

SCALES & SHADES

A KBNZ
FAN
MAGAZINE

Fanart

NO ENCLOSES

Fanfiction

And more!

18+

IMPORTANT!

FALL 2024



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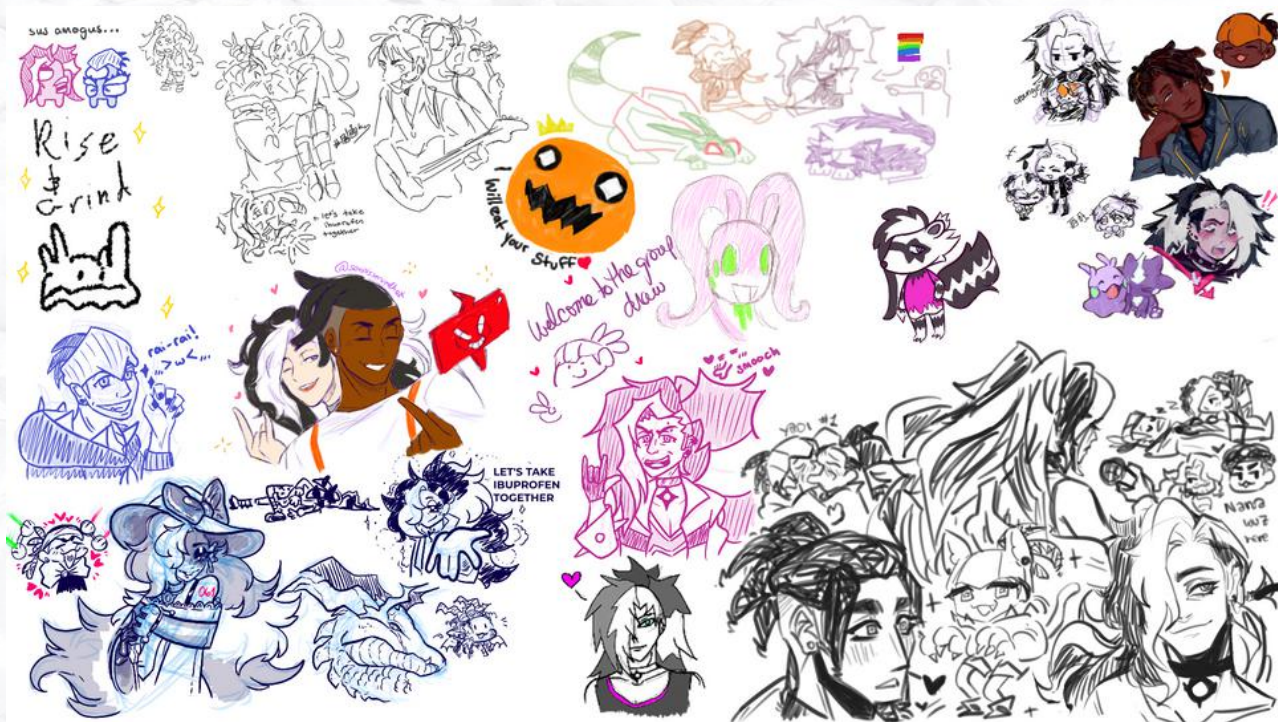
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“ KBNZ HAS HAD ITS GRIP ON ME SINCE 2019. SINCE THAT FATEFUL SCENE WHERE RAIHAN GAVE PIERS THE BEDROOM EYES, COMPLEMENTING HIM ON HIS SKILL, AND MAKING PIERS GET BASHFUL. EVEN NOW, I CONSUME THIS SHIP LIKE A WINE SNOB ENJOYING A FINE CHARDONNAY....A KBNZ CONNOISSEUR IF YOU WILL. MAYBE I'M A SUCKER FOR THE ROCKER/PREP DYNAMIC. OR MAYBE I JUST THOUGHT THEY SHOULD KISS. I MEAN IT'S THE FIRST SHIP I PURCHASED DOUJINS AND ANTHOLOGIES FOR! THROUGH THIS FANDOM, I'VE MET SOME REALLY COOL PEOPLE AND ENJOYED THE MOST AMAZING ART AND FICS! IT REALLY HAS A SPECIAL PLACE IN MY HEART.

@IDKGARNET (TWITTER/X)





KBNZ RADIO

WASABI'S TOP 4 KBNZ SONGS

- "BUBBLEGUM BITCH" - MARINA AND THE DIAMONDS
- "GOD" - JAKE DANIELS
- "DANCE YOU OUTTA MY HEAD" - CAT JANICE
- "ME DA IGUAL" - L'IMPERATRICE



TEM'S TOP 4 KBNZ SONGS

- "ON MY OWN" - ASHES REMAIN
- "CAR LIGHTS" - JAMES MARRIOTT
- "FEEL INVINCIBLE" - SKILLET
- "IRREPLACEABLE" - CITIZEN SOLDIER



BINA'S TOP 4 KBNZ SONGS

- "DON'T TELL" - ROYAL BLOOD
- "NOW THAT YOU'RE GONE" - THE RACONTEURS
- "IN MEMORIAM" - THE OH HELLOS
- "SUPER STAR" - THE KNIFE PARTY

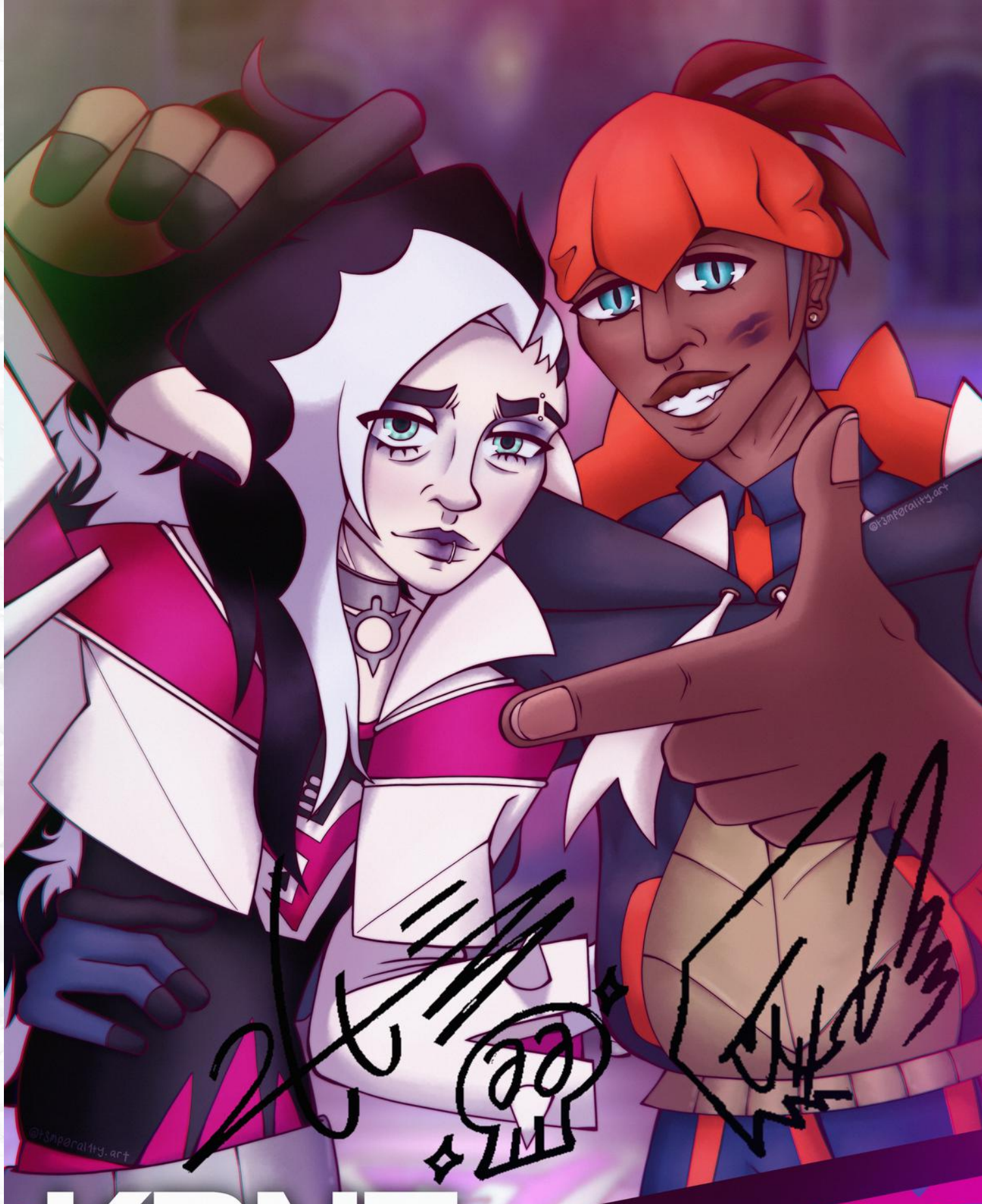


IDKGARGAR'S TOP 4 KBNZ SONGS

- "SAY MY NAME" - SYNAPSON FT. JACKSON
- "JACKSON" - SYNAPSON
- "JUST PRETEND" - BAD OMEN
- "THE PERFECT DRUG" - NINE INCH NAILS



YOU CAN FIND THE LINK
TO THE FULL "SCALE AND
SHADE" PLAYLIST BY
CLICKING THE SPOTIFY OR
ITUNES ICON



KBNZ

@t3mp0ral1ty.art

Piers / Raihan





@chillingxy

@CHILLINGXY (TWITTER/X & TUMBLR)



Elite
sneepi



© SOUPISSEVEDHOT (TWITTER)
povvassidpov





FANDOM TALK WITH RIORU

RIORU HAS BEEN SHARING THEIR KBNZ ART SINCE 2019, SPARKING THE GROWTH OF THE FANDOM. THEIR BEAUTIFUL BLACK AND WHITE ILLUSTRATIONS AND SULTRY DOUJINS HAVE CAPTIVATED AND INSPIRED TENS OF THOUSANDS OF US. WE HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO DO A BRIEF Q&A WITH THIS PROLIFIC MANGA ARTIST AND FELLOW KBNZ ENTHUSIAST ABOUT THEIR PASSION FOR THE SCALE AND SHADE SHIP.

Soup Thank you so much for taking the time to chat with us about KBNZ, Rioru! What made you fall for KBNZ when you first saw Raihan and Piers?

Rioru Well I think it's a scene where raihan told piers he wanted to do the battle again (everyone would know) The scene where raihan asks him for a Dynamax-free battle, and the piers who heard it turn their heads silently was enough to create their relationship.

Soup Your portrayal of Raihan and Piers has a very sophisticated air to it. How do you imagine their lifestyle in your artwork?

Rioru Thank You For Feeling Sophisticated! Nothing special...but I drew them thinking they were real humans living somewhere...not game characters. Thinking that they live somewhere as popular celebrities and musicians (based on sports players) makes them more energized... and stimulate my imagination.

Soup Yes they are so stylish. I definitely get the impression that they live busy and creative lives, with Raihan doing business trips and Piers having shows. Maybe Piers goes on tour with his band too! It's refreshing to see who they are outside of being pokemon trainers.



Soup Do you have any specific headcanons about their backstories, physical appearances, or personalities?

Rioru I've always loved having two completely different people together. Fallen towns and historic important cities... completely different personalities... their size differences. Just everything about them was perfect. Well, I think maybe Piers' nails are painted with black nail polish? Or maybe Raihan is the only child of a rich family.😂

Soup Are there any KBNZ ships tropes you're not particularly fond of?

Rioru I don't know. If it's about the morphology of their relationship. Every kbnz people draw has a different shape. It's the same as several chefs cooking with one dish. It's like a buffet, so the only fun is to be happy and eat.

Soup What are your favorite aspects of Raihan and Piers' individual personalities and relationship with each other that you enjoy portraying in your work?

Rioru Well. Raihan is a personality who prides himself on his own skills, is a challenger, and never gives up.

Piers is also confident in his thoughts, but demeans himself. But he tries to give everything he can to help. And he loves his family. I liked their similar but different personality differences.

Raihan wants to battle him again.

Victory on unequal terms might have been out of his sporting spirit...

just because he thought it would be fun...

or because he wanted to check each other's skills on equal terms, for another reason.

Piers acts in trouble when he hears his suggestion. 'Does he hate him? ... Or does he think he's making a mockery of his situation?' I thought at first. But Piers mentioned that Raihan is really strong... Looking at the sand breeze, I remember the game against him... Team up with him to win the game....

Piers knows his personality and finds that he truly recognizes his ability.

So at that moment, he didn't hate him, he didn't get angry. He just knew what was going to happen now. That's why he turned his head.

Because he acknowledges Raihan's skills and knows what kind of person he is.

The moment I realized it, a firecracker exploded in my head.

Maybe some people think it's an expanded interpretation, but it's Otaku's role to imagine this.😂 And the interpretation is different for each individual, so some people may think differently. But this is how I felt.

Even though nothing came out about them in detail, I loved the description of each other already acknowledging each other's skills.

Something was going on between them without us knowing. But the game ended without showing. From the standpoint of liking characters, it's like torture to not be able to see their changes anymore, but at the same time, it stimulates a lot of imagination.

Soup I love that you highlighted their mutual respect and admiration for each other as trainers. There is definitely an undertone of love and care that is far more layered than meets the eye. On top of the information we get from the pokespe comics, there is so much more to explore!!



Soup If Raihan and Piers were your original characters, what kind of alternate universe would you place them in?

Rioru Well...Their relationship comes from the settings of the game, so I'll probably do the same settings... But I think I liked the Dragon Man and the Bard in the Middle Ages.

Soup I can definitely see Raihan the dragon being charmed by Piers the bard's enticing music! ✨

Soup Besides Raihan and Piers, are there other Pokémon characters you enjoy drawing?

Rioru Maybe Leon and Arven...? Because I like male characters with long hair.

Soup Do you have a ship type?

Rioru Well, I don't know... Maybe I like 😍x😌 this type...?

Soup Are there aspects of Raihan and Piers, or their relationship, that you haven't explored yet but would like to in the future?

Rioru Um... in the comic books, they look like they've known each other for a long time. I don't think I've drawn much about it. Or Piers' relationship with Rose and Leon... But for now, I think I've mostly imagined it. Unless the formula gives fans additional information about them.

Soup You have a versatile style, ranging from detailed color work to black and white illustrations. What art programs do you use, and what are your favorite brushes?

Rioru I almost use Photoshop's basic brush or pencil brush. But when I drew cartoons, I used clip studio because it's convenient. I don't think I can specify the brush because I'm using various things every time.

Soup As a manga artist, does storytelling come easy to you? Have you ever written fanfiction and is that something you'd consider for KBNZ?

Rioru I think I've only written a simple story that I haven't drawn with a comic, or a compilation of the contents of the comic. Storytelling is really hard. I think it's the hardest part of a comic...



Soup We noticed that you printed a KBNZ book with art from a few years ago. Would you consider producing more books on a larger scale (or small) and making them available to the community?

Rioru Unfortunately, I don't have any plans. It means a lot to leave a book, but I don't want to.

Soup We definitely respect your decision on that

Soup You've participated in a few KBNZ anthologies. Would you be interested in contributing to more in the future?

Rioru Talking about why I loved kbnz? It was fun to explain about them. It will always be fun to talk about them.

Soup Yes! I hope that there will be more opportunities for everyone to be able to share their love for kbnz across languages!

Soup On what websites can we find your art?

Rioru Visit my Pixiv!

Soup Have you noticed some particularities with the english speaking KBNZ fandom?

Rioru I think English-speaking fandom has diversity in its creations.

It was impressive to draw various things without being stereotyped. It was nice to be able to experience that.

Soup It's been 5 years since pokemon sword and shield was released and people are still discovering KBNZ through fanart, namely yours. Can we expect to see more KBNZ drawings and comics from you in the future?

Rioru Actually, I still draw them often now. I just don't post them...

I'm focusing on working these days...so I can't draw as often as I used to.

Soup We will wait patiently for your next dish!



**You can find Rioru on Pixiv and Twitter/X
(click on app logo below)**



@リオル



@rioru__v__v



Mowa Pina

20%



Dark &
Dragon,
Scales
& Shade!

K
B
N
Z



112 432

9.5

@MOWAPINA (TWITTER)

@MOWAPINA (TWITTER)







BLESSED WITH A CURSE

By: @Ellah1H (Twitter/x) ☞

This comes from an AU that I discussed with a close friend of mine, just a little introduction of an universe where warlock Piers has to deal with demon Raihan in a modern world setting.

Something bad happened, something very bad. Piers could sense it by the way the candles lessened, the temperature abruptly rose, from the wrong color of the fleeting flames that were born inside the circle, and the smell... which was delicious. But he couldn't enjoy it, the sudden scorching heat kept his mind focused on only thinking about undressing right there, as a desperate solution. He had never felt this kind of need to soothe his body temperature, nor begin stripping himself as the only way to achieve it; as if the heat was only an excuse to what he really wanted (or was being forced to want). He got a grip on himself and all his clothes stayed on, now peeking at the circle of summoning made out of gunpowder: it changed colors, so Piers was now sure something did happen. But what? Something not good: all these signs couldn't be more different from the results he wanted, which led him to resort to the oldest trick in the book: lying.

"Whoever is there: show yourself" He got up, slowly and trying to be uncaring so no one could fend off his fears, fanning himself with his hand "Don't hide, you're not dealing with a novice warlock. I know you're hiding and, for your own good, you should show yourself"

Raihan wasn't the type to show up immediately upon invocation, nor to obey whatever the warlock was saying, but he had to give him the victory if Piers could see through his initial invisibility; his modus operandi, consisting of secretly analyzing his victim until finding a moment of vulnerability, was dismantled before his liking. He found himself even more surprised when the warlock defied him to appear before him, enough for Raihan to actually do it.

"Not anyone can sense my presence as fast as you. You're not my typical companion" Between blinks, Piers suddenly had an incubus in front of his face, levitating upside down so both faces could stare at each other at the same level. Smiling due to Piers' brief shock, Raihan let his feet touch the floor and wandered around the room, interested in the warlock's occultism collection; his movements were well trained, so Piers could easily get lost in the inherent eroticism his incubus' body emitted "So... where is your bed?"

That last question snapped Piers out of Raihan's show before it was too late. He now knew for a fact the demon was an incubus, not only thanks to his arcana knowledge, but because there was no reason for him to be that attractive: his horns didn't stir up fear his horns didn't raise fear, his body was perfectly tanned and toned up, and his long dreadlocks, Piers' personal favorite, were meticulously decorated with gold jewelry.

"A shame I will die if I fuck him, I would be for sure more than glad to have him in my bed" he thought.

"That's how desperate incubus are?" was not the response Raihan expected, even when Piers got closer to cup his cheeks, acting like he had fallen into his trap "You said it yourself: I'm not nobody. You can search for my bed, but I'm not going in with you"

"You sure are someone powerful if the bigwigs of hell wanted to punish you with me. They don't send me to anyone" Raihan, finally, quit trying to seduce him. He now seemed more serious but, to Piers' opinion, less intimidating; or, in other words, tried less to be perceived as the icon of eroticism for the warlock. Without shame, Raihan started to investigate his body by pulling up his arm, picking on Piers's skin or looking at his hair: anything to find a hint of why he was such a sturdy victim.

Piers didn't put up any resistance, simply because he was too focused on processing Raihan's words. They wanted to punish him? In which troubles Piers had gotten himself into? It was not until Raihan pulled his hair like it was a wig that the warlock finally reacted, freeing his hair from the curious demon "Get your hands off me. Listen, you're handsome and all that, but getting my vitality sucked off me, even if it's literally, was not on my plans today. Return to hell and tell those bigwigs that I'm aware of what I'm doing, and it's not as easy to stop me as sending me the hottest incubus in their ranks" And winked at him, like he was the one whose mission was to seduce. Piers tried to brush off his lie of knowing what was going on with that little tease at the end, and then headed to the door "Ugh, it's late... I better get started with dinner"

"Wait-" After Raihan's initial shock of how things ended up, he followed Piers, still floating on the air, trying to ignore the chills down his spine when he had to leave the warmth of the room "What's dinner? What are you going to do? Hey, you say you want me gone, but I have no choice but to stay until we get the job done, so hurry up, let's get to bed... it's cold here..." And that last bit had no double meaning, he even started to hug himself "At least tell me your name, will you?"

Piers stopped on his track, trying to recall the conditions of sleeping with an incubus, and audibly groaned when he realized Raihan's words were true. However, he didn't answer right away, purposely leaving him on tenterhooks "Let's slow down. Dinner is a meal, a meal is food the humans eat. I'm going to cook dinner. Second, I am not sleeping with you, do you have a single clue of how busy I am tomorrow? Way too many chores to waste the night having sex. On top of that, I'm less interested if you're really sent from the elites of hell" After filling up the pot with water, he started to heat it up "My name is Piers, you should at least know that about your victims before showing up, you're a bad employee. What's yours?"

"I can't tell you my real name, are we crazy? Knowing my name makes me way too vulnerable, and I don't want to be that weak to you" He even seemed angry that Piers didn't remember that from the basics of dark magic "And- what's that yellow... straight thing that you're boiling?" Still in the air he got closer to the pot, frowning with confusion "What is that... red liquid you're torturing?"

"For the love of god-"

"C'mon, don't say its name"

"For the love of god," Piers ignored Raihan's request, smiling when his frown got even bigger at the disrespect "Stop talking like I'm killing someone. It's pasta. That's spaghetti, and this here is bolognese. This is the cooking I told you I was doing. Wait, come here" He filled a little spoon with the sauce, and fed Raihan with it "How does it taste?"

"I don't know. My tongue is not made for that" It was now the incubus who smiled while Piers rolled his eyes

"But the texture seems nice, I guess"

"Are you really going to stay?" Piers asked again, stirring the spaghetti "I repeat that I'm not sleeping with you"

"And I repeat to you that I can't leave until I fulfill my mission. I can't leave nor stay far from you... and maybe something else. I don't really know, this has never happened to me before" He stared at the warlock fixing the last details of the meal and, even though he couldn't taste it like humans did, he found himself missing how good the texture was, looking for too long at the plate, way too long for Piers to not realize.

The warlock, finally uncomfortable at being constantly stared at, distributed what was supposed to be a meal for one in two plates.

“So... you’re going to make me company for the rest of my days or what?”

“Unless you sleep with me!” Added Raihan, whose face expressed a smile so childish it made Piers reconsider not feeding him for the rest of the stay.

“Well, get yourself comfortable then: you’re going to spend some time here. I hope nobody is waiting for you to return home”

“It’s okay, warlock: I’m all yours. I hope your chores tomorrow won’t be way too boring, because I get very annoying when bored” and Raihan’s new smile, mischievous and playful, assured Piers he wasn’t lying.

KBNZ

PIERS ON ICE

By: @NinjacookieXD (Ao3) ☺

I was doing a challenge where you shuffle the songs in your library and write whatever came to mind. History Maker came on and... well... this oneshot was born! I will be putting this and the other song-born fics on my AO3 account at some point, so keep an eye out! As well as for the artwork I did for this on my insta... ;)

“Still can’t believe you dragged me out here for... this.” Raihan grumbled. Leon had woken him early that day, shouting down the phone in excitement that he’d gotten ‘sport tickets that were absolutely not to be missed out on’. The dragon tamer had wrongly assumed it was a football or rugby match... hell, even a Pokémon battle would’ve made more sense! He should’ve asked before saying yes, figure skating was not his thing. But surprisingly, it was Leon’s?

“Rai, mate, you’ll love it. They move so well on the ice, it’s like they’re telling a story. There’s nothing quite like it- it’s pure magic!” Leon said, leaning over to nudge Raihan in the arm. “I’m so glad you came with me!”

“Uh-huh...” Raihan grumbled in agreement, then rose an eyebrow as the lights went out and the room hushed. The sounds of blades on ice could be heard, and before he could question it a single spotlight shone through the darkness onto the rink.

The light revealed a lone androgynous figure, poised ready in position for a performance. Raihan’s breath caught in his throat as he gazed upon them. They were... ethereal. Dressed in a tight black and sleeveless leotard suit that sparkled hints of pink and grey in the light, the figure also wore a black half skirt of which the underside was neon pink, and had elbow length fingerless gloves. Their two toned monochrome hair was mostly pulled away from their face save for a piece that fell over their face, the rest of it pulled into a high ponytail.

Their eyes, decorated with a mix of pinks and purples, looked down at the ice as they held their starting position. The music started, a crescendo of acoustic guitar, as the figure began to wave their hands seductively around their body. They moved their hips as well, then suddenly stomped and seemed to lock gazes with Raihan directly. The expression on their face *screamed* sex, and had Raihan gulping and leaning forward with interest. The figure smirked and then pushed off to properly begin their routine.

As they moved, Raihan’s eyes were drawn to them. The way they moved on the ice, telling a story and showcasing brilliant moves... it got him feeling a certain type of way.

Next to him, Leon chuckled as he watched his friend grow more and more enamoured with the skater. “That’s Piers, he’s a gold medalist for Galar! He’s real good, right?”

Raihan tore his eyes away with great difficulty and stared at Leon in disbelief for a moment. “Wait, that’s a guy?!” He looked back at the figure skating their story, and now he looked closer he was able to make out certain male-born features. He still had an air of femininity, especially where he twisted and turned his small, lithe body.

He was truly mesmerising. Any response from Leon was lost to him as he became entranced once more.

Throughout the performance, the man didn't slip up once. He performed his moves with perfect precision, aceing every landing and dancing around like magic. The performance in both lyric and movement seemed to tell the story of someone infatuated with another person, whose charm left them tongue-tied. The protagonist of this story (Piers) being caught in a whirlwind of attraction, struggling to find the right words to express their feelings. It was excellently choreographed, all fitting perfectly together for a masterpiece of a performance. There was definitely something sexual about it, and even though Raihan knew nothing about this art form he could tell that wasn't just his own damn hormones getting in the way of how he viewed it. And he'd looked right at him at the start of the routine... that couldn't have just been coincidence, right? It felt almost fated.

As the performance came to an end, the figure posed with his arms wrapped tight around his body and stood still panting heavily. The crowd went wild with applause, and various flowers and gifts were tossed onto the rink. The figure

chuckled breathlessly at the screams of joy and shouts of 'we love you, Piers!', and lifted his hand in a small wave before skating off. Raihan watched him go, feeling a weirdly longing ache as the man skated off the rink and disappeared behind the scenes. He didn't notice the announcer speaking, nor the next person entering the rink to showcase their own performance, his eyes were trained on the side tunnel out that Piers had disappeared into. Without a second thought, Raihan was on his feet and making his way towards that exit, his walk turning into a jog once past the doors in order to catch up. He managed to spot the smaller man about to enter what he assumed was the locker room, and came to a stop just before him.

"Hey, Piers? Was it?"

Piers spun on the spot and rose an eyebrow at Raihan. "Tha's me. Who's askin'?"

Raihan grinned shyly and brought a hand up to run through his hair. "Raihan. Pleasure to be meeting ya~ I, uh, this is the first show I've ever actually seen. Heh, not really my thing if I'm honest, but... I just wanted to say, your performance? It was really cool. Like, super cool. And you're really hot. It was like a total smokeshow out there."

Piers seemed to flush slightly at the barrage of praise, but as he eyed the dragon trainer up and down a small smile played at the corner of his lips, eventually turning his curious expression into a smirk.

"Cool 'n hot', huh? Not th' best've heard, but not th' worst. Raihan, was it? You want an autograph or-?"

"A date!" Raihan burst out before he could stop himself, surprising himself in the process.

"A... date?" Piers repeated, his eyes widening in surprise. He thought for a few seconds, eyeing the man in front of him up and down again. He wasn't bad looking, and by that he meant he was confused as to why he was calling *him* the smokeshow in the first place. This wasn't the first time a fan had asked him out, but it was the first time they'd been attractive enough to consider, and that had followed him to the locker room... hold on. "Wait, how did ye even get back here? Non performers ain't allowed..."

Raihan frowned for a second, glanced behind him, then back at Piers with a guilty smile. “I, uh, snuck past them. Although in my defence, those guards were on their phone the whole time.”

Piers rolled his eyes, thanking any gods out there that Raihan was the only one who’d realised this. But still, to track him down after being enamoured with one performance... there was something innocently sweet about it. Well, it could also be viewed as borderline stalkerish, but he chose not to focus on that right now, given this was a first offence. It had been a while since he’d just let his thoughts go and said yes to someone, even more so with someone he’d never met before.

“I see... well...” Piers drawled, clicking his tongue once as he thought for a few more moments. “I need to change first, but... I could do with a coffee?”

Raihan perked his head up. He hadn’t expected the other man to accept, and so soon as well. “Yeah? Alright then, I’ll wait for ya outside then? Looking forward to getting to know ya~” He grinned, one sharp tooth peaking out. Piers hummed and nodded, seemingly staring at the tooth deep in thought before the hint of a blush crossed his cheeks and he disappeared into the changing rooms. Raihan watched him go, then moved to make his way outside with a happy skip to his step.

‘Oh, I should probably let Leon know...’ he thought, pulling out his phone to message his friend, only to see a barrage of texts asking if he was okay and where he was. He felt a little guilty at leaving his friend watching the performances while he was off chasing a potential hookup, but... Leon would understand, right?





Snade e-zine Present

KBNZ Shipchart

Age

Age

Height

Height

Gender

Gender

Nickname Piers gave them

Nickname Raihan gave them

How do you call this ship?

What's in thier bag?

What's in thi

CLICK TO FIND FULL VERSION

DO YOU LIKE ME?

☐ YES

☐ DEFINITELY

☐ ABSOLUTELY!



THE LOVERS





YeekawBvby

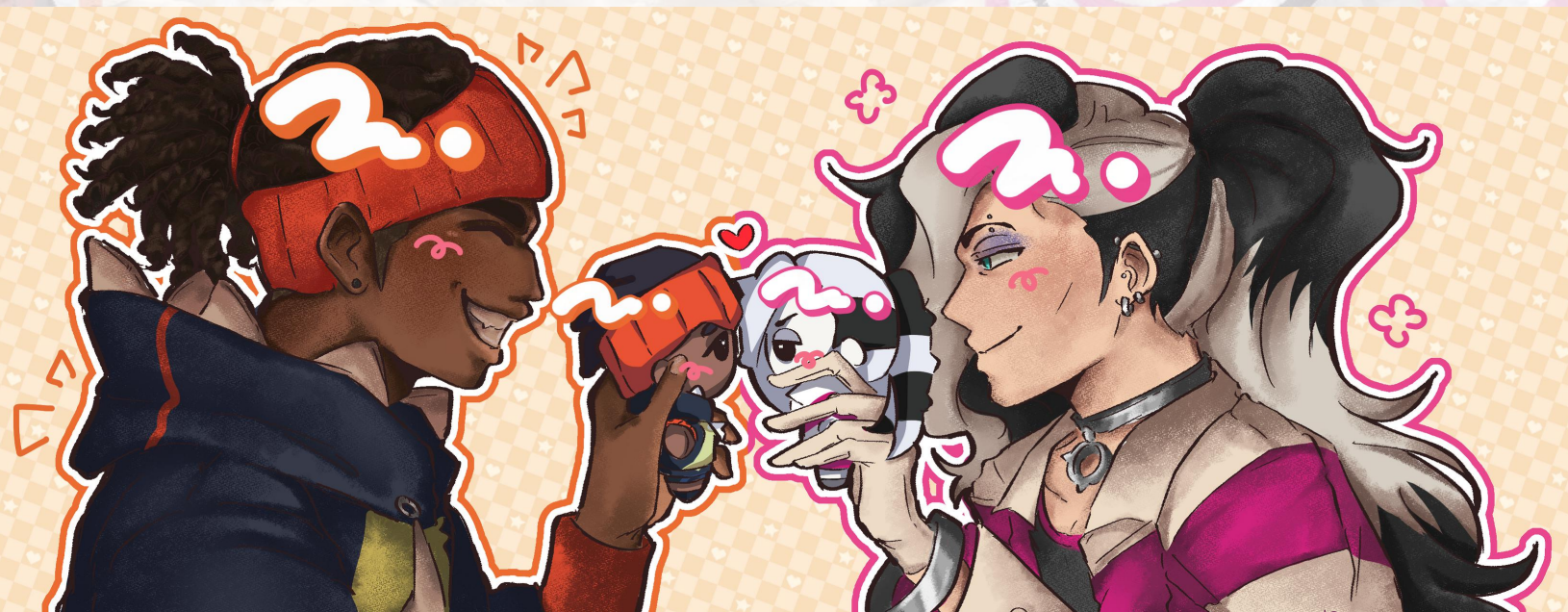


@FUYU_TJONDRO

@FUYU TJONDRO (INSTAGRAM)



@FUYU_TJONDRO



MECHAIDOL(TWITTER/X)

A LUCKY DAY

By: @Toorry (Ao3) ☀

just want to write something adorable.

KBNZ is a cute couple

A few muffled thunderclaps rolled by, and the dim daylight pressed through the clouds and down, it navigated the right direction trapped in the haze of rain and fog. Galar was covered in fine beads of water after the rain showers, and the shifting wind burrowed into Raihan's clothes with an irritating sweltering heat. He squinted to recognize the landing site not far away, which was fortunately as lonely as ever and always instantly recognizable. Soon enough, his Pokemon landed smoothly, and Raihan hopped off the back of the Flygon, which chirped and stretched its wings to shake the water. He took off his hood and looked up, then he took a deep breath. The sultry, gorgeous breath came against him. The town of Spikes, full of broken roof sheds, was the shelter for him.

There was a small fluttering in his arms, Raihan snapped back to his senses, patting the small thing wrapped in his coat soothingly as if to ease his own thumping heartbeat as well.

This is just an accident.

The Flygon came over, it was interested in the "accident". Raihan gently stroked its head, knowing that Pokemon were always confusingly sensitive to unfamiliar scents. So he unzipped his jacket slightly to let his best friend have a better look, "It's still moving, this guy is very spirited, don't worry."

The dragon sniffed in Raihan's arms before letting out two long, low chirps and rubbing his face affectionately in a pout.

"Tough day for you." Raihan zipped his jacket and smiled as he scratched his partner's chin and stroked its neck again, carefully wiping away the undried water stains on its scales, "Let's go to find Piers."

Piers's ears were good, so he instantly heard the sound of Raihan's footsteps. There weren't many regulars who liked to travel to Spikemuth, and this Gym Leader of Dragon, whom he had first met at the Champion Cup two years ago, was one of them. Piers didn't hate the fact that Raihan was happy to knock on his door every two or three days with clumsy excuses. Thanks to him, Piers, who had long been accustomed to being alone, was now gradually familiarizing himself with the noise around him.

Out of a kind of tacit understanding, Piers opened the door for Raihan the moment before the door was knocked, and the latter one leaned on the doorframe like a drowned yamper that was particularly endearing.

Away from the stage, Piers no longer in the spotlight, he changed into a loose summer clothes, and his thick hair was also tied up in this unreasonable dreary weather, which revealing the slender neck that was usually hidden in ambiguous shadows. Only those greenish-blue eyes were as usual, like the first time Raihan had seen him, like every time Raihan had seen him, always grabbed his heart so easily.

"Piers!" Raihan couldn't help wagging his tail as soon as he saw Piers. The annoying weather and the wet clothes, all of them were left behind in an instant, there was nothing better in the world than seeing Piers. "Am I bothering you?"

Raihan quietly looked behind the former Gym Leader of Dark, crumpled scores were scattered all over the couch and floor, he knew that Piers must be troubled about his new album. In times like these Raihan had to worry about Piers's unhealthy schedule, but it also gave him new excuses for his doorstep intrusion.

Though there was no excuse he would still come to the door to disturb Piers.

"Does the guy who loves to cause trouble also feel like he's bothering me?" Piers looked at the soaked Raihan. He thought of the yamper pulling Sonia and running happily in the rain earlier today. "Why did you come over in this weather?"

Piers's greeting was always cute, and Raihan loved it.

"I picked this up at the Giant's Mirror." He shut the whistling wind outside the door, and unzipped his jacket, revealing a half-shadow of the little thing. "Can't leave it alone, besides, you're more experienced than me."

"Egg?" Piers took a dry towel and was about to hand it to Raihan to wipe his hair, but when he returned he saw this unexpected scene.

"Can't tell what kind of pokemon it is yet" Raihan took the towel, wrapping the egg in his arms. He then carefully held it out as if the dragon was holding his fragile treasure. The scalding temperature could still be felt through the soft fabric in his palm, and Raihan was thankful that this year's summer had been warm and long, it's a good time for newborns to be born, "It's moving a lot, looks like it's about to hatch"

Since Raihan appeared in his monotonous life, unexpected things had become commonplace for Pier. The Gym Leader of Dragon had almost gone to great lengths to cause trouble in Piers's life, but Piers was inexplicably a little bit more willing to follow along.

"Silly." Piers sighed.

Unlike other Gym Leaders who were subsidized by the League, almost all of Piers's pokemon had been picked up and raised from the wild by himself, so he could tell at a glance that Raihan was so clumsy. He just wondered how in the world the guy was going to take on the responsibility of caring for a wild pokemon.

"That's why I can't do it just by myself." Raihan had heard a lot of this kind of words in the past two years, there were only a few sentences back and forth, and Piers had never been able to really scold him, so it was simply adorable to his ears. "Piers why don't you come and save silly old me?"

Piers carefully took the egg, smoothly rolling it into his arms. He was about to say something when the crisp sound of cracking was heard. The eggshell shattered into thin cracks and was soon burst. The soft pink pokemon opened its eyes and surveyed its parents with a clueless gaze, letting out a loud and clear cry that was completely at odds with its cute body.

Raihan was surprised, Piers was silent, blinking to make sure their eyes didn't deceive them, and the baby pokemon used copycat, blinking and puffing out its body to blow dry its wet fetal hair.

Then they heard some sort of sound that seemed to glow.

".....Piers! So lucky! It's a shiny Igglybuff!"

Lucky?

Lucky or not, how did he find an Iggybuff's egg ? In Galar? In Giant's Mirror? No one could answer this question in the whole Galar. This seemed to be a historical problem that was even older than the Sword and Shield legend. Even as they asked the all-knowing Dr. Sonia for help over the phone, the latter could only say that she had to look up the relevant research records.

Raihan hung up and wiped the end of his soaked hair with a towel. They put a lot of effort into trying to get Iggybuff to sleep. Raihan realized that there are still pokémon in the world that are much more sticky than his Goodra. Fairy type trainers are really a bunch of guys that should not be underestimated. Fortunately, the person who was chosen by the Iggybuff was Piers. If he had been chosen, he would only be crying with Iggybuff right now.

The human arms are the perfect cradle of restful sleep, and the balloon pokémon that had just been fed slept soundly in it and dreamed sweet dreams.

"SleepSleep"

It was hard to believe that the soft vocals were sung by the punk superstar of Galar. His husky, low voice was so delicately weaving love and blessings into a web of boundless tenderness. "I won't leave you"

At this moment, in the eyes of Raihan, Piers was simply more shiny than the baby pokémon. Although this scene is far from what he had envisioned for that day, at least he was lucky enough to meet with this egg. In a way, it allowed him to develop the bond he had with Piers in such an unbreakable, beautiful way.

"Bede should be able to train this little one better."

The feel of fine calluses lent a reassuring layer of magic to the soft fingers, allowing any creature to gently calm down when stroked. If Piers wasn't a Dark pokémon trainer, he would have made a fine Psychic trainer, Raihan thought.

"Sonia said that fairy types are most afraid of loneliness. It would be too cruel to send this little one to Ballinlea". Raihan straightened up. His clumsiness couldn't be helped. He started washing the milk bottle to help Piers. "I think that you could make a great trainer with your singing and all" Raihan mused.

"You just sang a very beautiful lullaby"

"You liked the lullaby?" Piers asked

"If I had to describe it... I think if it was produced and released as a new song you might set a new sales record with that single."

"That's so." Piers smiled.

Did he say something wrong, Raihan thought? A little jittery, he rinsed the freshly washed bottle again.

"My mother taught me this song." said Piers suddenly.

Raihan washed the milk bottle for the third time. Piers set up a makeshift pokémon nest with a towel in one corner of the couch. He then gently rested the sleeping baby pokémon which snuggled right into it.

"Every time Marnie couldn't sleep, I would sing it to her."

This was the first time Piers actively mentioned his past. Raihan didn't know what to say at this time, he could only carefully look at Piers' face. He realized that he had never seen this kind of expression before - nostalgic and sad, a mix of desire to wait for someone to talk about something. Overly restrained perhaps, as if it were a habit of exposing the fragility of the cover up.

"She was inspired to write this lullaby by Jigglypuff's song. There are very precious memories in it so I don't want to release it."

Piers stroked Igglybuff's hair, the baby pokemon emitting a light, content hum in its sweet dreams. The soft feeling bringing back memories of the first time he brushed Marnie's hair. At that time, he had just been appointed as the Gym Leader of Spikemuth, and formed his own official band. The future and his dreams were all close at hand, and it seemed as if his life had just begun.

Obviously such a thing didn't need to be specially explained for him, Piers would even show that look of sincerity for his own insignificant thoughts - wasn't this the feeling of being cared for by Piers?

"So that's how it is, what a pity." Raihan answered, as if rubbed against his palm by a passing zigzagoon. He had the illusion of being favored by the gods today. Satisfied and even rather pleased with himself, wanting to know more about what kind of existence he really had in Piers's heart, he sighed slightly and pleaded in a tone that would soften anyone's heart

"But Piers's lullaby, I want to listen to it forever."

"The guy who loves to bring me trouble really gets an inch". Piers stood up to move his aching limbs, but felt liberated from the many pressures of reality after a long time. He hadn't sung the lullaby in a long time, and had never considered himself a guy prone to dwelling on the past. But everything that had happened today made him suddenly feel like it wasn't such a bad thing to reminisce about once in a while. There had at least been some good times: being challenged as a Gym Leader for the first time, standing on the stage in Spikemuth, being backed up by everyone from the Team Yell, being gazed at by Marnie's longing eyes - those days had been like a hallucination.

"I'll be even more insatiable if you say yes". Raihan leaned in close to him, expecting an answer from Piers, caring for more than one.

"It's ok." Warm, piercing eyes stared right back at Piers, making sure that this moment was in no way a hallucination that could only occur if he strayed in the past. Piers really softened easily to such a look, as if his already hopelessly pale life had been re-injected with color after that Champion Cup two years ago, only after being gazed at by a look like that.

"I can sing to you if you want."

It was a lucky day, Raihan dared to assert so, or maybe it was all just a dream, how else could such a good thing happen?

“And you didn’t just come here today for this, did you? A normal person wouldn’t show up at the Giant’s Mirror during a thunderstorm.” Piers’s intuition was sharp, always hitting Raihan’s main point at once. He was clearly standing in front of Raihan without moving, but from those greenish-blue eyes emanated the vigor of controlling everything, as if he was in the center of the stage at that moment. Raihan was a captive that could no longer escape after being captured by him.

“Tell me about your insatiable desire?”

The rain had almost stopped, but a bolt of lightning fell again, striking Raihan right in his swollen heart, so that a roaring thunderclap raced through him, almost bursting him open.

This wish might be granted today, he just wasn’t sure if now was a really good time, after all, this summer was almost over and thunderstorm days like this would be hard to come by. Could he wait until next summer again?

“Your heart is beating fast, Raihan.”

Was it? No wonder he felt so loud.

Piers laughed.





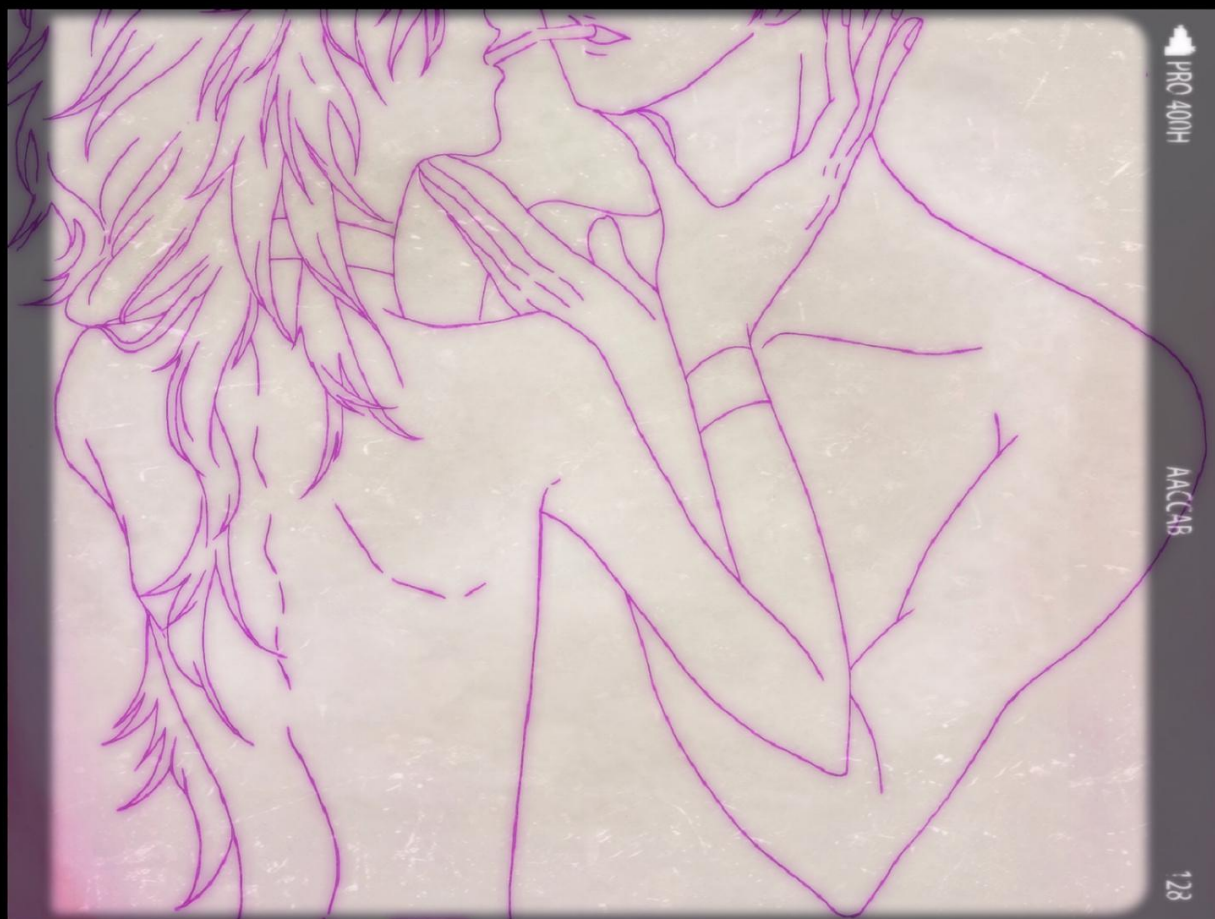
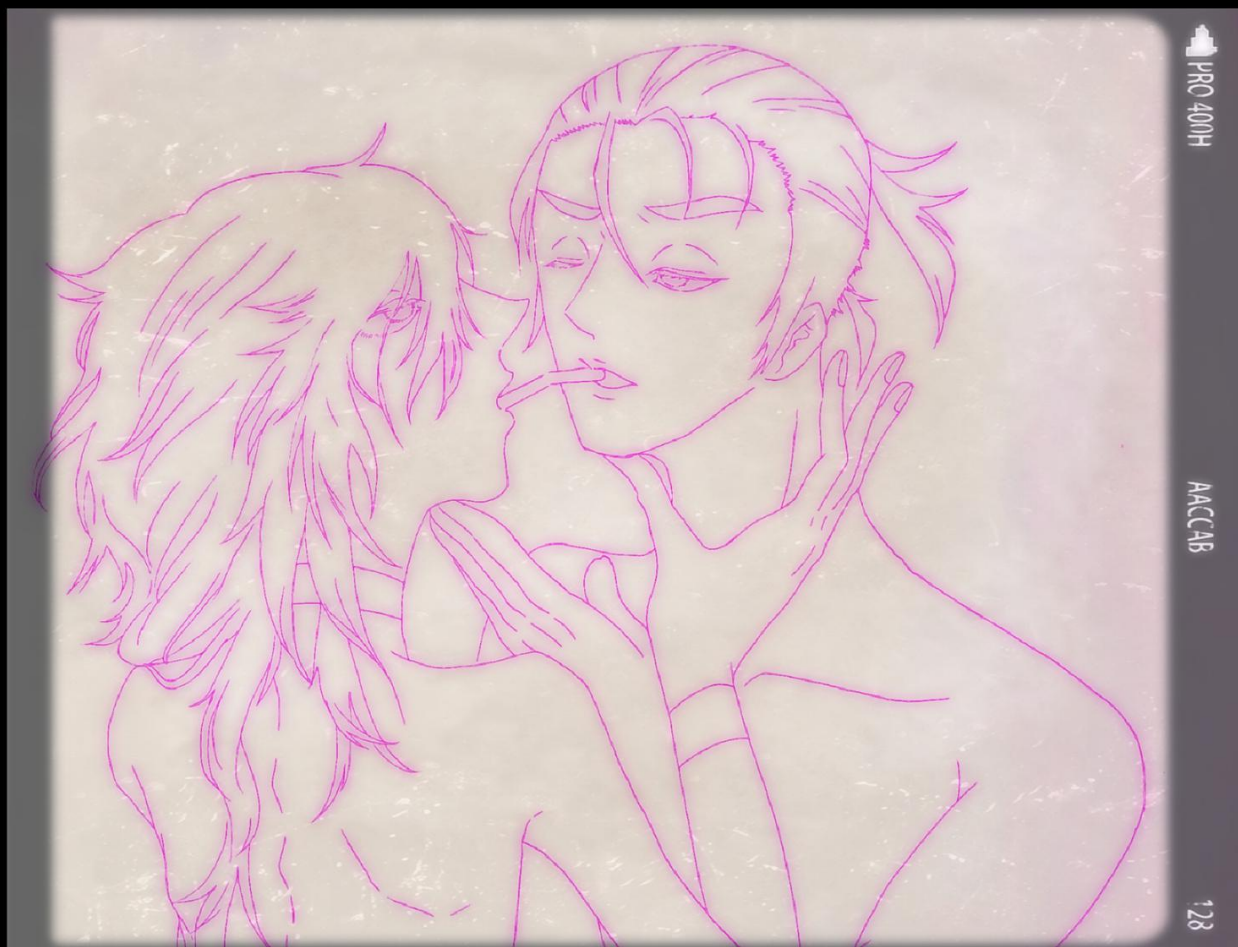
@FOSSILIZEDSHARK (TWITTER/X)



"You did great."



7/10



@Bad_Habits_061



WITH THE MOON AS OUR ONLY WITNESS

By: @BinaBina (Ao3) ☼

Who doesn't like Pirate AUs AND Royalty AUs?

“Meeting dismissed.”

“I implore Your Majesty, the issue of the pirates—”

“He’s threatened to attack you directly—”

“And evaded every one of our ambushes! There must be a traitor in our midst that wants you dead, Your Majesty, please sanction a stricter investigation—”

“I said meeting dismissed!” Raihan projected his authority across the enormous polished table. All discussion snuffed like a candelabrum under a storm’s roaring gust.

The royal court’s uneasy silence rang as loud as their prior shouts. Steadily, Raihan weighed his attention across each of their heads, measuring their flinches, their defiance, their resignation.

...Very well. His court would be ill at ease for weeks if he didn’t appease them now.

Their concern was wholly justified; the pirates terrorizing the surrounding seas, who openly thirsted for his crown to be splattered with his own blood, grew bolder day by day. To relinquish himself to his court’s anxieties would project a weak image to the public, but should he remain too stubborn, his court would feel he was neglecting his royal obligations.

Always, a king had more to juggle than his own jester.

“Admiral Hulbury.”

One of the few whose head remained high—and one of few in the room he truly trusted—sat straighter, her gold-adorned hair gleaming under the chandelier.

“Your Majesty.”

“I’m granting you authority to re-assign two additional fleets for pirate hunting. Focus your efforts on our far eastern coasts, where he was seen last.”

Nessa gave a curt nod. “With any luck, I’ll drag that rat into our dungeons by the end of the month. That so-called ghost has disrespected the crown for far too long.”

Raihan, freshly bathed but barely refreshed, turned his attendants away for the night. The sooner he could be alone, the better, for the day had sapped all his strength and patience. That blasted bloodthirsty pirate was all anybody could think or talk about these days... His paranoid court behaved as if his life might end at any second, death at the hands of a threat, who, by all accounts, should be cavorting about on the opposite coast of this gods-blessed kingdom.

Raihan indulged in a private, weary sigh. How long had it been since he last encountered that phantom? Ah, yes... The waves were frigid gasps, the sky a second sea of all-consuming grey, and the cold mist clung to every plank and sapped the strength of all his men. They had heard the quiet song emerging from afar. Their emissary ship had no desire of risking such deadly attention, so they’d snuffed every lantern and staked their lives on passing each other by unnoticed.

Raihan closed his eyes and recalled that haunting song. It had echoed directionless all around them, raising goosebumps with its melancholy lyrics of tragic, wistful love.

To wait and beg and dream... This shackled heart, chained it must be, for a burdenless love is too good for me...

That ethereal voice... Tonight, Raihan was sure he would dream of it.

A cold tickle of air roused him.

Strange... He didn't recall leaving that window open. Given how the room was still warm, it couldn't have been open for long—

Raihan snatched the nearest stashed dagger and whirled around. Nobody...

An icy edge of metal pressed to the bare flesh of his back. The presence of a person melted into awareness just behind him, silent as fog upon the sea.

Raihan froze. Swallowed down his futile shout.

A cruel breath tickled his ear through a sneer, and the cold knife's tip twisted teasingly, hungrily, at his back.

"Not what I'd call a warm welcome, Yer Majesty. One might think ya ain't happy to see me."

That voice. The one still echoing mournfully in his mind, sinister and raw in his ear. Raihan's heart was stricken into a frenzy—yet he refused to betray his racing blood. A true king never revealed their anxiety.

His dagger calmly clattered to the stone at his feet. The intruder purred approval.

"What sane man wouldn't be ecstatic to find a criminal in his chambers?" he levelly said.

"Point me to the sane man in this room." A rough chuckle, derisive. The blade at his back traced higher up his spine. He refused to lift his hands in surrender. "Aye, ye can't, can ye? Lovely to know the king's as wise as he is rich."

"You have great timing, pirate," he said. "I've just returned from a meeting where we discussed the swiftest way to lay your severed head at my feet."

The dagger lifted from his back. It felt like permission. Raihan took a careful step forward, and turned to face this trespasser.

The moonlight did that notorious face every favor.

Captain Piers of the Sunken Sorrow, in the flesh. Raihan almost couldn't believe it, but the thorny shadow cast over his floor and the glow of silvery light upon skin surpassed all conjurings of imagination.

The pirate leered at him, slender arms spread in mock hospitality. "I was right. Ya really don't look happy to see me."

Oh, really. Raihan was so worried his displeasure might be too subtle.

"My guards—"

Your guards?" Piers twirled the dagger. The moonlight flashed off the edge of the ornate blade, almost as blinding as the sarcastic smile pressed Raihan's way. "Useless as stale piss. Nobody saw or stopped me on my way here. Bit hard to take the rules around here seriously if they ain't bein' enforced."

Raihan's lips twisted and showed teeth. The pirate's gaze flickered to his fangs, the vicious sign of his dragonblood birthright and claim to the crown.

"This was your mistake," Raihan growled, anger mounting. "One that could be your last."

"Hah! A lecture from a pampered royal, I'm quakin' in my damn boots."

"You—!"

The pirate didn't so much as flinch as Raihan strode to his face and seized him by the shoulders.

"You would have been killed had anyone seen you," Raihan snarled through clenched teeth, and shook the slender man like he could make Piers' idiocy fall out with enough jostling. "How could you be so stupid? I know you love courting risks, but this— this—!"

"Seen I wasn't, nor was I killed, as Your Majesty can clearly see." Piers scoffed and knocked his anxious grip away. "That crown of yours makes you more and more paranoid the longer you wear it, I swear."

Raihan clamped his eyes and his jaw shut with a rigid inhale. The part of him that leapt for joy upon seeing this beautiful face again was grappling toe to toe with the part that screamed of danger—danger for pirate blood spilled, not dragon. This accursed rogue had snuck past countless guards, scaled walls and stairs and parapets when a single mistake would mean death. Death, and the public fanfare of. Duty would demand Raihan celebrate the execution.

"I wanted to see you," Piers said, unapologetic as the tide. "Gonna behead me for that heinous crime, Rai?"

"Don't tempt me." Raihan contemptuously stepped back and rubbed down his face. This fool didn't understand. Couldn't understand.

"Temptin' you's my favorite hobby. And that's competin' with stealin' gold and pissin' off nobles, so you know how fondly I hold it."

Great Jument of the Sunrise grant him mercy.

Admiral Hulbury's going to be after your head," he gritted out.

"Like she ain't already?" Nonchalant as always, damn him.

"I gave her permission to spare two more fleets for you. It won't be long until you can hardly approach my shores, let alone find a place to stash your ship while you sneak into my kingdom for a foolish midnight rendezvous!"

"Please, none a' her ships could hope to catch mine. The *Sorrow* can outsail any royal vessel, no offense to Yer Majesty."

"I don't care how skilled you are. Keep tempting fate like this and your luck will soon run out. I can't protect you if you waltz straight into danger like this!"

There was a pause filled only by Raihan's frustrated breath.

“...’Course. Knew I was stupid for expectin’ more’n this.” Piers rolled his pale eyes, much to Raihan’s bristled indignation, and slipped his dagger back into the sheathe strapped at his thigh. “Seven months without seein’ each other and this is the reception I get.”

The rogue sighed and turned to the window, where sheer curtains fluttered amidst the moonbeams.

“Might as well take my leave, ’fore anyone sees me and decides to collect the bounty you so generously placed on my head. Fair winds keep you, Your Majesty.”

One resentful bootstep was all it took for Raihan to break free of himself.

He lunged. One snatch of a wrist, one yank, and the lanky man was caught right against Raihan’s strong chest with no means of escape beyond stabbing the king full of holes. And even then, Raihan was sure he wouldn’t let go.

The scent of salt and sea permeated Raihan’s nose. He breathed it in, nose to mane, and squeezed his lover as tightly as he could without breaking the man. There was a caress of blooming flowers, too, blossoms that adorned the trees planted all around the castle. Piers must have hidden in the petal-heavy branches while sneaking in.

The sweetness suited him. Were their lives any different, Raihan would have claimed this man as consort and draped him in gold, jewels, and the most expensive perfumes his nation could import.

“...You love the bounty,” he murmured into the pirate’s coarse, salty hair. “I know you boast about it to all the other criminals you know.”

“Largest in history,” Piers said, relaxing in his desperate grasp. Those cool hands drifted along his taut forearms like a musician feeling out a familiar instrument. “Ya really know how to make an outcast feel special.”

Raihan only loosened his embrace when Piers nudged within it—and even then, just enough for Piers to turn and place them chest to broader chest.

“I still say you shouldn’t be here.” He tried to harden his expression, his tone, but any hope of scolding this man slid away like water off a seafowl’s back. Damn him—all Piers had to do was smile like that, and even a man as powerful as he was made helpless.

“It was risky. I know.” Piers’ arms looped around his neck. “Blame yer guards for lettin’ me get this far.”

He shook his head with no doubts as to his security’s competence. “I’ve half a mind to thank every one of them.”

Piers smirked. “What, you gonna give ’em a raise for bein’ bad at their jobs?”

“For giving me a chance to see you again.”

Piers made a rough sound in his throat. Raihan could tell the sappiness got through to him. It was in the cant to his head, the subtle set of his lips. Pirates, in Raihan’s experience, had romantic streaks unlike any other. All that time at sea spent pining for lovers on land must do it.

“When do you have to leave?” Raihan asked, hands sliding down to the perch of his lover’s bony hips. These trousers Piers always wore hid nothing; high on the waist and slim on the leg, they practically trumpeted that their owner needed his hips grabbed.



“Fore morn.” Piers smiled. “You know me.”

That he did. Always vanishing with the dawn...

Raihan’s mirrored smile, light and a little forlorn, deepened with resolve.

“Then be glad the night is yet young.”

“Oh...? Will His Royal Majesty keep me captive all night? Unable to flee...” Pale hands rested upon Raihan’s chest, and Piers’ voice lowered into silk black as midnight, “trapped in his greedy grasp, for him to do with as he will?”

Hot claws of arousal raked up Raihan’s spine. That silvery tongue could rouse a dead man from his grave.

“I am the ruler of the land you’ve invaded so foolishly... Any punishment you deserve is mine to meter.”

“Aye, but I’m no loyal subject of this crown o’ yours. If ya wish to earn my compliance...”

“Force will be necessary?” Raihan’s lips spread into a lascivious grin, and he thumbed at his lover’s sharp hips.

“When has that ever changed?”

The coy challenge crinkled in the corners of Piers’ eyes were a torch to the hungry kindling in Raihan’s belly. A low, playful thrum left his throat, and his grasp tightened assertively. That was it. He couldn’t starve himself a moment longer.

Piers gasped when greedy lips seared over his neck. Raihan nibbled and nuzzled over pale flesh, fragrant with salt and night air and anticipation. He’d yearned for this, the satisfaction of a lithe, angular body pressed to his own, fluffy locks tumbling over his arms, rough nails digging greedy trenches down his bare back. Seven months of longing would have been seven months more had his foolish lover not taken this risk—a risk to be punished and rewarded.

“What would your nobility say—” Piers stifled a gasp, “—if they knew you were buryin’ it in their least favorite criminal of all time?”

“They’d want my head next to yours, I presume. Neither attached to our bodies.” Raihan’s teeth grazed along the thin, strong lines of Piers’ throat, itching to bite. “Then again, none of them have the balls to oppose, let alone depose, me.”

“Oppose you, the Great King Raihan, Golden Light of the Kingdom of Galaria?” Piers snorted and ran his cool fingers up the holder of the title’s back. “Gods forbid. The only person allowed to thwart His Glorious Majesty is...?”

“You’re baiting me into saying it.” Raihan impatiently tugged stiff linen aside and stole a few more heated kisses from Piers’ shoulder. Off, he had to get these blasted clothes off...

“Not baiting. Inviting.” Piers stroked his nape and arched into him. How the bastard could remain so calm while Raihan was riled like a dragon in heat was infuriating. “Ain’t ya gonna indulge me?”

“Your ego needs no indulging. I do.”

“Oh, stuff it, you love my ego. If ya want me to touch that royal scepter hidden in your trousers, play along. The only person allowed to frustrate His Majesty is...?”

Raihan hid a fond, exasperated smile against the scoundrel’s moonlit skin. He could indulge this much, he supposed.

“The dreaded Ghast of the Sea,” he orated under his breath, ghosting his hands to new, more enticing places. “He who sails with the dusk and vanishes with the dawn... Darkness-Lover, Plunderer of Endless Riches, Piers the Mournful Phantom...”

A low, lovely moan underscored Raihan’s praise. “Nobody’s added anythin’ else to my myth lately?”

Raihan mentally ran through the leagues-long list of novel vulgarities from today’s meeting alone.

“Nothing worthy of repeating, love.”

“I can think of one you missed.”

“Oh?” Impossible.

“You already said it. Just now.”

“I didn’t...” Raihan trailed off. A cool hand cupped his cheek, and guided him inches away to be studied by eyes the color of coastal waters crystal-clear.

Piers smiled that smile again, and every thought he could have had fled his brain like boxed doves released from a wedding.

“Love,” Piers said, and leaned in closer, thumb stroking the peak of Raihan’s cheek. “Think that one’s my favorite.”

Kings could never betray their anxiety, but they could certainly let it be written all over their faces when they were hopelessly smitten.

Their kiss, the first of the night, felt like coming home.

A push to his chest encouraged him to stagger back towards the enormous canopied bed. He fell back onto silken clouds, and let out a huff when a very eager pirate clambered atop and straddled him.

For this one rare night, Raihan could set aside the crown and just be a fool of a man in love. They both were. Their romance was crossed by the stars and gods alike, but until fate forced them to repay their accrued debt, they would kiss like the sun would never rise, and love each other with the moon as their only witness.



KEDN17

NSFW



Heh...

Like what ya see, Baby?♡

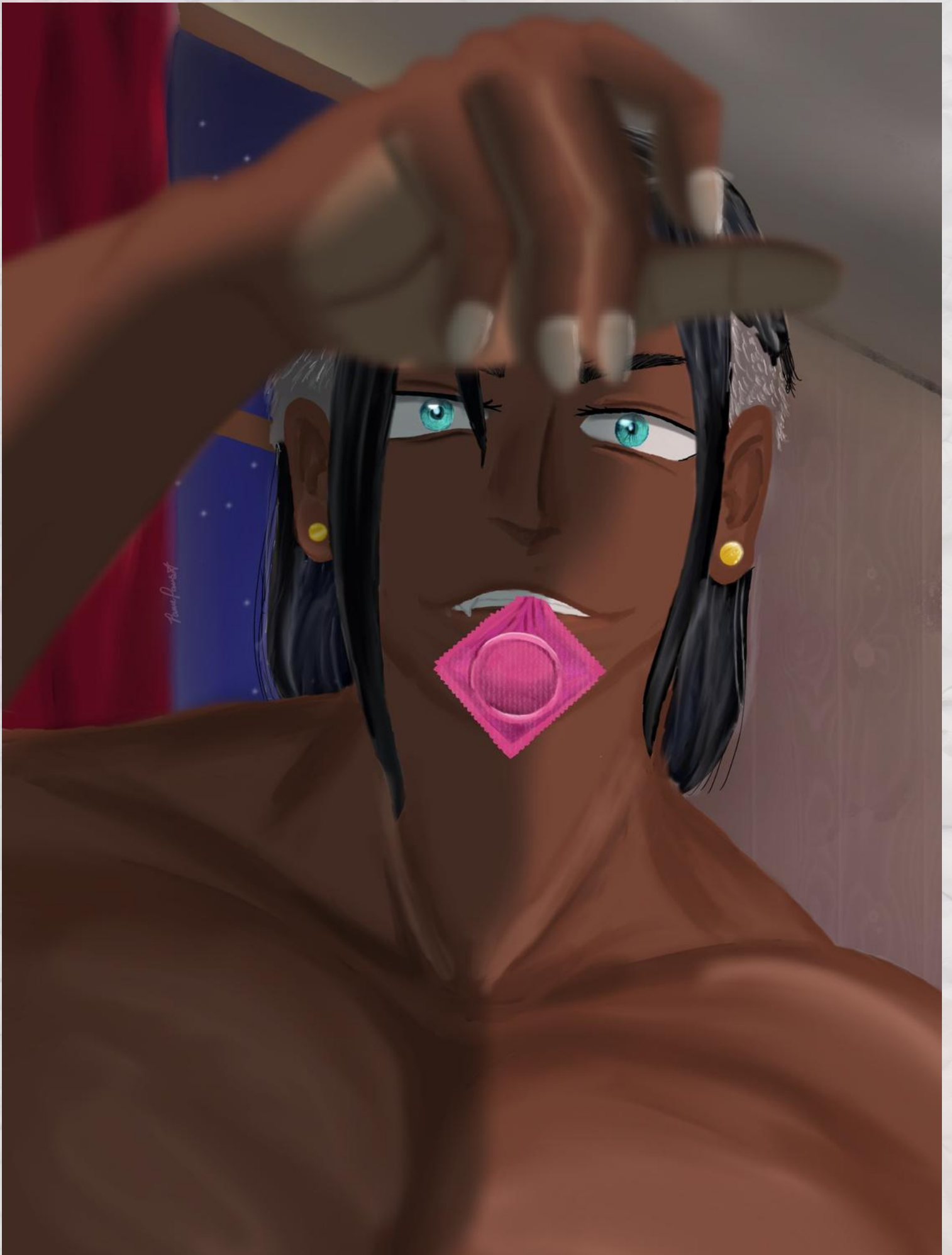
Heh...
Like what ya see, Baby?♡

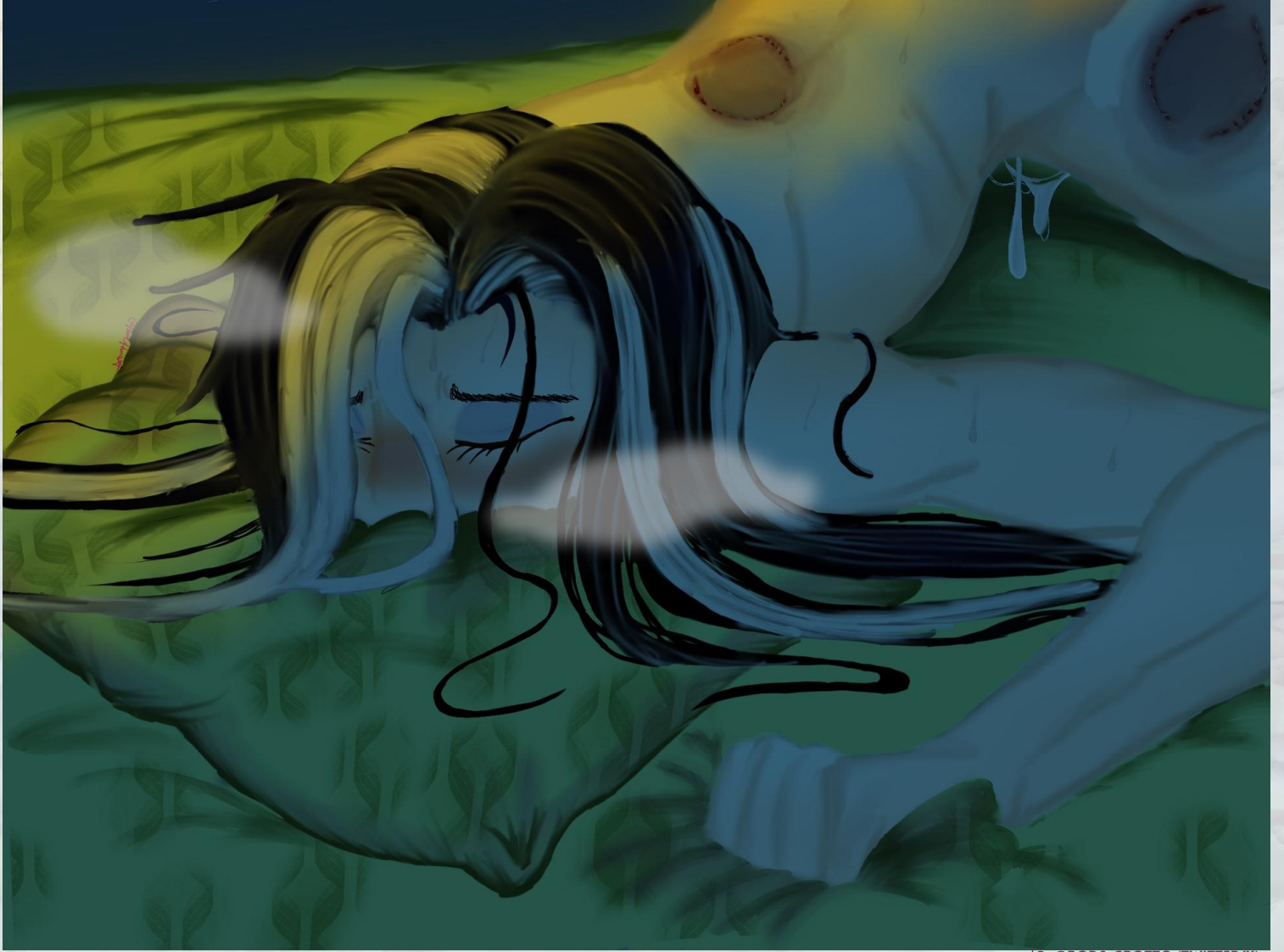
Fuck, Rai...
Ya only Tame dragons, or...?



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KERNZ

Featured Artists



@hshforan13



Hello! You can call me Nanas, I'm a game artist and developer and I definitely love videogames hahaa. Other than what's stated previously most of my drawings are conceptual pieces. I've been a pokemon fan for quite a long time but kinda fell out of it for a while due to some circumstances from problems with someone i (used to) know irl. But one day a friend of mine randomly shared a ship art of Raihan and Piers and even though I know and familiar with them since the first time SwSh released i never really thought of them as a ship but that fateful day kinda changed my perspective on them. And the more I look into it the more fascinated i am with them. Honestly other than a new ship to fixate on, they kinda help me bring back my love for pokemon again as corny as it sounds.

@mowapina on twitter



I'm a spanish girl with a special place on her heart for Pokémon. Been liking the ship since 2019, and thanks to KBNZ I got engaged on the Pokémon fandom!! As someone who really likes to write, Raihan and Piers are such interesting characters to write about, so finally doing a piece for them has been a pleasure :)

@ellah1h on twitter



The SwSh characters seized me like crazy when a friend of mine put Piers in front of me knowing he'd be right up my alley. I wasn't into Pokemon at the time, but after surrendering to my curiosity about Piers, I fell down the rabbit hole completely and still haven't crawled out. In fact, KBNZ and the pokemon fandom friends I made on twitter kept me sane throughout the pandemic quarantine! I wrote so much for my favorite characters while stuck at home for so long. It feels great to write for the ship again. Raihan and Piers' dynamic is so addictive and has so much depth. They'll live in my head forever, I guarantee it.

@BinaBina on Ao3



Hello, KBNZ enjoyers!

I'm Pomme ☆ Paws, your average Pokemon enthusiast! I tend to simply draw what I like, but Pokémon will always be in the Top Percentage! I've been a fan since the Grey Brick era, and I doubt I'll stop anytime soon!

While I'm new to drawing ship art, I've always appreciated seeing others' artwork, and the amazing amount of love put into each piece.

I'm happy to share my work with everyone here, and I hope you'll enjoy my contribution.

Thank you! 🍷🐾


@Pods_Grotto on Twitter
@PommePaws on bluesky

Hi, I'm Wasabi. I'm a digital artist and I mostly draw KBNZ besides furry or character design. I don't know how to put it into words, I have good memories of them since they were first introduced and everything about them still makes me really happy even after all these years, that's why I love KBNZ.

@wasabi.dreams on Instagram

Hiya, I'm Ren! I make shipping art as a hobby. I mostly do hand-to-eye, as I'm terrible at drawing without references (especially hands!). Ah, my love for KBNZ~ When it comes to shipping characters from things I tend to go "who are my fav 2 characters" and go from there XD luckily theres such a huge following and love for these two lads! Through my love of this ship, I've made new friends, been involved in great online communities, and through reading/writing fanfics, doing RPs, and looking at/making art, it's provided a great escape from the horrors of real life. Might sound cheesy, but honestly loving and shipping Piers and Raihan have made my life so much better!

@NinjacookieXD on Instagram
@NinjacookieXD on Ao3



I've liked kbnz since around 2019!! It's one of those ships that has been with me pre pandemic and that I used to roleplay like my life depended on them, but surprisingly enough, this is my first time drawing them. I had never been able to draw Raihan as I thought he deserved to be drawn with the drawing skills I had back then, so I am extremely proud of both this piece and to had finally drawn them like my heart said they deserved.

@chillingxy on twitter
@chillingxy on tumblr


Heya, I'm Tem, a digital artist and animation student, and I've been absolutely obsessed with Piers and Raihan since 2020.

I fell in love with KBNZ through the wonderful fanfiction I started to read in the wake of the pandemic, which led me to start writing my own! KBNZ is such a fun dynamic that features a lot of my favourite tropes, plus so much variety in aesthetic. It's an absolute tragedy I don't draw EITHER of them more than I already do! I'm excited to feature in this zine alongside so many amazing artists and writers!

@t3mp0ral1ty-art on tumblr

Hi, my name is Sola and I've been a part of the kbnz fandom for a wicked long time. (2020 I was there lmao) They helped me through the pandemic and they forever hold on a soft spot within my heart. Their dynamic is fun and they look good together.

@elitesheepi on instagram
@elitesheepi on Tumblr



Hi, I'm Asta and I've been a knbz fan since the day I played Sword and Shield! I love about knbz the most that despite their many differences, they have a very strong bond and mutual respect for each other.

@PechaBerryCandy on twitter
@babylemonart on tumblr

My art is about my character Paige a genderbend Piers shipping with Raihan. I was inspired by the artist on Twitter and so that why I'm into KBNZ.

@tiffknights731 on Twitter

i never got the chance to draw knbz a full piece despite it being my fav pkmn ship until i joined scale&shade!!!! we all poured our love into this project so i hope you guys enjoy this like we enjoyed doing this too!💚💙

@mechaidol on twitter



name:RunE

X: [@Bad_Habits_061](#)

BlueSky:<http://runeneru.bsky.social>(pkmncosplay illustration etc)

<http://Bad-Habits-061.bsky.social> (kbnz coupling only)

Fanart is what I make the most, and I like to see how my favourite things turn out drawn by me. I've liked Pokémon since it came to the West, but human designs-wise, SW/SH peaked. Raihan and Piers are iconic, and I wanted to go back to those game-release frenzy times with my KBNZ piece. Hope you like it!

@Damascusblade on Twitter

@damascusbllade on instagram

Hello, Fuyu here! Ever since I first encountered him in Pokemon Sword, I have been a diehard Piers stan who draws him a ton. I also draw Legendary pokemons, Marnie, Raihan and other SWSH characters too... Sometimes. :)

I usually don't (crack)ship characters, but KBNZ has a chemistry that I could not quite put my finger on, even though Piers and Raihan only interact once or twice in the actual game.

This is why I can't resist drawing them together frequently, and I even have a whole SWSH x Tangled AU centered around them. XD

@fuyu_tjondro on Instagram



Average digital artist whose 10 year+ artblock was solved by getting back into SWSH.

I like kbnz because i think they contrast each other very well! The social influencer vs more reserved punk and all, yet if you look behind the scenes I feel like they have more in common than one'd think.

@kappubara on twitter



I usually draw what I like lol. Mostly draw Piers from Pokémon but have recently taken an interest in KBNZ so I'm new to the ship

@gothicprince on instagram

@gothicprince on Twitter



Hi I'm Kya, a French fangirl who's been in love with Pokémon since I've had my hands on the Sapphire Version!! Galar characters were all so mesmerizing but I gotta say that Piers stole my heart. I mean, a punk-rock singer-artist?! Sign me in!! And Raihan is the kind of sporty guy that I'd enjoy hanging out with... The little interactions they had in the game made me swoon! They complement each other so so well, with their background, affinities and differences too. Aw man, I love KBNZ so damn much!

@wonder_kya on Instagram





While I have an oc x canon ship with Piers that usually takes precedence in my art, I've always admired kbz as well. I think they're so cute together, and this community makes the absolute loveliest art of them, so I thought it could be a fun challenge to join in with my own contribution :)

@YeehawBvby on tumblr

I first fell in love in Kbnz a few years ago when a friend showed me @/rioruvv's kbz art because it reminded her of two of my ocs, Anyways I immediately fell into kbz shaped hole and many many fanfics and fan-arts later, Piers is the main thing I draw.

I love their Cool guy(cool) x Cool guy(scruffy) dynamic, and their coordination in the games.

Great ship, these guys grabbed me by the neck and rearranged my brain particles for the better, would and have wholeheartedly recommended it to friends.

@androskerkylas on Twitter


Hello!! I'm Olive :D

I rarely draw this ship but I do adore it! Like cake (I love cake).

Hopefully vampires are still in season! Haha.

This ship brings the best in chaotic, And I love chaotic things! Glad you people feel the same too while looking through.

@OliveLovesYou on twitter



Hello! Yes I love RaixPiers but am also a multishipper that dabbles in kbnz, kbdn, dnkb, dnnz, kbdnnz and more! I love their dynamic and how much they care for not only each other, but their pokemon, their families and their home region of Galar as well. They complement each other so well!

@FossilizedShark on Twitter

the postgame content really opened my eyes to them! i loved raihan's flirting with piers and then my brain simply latched onto them...

@DEADxEYEZ on twitter
@DEADxEYEZ on bluesky

just want to write something adorable.
KBNZ is a cute couple

@toorry on Ao3



Hey! I'm soup. I'm completely entrenched in this ship and I don't want to be saved. I've been a fan since 2022, through the discovery of the very talented Rioru and every since i've been discovering a whole community.

@soupisservedhot on Twitter
@soupisservedhot on bluesky
@soupisservedhot on tumblr

***If you're interested in knowing what's next with the Scale and Shade team or you'd like to find ways to join the circle, you can follow the [scale and shade account on tumblr](#). You can also message me on twitter @soupisservedhot. We will hopefully have a dedicated page go live in the near future.**



Editor's note

This has been a truly wonderful experience! I couldn't have asked for a more talented, kind, and amazing team of artists to collaborate with. Please take a moment to visit the participating artists' accounts and leave them supportive messages. At the time of this zine's release, it will have been five years since SWSH was released—five years of kbnz. We hope to keep the spirit of kbnz alive for as long as possible. Let's continue to stay inspired and creative!

-Soup



Thank you
for reading!

& X
Dragon,
Scales
& Shade

K

B

M