

Winter/Spring 2023



WALLEN

The Official FC Newsletter



INTERVIEWS WITH
DHEN SUNBLADE
KOKO MOKO

HOUSING
INSPIRATION

GLAM AND
GPOSE

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Interview with . . .

Dhen Sunblade



How did you get into the game?

I played a bit of the 1.0 beta but it didn't stick with me. When the betas for 2.0 happened, I was hooked. Now it's been almost 10 years! Fun fact, the headstart for the 2.0 started a day after my birthday.

What's your favorite part of the game? What keeps you playing it?

I'd have to say the Main Story Quests! I've always been more of a lore-oriented player. That, along with this community of Waltz, that I am so honored to be a leader of. I do sometimes take breaks between patch releases, as do we all, but I try to keep playing and supporting when I can.

What is your favorite battle class? Favorite non-battle class?

Favorite would have to be Summoner, as that's the job I started with, after getting Arcanist to level 30 and Thaumaturge to 15, as back in 2.0 you needed to unlock it. But the funny thing is that my first level 50 was actually Fisher! Back then I wasn't very social so I spent more time fishing than anything.

Do you miss needing to level another class to unlock a job?

Eh, not really! I think being able to play what you want without needing to dabble in other things is good.

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

I'm a fan of Heavensward personally, but Shadowbringers and Endwalker are a close second.

What was it about Heavensward that made it your #1?

I think it being the first expansion and the hype around it! We finally get to go to Ishgard which has been a thing since 1.0.

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

My favorite NPC? Edmont de Fortemps The character is so well written as a sort of father figure, and it's always a joy to see him. His English voice actor recently passed away too, which hits even harder.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

The conclusion of the ongoing patch storyline.

Do you have a favorite glam? And can you show us?

I don't really have a favorite glam, but I do like the final stage of the Heavensward Summoner relic, called Mimesis Lux.

What is your favorite mount and your favorite minion?

My favorite mount is the (much to Moon' Moon's displeasure) Papa Paissa, which was actually a gift from someone in The Hunt community because I love the B Rank Hunt Squonk (who is also a paissa) so much. My favorite minion would be The Major-General shark. It just looks so silly.

What is your favorite hangout spot in the game?

Hm, I don't really have a spot other than the FC house, but I love the rain in this game so perhaps a zone where it rains a decent amount.

Now we're going to move onto some non-FFXIV questions to get to know who you are outside of the game. Are there any other games you play outside of FFXIV?

Yep! Mostly other MMOs like Runescape, World of Warcraft, and Guild Wars 2. I've also been playing a bit of the Pixel Remaster of FFIV.

What hobbies do you have outside of gaming?

I like to go to the library and play board games, and I love animals.

What is your favorite board game?

I don't really have a favorite, I just like to try different ones. If I had to pick one it would be Uno even if it's a card game, haha.

Are there shows/films or songs you would recommend?

Doctor Who if you're into sci-fi, the next season starts in November of this year. As for songs, "Don't Think Twice" by Hikaru Utada.

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

I actually just had this very good piece of lemon grilled chicken with some seasoning that I got from the store, and put a bit of Caesar dressing on it. So good. I love chicken.

And lastly, share with us a quote you live by.

"Gods know, I'm proud of you. I always will be. You deserve all the happiness in the world and more."

-Thancred Waters

Tell us one awesome fact about yourself!

I am distantly related to Connie Mack on my mother's side.

If you were able to, would you be down to meet people outside of this game? If so, what do you think would be your first reaction when you first see them?

Yes! My first reaction would be to give them a big hug if they wanted one, as I try to be friendly because you never know what other people are going through.

There are people from around the world that play this game, where do you play from?

PA, USA.

If you have a pet, what kind of pet is it—or if you want to own a pet, which one would it be?

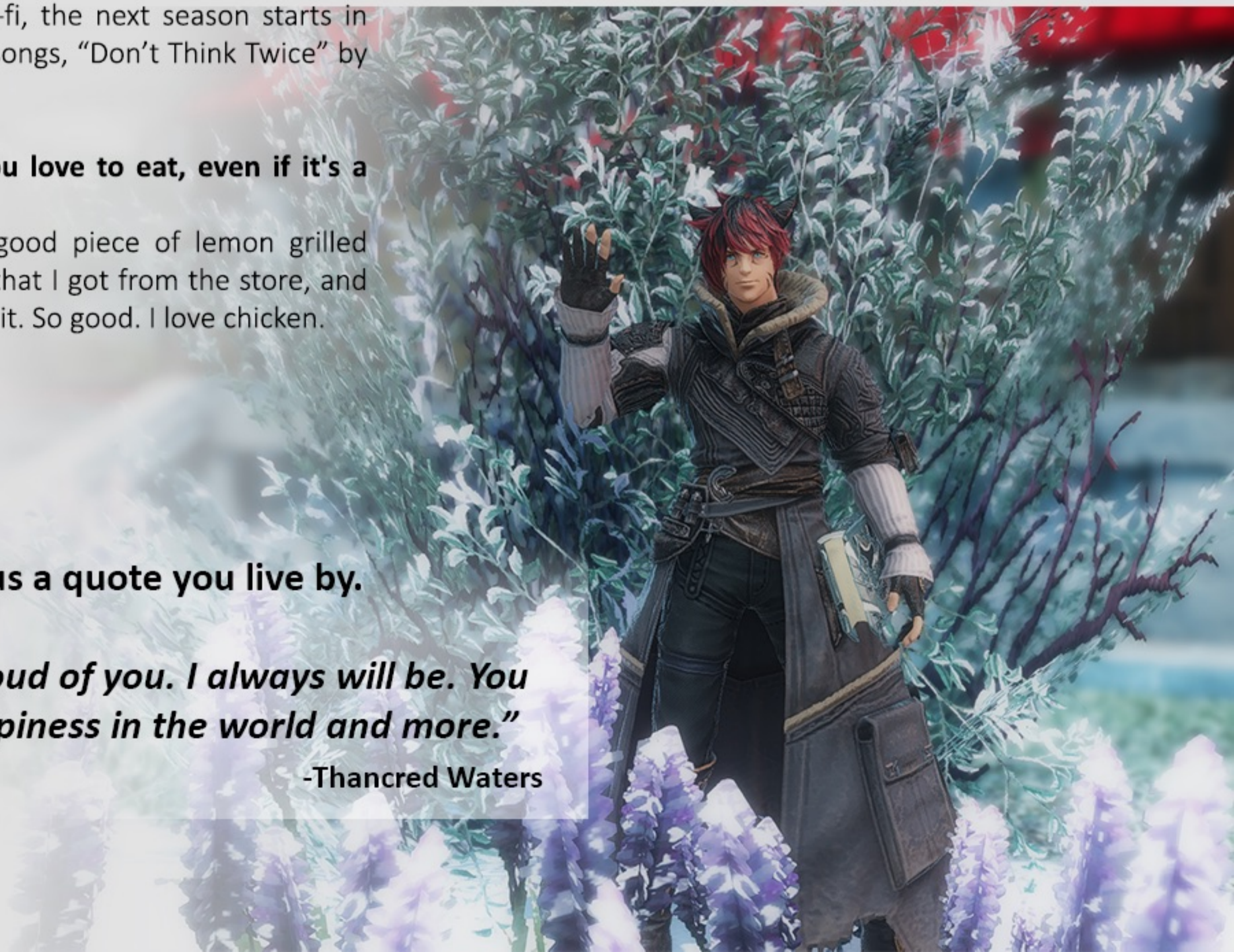
I have three cats and a dog, a tortie, a black cat, and a calico cat along with my sister's border collie. Their names are Chaka, Elliot, Minnie and Baby Girl.

All right, I'm going to probably make you sad, just a bit, ready? The game is coming to an end, you have thirty minutes to an hour to do one last thing, what would it be?

Nothing, because the game won't be ending. ;)

And lastly, share with us a quote you live by.

"Gods know, I'm proud of you. I always will be. You deserve all the happiness in the world and more." -Thancred Waters



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

View some of the stunning screenshots created by your FC mates recently!



Ravenna Roanoke



Lykos Quash

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Noriko Takaya

Diana Waters



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Zara Thustra

Ashidr Stormcaller



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Kellin Silverwillow



Dhen Sunblade



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Neko Para



Seilera Kindra



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

Nanako Tachibana



Shi Liyan



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

Take a moment to gaze upon art made by your fellow FC mates.



Atticus Soma



Cara'cal Jahal



DaxThinksNot

Dennis Richey



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

SingaSong Art



Diana Waters

#breadboxartparty

Faerie themed art party

wol doodles

Ilya Alfonse
© Janova
(my wol! i love my
bunny son)



Ilya Alfonse

dei korve
© diaboles
(host)



yohvaim nephaim
© cactuar





Koochi Fujiwara

Kouya



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY



Laureall



Luna



McSoup

Mufinella Pemstein



THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY



Selania Lhanos

Shi Liyan





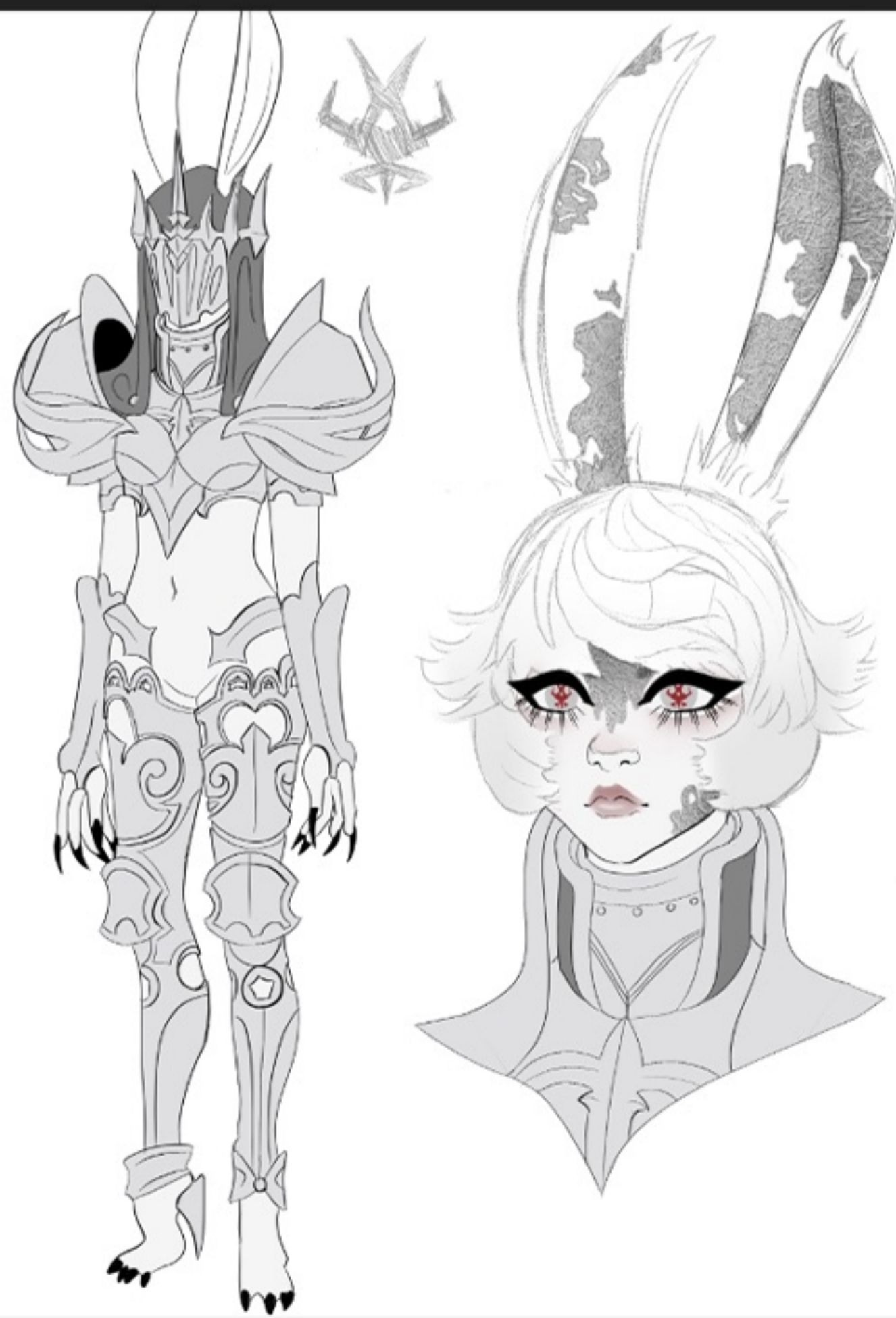
Sulia Beaugard

Veles Arca





Velilah Auroth



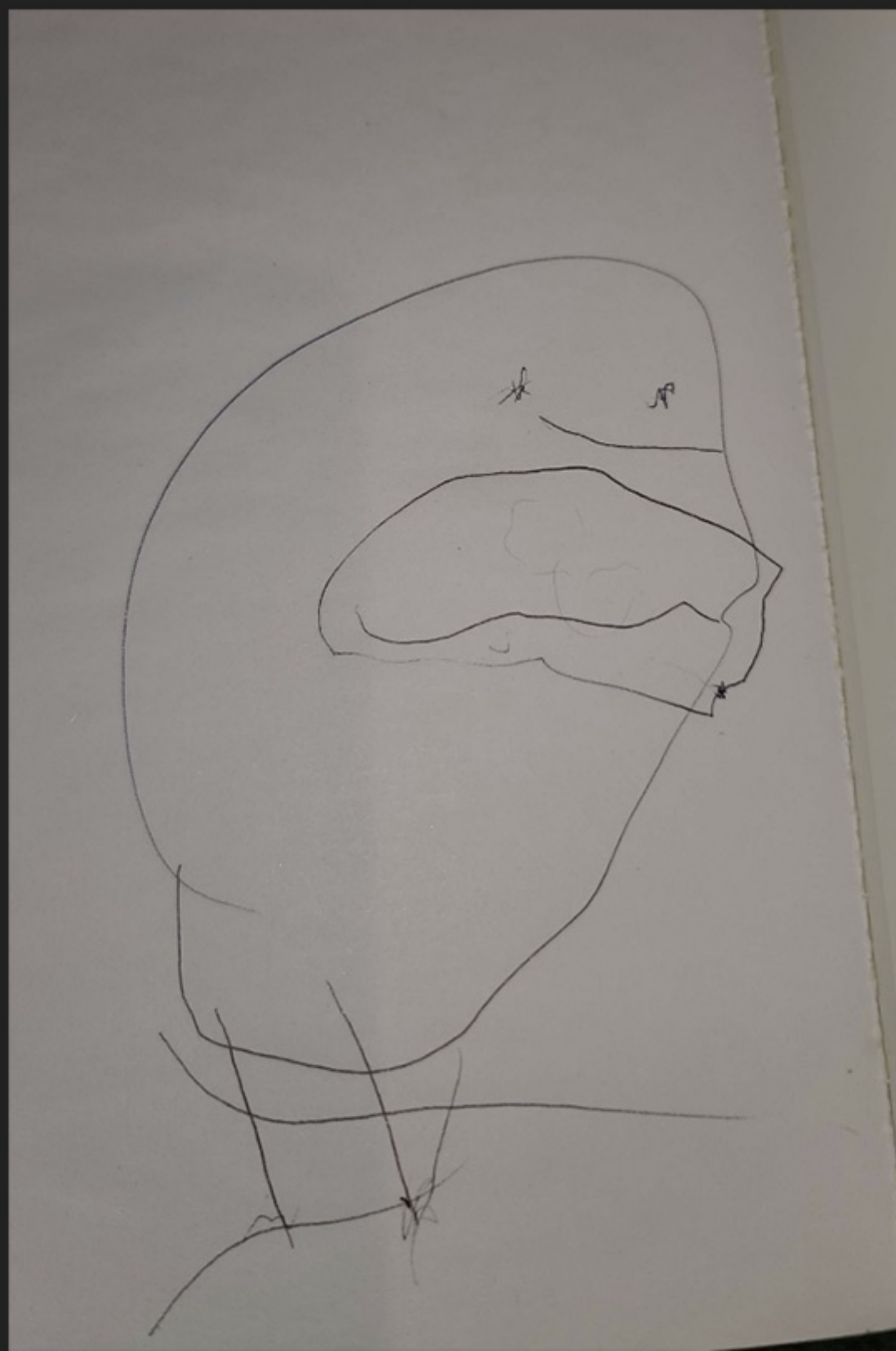
Xyr Huin

THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY



Zara Thustra

Zell Belle



THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!



Lavender Beds, W27, P49 - Pepesi Pepsi





Empyreum, W23, P12 - Beatrix De'roice



THE OPEN HOUSE



Mists, W17, P33 - Oliver Witte



THE OPEN HOUSE



Empyreum, W26, P54 - Winter Astora



THE OPEN HOUSE



Empyreum, W28, P36 - Pjetur Paharo



THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet, W17, P4 - Diana Waters



THE OPEN HOUSE



Shirogane, W14, P32 - Mynanahct Moenwyn



THE OPEN HOUSE



Mist, W8, Room #8 - Devries Bae



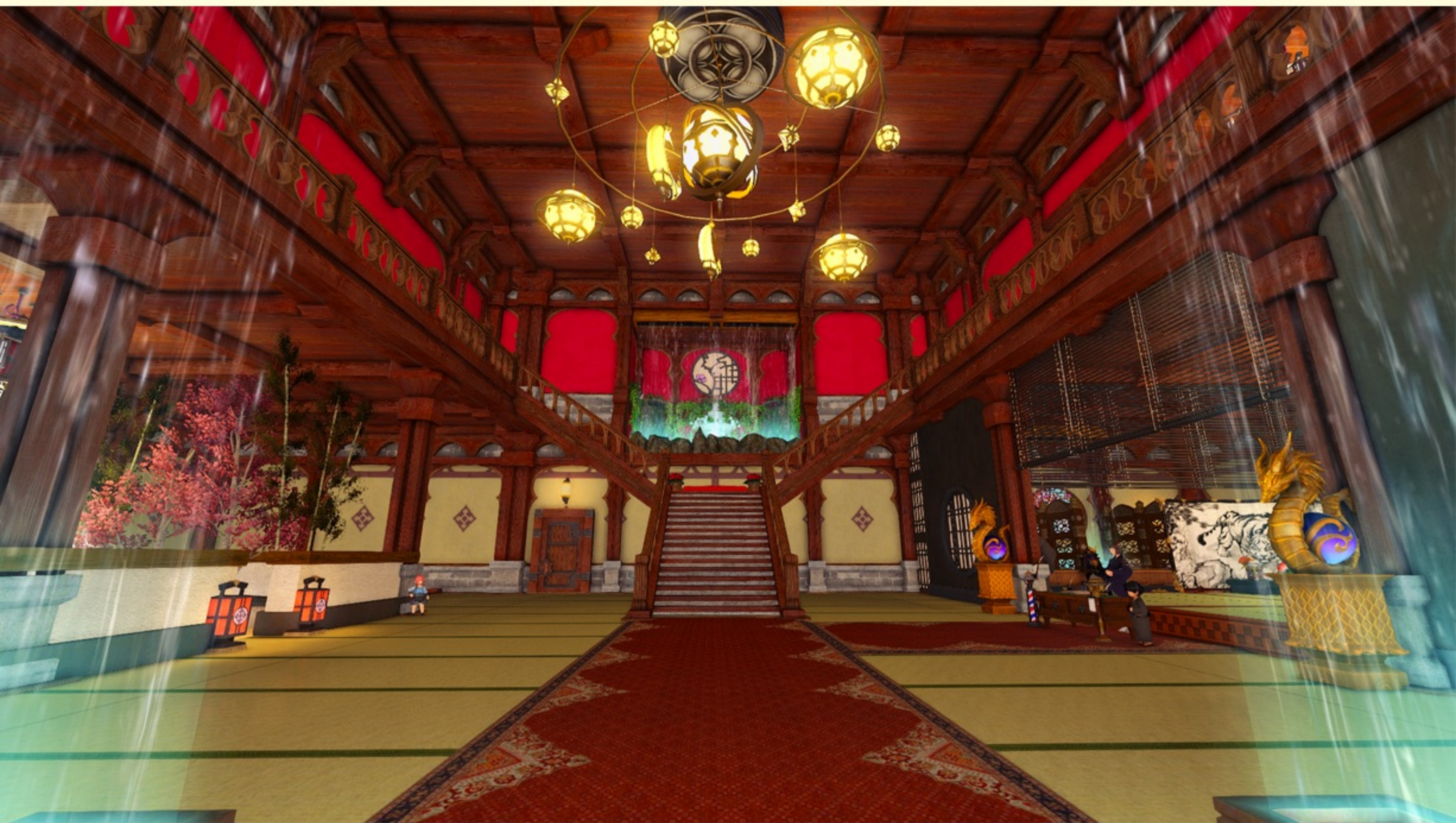
THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet, W28, P54 by Koko Moko



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC House - Decorated by Mufinella Pemstein



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC House - Decorated by Mufinella Pemstein



Interview with . . .

Koko Moko



How did you get into the game?

Gwell introduced it to me. I don't really play around in multiple MMO-type games or things which require time investment; when I stopped [playing] WoW, FFXIV was the logical destination with her already playing.

What's your favorite part of the game?

What keeps you playing it?

I wouldn't say I have a favorite thing in particular, maybe just that there's always something to do. I'm an everyday player who just likes to do things in general. The roulettes keep me busy, I like going into DF and running into "randomly generated temporary BFFS," crafting, etc., it's all in fun. You'll pretty much never hear me type the words "I'm so burned out!"

What is your favorite battle class?

Favorite non-battle class?

Oh, I'm all Warrior, all the time! Okay okay, maybe an exaggeration, but it's what I would "identify as" as far as a primary job. That said, I enjoy most all of them. As far as non-combat, I'd say Lala. Rockin the lala-tude is terrific fun. Nothing against the other jobs that aren't combat related, but they're mostly just templates of each other with different equipped "weapons."

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

I have a tough time with it since I don't really have a favorite. I've enjoyed everything from A Realm Reborn to Endwalker. Perhaps Stormblood, since I originally started that in the creation image of Koko Moko the Xaela, so the trip home was cool. I definitely identify with all that story.

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

Tataru, of course! Sadu is a close second.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

Haha, this is where I am definitely different than most. I'm not one that goes nuts over new patches and content. I enjoy them when they arrive, whatever may arrive and whenever it gets here. Perhaps the continuing story, the greatest draw in my opinion to playing FFXIV is the story-driven content. Sure the gameplay, encounters, all that are fun, but ultimately the story behind it is pretty darn good and genuinely enjoyable.

Do you have a background to your character's name?

Random name generator hit many times until I had a first and last name that sounded cool together. Simple and clean.

**What is your favorite mount and favorite minion?
I know this might be a hard question considering how many we have of each**

It's new in the stable so perhaps that influences things a bit, but the Magitek Avenger is the current mount of choice. Nothing screams of excess like being carried around by a gil spewing mechanical gorilla. I mentioned "lala-tude" earlier, right? No favorite minion, anything cute works.

Where is your favorite hangout spot in the game?

I don't think I really hang out anywhere, or at least I don't think I do. I prefer to be doing something.

Now we're going to move onto some questions not related to FFXIV.

Are there any other games you play outside of this one?

Not really. I'm pretty "all or nothing" on games. If you see me not around for a while, I'm either on vacation somewhere or gone for good.

What hobbies do you have outside of gaming?

Does eating good food count? I used to be pretty active in casual sports, softball, lots of tennis. A lot of bowling, semi competitive.

So you were a pretty good bowler?

Hmmm, not sure! I mean, scratch/competitive handicap. I have a few 300 rings, but I think maybe my proudest accomplishment was 823 series. And on the general hobby front, I've always been a gamer even prior to the advent of home computing. Dungeons and Dragons as a kid, lots of board games, was pretty big on Star Fleet Battles if someone is bored and wants to do some Google-fu. There were mail in competitions on that one! Nothing like waiting two weeks for someone's return move. Lots of strategy board games, mostly centered around war type simulations as most were back in the day, but great way to to kill a weekend.

Are there any songs you would recommend?

[There is] so much good music in the world. I listen to most everything when I actually listen to music. Playing games tends to take much of my passive media input. Perhaps "Live in the Moment" by Portugal. the Man comes to mind as a favorite. Never gets old for me. I just put it on!

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

Sushi is big in our family. Who doesn't love a good ribeye?

Tell us one awesome fact about yourself!

This will be Gwell and my 23 year anniversary this year. The fact that she's put up with me this long is in itself a miracle!

Yeah I'm pretty lucky. She's not, I just play games and go, "Hey how does this look in my house?" and "Is this glam okay, I don't wanna dress funny?"



There are people from around the world that play this game, where do you play from?

We live in southern California. Some consider that USA, some don't. I try not to figure it out.

We share lots of adorable pet photos—if you have a pet, what kind of pet is it?

We have a dog and two cats. Willy, he joined us a bit over a week ago. Spoiled rotten already of course. Cats are Coco (no direct relation) and Alfie (Alfie Stormageddon, Dark Lord of All, named by our daughter, a big Doctor Who fan). Alfie is a little Bombay, super ridiculously social, always yelling at me to do stuff. Coco, a fairly standard gray tabby type; very food oriented and smart, she's required to sit before eating.

All right, I'm going to probably make you sad, just a bit, ready? The game is coming to an end, you have thirty minutes to an hour to do one last thing, what would it be?

Hmmm, if I were to say, "Strip naked and run around Limsa yelling "ARMAGEDDON! THE WORLD IS ENDING!" that would be purely for dramatic and humorous effect.

[I would] probably just start looking for the next thing to do to entertain myself. At the end of the day, despite playing entirely too much and spending way too much time doing it, it is ultimately a game and shouldn't bleed over too much into my own personal reality.

There's always something new to play and old and new friends out there!

And my last question: What is a quote you live by?

"Gil makes the world go round!" I don't have one, so I'll let Koko speak this once. More philosophy perhaps; it pains me too often to see folks obsess, for lack of a better word, and struggle with "needs" and "must haves." I think doing everything in healthy moderation, especially on the emotional side, is always recommended. I try not to go overboard on any one thing, other than games themselves. This helps me, anyway.



Over the Moon

fashion Quarterly

Goddess of Night

By Devries Bae

Head: Mheg Deaca Circlet

+Dye: *Slate Grey*

Body: Scylla's Robe of Casting

+Dye: *N/A*

Hands: Republican Signifier's
Fingerless Gloves

+Dye: *N/A*

Legs: Miqote Loincloth

+Dye: *N/A*

Feet: Far Eastern Maiden's
Boots

+Dye: *N/A*

Neck: Skallic Necklace of
Casting

+Dye: *Slate Grey*

Bring forth the darkness with this
Nyx, goddess of night inspired glam.
Channel the night and emerge from
your lair, Tartarus, in the depths of the
underworld.



Diana, Goddess of the Hunt

By Diana Waters



Head: Torrent Mask of Aiming
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Body: Panthean Mail of Aiming
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Legs: Aoidos' Tights
+Dye: *Ash Grey*

Feet: Classical Sagittarius's Calligae
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Hands: Classical Sagittarius's Wrist Torque
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Diana, Patron of Hunters and a symbol of the Moon. She is said to be dressed in a golden cloak with a quiver of golden arrows by her side. Long has she been worshipped for protection over successful hunts and fertility. Channel the grace and strength of the Goddess of the Hunt in these garbs of gold. With her guidance, may your arrows always strike true!

Maiden's Ascension

By Etney Barrows



Head: Augmented Classical Medicus's Laurel Wreath

Body: Idealized Soothsayer's Chiton

+Dye: *Pure White*

Legs: Oracle Pantallettes

Feet: Republican Medicus's Caligae

+Dye: Mole Brown

Hands: Angelic Chaplets

+Dye: Opo-Opo Brown

"It's here, on the bleakest hour in a world who's known only darkness that hope's light shines most true."

Halone's Valkyrie Knight

By Freya Stormfall



Head: Berserker's Helm

Body: Halone's Mail of Fending
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Legs: Halone's Greaves of Fending

Feet: Coliseum Subligar

Hands: Halone's Gauntlets of Fending

+Dye: Pearl White

Weapon: Blade of the Goddess + Heroic Spirit Shield

A holy paladin glam that glitters like the snow crystals of Coerthas.

Menphina

By Hana Yuki

Head: Far Easter Beauty's Hairpin

+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Body: Republican Medicus's Chiton

Hands: Angelic Chaplets

Legs: Indigo Ramie Skirt of Healing

+Dye: *Metallic Sky Blue*

Feet: Thavnairian Sandals
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Ears: Rose Gold Earrings

Neck: Lakshmi's Necklace of Healing

Rings: Lunar Envoy's Ring of Healing/Moonward Ring of Healing

Weapon: Shiva's Diamond Cane



Athena

By Ashildr Stormcaller

Head: Exarchic Circlet of Fending

+Dye: *N/A*

Body: Augmented Lunar Envoy's Jacket of Fending

+Dye: *Wine Red*

Hands: Pummeler's Gauntlets

+Dye: *Snow White*

Legs: Pummeler's Cuisses

+Dye: *N/A*

Feet: High House Halfboot

+Dye: *N/A*

Weapon: Minos Lux Replica

+Dye: *Wine Red*

The gods and goddesses themselves steer clear of Athena when she sounds her war horns. Tremble before her might. May she bless your warriors with victory and glory.



Goddess of Luster

By Mufinella Pemstein



Head: Thavnairian Headdress
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Body: Gemmaster's Gown
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Legs: Thavnairian Tights
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Feet: Summer's Flame Sandals
+Dye: *Loam Brown*

Hands: Leather Ringbands
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

This unknown goddess of luster will ensure that all your goldsmithing endeavors go according to plan! Achieve HQ results with every craft when you pray to the luster goddess! May she bless your hammer and grease your grinding wheel to perfection!

Eodite, Goddess Of Victory

By Xyr Huin

Head: Head Bandage
+Dye: *Metallic Brass*

Body: Halone's Mail of
Maiming
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Hands: Thavnairian Armlets
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Legs: Thavnairian Tights
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Feet: High Steel Sollerets of
Maiming
+Dye: *Pearl White*

Weapon: Padjali War Scythe

May death be thy final victory.



Asian Fries

By: Asterin Whitethorn



Ingredients:

- 1 bag French Fries
- Sriracha
- Hoisin Sauce
- Lime Mayo
- cilantro
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup Peanuts chopped

Lime Mayo:

- 2 limes
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup mayo

Directions:

For the Asian Fries:

Cook French Fries per instructions on bag.

Drizzle fries with Sriracha, hoisin, and lime mayo to your liking. Top with cilantro and chopped peanuts.

For the Lime Mayo

Mix $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of mayo with the juice from 2 freshly squeezed limes; add more or less juice based on personal taste.

Ham & Potato Chowder

By: Devries Bae



Ingredients:

- 4 cups of water w/ 1-2 chicken bouillon cube(s) - depending on salty you like it
- 4ish russet potatoes cut into cubes
- 1 pack of diced ham
- 1/2 brick of cream cheese (still good without but extra good with!)
- 1/4 c heavy cream
- garlic and onion to taste
- cornstarch slurry to thicken, usually around 2 Tbsp or so of cornstarch and eyeball water
- s& p, herbs de provence, garlic & onion powder to taste

Directions:

Saute onion and garlic in some evoo until translucent. Add in potatoes and ham. Let saute for around 3 minutes to help brown and start cooking process for taters.

Add water, bouillon cube(s), and seasonings. Boil for roughly 20 minutes until taters are soft.

Add in cream cheese, heavy cream, and cornstarch. Let cook for another 3-5 minutes until thickened.

Top with any garnishes you like!

Mack & Cheese

By: Astro Logan



Directions:

Preheat the oven to 400F. Lightly butter a 9×13 in baking dish.

Bring a large pot of water, heavily salted, to boil. Add in the macaroni and cook 1 minute less than the package instructions. Drain and set aside.

In a small saucepan over MED heat, combine the milk and cream and gently heat. Be careful not to boil.

While the milk heats, in a large skillet over MED heat, melt the butter. Sprinkle the flour and whisk constantly for 2-3 minutes. Gradually add in the warmed milk. Cook for 2 minutes whisking frequently or until thickened. Adjust the heat as needed so the milk does not boil.

Gradually add in half of the Colby jack and half the cheddar cheese. Whisk until fully incorporated and smooth. Add in the sour cream and whisk until smooth. Add in pepper + dry mustard + cayenne + Worcestershire sauce + nutmeg. Season with salt.

Add the cooked macaroni to the cheese sauce and stir until combined. Spoon the mixture into the buttered dish and top with the remaining cheese. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden and bubbly.

Ingredients:

- 2 TSP Salt + more for the water
- 1lb Elbow macaroni, or cute fall shapes
- 2 Cups Whole Milk
- 1 Cup Heavy Cream
- 4 TBSP Unsalted Butter
- 2 1/2 Cups Shredded Extra Sharp Cheddar
- 2 1/2 Cups Shredded Colby Jack
- 1/4 Cup All-Purpose Flour
- 2/3 Cup Sour Cream
- 1 TSP Cracked Black Pepper
- 2 TSP Dry Mustard
- 1/2 TSP Ground Nutmeg
- 2 TSP Worcestershire Sauce
- 1/4 TSP Cayenne Pepper



Pecorino-Romano Bacon

By: Grimm'thera Skogkatt



Ingredients:

- Bacon strips
- Pecorino-Romano cheese (freshly grated from a wedge)
- Baking tray
- Parchment paper OR aluminum foil (greased)

Directions:

Preheat your oven to 400.

Line your baking tray with foil or parchment paper and lubricate as necessary. Lay out the bacon strips on your tray, as many as you can from edge to edge.

Take your grated Pecorino-Romano and put a good layer all over the bacon (it should be like a thick blanket of snow).

Slide your bacon into the middle rack of your oven and bake for 15 - 20 minutes (depending on preferred crispiness).

Take out of the oven and drain bacon grease from the tray (save for later if you can), then place bacon on layers of paper towels to soak up excess grease.

Potato Leek Soup

By: Mufinella Pemstein



Ingredients:

- 1/4 cup salted butter
- 1 leek, white part, diced and rinsed with water
- 1 carton of portabello mushrooms, cleaned and diced
- 2-3 tbsp minced garlic
- 1/4 cup flour
- 1 can of sweet corn, undrained
- 5-6 yukon gold potatoes, diced
- chicken broth (enough to cover potatoes)
- Black pepper, to taste
- half and half, to taste (optional)

Directions:

Sautee leeks and mushrooms in butter until soft, about 5-8 minutes. Sautee garlic until fragrant, about 2 minutes. Stir in flour and keep stirring constantly until incorporated and flour begins to brown. Add corn and scrape pot to deglaze before adding chicken broth and potatoes.

Bring to a boil, turn down to medium heat and cook for 15-20 minutes or until potatoes are soft.

Take pot off heat and add half and half at this time to desired creaminess if desired. Tastes great without it for a lighter version!

Forzean Chronicles

A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

Recoil & Grace:

The Biographical Tale Of a Crowned Prince

(Spoiler warning for content up through Stormblood)

Forward

In the pages that follow, a tale of unparalleled splendor and grandeur shall unfold before your very eyes. A tale of a royal prince, a paragon of bravery, whose deeds have been whispered among the stars and etched in the annals of history. A tale of Zenos yae Galvus, the Crown Prince of Garlemald, whose brilliance outshines the sun, whose strength and valor surpasses that of the greatest warriors.

This is what the royal censors of the Acta Diurna would have me pen, and the provinces would have me tell the tale of a monster. Both would have me lie. As a royal correspondent for over thirty years, I, and I alone, am perhaps one of the few that know the true story of the Galvus royal family, their tumultuous court, and most of all, the crowned prince. I can only hope these scattered pages reach the shores of a freer land; for surely I shall not.

(What follows are the unpublished pages of the journal of Cornelia goe Taitus, Royal Correspondent and Biographer, found deceased upon the battlefield of the Gimlyt Campaign)

From the beginning, prince Zenos was a lonely child. His mother, Carosa wir Galvus, was reported to have succumb to an unknown ailment soon after his birth, leaving him with only his father, the High Legatus Varis yae Galvus. The boy could count on a single hand the number of encounters he would have with his father each passing year, and those were largely dedicated to the progress of his studies and the forming of a young prince into a potential heir.

Devoid of a motherly relationship, one would assume the boy would naturally turn to his grandmother, Hypatia vir Galvus to make up for lost affection, but perhaps more so than even his father, his Lady Grandmother was concerned with nothing more than the production and development of what would one day be the crowned prince.

In this, he was under constant watch from his tutors and servants, and perhaps even the unseen eye of the Emperor himself, thus any attempt at childhood frivolities were discouraged. Innocence and playfulness were as alien to the child as breath to the sea, and any show of emotion, of want or need, was extinguished before it could be born. Servants dismissed for showing too gentle a hand would tell tales of a child's woe; speaking of nightly terrors, of ruin and fire falling from the sky, of constant torment, the world ablaze. Though these stories too were all too quickly quelled. For why tell of what none care to hear?

In time, the sons and daughters of other nobles were brought in to make companions for Zenos; notably the children of the High Legatus' long time friend Regula van Hydrus. Yet even from this tender age, the antics of other children bored him as much as the banal conferences of the royal courts. His brilliance of the mind and of strategy outshone them, and thus outshone even his brightest tutors, to the point where the prince enjoyed nothing more than the silent company of books; of epic tales of heroes and villains.



Hearsay turned dark upon the crowned Prince's fourteenth year, when it was rumored that the High Legatus had brought (against the man's will) from the provinces a teacher of swordsmanship, of a style requiring the manipulation of aether, such that the young Zenos yae Galvus could never hope to achieve. Each day the servants would mutter darkly of the state of the bruised and battered boy, though the Father seemed to care not, and the Son had mistaken this strange adversity, the first attention from his father in ages, as nothing more or less than the greatest of gifts. Within the span of a moon's turn, the boy had mastered the talent, and saw an end to his tutor's life.

In this triumph he had found no joy, and by the time he had taken his seat at the dinner table, the grim task, along with the tutor's name, were both far from memory, leaving only a prayer that one day a worthy adversary would finally make themselves known, and that Zenos yae Galvus could feel the exhilaration of a truly transcendent battle with an equal at last.

As Prince Zenos matured into manhood, he was given control of the XIIIth legion. One of his first true tests as Legatus upon the battlefield was during the first Doman civil war, where he was known to employ odd yet ingenious tactics to surround the Samurai and other warriors of Doma, bringing their uprising to grizzly ends.



Calling each of them to the battlefield, a challenge was issued and received, and one by one he would dance among them, drawing in close before ending their lives, one after the next. He took no joy in the slaughter, or the killing, but it was from here that his reputation as a Monster of War, with love only for weapons of storied histories, would grow.

After the defeat of the last King of Doma, Kaien Rijin, at his hands, Zenos placed a heretofore unknown woman, Yotsuyu Brutus, in control of the province as acting viceroy, beginning a pattern of rising individuals full of hatred, and resentment into positions of power, and giving them the tools needed to cultivate the rage of nations, in the hopes that one day a hero would step forward worthy of his blade. With this, his Father bid him and his XIIIth legion to Ala Mhigo, to quell another budding rebellion.

It was in the throes of the Ala Mhigan conflict that Zenos yae Galvus would meet his match in the Champion of Eorzea, the Warrior of Light, and though defeating them twice in battle, would come to be defeated himself. It was said that in his dying moments, he named the Warrior his first true friend, his final enemy.

Now, darker tales still spin, of a dead man returned, of a demon walking within a prince's skin; of a ravenous beast, the herald to the end...



What's New In Waltz?

A Quarterly Highlight

Happy New Year (Year of the Rabbit!) to everyone in Waltz! We hope you had a great end of 2022 and fresh start to 2023! Our calendar was packed full of fun events since last we updated y'all so sit tight and enjoy the recap!

Along with our usual activities of treasure maps, lottery, fate farming, learning parties, and so on, we had some fun casual events as well to help build the community spirit. Some of these excursions included a trip to The Eorzean Aquarium in Marlboro, Crystal. As an FC, we descended upon this fabulous aquarium exhibit to learn fun facts about the fish of FFXIV, each room filled with something new and exciting to experience. It was a great time and we all grew to appreciate fishies a little bit more that day.

Another fun activity we've begun to share together are the Waltz Riders! Together with the gang leader Kellin Silverwillow, we ride out in style once a month or so to see old areas of Eorzea and remember the best parts of growing up in this land. So far we've dressed up in our snazziest biker attire and vroomed around on our bikes, as well as donning our comfiest cowboy swag and giddy-upped on our ponies across the land. Along the way, we have invited random adventurers to join us in our rides, making friends and influencing people with our antics in the wilds. Come join us at our next outing and maybe see a piece of Eorzea you might have overlooked before!



October was a month full of creepily enjoyable activities. Our resident storyteller Kellin shared some bone-chilling tales in the FC yard around the campfire (as you do). They were pretty great and left you with goosebumps! We also had some fun movie nights watching scary (but not TOO scary) movies together on Discord. To go with the movie nights, we held a gpose contest for the bestest and creepiest movie poster we could come up with, the winner being Shi Liyan with their reimagining of the IT movie poster.



For All Saint's Wake, we had a spooky night of fun with our Nightmare on Emp Street party! The yard was ghoulishly frightening with undead mandrakes and singing Songbirds, the house devilishly horrifying with horrors from the past, and the music (by DJ Brock Hampton) was banging our coffin lids all night long! We had a fantastic haunted room tour told via Discord by our resident voice of terror Kellin, spinning a mysterious yarn about a murder most heinous. Along with spooky stories, we had some fun with tarot readings, gpose booths, and a raffle that scared (delighted) one and all! Last but not least, we had art giveaways by Diana Waters and Ilya Alfonse featuring nightmarishly cute poses! Adorbs!

Rounding out the month of spooks we held a Haunted Room Contest! A lot of these rooms were featured in our haunted room tour and added to the story, but the winners of this event were definitely some creepy haunts! In first place was Devries Bae, with a three-way tie for second between Ravenna Roanoke, Lyrie Mehsair, and Asterin Whitehorn.

December was packed full of fun activities, as well as updates to our own community. Starting out the month, we had our 10th Bi-Annual Free Company Town Hall Meeting wherein we shared our highs and lows for the FC, reflected on our charter values, discussed recruitment, and shared ideas for new and improved community events! It was a productive meeting with lots of member insight given on each topic, we thank you for contributing to making this FC better and better every year.

We held our annual Waltz Holiday Giveaway before Christmas, featuring a menagerie of little helper elves who aided Santa Brock and Santa Yami in giving out goodies to the Warriors of Light all across the NA datacenters. We had so many generous donations to the event, we really want to thank everyone for making this one of our most treasured community outreach activities to date. Leading up to the giveaway, we had a couple sneaky little elves in the shape of Noriko, Asterin, and Winter hiding around different cities in Eorzea to drum up excitement for the giveaway. We hope you were able to find them and get your holiday gifts!



Precluding our end of the year holiday party, we gave back to our own community in Waltz with The Twelve Days of Starlight Giveaway. During the event, we gave out some fantastic prizes to twelve lucky individuals in the FC, including quite a few hard to get mounts, and finishing off with a commissioned art piece by Mufinella Pemstein.

Rounding out the year we had our Waltzin in a Winter Wonderland holiday party. It was a huge event, jam-packed with goodies in our Santa's Workshop house! Our yard was filled with delightful melodies by the bard troupe Moonwhisper, inviting people to come relax inside for some indoor fun activities such as wholesome pizza shop RP with our friends at Pogazu Pizza, a fabulous prize raffle, indoor DJs GreenTeaSoda and Party Zapper mixing up some jazzy tunes to dance to, photobooth in Santa's sleigh with photos by Fae, holiday stories by Santa Kellin, tarot card reading, musical tiles, and a winter-themed glamour contest!

With the new year we had one of our favorite events: Deathdrop Dartboard! If you're new to this event, the basics are that there is a randomized set of targets to hit and everyone has to jump from up REAL high to try to hit the targets. We've hurled ourselves from various precarious locations across the star, including spots in Coerthas all the way to the Azim Steppe! It's a lot of fun and quite challenging to master but we did have one champion of the human toss, and that was Noriko!



We had some pretty fantastic people nominated for our Good Samaritan awards since last issue, highlighting the wonderful and giving folks in our community. Our Good Samaritans for the past few months are as follows:

Ikar Riegan (August)

Straye Avagnar (September)

Indigo Violet (October)

Asterin Whitehorn (November)

Noriko Takaya (December)

That gets us all caught up on the happenings in the Black Waltz! Stay tuned for all the fun we have in store for y'all in the coming months!

THANK YOU

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And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!