# \*\*Forum Etiquette Guide\*\*

\*Creating sacred space together\*

🕯️ \*\*How we show up for each other matters.\*\*

This isn't about rigid rules or walking on eggshells. It's about creating a container strong enough to hold everyone's truth, gentle enough to honor everyone's vulnerability, and clear enough that we all know how to participate safely.

## \*\*Posting Your Own Content\*\*

\*\*Thread Titles That Help:\*\*

- \*\*"Processing [Character Name]'s betrayal scene"\*\* - specific and clear

- \*\*"Triggered by family dynamics in last session"\*\* - honest about impact

- \*\*"Breakthrough moment with my rogue's backstory"\*\* - celebrating growth

- \*\*"Not sure why the tavern scene hit so hard"\*\* - exploring confusion

- \*\*"Content warning: abuse themes from tonight's game"\*\* - protective headers

\*\*What Makes a Helpful Post:\*\*

- \*\*Context without spoilers\*\* - "In a scene about abandonment" vs detailed plot recap

- \*\*Your actual experience\*\* - "I felt..." rather than "The scene was..."

- \*\*Specific questions\*\* if you want input - "Has anyone else felt...?" or "How do you handle...?"

- \*\*Content warnings\*\* for heavy topics - abuse, violence, death, addiction, etc.

- \*\*Spoiler tags\*\* when discussing plot points - `>!spoiler text here!<`

## \*\*Supporting Others\*\*

\*\*Green Light Responses:\*\*

- \*\*"I hear you"\*\* - simple acknowledgment

- \*\*"That sounds really hard"\*\* - validating their experience

- \*\*"I had something similar happen..."\*\* - sharing your own experience

- \*\*"What do you need right now?"\*\* - offering support

- \*\*"Thank you for sharing that"\*\* - honoring their vulnerability

\*\*Yellow Light Responses (Proceed with Caution):\*\*

- \*\*"Have you tried...?"\*\* - only if they're specifically asking for suggestions

- \*\*"Maybe it means..."\*\* - gentle interpretation, not definitive answers

- \*\*"In my experience..."\*\* - sharing wisdom while leaving room for their truth

\*\*Red Light Responses (Please Avoid):\*\*

- \*\*"You should..."\*\* - giving unsolicited advice

- \*\*"That's not that bad"\*\* - minimizing their experience

- \*\*"Just get over it"\*\* - dismissing their process

- \*\*"It's only a game"\*\* - invalidating the reality of their emotions

- \*\*"You're being too sensitive"\*\* - shaming their reactions

## \*\*Content Warnings & Spoilers\*\*

\*\*Use content warnings for:\*\*

- Abuse (physical, emotional, sexual)

- Violence and death

- Addiction and substance use

- Self-harm or suicidal ideation

- Eating disorders

- Medical trauma

- Family trauma or dysfunction

\*\*Format:\*\* `Content Warning: [brief description]`

\*\*Use spoiler tags for:\*\*

- Plot points that might affect others' enjoyment

- Character deaths or major reveals

- Campaign-specific details

- Anything that would be a "spoiler" if someone overheard

\*\*Format:\*\* `>!This text will be hidden until clicked!<`

## \*\*Threading & Organization\*\*

\*\*Reply to the right place:\*\*

- \*\*Reply to the original post\*\* if you're responding to the person who shared

- \*\*Reply to a specific comment\*\* if you're responding to someone else's support

- \*\*Start a new thread\*\* if you're bringing up a related but separate topic

\*\*Keep conversations focused:\*\*

- \*\*Stay on topic\*\* within each thread

- \*\*Don't hijack\*\* someone else's processing with your own story

- \*\*Start your own thread\*\* if their post triggers something big for you

## \*\*Boundaries & Self-Care\*\*

\*\*It's okay to:\*\*

- \*\*Not respond\*\* to every post

- \*\*Step back\*\* when something is too heavy for you

- \*\*Ask for space\*\* if you need it

- \*\*Share only what feels safe\*\* for you

- \*\*Change your mind\*\* about what you want to share

\*\*It's helpful to:\*\*

- \*\*Check in with yourself\*\* before engaging with heavy content

- \*\*Take breaks\*\* from the forum when needed

- \*\*Practice the same safety\*\* you'd want others to use

- \*\*Remember your own limits\*\* - you can't save everyone

## \*\*Privacy & Confidentiality\*\*

\*\*What stays here:\*\*

- \*\*Everything shared in this forum\*\* - don't discuss it elsewhere

- \*\*People's real names\*\* - use character names or usernames

- \*\*Personal details\*\* - don't share what others have told you privately

- \*\*Screenshots or quotes\*\* - don't take content outside this space

\*\*What you can share:\*\*

- \*\*General concepts\*\* - "I learned something about boundaries"

- \*\*Your own growth\*\* - what you discovered about yourself

- \*\*Appreciation\*\* - "This community has been helpful" (without details)

## \*\*When Things Get Heavy\*\*

\*\*If someone is in crisis:\*\*

- \*\*Encourage professional help\*\* - gently suggest they reach out for support

- \*\*Don't try to fix\*\* - that's beyond peer support

- \*\*Offer simple presence\*\* - "I'm thinking of you"

- \*\*Let moderators know\*\* if you're concerned about safety

\*\*If you're overwhelmed:\*\*

- \*\*Step back\*\* from the conversation

- \*\*Take care of yourself first\*\* - put on your own oxygen mask

- \*\*Remember your role\*\* - you're a peer, not a therapist

- \*\*Ask for support\*\* if you need it

## \*\*The Spirit Behind the Guidelines\*\*

\*\*We're all here because:\*\*

- We believe in the power of story and community

- We want to support each other's growth

- We understand that healing happens in relationship

- We're committed to creating safety for vulnerability

\*\*These guidelines help us:\*\*

- Create predictable safety

- Honor everyone's process

- Maintain healthy boundaries

- Build trust over time

- Keep the focus on healing and growth

## \*\*When in Doubt\*\*

\*\*Ask yourself:\*\*

- \*\*"Is this helpful?"\*\* - for the person sharing and the community

- \*\*"Is this mine to share?"\*\* - staying in your own lane

- \*\*"Is this safe?"\*\* - for everyone involved

- \*\*"Is this honoring?"\*\* - of their courage and vulnerability

\*\*Remember:\*\* We're all learning how to do this together. Grace for yourself, grace for others, and trust in the process.

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\*\*Questions about navigating the forum? Unsure about a specific situation? Want to talk through how to share something difficult? We're here for those conversations too.\*\*

🕯️ \*\*Sacred space is created through our collective intention and care. Thank you for being part of this.\*\*