental figure, but he and Michael really click so he's just doing what he can to help give the kid a good life
- Everything's kinda settling and then one day completely out of the blue, Ranboo shows up at the mechanic shop. Tubbo is beyond ecstatic to see him and so is Ranboo. There's lots of hugging and tears on Tubbo's side, but Ranboo seems to be acting kinda off? Like he's clearly very excited and happy to see Tubbo, but its more like he's just won some sort of game rather than finally reuniting with basically his husband. And that's when Tubbo steps back and flips over Ranboo's wrist and sees the tattoo's gone
  - So. Meet 'Boo'! The whatever-th incarnation of Ranboo. He has next to no recollection of being his past self besides memories that he describes like "he's watching a movie". So he knows who Tubbo is and that he loves him and is very special to him, but he has literally none of the emotional connection to back it up.
- Obviously Tubbo is devastated when he realizes what's happened, and he keeps searching for signs of his partner in this new person, and it's Ranboo but it's not? (this is supposed to mimic how ghost!boo behaved on the SMP, like its him but *not*). Like this new version of him is a lot less shy and doesn't seem to have a filter at all, just blurts out whatever he's thinking and doesn't seem to understand when he's being rude/offensive. He's still a nice guy, but way more snarky and combative and it's just. It's not the person Tubbo fell in love with
- They try to make it work for like, less than a week, but this just isn't going to work and Boo's really upset and confused on why Tubbo's rejecting him, but he respects his decision. Understands this isn't the iteration he loves and that they just need to go their separate ways. But uh. One small problem with that. Boo successfully retethered himself

to earth so he can stay here, but the Hub doesn't know he's here. If he uses his pearl to jump now, they'll be able to find him and kill him. So he's kinda stuck here. *Permanently.*

- Thus begins the divorcee arc where Tubbo feels like he's on the hook for helping this fucking alien try and assimilate into human culture, which brings such fun adventures as; forging legal documents (hi c!Connor), awkwardly explaining to your bff that yes this is the guy you had a sort of thing with and yes you're now kinda broken up but still helping him, probably bailing Boo out of jail, and attempting to get references for a beam of energy masquerading as a person so he can get a job.
  - It'd be a lot of sillies and heartache but ultimately the two of them bond a lot and as much as Tubbo is determined to hate Boo (he's not good at dealing with emotions and is blaming Boo for Ranboo's 'death') he ends up begrudgingly liking him. It helps that Michael likes Boo a lot and the three of them eventually drift into being a little family.
- I hadn't planned for the Hub or anything to come back and be an issue, this last fic was mostly supposed to be about FL!bee's relationship and exploring the context of c!ranboo's death on the server but in this au of mine. Basically from here to the end, it'd be Tubbo coming to terms with difficult concepts like what does it mean for someone to be themselves and concept of the self and things like that, because this is Ranboo but at the same time it's someone that's had different experiences and different understandings. He also grapples with the guilt of moving on from his first partner, who Boo sort of is in a way.
  - Boo for his part also feels a lot of guilt for not being the Ranboo Tubbo remembers, but he also hates trying to act like someone he's not. Like he doesn't want to feel like his existence is lesser since he's not the same as he was before being reset, and he just wants to be seen as who he is *now* rather than whatever he used to be.
- And eventually they get there. Tubbo accepts the person he loves is gone and that it's okay to move on and be loved by someone else. Boo feels like his past identity isn't hanging over his head like an executioner's blade anymore, *considers this life he's been given a gift from his past self*, and finally gets a chance to do what he, and all his past resets never got a chance to do. *Live.*

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And that's basically it! There's lots of small details and things I don't have worked out because I usually figure that out while writing, but that's the bones of it.

Again, I really don't have the time to tackle either one of these books, which is why I'm choosing to share these notes with you! I think it's fun to think of where the series would go, but I

understand if we have differing opinions on where the story should go. This is just my take on the story and what feels right to me.

I hope you enjoyed reading!