

the NIGHT GUARD'S NOTEBOOK

ISSUE 1
SUMMER 2023

ARTIST INTERVIEW:

MADGUTH

the creator of the
pompeii comic sits for a
chat

WRITER HIGHLIGHT: RIV_STYX

childhood ruiner and
angst aficionado

PLUS

headcanons
fun facts
recent finds



EDITOR

night-at-the-musian

COVER ARTIST

riv_styx

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WRITER HIGHLIGHT

click the AO3 logos to be taken to the fics!



riv_styx
xe/they

River has been writing for over ten years, and has contributed to the fandoms for Good Omens and Our Flag Means Death. Their work in the NatM fandom began in 2022, inspired by Ahkmenrah's character.

When writing, they like to listen to a blend of country, folk, and "every song I've ever liked off my Spotify Discover Weekly".



FOR A LONG READ
promise a future i can come back to

A pre-canon story that tears your heart open before putting it back together with a silver inlay. See how it went before Larry's arrival.



FOR A SHORT READ
living beyond your years (acting out all their fears)

A SoT AU where Octavius has to make a long journey back home after he doesn't escape Pompeii. And no one really expects him to come back - least of all Jedediah.



EDITOR'S CHOICE
i'm the kindest kind of faker

Short, silly, and fun, this fic is the progenitor of the "Just Some Guy" theory. Or the "Fucking Liar" theory, if you so prefer.

ARTIST INTERVIEW



madguth
she/they

Mad is a professionally trained artist currently pursuing her Master's in Screenwriting. Their comic, "A Wedding in Pompeii", went viral on Tumblr in 2021. Currently sitting at over 22,000 notes, it's one of the most influential posts in the fandom's 2020s revival.

We gently lifted them out of their comfy blanket nest to ask her some questions.

While making the Pompeii comic, what was your creative process?

The script was the first thing I figured out for the Pompeii comic. I had a pretty concrete idea of what I wanted before I even started. I never feel like I create things from scratch, more like I just pull them from somewhere. When making comics I usually decide the panel breaks as I'm making the script, so that happened before any drawing too. As for the actual production of the behemoth I pushed it out in like a week over winter break like what was it three years ago? I want to say? I was in undergrad and had brain worms. I really remember drawing all the thumbnail sketches more than any other part. They were messy and horrible but they became the comic. I can talk more about like the steps I do in my art if that's something you wanted to hear about, but I'm not sure how interesting I can make "sketch, refine, sketch, refine, line art, color, refine" sound.

What made you want to contribute to the fandom?

NATM was one of those movies my parents had on DVD and we'd watch all the time in the car so it's always been something I'm fond of. There had been a few little memes floating around the internet about Jed and Octavius being obviously gay and I thought those were funny and true and I had a friend who thought they were funny and true. So at the beginning of the same winter break I made the comic in, she and I were up a state in her apartment by her school. This place was in the mountains so there was snow everywhere, which was a big deal for us because it doesn't snow in our home town, and we decided to watch the original 3 NATM movies and have like a pretend snow day. Neither of us had ever seen the third one, we just weren't the right age demographic, and needless to say had some notes on the actual Pompeii scene. Didn't expect the piss. Didn't enjoy the piss. So we decided to pretend they had just gotten married instead and vowed to block the canon piss out of our minds. And since I was a broke art student I thought it would be a good idea to make the Pompeii comic and give it to my friend as a Christmas gift. So it was originally just for this one person to see and I just had it saved on my tablet collecting dust for a while until I started reading Rae's work. I had been playing with the idea of making another comic - just for myself - where one of them died and came back or something because I'm a sucker for that trope so then when I found Any Weather I was like "oh shit this stranger is in my brain" and then Rae and I started talking and that made me decide to post my natm stuff online. Because if there were two weirdos who liked it maybe it would attract more weirdos and then we could all be weird together.

When making art, what keeps you going?

That's a tough one, actually. My favorite thing about art is getting to share it with people. I love the connection it creates, especially when it's with people I care about. I mean I made the Pompeii comic so I could share it with a friend and that's kind of why I make everything. I've never been good at reading people, but when they're experiencing something I made it makes that connection easier. Art feels very vital to me, so a lot of the time I don't have a choice but to keep going. I'm like renesme from twilight. Like when she puts her hand on peoples faces and Bella's like "this is how she communicates" but it's my sliding my friends drawings of their OCs eating concrete or something.

Favorite character?

Another tough one. When I was a kid I thought Remy was the coolest thing ever because who wouldn't want a dinosaur dog that is also bones? I also really liked Amelia Earhart because I had a baby gay crush on her and still like her because I have an adult gay crush on her. But my favorite is probably Dexter. Despite the piss incident.

What's next, regarding your art?

I wish I knew. I'm still drawing all the time, but grad school is time consuming believe it or not. I'm mostly doing original stuff these days, not to say I don't do fanart if I have an idea for it. But I'm trying to build up a bank of original stuff I'll hopefully be able to turn into IP one day. I'd love to showrun my own tv show eventually, but for now I'd just like to get my MFA without exploding and post the occasional doodle to keep my spirits up.

TRIVIA

THIS ISSUE - "Red"

Red, to the Ancient Romans, was a highly important color. It symbolized Mars and military victory, one of the Empire's many exports. It was often paired with yellow, for fire, the sun, and life. Red and gold is one of Ancient Rome's most iconic color schemes - though, we're more privy to red and blue.

IT'S THE LITTLE THINGS

For the scenes with the miniatures, the crew filmed at a 1:24 scale. This technique helps the scenes FEEL small, regardless of location. Filming at this scale was covered in depth in an article from FX Guide.

FACT OR FANON?

Octavius's true identity is disputed depending on the source you're pulling from. According to some merchandise, he is Gaius Octavian, later Caesar Augustus, first emperor of Rome. In the films, the Rome he inhabits has the Colosseum, built far after Augustus's death.

Is he Augustus misplaced in time, or is he someone else entirely? Who's to say...

HEADCANONS

accept at your own risk!

Anonymous

"Octavius can't read English. Jed has to read stuff for him, and possibly teaches him how to read English."

@MapleHere

"Octavius is Just Some Guy, and not Augustus. His name just HAPPENS to be Octavius and everyone in Rome was like 'OCTAVIAN?! CAESAR?!' and he just rolled with it."

@thevintageducky

"Even though Kahmunrah has always been kinda evil, his relationship with Ahk wasn't always bad. I like to think that it wasn't until Ahk started getting older that he started getting really jaded."

RECENT FINDS

The original script for Night at the Museum was found in July 2023! It has been transcribed into Courier and Open Dyslexic, and archived.

It was a VERY different take on the story, with different characters and a much whinier Larry. He wasn't even Larry Daley yet - he was Larry Johnson!

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