

Hello, everybody. Welcome to the June 2026 Patreon Q&A. Doing these recordings gets a little bit tricky in summer because I want to have any fans off, even to be a laptop fan, so that it doesn't affect the sound quality. But it's so hot, myself and my laptop can overheat, so we'll see how far I can get before anything starts objecting to the lack of cooling.

Hello, I have some questions. 1. For Project W, what's lumulle culture like? Could you tell us more about it?

Well, that kind of depends on what you mean by culture. There are different types of lumulles, and the way they end up living can be very different from other lumulles, not just based on type, but just based on them as an individual. There are certain social norms that exist between pretty much all the lumulles. For example, it's considered pretty rude to go up to a stranger and ask personal questions, even just their name. If somebody is immediately wanting information or an explanation about you, there's very little way to make it come across as polite to other lumulle, though they are understanding towards humans who do it, because between humans that's very normal and considered polite. But between two lumulles, that would be a sign of some kind of suspicion or hostility, or general unhappiness about this other lumulle that they're seeing around. So when there is a lumulle who treats that as a polite gesture, it's not considered a difference in lumulle social norms. It's considered a lumulle who is following human norms instead of lumulle norms. But the lumulles who do that are becoming more common.

2. What are their naming conventions? I was trying to make a lumulle OC and found out that I don't know how to name her haha.

The most basic level of naming convention is that the lumulles name themselves after something that exists in the world. If somebody was named "Samantha", they'd be like, "What is a Samantha? Show me a Samantha in nature or built by your hand." You know, they don't really do names that are just names for a person. But there are nuances. The types of things the lumulles name themselves after can be very dependent on the type of lumulle that they are. However, there are some lumulles who will take a word for an actual object or thing that exists in reality, and then do a twist on it to make it more name-like. And it's become in fashion for some humans to do that as well, where they'll take like a real thing and then do a twist on it to make it more human-name-like. Um, so both the lumulles and humans can sometimes have similar names, but I won't be giving

any examples on how that kind of name twist/combination of human like and the lumulle like names will work until much later on. So for now, you could just name a lumulle OC, something like "Leaf" or after a type of flower, just some kind of nature word name.

3. So you said a while ago that the LIs for Project W would be kind of red flags and will do worse things than Baxter did. My question is, are they worse than XOXO guys? Are they worse than more malicious interpretations of Shiloh? How about XOXO Blood Droplets?

It's a little hard to say without giving more away than I'd like to. Like the exact level of red-flag-ness is something I'm not going to give away even when I'm promoting the game. I'm afraid you will just have to play it and see how far it goes. I can say that they are not always rude and having a terrible attitude like the *XOXO Droplets* guys, and they're not going to commit murders for fun like the *XOXO Blood Droplets* guys, but because they're not so ridiculous and over the top, when they are doing things that are not good, it might end up feeling a lot more hurtful than when those guys are doing something not very good. I guess one thing I could give as an example is it's a fantasy world. It's a more old timey time period. So some things that wouldn't work in a real world, modern day setting can work in this type of context. Like it could be pretty common to get into physical fights with people. But if somebody maliciously attacked you at school, you probably wouldn't want to then eventually romance that person.

4. Out of the OL/XOD characters, which would be likely to play visual novels? Thank you so much. I hope you have an amazing day!

Thank you. I don't think anybody from XOD would be playing visual novels. In *Our Life*, perhaps Tamarack, perhaps Serenity. Maybe Ren would try out some of the super popular ones. I tend not to make characters who have the same main interest as I do, and since I am very interested in visual novels, I usually don't have any characters who have a particular interest in that.

Hi! I had a quick question about Vianca in Step two that I believe hasn't been addressed yet. Is Vianca aware of the fact that she's a lesbian by Step Two? And if so, is she out?

Yes. And yes, she is an out lesbian while Step Two was going on.

Hello GB and team! Happy pride. I hope you guys are doing okay. So I was wondering what kind of chores around the house Qiu and Tamarack (Step One and Two) are responsible for? Do they have specific chores they do regularly, or did their responsibilities change as they got older?

So for Tamarack, she didn't really have any responsibilities during the Step One time period. She was treated more like a guest. And once Step Two came around, she started doing things like yard work and a lot of dusting and anything that would involve having to like climb up on something or really bend down to clean it so that her grandparents wouldn't have to do things like that. For Qiu, they have always helped in the kitchen with meals, and then they are meant to be cleaning up after themselves and not leave anything lying around the house and ideally keeping their room neat and tidy, which they are not entirely good at

2. Did Opal always want to have only the MC, or did she ever think about having another child?

She did always intend to only have one child.

3. How would Qiu and Tamarack feel/react if someone at school confessed to them? If possible, could you explain how their reactions would differ depending on whether they have a crush on the MC or not? Thank you so much for taking the time to answer my questions. I hope you're doing well and that your arm is feeling better.

Thank you. I'm afraid I don't think their reaction would be very different based on whether they liked the MC or not. The only time I could really see it being different is if it was Step One with Tamarack, who would probably bluntly say she liked the MC, not you. But in all other circumstances, they would likely be focused on the situation happening right now and how somebody they don't like is confessing to them whether they liked someone else or not. Qiu would turn them down very politely or very harshly, depending on their age. And Tamarack would be very apologetic and panicked as a teenager or young adult.

Project W: 1. clothing for the lumulles. are they created using plant matter (weaving thin vine threads, large broad leaf cloth, etc.), specially grown plant/fungi that were long manipulated/grafted/selective cross-pollination/alchemically created, or a combination of the two?

It is the forme. Lumulle's use natural plant fibers and pieces of plants to create clothing and accessories, and they are not farmers. They don't specifically cultivate any types of plants. They have to go out and find it in nature if they want something specific, and then they are very careful to not take too much that it would impact this plant continuing to grow in that area.

2. I'm sorry if this sounds morbid, but how do the lumulles deal with friends or relative the lumulles who pass away? Are there funeral rites, a returning to the soil where they first sprouted from with words of remembrance of the lumulle who passed away, is their pottery exterior left behind like hollow statues (similar to terracotta warriors in China)? Is it considered a private occasion where only fellow lumulles can bear witness, or are friends and extended/found family invited into the memorial of the late lumulle?

That is very dependent on the lumulle itself and the lumulles/people it was close to. There is nothing formal or expected to happen whenever a lumulle dies. When a lumulle dies or is dying, their main hope is that they will die on the ground or in water, and not inside of a building or on sidewalk or anything, and that their pottery clay body will be able to just sit there and crumble in that spot. They really do not like the idea of having to be moved after they die or even buried. The lumulle really only dies once their body has already started to seriously crack, and so after they are dead, they will fall apart pretty fast. And they don't want somebody like picking them up and they're like, limbs are falling apart and they're getting like dust and flecks of themselves all over everybody. Humans can be like, "Oh, you know, humans have blood and that can get spilled if you die violently, but you're still moved. And people just clean it up and it's fine." But the lumulles do not like that, and they are very unhappy if that has to happen. So they will take the eyes of lumulle, at least if anybody is around. Some of the lumulles live entirely isolated lives, and they just die out in nature, and nobody ends up finding them. But if there are others around, usually the eyes are taken either as a keepsake or to give or sell to the lumulle who needs new eye pieces. And then, if needs be, the body might be covered with leaves or a blanket or something, and then just left there until it's fallen apart enough into the ground that nobody will notice that it was ever there. And then that spot is the spot where people will go to grieve. There aren't the lumulle graveyards. Wherever they died and fell apart is where anybody will go specifically to grieve that lumulle. And they might plant a tree or flowers. They might leave something more personal to that lumulle. And then the lumulles/humans who knew that the lumulle

will probably get together and talk about their own grief and sadness. But unless the lumulle specifically had some kind of arrangement, like a will, it will be entirely up to who is left behind grieving the lumulle to decide what happens. Like if it's just a casual day, they're going about normal life and reminisce about the lumulle. Or if there is like a bigger official get together with invitations sent out. But the lumulles go through life having their outermost layer crack and be replaced with a fresh new layer underneath. And so the process of a lumulle falling apart and seeing, you know, shards of the lumulle bodies is entirely normal. There is no rotting or scary bones left behind. And so the lumulles do not see any issue letting a dead lumulle body just be there until it fully crumbles away. And they don't like humans who want to treat it like something that needs to be hidden or buried. It is considered very bad form to keep any part of a lumulle's body other than the eyes. So if somebody wants to like grab a chunk of their clay before it's dissolved, that's a big taboo.

Hello, hello, and happy June! I have a couple of questions for wedding season! 1. What are Derek's preferences on last names in marriage?

Derek would be very comfortable taking his partner's last name. It's even referenced a little in the game itself, where they're playing video games, and Derek's dad and one of his brothers are Team Suarez, and Derek says he's fine being team MC's last name, sort of, you know, implying that he likes being partnered with them in that official way. And even as an adult, he would be totally fine being team MC's last name. He is very attached to his family already, and he feels like he doesn't need to have their last name to have that very strong family bond and attachment. But he'd also be perfectly happy to keep the last name Suarez if his partner wanted to go by that name instead.

2. If they were choosing the flavors of a wedding cake/icing for one tier, what would Derek and Baxter choose? Thanks again GB, and David for the monthly Q&A's and transcripts!

So Derek would prefer something lighter and fresher, probably a fruit or citrus flavor. While Baxter would not care about the flavor at all, he would care about the color, the flavor made, the cake and icing, so it would need to match the rest of the color scheme of the wedding. So if they had like a dark wedding, he wouldn't want some bright yellow lemon cake. He'd want like dark chocolate so that the cake went cut would match the rest of the wedding.

Hello! Hope you guys are okay. 1. Do you have a list of every personality you can get in OL2?

Well, MC's personality is made of multiple different aspects. Their most general vibe can either be polite, rowdy, nervous, or rude. But then there's things like if your MC is quiet or they talk a lot, and if your MC follows the rules or breaks the rules. And if your MC has a certain opinion on someone and that makes them act less favorably when normally they are nice, etc.

2. How much does the MC's relationship with their mother affect the game or will affect the game in the future?

It only really comes into play in scenes where Opal is around. MC's not really thinking about it when they're out with their friends or whatever. And Opal is around quite a bit for a side character, but not nearly as much as the two leads. So I'd say it does impact every scene where Opal shows up to one degree or another, but she is still only a side character.

3. If you were to make another OL game, would it be way more customizable than the other two?

I really don't know. It would definitely be a different type of system than the first two games. But I don't know if that would end up being way more customizable or just a different way customization is done. And since I'm not actively working towards creating another *Our Life* game right now, and wouldn't for years if it did ever happen, I can't really give any kind of definitive answer on how it would turn out.

Hello GB and company! Hope you all are doing well and happy Pride Month GB. I hope you have a swift recovery from your injury! Thank you. 1. How did Serenity eventually become friends with Renee and Qiu?

A lot of it has to do with Renee and Qiu becoming easier to become friends with around the Step Three time period. And Serenity is still there in town. A lot of people have left, and so the ones who are still there and who already sort of knew each other, tend to just stick together more and become even closer.

2. What is Serenity's dynamic with both of them like? In Step Three, I know Vianca is closer in age to Renee and Qiu, but we see her have her own dynamic with them in Step Two and Three. I was just curious about Serenity. Hope you had a

wonderful June and have a good July!

In Step Three, Serenity no longer has a crush on Qiu, which was an on and off thing when they were younger, and Qiu is no longer so cold, so she's less intimidated around them. And because of that, they're able to have a more fun and playful dynamic in Step Three. Renee is similar in that they're able to have a more positive connection now because Serenity was a very cheerful person in Step Two, and she still is a lot in Step Three. And now someone like Renee can enjoy that kind of company more. But Serenity doesn't let either of them act like they have any maturity over themselves, even though they're older. She treats it definitely like an equal relationship, and they don't get to tell her what to do or anything. Serenity does not want to be treated as a kid.

Hi GB patch team! I have one question: I love the music in these games and listen to the *Our Life: Beginnings & Always* soundtrack a lot in my own time. Will the *Now & Forever* soundtrack be available on streaming platforms once the game is released?

That is up to the composer. We have the rights to sell the soundtrack on storefronts like Steam, but the streaming rights still belong to the composer. So it will be his choice if he uploads it to streaming platforms.

Hi! Hope the team is doing well! Got a few questions! First. Drag! Would any of the LIs from either games be interested in drag or doing drag themselves? And if they would do it, would they consider trying to like participate on *Drag Race* or something?

In *Our Life 1*, Baxter is the only lead who would have any kind of real knowledge and interest in drag. He wouldn't normally try it himself, but if maybe him and his partner wanted to have like a fun time out and try drag together, he would be interested in doing that. But Cove and Derek wouldn't really watch drag shows unless their partner did, and also would only try drag out if it was with a good friend or their partner. For *Our Life 2*, both Tamarack and Qiu would have more of an interest in drag, but mainly from an audience perspective. They wouldn't be inspired to get into it themselves. But again, with a good friend or partner, they could end up trying it one time.

Second question! If you ever got the opportunity to adapt OL1 or OL2 into a TV show or movie or even stage musical (my personal favorite of the three mediums lol), most shows need one linear storyline to function correctly, so what storyline

would you choose to be adapted? Like what dynamic for the relationships, what choices for the Moments that are included, all of that. Or would you do something such as for a TV show, multiple episodes for each Moment, for each route/dynamic, or for a musical, each show alternates what storyline is shown for some time period. For example, the “5:00 show today has a female MC and her LI is Cove. The 2:00 show tomorrow is a male MC with Cove as the LI” for OL1, or “This week’s shows are the Qiu route with a non-binary LI. Next week’s shows are the Tamarack route with a female LI” for OL2 (which could be seen as a risky choice for the lack of consistency). Thank you and hope everything goes smoothly this month.

I personally would never want *Our Life* to be a TV show or a movie, because there really just isn't one story that would work, and I don't think trying to change things up per episode or per scene in a movie would work very well. If it was some kind of live show, there could be a degree of alteration. Maybe there's even like audience participation where there's a scene where maybe a confession could happen, but the audience gets to be like, “No, no, you guys are just friends! This isn't romance.” And then, you know, it would pivot to the confession not happening. Or the audience can be like, “Yes, yes, you know, pursue the romantic confession.” And then the romantic confession would happen, and then the person who played the love interest could stay the same. But then maybe different shows could just have different performers in the role of the MC. And then it could be any gender that is hired for the MC, and then they could just be different whenever the main actor is replaced with someone else.

Hi! Hope the team has been having a great month! I remember hearing the OL1 LIs are pretty good drivers. So my question is what would be their reactions to encountering a bad driver on the road (going slow in the left lane, someone cutting them off on a busy freeway without using a blinker, etc.)? And to piggyback off that, who would be more prone to road rage?

So none of the OL1 LIs would get true road rage, and they wouldn't ever antagonize somebody else on the road. Baxter would keep very calm if there was anybody else in the car with him. Otherwise he would get pretty cross just to himself in there. Derek would get very stressed if something like that was happening, and he would want to just find a way to get away from that driver, even if it meant, you know, turning down a different road and having to take a detour. And then he would have to try and, you know, settle his stress down after an encounter like that. Cove might depend on if he's warm

or cold. He might be able to bounce back more easily if he was warm and more understanding towards people, rather than a cold Cove who would be very displeased with whoever this stranger was.

Hello! I hope you are recovering well. And I just wanted to say thanks for all your hard work. *Thank you.* I've gone through some Q&A's, so hopefully I'm not asking any repeat questions, but if I am, feel free to skip them. 1. This might be a bit of a silly question, but I was wondering if there will be Moments in Step Three where the relationship status can change to the “Beloved” or “Family” statuses. The scenes where the changes happen in the middle of the Steps are so sweet to me. It would be really cool if that were an option.

Yes, that should definitely be an option. I haven't written any scene like that, but I am aiming to have scenes like that.

2. I was wondering about Opal. I know she is asexual, but I was wondering if she's a romantic as well or on that spectrum at all. Just curious.

Opal is not a romantic. She is very practical when it comes to the concept of romance, and very particular about who she might pursue a romantic relationship with, and she's also very comfortable with the fact that she might be single for the rest of her life.

However, she is at least open to the idea of some time having a romantic relationship in her life.

3. I'm really obsessed with the “Flutter child/Teen” songs, and I was wondering if the music sheets for those would ever be shared anywhere. Of course, you might not have the answer to this. Maybe that would be up to the composer.

It is up to the composer. He's the one who would have to release the music sheets. I could try to ask him on players' behalf, but it would be his decision to put that out if he even has, you know, a music sheet somebody else can follow.

Super silly question. I was around the same age as Qiu and Tamarack in 2010, and me and my friends were super obsessed with Tamagotchis at the time. Would Qiu or Tamarack have bought a Tamagotchi? Would Qiu have been the type to forget about theirs and let it die? And if both of them and the protagonist had tamagotchis, what would their ten year old cells reactions be to having their little Tamagotchi pets get married and have kids with the protagonist's?

Yeah, I do think they would get into Tamagotchis maybe just for like one season, but I could see them having a Tamagotchi phase for both leads. Qiu would likely forget their Tamagotchi and let it die, and then would probably be too sad to ever do that again. Tamarack would be spending so much time with her little pet for a long time, but then eventually would lose interest. Both of them would be really excited if their Tamagotchi pet got married to the MC's pet, if they were close to the MC.

Hello! Hello! Hope you've been well. Here's my questions for the month. 1. This is very specific, but hypothetically, in Step One, if a classmate said something really rude and MC punched them in response, how would Qiu and Tamarack react slash feel about it?

Tamarack would be like, "Yeah, yeah, that person was really rude and you stopped them." And Qiu would be like, "Oh no, this is terrible. There's a fight, Somebody is hurt. MC is going to get in trouble and they're upset. And it never should have gone this far." And they'd be trying to somehow salvage this situation and stop the conflict, and Tamarack would be making it worse.

2. Another specific one if someone from Golden Grove ended up going to the same college as Baxter by chance, would he be nice to them or completely avoid them?

He would avoid them as much as possible. He would be polite if he did run into that person. However, he would avoid running into that person as much as possible.

3. We know he likes punk slash metal, but what would Baxter's least favorite music genre be?

Probably like 90s easy listening type of songs.

4. In honor of Pride Month. I'm curious what kind of support the OL LIs would show their kids if they were LGBTQ+? For example, would they be the kind to wear cheesy Pride shirts, or would their support be more quiet/subtle, or somewhere in between? Thanks for doing these Q&A's. They're always so fun. And of course, thanks to the team for bringing us these lovely games and characters.

Thank you. Well, I'm sure all the OL LIs would help support their kids by explaining that they themselves are in the LGBTQ+ community, even if it ended up with like, you know,

a heterosexual pairing like Cove and a female MC. Cove would still talk to their child about how he's not a straight man. But whether or not anybody did something major to celebrate would depend a lot on the child they had. They wouldn't want to make the child embarrassed or feel overwhelmed. But if the child was somebody who would be excited by big shows of support, then they would do that. None of them would be too uptight to do some kind of big or even cheesy show of support for their child.

Would the game ever consider adding more information in the details section, like how you do at school, your relationship to your mom, favorite color, etc.? Hope you have a wonderful June.

Thank you. Yes, we do eventually want to have like a full info journal that has all of your MC's information. It just hasn't been implemented yet.

Happy Pride Month, team! Your progress is staggering and I applaud thee. *Thank you.* 1. What are Renee's dating preferences? I'd assume she'd be of a similar inclination as Qiu and Tam, a la her status as a sort of "scrapped" DLC romance option, but I could be wrong!

You are correct. I had imagined Renee as a character who is willing to date people of any gender, because originally I'd wanted her to be a DLC love interest who could be romanced with any MC. And that part of her character does remain, even though sadly, I can't create the romance DLC for her.

2. What's the religious community in Golden Grove like? Any local mosques, synagogues, etc.?

There could be one synagogue, but a mosque and other religious buildings and communities probably would require going to a bigger town. Part of the story is that Golden Grove is mostly populated by the majority types of identifications in the United States. You know, mostly white people, mostly Christians, mostly straight people. And so someone like Qiu was, you know, the only Chinese kid in their class growing up. So they probably don't have many other religions besides Christian ones represented in this town.

3. It's been mentioned before that if his partner's up for it, Cove would ideally like to have one child. How would he react if he and his partner accidentally conceived triplets instead?

Cove would nearly faint. He would be extremely panicked. He'd be talking about how he was an only child and the MC only had one sibling. Nobody knows what to do with three kids at once, and then he'd be like, "Derek, that's a family with three kids. We can try talking to them." And you know, he would just keep going on in a very panicked manner.

4. How's development on Step Three been treating you? Going well?

Unfortunately, It is not going as well as I would have liked. I am going to explain in the month end/month start updates, but to, you know, answer this question, my arm is still injured and it has been hindering progress. So this hasn't been a normal month in terms of how much I would normally get done.

Hi GB! Happy Pride Month! I have two questions. 1. Assuming the OL1 MC falls in love with Derek or Baxter, what becomes of Cove's love life down the road?

He remains single, but he's happy with that. He has plenty of friends and family, but he doesn't end up dating and marrying some other person.

2. When Jeremy told JB his favorite music with disco, was he lying to get a rise out of her or was he being genuine?

He was being genuine. That is his favorite type of music.

Okay, I stopped for a bit, but now I'm back.

Hello, hope you and David are enjoying the season. Thank you for all that you do.

Thank you. **1. Say the OL leads are placed in some kind of typical fantasy setting (like a world from an RPG or a D&D campaign). What kind of roles (knight, rogue, wizard, merchant, etc.) do you think each of them would be in this setting?**

Tamarack would be a fairy or a druid. Qiu would maybe be a rogue or an elf. Cove would want to be a merman. If he was a normal human, he'd probably be a simple merchant instead of something more adventurous. Derek could be a knight, or maybe a paladin. Maybe Baxter is like a low level wizard, or maybe he's just like a noble son who was not trained in anything other than social events. But I don't really know anything about D&D specifically, so this is more about general fantasy concepts. And if there's something that would have made more sense that comes from D&D, I'm afraid I wouldn't know it

2. How are some ways you prevent yourself from burning out on a project, or keeping motivated during a more frustrating part of the game making process?

To start, I massively recommend not coming up with a project you will get burnt out on for your first project, and maybe not even your second project. And instead, to have the first thing you work on be whatever size it needs to be that you can finish it without it becoming something that really drags on and you have to force yourself to finish. But if you do get to a point where you're working on projects that do require pushing through long development times, that will have you feeling overwhelmed or even burnt out, something I like to do is switch up exactly what I'm doing, whether it be writing actual scripts or just creating outlines. And when things are really bad, finding any type of way to still make some kind of progress, even if it's not the most important thing I could be doing. Plus, for me, being able to spend some time on my days off or after work hours thinking about projects I'll be able to make in the future once this one is done helps me stay motivated to finish this one. Going on a walk or just pacing around a room while trying to work through a problem can sometimes be more effective than sitting and looking at a computer screen. And then I can try to reassure myself with things like, "I've always been able to come up with new ideas and get through things, even if it's very hard right now. Eventually something will come to me, or eventually it will be finished and I'll be past this and things will continue." So I just try to remember to believe in myself in that way. But again, I would try to avoid putting yourself in a situation where it's really extremely difficult and you're doing some other job or in school, or this is your very first project. It is best to try and make whatever you're working on a lot more doable if you have a bunch of other stuff going on, or you're still learning how everything works to begin with. For me, this is my only job. So if I'm not working on the project or working with the team on something, then I wouldn't be doing anything with my time. So it is a different type of situation than somebody just starting out.

3. Are there any upcoming games or currently released games that you and David are looking forward to?

For me, there's many, many games that I'm looking forward to playing. Playing specifically indie games is my number one hobby. I do it every day unless something is seriously wrong, and I have so many games on my wish list. Between all the different storefronts, it's got to be over 3000. And you know, that's because I don't want to have to go looking for a game in case I do want to play it. So even though I'm never going to play every single game on wish lists, I can just peruse my own curated list of games to

find what I want to play next, instead of having to go through the entire store front of the Nintendo eShop or steam or something. There are so many things I could mention for something I'm looking forward to, but I guess I will say *Village in the Shade* sounds and looks like it's gonna be really good. And I wasn't sure it was going to come out in English, but it is. So that's great news.

Hello! Firstly, I adore both OLBA and OLNf so so much. Thank you for blessing us with these masterpieces. I also cannot stop thinking about Step Two Qiu Lin! I need them and Tam to be friends again it hurts my heart! But I also love the angst and drama. Well, I'm glad you do. My question: 1. Will Qiu and Tamarack become close friends in Step Three, or will they have a distant friendship/awkward rivalry, etc.? Or will it depend on player choices from the previous Steps?

Their relationship isn't really dependent on the MC, except for the jealousy factor, which will change their reactions to certain things. But overall, their dynamic is just between the two of them and not changeable based on choices. And in Step Three, they are very good friends again. Hooray! So no more unhappiness between them. Unless there is jealousy in which there can be a little bit of drama in that way.

2. What would be Step Two Qiu and Tam's ideal date? And if they were to receive homemade food, what would they prefer?

For Qiu, they'd probably want to get like a drink at the convenience store and ride bikes together, and then maybe just hang out in their room or their date's room. They wouldn't want anything super fancy or to do a lot of stuff with other people around, so wouldn't spend too much time in town. Tamarack would want to have a little private picnic in the woods, and she'd want to play like, music on her phone, and you could just talk and drink tea from thermoses and things like that. For homemade foods, Qiu would probably like a simple soup, and Tamarack would enjoy some kind of baked good.

Hi! Just one question: If the OLNf cast were in the MLP universe, what type of pony or creature would they be? It's okay if you've never watched the show, you can just go off of vibes if you want to.

Well, I can't give the entire cast, but for most of the main characters, I feel like the Lin family would be pegasuses and the Baumann family would be earth ponies. I guess to round the cul-de-sac out Opal could be a unicorn, but the MC could be any type of pony and it could just be the off screen father who was an earth pony or pegasus pony, if

that's what the MC was. The Murray family would maybe be half Pegasus, half earth pony, where maybe Mrs. Murray was a Pegasus and Mr. Murray was an earth pony, and then Devon was a Pegasus and Renee was an earth pony. And then the Baxter Ward family would be unicorns.

Whatuuuuup. I don't know if this has been asked before, but will your next game, whatever it is, be winter related?

No, it is in fact a spring themed game, but I use the working title Project W. But if I'm able to make another really large visual novel after Project W the spring game, that one for sure is gonna be winter themed.

Hey GB! First off, I love your visual novels. Keep up the good work. *Thank you.* I wanted to ask, would it be possible to not pursue/be in a romantic relationship with either Qiu or Tamarack throughout chapter 2-3, but then at chapter 4, we romance both simultaneously and ask them to be in a poly relationship with us? Since according to the gameplay, the MC would typically romance one of them in Step Three, then be able to be in a poly relationship with the other in Step Four. Would they both be okay at joining a relationship with us at the same time in Step Four? Thank you!

That will be an option. You won't have to already be in a relationship with one in order to do the poly relationship in Step Four. It's just that if people want to start a romantic relationship before Step Four, that is possible. You can start dating one lead in Step Two or Step Three, and that won't lock you out of the poly relationship in Step Four. But if you just want to wait for the poly relationship, you can remain single until Step Four and then start the relationship with both of them.

Hey GB, first time asker, but this question struck me while I was playing OL1 today. I'm not asking for a definitive yes because I know Step Four is not being worked on yet, but I was wondering if you had any thoughts on it already—In OL1, Cove eventually breaks down and confesses to you in Step Four if you are in love with and never did take the initiative. Will there likely be something similar in OL2 if your MC waits them out forever and never confesses? Sorry if this question had to be skipped. No worries if you couldn't say much. And thanks for making such amazing games.

Thank you. There will be a confession for Tamarack or Qiu that they do themselves in Step Three and Step Four. I can't say if the tone will be similar to Cove's or not, but I'm sure they will bring up how, you know, they've known each other for so long, and you know, this is coming either seemingly out of nowhere, if they just started liking MC or, you know, it's something that's been there for so long but never fully brought up. That will happen, but it probably won't be exactly like Cove's, you know? Hopefully it doesn't feel like repeating a previous confession I wrote.

Hello, I hope you are well. I was recently going through information about the characters and it sparked a question in me. I know people asked about love interests at pride and forgive me if the following question was already asked, but how would the parents be at pride if they went? When I say parents, I mean MC's mom and love interests parents, excluding Baxter's parents and focusing on Tamarack's grandparents. Keep up the good work. Huge cheers from my friends and I from France, and I hope you will have a good month.

Thank you very much. For most of the adults, how they would be at pride would be pretty in line with how they are in general. The moms for the OL1 MC would be having fun and laughing and enjoying themselves, but would still be more subdued than other people. Cove's parents would be the most outgoing and celebratory because that's just kind of how they are in general. Mr. and Mrs. Lin would be cheering on Qiu the way they do for the shows that they perform in in ballet, you know, where they're so proud, but they're, you know, not making it about themselves. They're just focusing on how wonderful their child is. The Suarez family would be focused on sticking together and kind of playing around and goofing off. And the dad would probably be doing things that are kind of annoying, but it's just to make the others laugh at how ridiculous he is. Mr. Baumann would be very shy and say very little, while Mrs. Baumann would be making lots of loud grandma noises.

Hi GB! Hope you have been well this month. Last Q&A you answered a question about the "Beloved" status. It made me wonder: 1. If MC is just is, say, too shy or too in denial to shift to "Beloved", are you planning a possible confession from Tammy and Qiu maybe by the end of the Step or something like that? Or a choice that would induce a confession from them?

No, I don't think there will be a scene like that. It will be possible for Qiu or Tamarack to say "I love you" before the emcee has said it, but you'd still have to be at "Beloveds"

already. I don't really think there can be a scene where the leads are trying to prompt you to change your relationship level to something more romantic. You know, at "Friendship", they're not going to confess their feelings so that you will change to "Crush". But there can be very romantic scenes in the Step, and then you, as the main character, can choose that you are now "Beloveds" when you weren't at the start of the Step. So in that way, they can technically have done something that made the MC go to "Beloveds". But it won't be them saying I love you while you're only at "Crush" status. If you're just talking about a normal confession that can happen if you're at "Crush" or "Beloveds", and they can just ask the MC if you want to date them. But again, you have to be at "Crush" or "Beloveds" for them to make a confession.

2. Also, could we have more choices to be absolutely lovestruck or communicate lovestruck-ness? Like in Step one, we can declare the leads to be the most beautiful persons ever (and then tell them they're not pretty. Hehe. This is my favorite one, doing a tsundere run). Would it be possible to have something similar? I love swooning MC and the possibility to be a bigger tsundere. Thank you for answering. Lots of love to you all.

There are more choices like that in the game. It doesn't happen all the time, but every Step has some choices like that.

Hello, hello! First of all, thank you so much for all your hard work. I've been following OL2's development since 2021, and I remember when Step Two was just a mere thought, and now look already well on our way to Step Three. Time just moves so fast. I agree. It's wild how fast things have gone. Anyway, I just have one really quick question because I keep accidentally making myself confused. Is Yusuf his first name or his last? Because in the demo he introduces himself as Mr. Kiyan Yusuf. But I always assume that Yusuf is his first name for some reason, and when I looked it up, Kiyan is a Persian surname. So is it one of those last name first type of situations Or am I just thinking about it too much? Haha.
His last name is Yusuf. People call him by his last name, but they drop the Mr. so it's a bit more casual. And Kiyan is his first name, which most people don't usually call him by. It is a little confusing because Yusuf can be a first name, but it can also be a last name. And Kiyan can be a first name or a last name, but for him, Kiyan is the first name and Yusuf is the last name.

Hello GB team! I hope you're all enjoying the summer so far. The following questions provided are with the help of my friends who are also huge fans of your work.

1. I noticed that Rudy and Shannon Murray wear their wedding rings on their right hands while the other Golden Grove couples wear theirs on their left. Is there any particular reason for this? I heard that people can do it for cultural or religious reasons, but I don't think the Murrays worry about those things. Haha.

Honestly, I don't know how that happened and it's really strange that it's that couple is the only one that had that mistake. I feel like I must have just accidentally gotten things mixed up and asked for the wrong hand for the wedding ring because you know it's reversed which hand is right and which is left on the sprites. But it's so funny that I didn't do it for just one character. It was for two, and it was for two characters who are married. So it looks like it's on purpose. But that's not what it was supposed to be. I don't know. Maybe I'll come up with a reason for why they do that, so that I can keep it this way, because that's kind of funny how it worked out that way just for the Murray couple.

2. What made you decide on Qiu and Tamarack as the names for the LIs?

For Tamarack, I came up with various naturey names, but I was actually talking about it with a long time idea bouncer/proofreader, who I've known since my very first visual novel. And she recommended the name "Tamarack", and when I saw it, I felt like, "Yes, this is what I've been looking for." And then Qiu was suggested, along with a few other options, by my stepmom who is Chinese, and I picked Qiu because I just thought having their name literally mean Autumn would be pretty cute.

3. How did Alicia and Vianca meet?

They met in an Oregon university, and Vianca is the one who approached Alicia. Alicia is someone who tends to be on the sidelines, and people talk to her about the people they like, but nobody ever really talks to her because they like her. And Vianca did like her right away, wanted to be friends, and immediately thought she was also very pretty and very quickly developed a crush. And Vianca was the main initiator for everything. And Alicia really likes outgoing ladies who are very forward.

4. (My friend insisted on this one) was Vianca and Alicia's romance a slow burn?

Not really. It did not take them very long at all to start dating and officially become girlfriends. But Alicia, being able to admit just how much she likes Vianca will be

something that takes longer. Alicia will still be kind of reserved when you see her in Step Three, even though they are already a couple. However, neither of them hesitated to explain to each other that they were both lesbians. That's not something either of them try to keep to themselves, and Vianca was very thrilled to find that out about Alicia, and pretty much began pursuing her right away from there. And she was very shocked to find out that no one had ever really pursued Alicia like that before. And that made her even more determined to show Alicia that she did deserve this kind of treatment. Alicia accepted Vianca's interest without admitting to the fact that this is honestly kind of her dream situation. And Vianca is sort of her dream girl that she never thought would actually happen for her. And Vianca's dream is to be someone's dream girl, so they're a really nice pair. But Alicia is hesitant to say things like that so early on.

Sorry for asking too many questions last time. That's okay. 1. How would Step One and Step Two Qiu and Tamarack feel about cats?

They both like cats quite a bit. In Step One, if they found a cat, they'd want to keep the cat. In Step two if they found a cat, they wouldn't want to keep the cat, but they would want to make sure the cat was safe and had a good home.

2. Was Cove always written as autistic, and if not, when did that happen? Was it an early on writing decision or were people head canon him as autistic and you made it canon or something else?

It was not 100% planned. I didn't decide I'm going to make this our life game, and the main lead is going to be an autistic man. I just started creating Cove and conceptualizing him. And eventually, throughout that process, I realized that he had all these traits of someone who had autism. And so then he did become an autistic character, but it was very early on.

3. How will Step Three work with having MC and everyone staying in Golden Grove without forcing the MC to be taking a gap year or not be going to college? If I remember correctly, Step Three is after graduation so I can't figure it out lol. It's fine if you can't say/don't know and have to skip this.

I do know, but I can't say. I'm afraid you'll have to wait and see what's going on in Step Three.

4. Is the rumor about hidden stolen fine art in the second floor of the diner, connected to the rumor in “Birthday” that the art teacher is an international thief somehow, or is that just a coincidence/reference.

It is just a coincidence slash reference. There is no real thief out there, but it is kind of funny to imagine it and have, you know, kids all over the country and world imagine things like art heists happening.

Hi! I've replayed the game like five times and was wondering how would Qiu and Tamarack react to an MC who is upset at them being friends again in Step Two, after insisting that they should all be together? Kind of like they didn't know it would affect them that much?

They'd be very surprised if MC wanted them to be friends again. And then when they were friends again, it upset the MC. They might try to make jokes about it if they had a teasing dynamic like, “Oh, you know, you didn't want us to not be friends and now you don't want us to be friends.” Otherwise, they'd probably just try to reassure the MC and ask what's wrong.

Are you going to be dropping more *Beginnings* & *Always* merch? The hoodie was absolutely beautiful.

We have at this point put out more merch, the T-shirt and the socks. So that question got answered before the Q&A

Are we going to learn more about Guy the (sweater kid) in *Now & Forever*?

Yes, he is a cameo from my older game *XOXO Droplets*, just like how Jeremy and Shiloh were in the first R life, so you can expect him to show up again, and you can learn a lot more about him by playing *XOXO Droplets*.

Is there going to be a DLC for Ren, potentially Baxter, and potentially Guy?

No, I'm afraid not. There won't be any side character DLCs for this game.

Will there be a wedding DLC for Tamarack and Qiu like there was for Cove?

Yes, there will be.

I hope your summer is well. It's been getting super hot here already. So this is a little niche, but I've seen reference to a Patreon in depth guide and Kickstarter

official digital guidebook for B&A floating around. Is this still something possible to obtain? Obviously not on Kickstarter, but on Patreon?

Unfortunately no. The in-depth guide was something I thought I could do early on in our life's development, but it ended up having to be canceled because of just how long the game was and how many choices there were. So it doesn't exist. I'm sorry about the confusion, and I definitely won't be promising any kind of in-depth guide for future visual novels, because it's just going to be too hard to make that.

Hello! This is my first ever question thread, so I apologize if anything has already been said, but I wanted to ask a little about the writing process. I'd love to know if you start the Moments with an image in your head of the big scene/climax of it, and then write around that. Or if you just have the concept of the Moment and then see where it takes you in all the different directions. Thank you. I hope you all have a wonderful June.

Thank you. My writing process depends on what project I'm working on. For the *Our Life* series and creating Moments, I usually have some kind of activity or sort of situation that is unique that I'm basing the Moment around. It could be a certain holiday, it could be taking tests, it could be going on a bike ride because I thought that would be a fun thing for the kids to do. And then I next decide what the tone is. If it's pretty much all fun, if there's some level of drama, if there's a romantic type of situation in later Steps. I also determine if it's more focused on the MC, on one lead, on both leads, or on all three of the major characters together. After that, I'll start deciding specific types of scenes that will be included that are, you know, more narrowed in other than the broad concept of like having a slumber party. Creating Moments is like putting together a puzzle piece with certain things that I know it needs to have, while also making sure it fits together with the rest of the Moments and doesn't end up feeling like I'm repeating stuff from something that happened in a previous Step, or something that happened in the original *Our Life*.

Hi, I just want to say thank you so much for making these games and letting me experience a childhood I didn't get to have. I'm so, so grateful. *Well thank you. I'm really glad.* My questions are: 1. If Baxter, Cove, and Tamarack were in our universe, what would their natural hair and eye colors be?

Baxter would just have normal black hair and his brown eyes. Cove would have blond hair and blue eyes. Tamarack would have red hair and maybe hazel eyes.

2. What are the sexualities/identities of the *XOXO Droplets* characters?

I can't do the whole cast, but for the main characters: the playable character is a straight woman. Everett and Nate are bisexual or pansexual, depending on when you ask them. Shilo is straight, Prann is straight, Jeremy is straight, and then Bae is asexual and is interested in people of any gender. However, in high school, he's only willing to date women because he wants to follow the super heteronormative path in life. He does stop doing that once he gets a bit older.

3. How would Tamarack and Qiu react to a crush confession from someone that they didn't have the same feelings for in Step Two?

I already answered that one above. So it's the same type of deal where Qiu would be pretty cold about it, and Tamarack would be extremely apologetic

4. I understand that there won't be a DLC for Ren, so I was wondering how she would react to someone confessing their crush for her in Step Two, either if she feels the same way or not. I understand if that's a difficult one to answer. Thank you for doing this Q&A.

Ren would be very surprised. And if the person was very nice and seemed generally supportive, Ren would probably accept just to have more people who were nice to her in her life. Even if she wasn't sure about a lot of things and hiding some things about herself, she would rather start dating someone who was generally okay rather than reject them and potentially have another person who has a bad opinion of her.

Hello! I hope you and your team have a fantastic June. My questions are the following: 1. For Cove, how would he react or how would he take it if the MC had a very prominent musical talent, and during one of those couple Moments where they confessed secrets, MC told them they have a notebook filled with songs dedicated to him from back when they were only friends, and MC was too shy or unsure whether the feelings between them were mutual?

Cove would think that was really precious and adorable, and he'd be really thrilled to know MC was thinking about him even back then, and he definitely want to read the songs, but then would get extremely flustered and probably have to stop reading the songs.

2. For Qiu and Tammy, how would they react if their MC was passionate about programming/animation and was working on a small project where they are the main characters? Kind of like a fantasy story where Tammy is a princess, Qiu is a Robin Hood type thief, and MC is a wizard going on adventures with them. The project would basically be a practice assignment for their classes, but MC never showed it to them out of embarrassment.

They would think that was really fun and they'd want to continue the story. They would definitely support MC in their creation and coming up with a little imaginary adventure for them to go on. But then Tamarack and Qiu might end up disagreeing on something that happens in the story, and then end up butting heads because they always find ways to pick fights with each other during Step Two.

3. And lastly: while developing your games, have you ever had Moments where the plot gets so tangled up you have to redo everything? (That happens to me when I write my own characters.) And what advice would you give for situations like that. I really admire your work and to me all your characters have a very noticeable depth. Thank you for your answers and I hope you have a wonderful morning, afternoon, or night.

Thank you very much. I usually don't have that happen with *Our Life*. I'm able to just know the characters in my mind and know pretty much exactly what they're going to do and how they react, once I come up with the type of circumstances I want to put them in. There's not really too many plot points that I have to keep in mind. So as long as I feel very familiar with the characters, I don't end up getting lost. However, there have been times with other projects where I felt overwhelmed or confused, and for that I do like to just start over or open a new blank document or space everything down so it's out of sight. And then I just start writing things out point by point in order to re-explain to myself everything that's going on. And that can also help make you understand what really sticks out in your mind. And when you go through what you've written before, if you notice things you left out of your own explanation, you can see that for whatever reason, that didn't stand out in your mind, and maybe it needs to change or be fully removed.

Hello, have a good day. 1. How did you come up with the “biology” behind primary and secondary colors? Like, why is blue hair the rarest?

I tried to Think of what kind of colors are very rare to see in nature. Like you don't see a lot of blue animals or even many blue flowers, but you can see quite a few purple flowers or red flowers. So that's not as rare as blue. And that sort of thought process is what determined everything else.

2. Since secondary colors are a regular thing in the OL/XOXO universe, which historical figure comes to your mind first, who would have been affected by this little world quirk?

Honestly, I don't know. I feel a little awkward taking a real person and giving them a new hair color or eye color, so I don't think I can do that. I'm sorry.

3. For LIs of both games, plus Renee, what would their eye shines be in the XOXO *Blood Droplets* universe?

Cove and Renee would either be circle or diamond, depending on their age. Derek and Qiu would be stars. Tamarack would be a heart or maybe a diamond at other times in her life, and Baxter would probably be a circle

4. JB is an absolute menace, I freaking love her. What was the inspiration behind her character and how you managed to write her dialogues?

I definitely just wanted to come up with somebody who could not be put off by the terrible attitudes of the love interests. She was not affected by it. It did not make her feel bad. She was able to find the amusement in it. And so I came up with this person with this incredibly high confidence and deep love for herself that could not be shaken. And because she was so confident and shameless, I was able to let her say whatever would be funny, no matter how outlandish it was.

Hey team, hope you had a great month! 1. How would Baxter address his kids in terms of pet names? I'm struggling to picture what he'd call them for both genders.

I don't think Baxter would use a lot of gendered pet names for his kids. I imagine he'd just add in the word "sweet" and then some kind of title like "my sweet baby", "my sweet child", "my sweet girl", "my sweet boy".

2. What are the OL boys like at poker? Especially on a fish-to-shark scale?

Derek is a fish. He can be extremely competitive and he's got a lot of drive to improve, but poker is not something he puts that energy into. So it's definitely just more of a fun little game that he'll play and he can be easily beaten. Baxter is better than most average players, and he can get a little bit of an ego about it and feel like he's kind of a shark. But if he was ever up against a true poker shark, he would completely fail. Cove is actually the best player. He's not a true expert. He would never be able to do really intensive mind games or fake outs, but in terms of not letting other people get a read on him and knowing what's a good move and what isn't, he is very good at that because at least when it comes to poker, he can keep his emotions in check.

3. Speaking of poker, could you share some more lore about Cliff's past with gambling?

Well, it was never something too intense. He wasn't part of, like, some illegal gambling ring that could get him in super serious trouble. It was more like something he did at bars and at parties. It was also something he did very independently. He didn't have some other person there to help him cheat or scam. He was doing everything himself. He was also able to stop doing it by around his mid 20s.

4. What does Baxter call Mr. Holden?

He calls him Mr. Holden. But I guess if he you do his DLC or you get married to Cove and you reconnect with Baxter and he becomes a more stable part of your life again, or if you even romance him, Baxter might eventually feel comfortable enough to start calling Mr. Holden Cliff.

And that is the entire Q&A for this month. Hooray! Thank you to everybody who sent in questions. I hope that was interesting. I definitely rambled for quite a while on some of these asks, but that will be everything for now. I'll be back again next month to answer more questions. Take care everybody.