



KoN Newsletter

July 2020

Series 1, Vol 2

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Introduction

Another month has passed and it is time for our second issue of the KoN newsletter! This month has been quite the busy month with KoN exploding with activity and new members. We have many new things to bring to you this month, and I hope that you will enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed creating it for you!

~Morrow



Server Events



Server Events

Movie Nights

- Come and have a fun time while watching a movie together with your fellow Konians!

Karaoke Nights

- Come and show off your amazing singing voice!

Zoom Meetings

- The perfect time to meet your fellow Konians face-to-face, albeit on an online setting.

Support Group

- A great place to receive support and rant about how your life has been going.

Game Nights

- Enjoy fun games like Uno, Paranoia, or Mafia.

Music Nights

- Enlighten others with your lovely music tastes.

DND Nights

- Learn how to create a character, find others to play with, and either do one session runs or form a campaign party.



Server Clubs

Book Club

- The KoN book club is a wonderful place to get the opportunity to sit down and read together and discuss books. We have biweekly meetings where we all get together in voice chat and hold a group discussion about the chapters that we read over the time since our previous meeting. We also hold different reading competitions, have yearly reading lists, and hold group reads.
- Club Heads: Morrow & Lyn

Debate Club

- Debate club is the perfect place to come and build that logic of yours and to open your mind and eyes to the perspectives of your fellow Konians. Maybe you are politically active and have strong opinions on a topic, which is great! Come and share your opinions and views in a controlled, peaceful environment where your voice can be heard, and maybe you'll learn a new thing or two.
- Club Head: Alphros

Gaming Club

- Gaming club is where you can get together with your fellow Konians to enjoy a good game. Join the gaming club for all the wonderful enjoyment it can bring you from building a town or hidden base in the official KoN Minecraft server to crushing your rivals in a game of League of Legends.
- Club Heads: Morrow & Nova

Chess Club

- Chess club is open for everyone, no matter what their skill level at the game is. Maybe you're a newbie who doesn't even know how the pieces move. Maybe you're an old pro who has been playing for years. It doesn't matter, so come and learn and play together with all your fellow chess nerds. Join in monthly tournaments to see who the best player is and if you're a newbie, we offer plenty of teaching material to help you learn how to play.
- Club Head: Morrow



Server Clubs

Body Language and Negotiation Club

- Hi there and welcome to BLN Club, where I will be teaching you all about reading other people and understanding human emotions, as well as controlling the world around you. Now I highly recommend dropping by MSH (Meditation and Self-healing) club at some point, because a big portion of understanding others' emotions is to have a grasp of your own emotions first.
- Club Head: Nugg

Anime Club

- Anime Club is a great place for all the weebies and otakus out there to get together and talk about what they love— Anime! We offer anime discussions, viewings of popular animes, and much, much more, so come join us at Anime Club!
- Club Head: Tyler

Meditation and Self-healing Club

- Hello and welcome to Meditation and Self-healing Club. Here we'll be looking at different ways of meditation as well as insight within your own life. I will not claim that this will work for everyone. Neither will I claim that I am a professional in any way. I simply created this to gather a smaller community of peaceful nerds that can hang out and take a breath from life. Everyone is welcome here and I hope you join my lectures and talks in the future.
- Club Head: Nugg

Science Club

- Hello there, and welcome to the Science Club. This club was created so that anyone with questions about anything science-related can ask and maybe have some of your fellow nerds can help you out. I highly encourage everyone to participate in the different subjects that may pop up, and you might learn something new here.
- Club Head: Nugg



Server Lectures

History Lectures

Held by: Alphros

Come and learn about many different historical topics from wars to historical figures. Focuses mostly on American History.

Ornithology Lectures

Held by: Warlow

Come and learn all about our fine-feathered friends!

Ireland Lectures

Held by: Morrow

Covers the history, culture, and mythology of the fair Green Isle known as Ireland.

Medieval History Lectures

Held by: Morrow

Focuses on historical topics of the medieval world.

LOTR Lectures

Held by: Alphros & Morrow

Covers many different topics related to the great literary masterpiece by J.R.R. Tolkien known as *Lord of the Rings*.

Mythological Creatures Lectures

Held by: Morrow

Covers the lore and history of many different creatures such as dragons and vampires.

Server Events Schedule

| SUN 26 | MON 27 | TUE 28 | WED 29 | THU 30 | FRI 31 | SAT Aug 1 |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| ● 9pm Movie Night | ● 8:30pm Chess Club | ● 8:30pm Karaoke Night | ● 8pm Support Group ● 9:30pm Ornithology Lecti | ● 9pm Debate Club | ● 8:30pm Game Night ● 8:30pm Music Night | ● 9pm DnD Night |
| 2 ● 9pm DnD Night ● 9pm Zoom Meeting | 3 ● 8:30pm Book Club | 4 ● 8:30pm LoTR Lecture | 5 ● 8pm Support Group ● 9:30pm Ireland Lectures | 6 ● 8:30pm Medieval Lecture ● 9:30pm Nerd Herd Meetir | 7 ● 8:30pm Game Night ● 8:30pm Music Night | 8 ● 8:30pm Mythological Lec ● 10pm History Lecture |
| 9 ● 9pm Movie night | 10 ● 8:30pm Chess Club | 11 ● 8:30pm Karaoke Night | 12 ● 8pm Support Group ● 9:30pm Ornithology Lecti | 13 ● 9pm Debate Club | 14 ● 8:30pm Game Night ● 8:30pm Music Night | 15 ● 9pm DnD Night |
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| 23 ● 9pm Movie Night | 24 ● 8:30pm Chess Club | 25 ● 8:30pm Karaoke Night | 26 ● 8pm Support Group | 27 ● 9pm Debate Club | 28 ● 8:30pm Game Night ● 8:30pm Music Night | 29 ● 9pm DnD Night |
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Maybe he was the same.
A bullet in a chamber, spending
his whole life waiting for
the moment he would have direction.

Leigh Bardugo

Quotes

Her Heart was a River

That carried her to The Sea

When everyone
knows you're
a monster,
you
needn't waste
time doing every
monstrous
thing.

SIX OF CROWS
BY LEIGH BARDUGO

THERE WAS NO PART OF HIM
THAT WAS NOT BROKEN,
THAT HAD NOT HEALED WRONG,
AND THERE WAS NO PART OF HIM
THAT WAS NOT STRONGER FOR HAVING BEEN BROKEN.

#SIXOFCROWS

**"Fear is a phoenix.
You can watch it
burn a thousand
times and still it will
return."**

Better
Terrible
Truths
than
Kind
Lies

Leigh Bardugo

*I have been made
to protect you
Only in death will
I be kept from this
oath*

"MAYBE LOVE WAS
SUPERSTITION, A
PRAYER WE SAID TO
KEEP THE TRUTH OF
LOPELINESS AT
BAY."

#RUINANDRISING

Song Recommendations

Song Recommendations

Morrow's Recommendations

"L's Theme Song from *Death Note*" by Hideki Taniuchi

This song is one that has become a favorite of mine and is from my all-time favorite anime *Death Note*. It is predominantly dominated by the piano, but a guitar is also featured later on in the song. The theme itself though has a lot of symbolism within it, which is why it has caught my interest.

"Cold" by Crossfade

This song has a fairly strong message to me in which the narration follows an apology to someone for being cold. Coupled with a very catchy chorus and good instrumentals backing up the vocals of the singer, it weaves a powerful song.

Warlow's Recommendations

"Counting up to Twenty" performed by Michael Crawford in *EFX*

One of my favourite songs from the old and expensive Vegas show known as *E! Vegas*. This show is about an individual who can control time and space, and he uses his powers to explore and celebrate the wonders of the human imagination through a selection of human stories. This song is from a transition into the story of H. G. Wells and his time machine travelling to the future of humanity, and it covers themes of melancholy hope for the future generation being able to act as saviours for the faults of the past and the present when upon his arrival, Wells finds the human race in a more primitive form and enslaved by superior aliens. Ultimately the show explores both the breadth and beauty of the human imagination but also its capacity to build worlds of darkness, with the fate of us as collective individuals in the hands of those who wonder and believe.

"The Impossible Dream" performed by Anthony Warlow on *Centre Stage*

One of my current favourite songs from one of my favourite musicals, "The Impossible Dream" is an inspiring declaration of the primary theme of *The Man of La Mancha*. In this musical, the main character believes that he is a mighty knight who pursues a holy quest to dream what is known as the Impossible Dream. It is a mission that he has committed himself to, and it allows him to see light and hope in a world of despair and darkness as well as the best of those he encounters throughout his quest. "The Impossible Dream" may be beyond the reach of most individuals, but it is still something that inspires hope, conviction, and positive transformation from darkness, hopelessness, and madness in a world controlled by greed and the pursuit of material rewards.

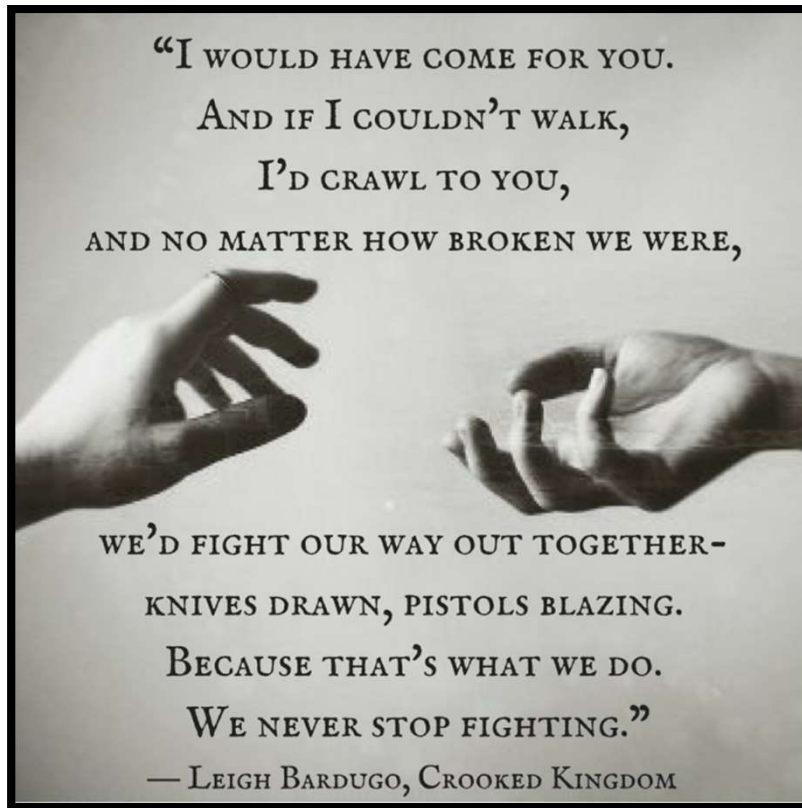
Lyn's Recommendations

"Passacaglia for Violin and Viola" by Handel-Halvorsen

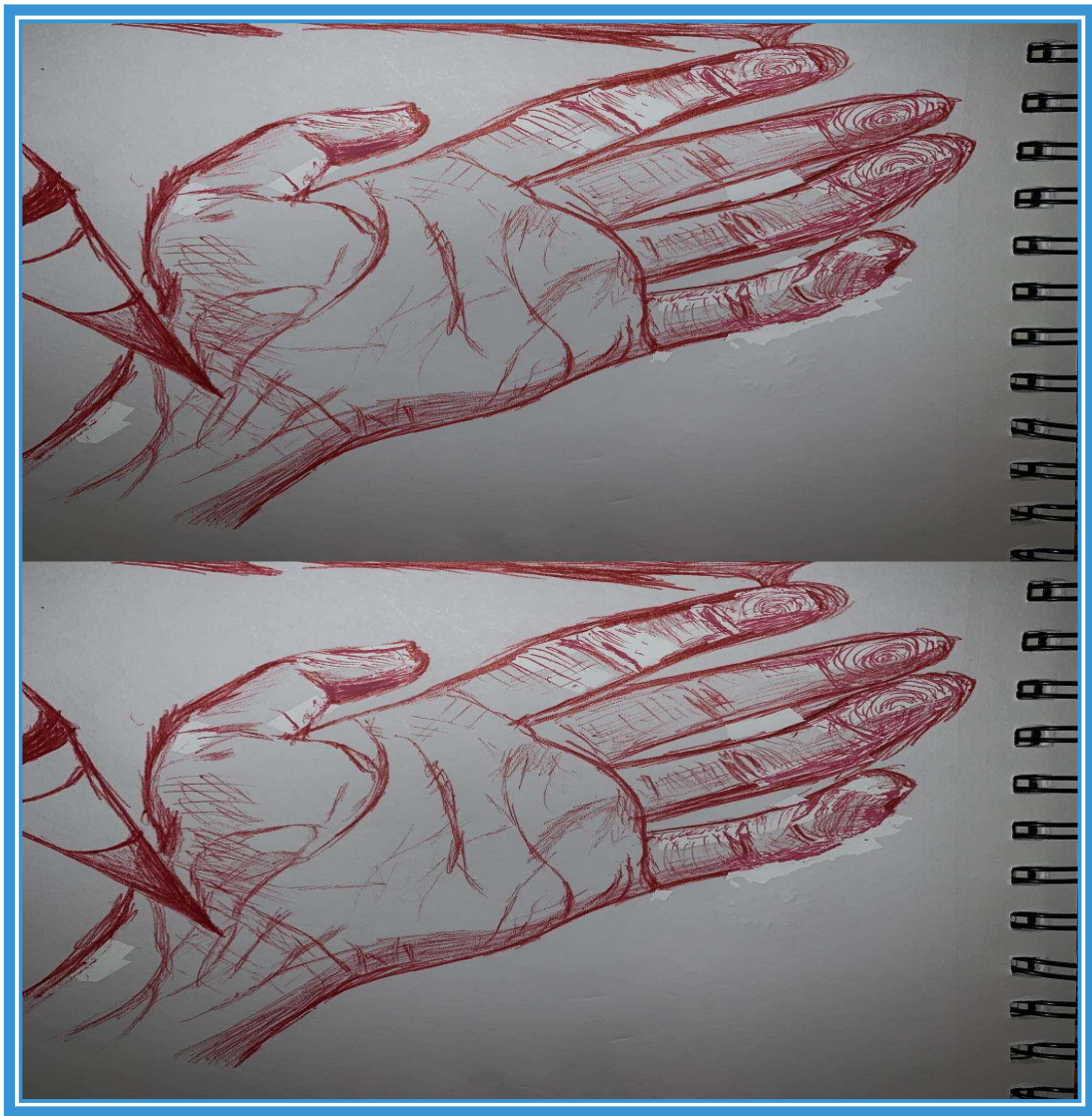
Originally written by the Baroque era composer Handel, Halvorsen the 19th century composer, conductor and violinist, took it upon himself to extend Handel's work, making it one of the most popular pieces in chamber music repertoire to this day. Wells Cunningham nicknamed it "The Impossible Duet" for reasons unknown, although it is likely because the piece is technically challenging for both performers. This is actually one of the first pieces that made me fall in love with classical music, as the variations Halvorsen took from Handel are written to be extended and even more riveting and romantic than before. Throughout the piece, each variation has its own soulful, grandiose flair to them that gradually crescendos in intensity to the final variation, and ends with a satisfying, triumphant chord.

"Futatsu no Kodou to Akai Tsumi" by Hateka Takefumi from Vampire Knight

This is the opening song to the first season of the anime Vampire Knight, which is one of the first animes that I have ever watched and holds a special place in my heart. The English title of the song is known as "Two Heartbeats and Red Sins" and is very catchy, with two male singers singing a pretty duet. The song covers strong themes in light and darkness and temptation and sin, and describes the feeling of helplessness that comes with fate determining what your destiny truly is.



Artwork



Marked
Lyn



Kelci Bivens, 2020
Kelc

The Adventure with the little elf girl

One day Wolfran was walking in the woods alone. He saw a little elf girl sitting on a log blowing bubbles by herself. He walked up to her and sat next to her, I asked her, " Why are you in the forest all alone?" The girl quickly said, " I am out here to draw a picture." I looked at her and said, " thats cool".

"So what are you drawing there?" I said to the girl. With tears running down her face she said "I am drawing a picture of my mom and dad." I responded, "Oh, wow that's so sweet of you I say your mom and dad would love it, but why are you crying?" She said to me, "I don't know where my daddy is at." as she opened up her locket. In the corner of her locket, was a picture of her dad. The little elf girl told me a little bit of information about what had happened. I told her she could always look high in the sky and know her dad was near.

As we set and talk, we both begin to smell something rancid. We got up from the log and flexed our necks to look around the corner. We saw rotting fruit falling from the trees. We immediately heard a voice calling from afar, yelling, "Please come home now." I looked at the girl and asked her who it was. The little elf girl said, "It is my mother, I must be going." I said my goodbyes to the little elf girl and hoped I would see her again.



Klinget
Warlow

"Fantasy"

Morrow

For many a year I've read and read,
Always looking for an escape from reality.
Never finding it for more than a bit.
The world always pulls me back,
And my body comes back, but not my heart.
Still I always wander back, no matter
The amount of time I'm away.
In the real world life is bitter so,
Come with me and we will leave,
All of that behind my love,
Let us travel to lands far away.

"Below the Pavilion"

Lyn

I'm standing in a lightless spotlight,
And slithering and constricting around me are the chains.
"Will it ever come?" I ask, while the piercing stares
of ghouls strike me without pain.

In the distance, I squint,
And a curdled rose arises.
Thorns shackle it, and it screams,
For never will there be another sunrise.

It must've noticed me as it flutters closer,
And I blink with shock as the blooming bud unfurls
In itself, drooping over and fading into mere dirt.
What?! No!

On instinct, I rush over but to no avail,
for no longer did its divine whorls

remain. The thorns were the last to disintegrate,
And yet I swore they crackled
With deadly vengeance as it faded,
Leaving marks in the dirt, forever shackled

To the forgotten... forever.
Its death seared itself in my mind,
Its remaining, flaming embers prodding
At me like those of disapproving, careless blinds.

Husks of empathetic beings they are to me,
They are just one among millions

Attempting to scorch its way through my strained
chains,

for I am the only one standing in the pavilion,

Waiting, desperately searching

For an escape, anything...

Anything.

Yet all I can do is exactly *nothing*.

My own petals trembling, I choked back

On my sobs, hoarsely whispering:

"Never will it come. Never will it come."

I gaze upwards as darkness slammed into me,
splintering,

As my love smiled at me one last time,

The crowd of cheers roaring with the pounding
beats of my heart,

The stage falling beneath me,

As I bid a farewell to life on my final part.

The chains have molten into my being,
mine one of flesh and stone.

It seems I never will belong anywhere,

As I have lived beginning to end alone.

Ultimate Despair

Alphros

No funerals, no gatherings
Just silence

No voices, no laughter
Just silence

The cold, almost frost like voice of the pastor
Like the bearer of death

Nothing but a closed casket
Being lowered 6 feet into the ground

Never to see their faces again
Never to hear their voices again
Never to feel their warm embrace
Never to feel their love and kindness

No final 'I love you'

No goodbye

Nothing.

**I'll tell you a
secret...The really
bad monsters never
look like monsters.**

~Kaz Brekker
(Crooked Kingdom
by Leigh Bardugo)

Book Reviews

Book Review

by: Malin

Half-Witch by John Schoffstall

5/5 stars

Half-Witch is really, really, *really* hard to describe. It's filled with dark humor and the weirdest things, but it's also strangely religious? In a twisted, messed-up way, of course.

The setting is planet Earth, but very different. The Holy Roman Empire still exists, along with many other kingdoms and empires and countries. A treacherous mountain range called the Montagnes du Monde separates a chunk of the planet. A brave few have ever crossed the Montagnes, and only one has ever returned. Lizbet, our (mostly) obedient and pious heroine, must cross these mountains with her witch companion Strix. Her goal is to find a very special book and return it to the Margrave of Abalia in order to get her father out of jail. It is a daunting task, but Lizbet readily charges into her quest with very little concern for her own safety.

The dynamic between Strix and Lizbet fascinated me. Lizbet's "Good Christian Charity" requires her to treat Strix with kindness and friendship. As for Strix, the reasons why she accompanies Lizbet and even saves her life on multiple occasions are much less clear. Lizbet's attitude towards witches and Strix's attitude towards friendship change a great deal throughout the book. Lizbet starts out not trusting or liking sarcastic, dark Strix or witches in general. God tells her to stay away from bad influences like Strix, but she has no choice but to accept her help. Once Strix saves Lizbet's life for the first time, in the process of turning Lizbet part-witch, Lizbet starts to think about witches and Strix differently.

Strix has always been taught that friendship is a lie mortals use to hide their own weakness. At first, she's only following Lizbet because her creator, the witch Mrs. Woodcot, has ordered her to harry Lizbet's journey. Also, she happens to be in Lizbet's thrall for an unrelated reason. But then Lizbet frees her from her thrall by telling Strix her full name. Strix has every reason to leave Lizbet to die at this point. Instead, she saves Lizbet's life, gives her a new and much stronger pair of legs, and ends up helping her instead of hindering. By the end of the book, Strix is willing to admit that friendship isn't a lie and that Lizbet is her friend.

Anyway, I'm bored of writing out sentences so here's a list. I rated stuff out of five stars.

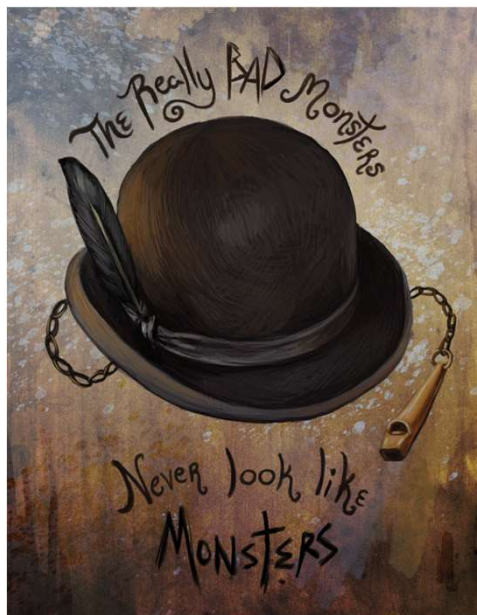
Worldbuilding: 4½ stars. Some bits were unclear, but mostly it was all thought-out.

Plot: 5/5 stars, I loved it!

Characters: 5/5 stars. Each character was memorable for their own reasons.

In conclusion, *Half-Witch* is about the power of friendship and letting go of rigid morals.

Yay, the end.



IMPOSSIBLE
IMPROBABLE
@NICOLETTEELZIE



Bird Rants

Warlow's Bird Rants: Talons and Raptors

Raptor feet can have a variety of different traits depending on the bird's habits and environment. Most American raptors have feathers that only extend part of the way down their legs, leaving their scaly talons bare. For birds like the red-tailed hawk that hunt



Red-tailed hawk with exposed scaly legs and talons

slippery snakes, scaly legs and talons is a beneficial protection and also allows them to survive comfortably in warmer areas. A few American raptors have feathers that extend all the way down to



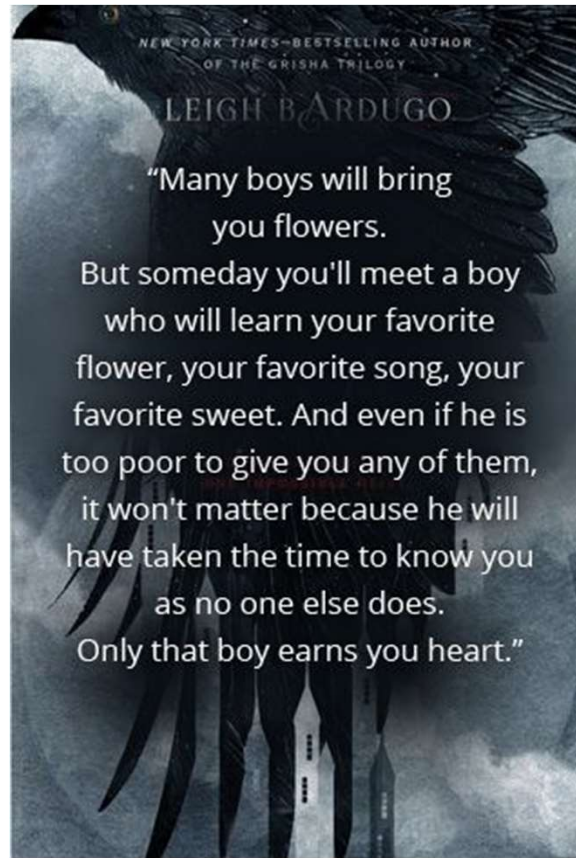
Rough-legged hawk with "booted" talons

their feet and are known as "booted" raptors. Notable "booted" raptors are golden eagles, rough-legged hawks, and ferruginous hawks. These birds are able to survive in colder regions than their non-booted counterparts. Additionally, raptors that feed primarily on fish, like ospreys or bald eagles tend to have scaliier and more textured talons that help them get more traction when grasping slippery fish. Overall, the talons of raptors are highly adapted to their diets and environments.



Osprey with scaly talons for hunting fish

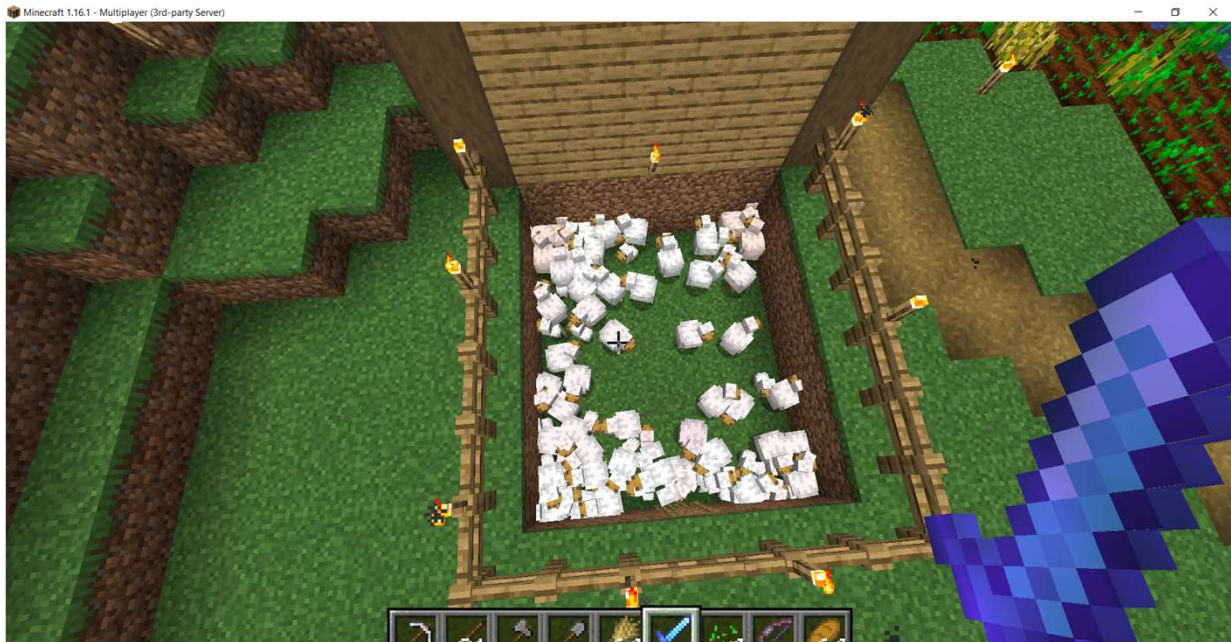




Minecraft Builds

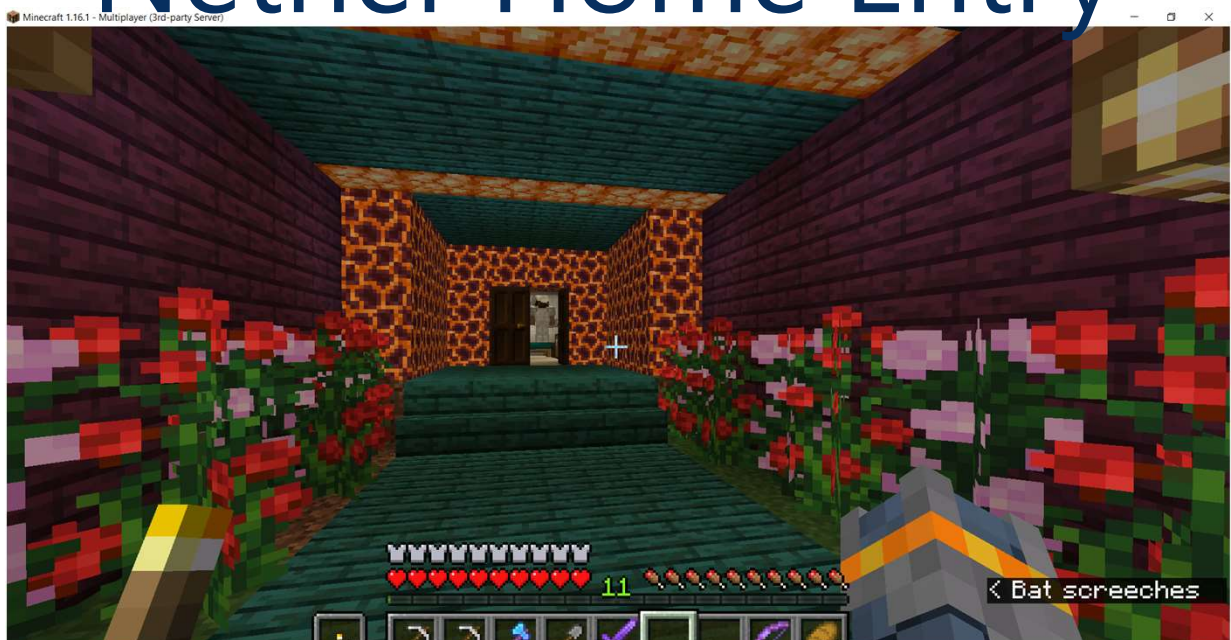
Clan Umbra Barn

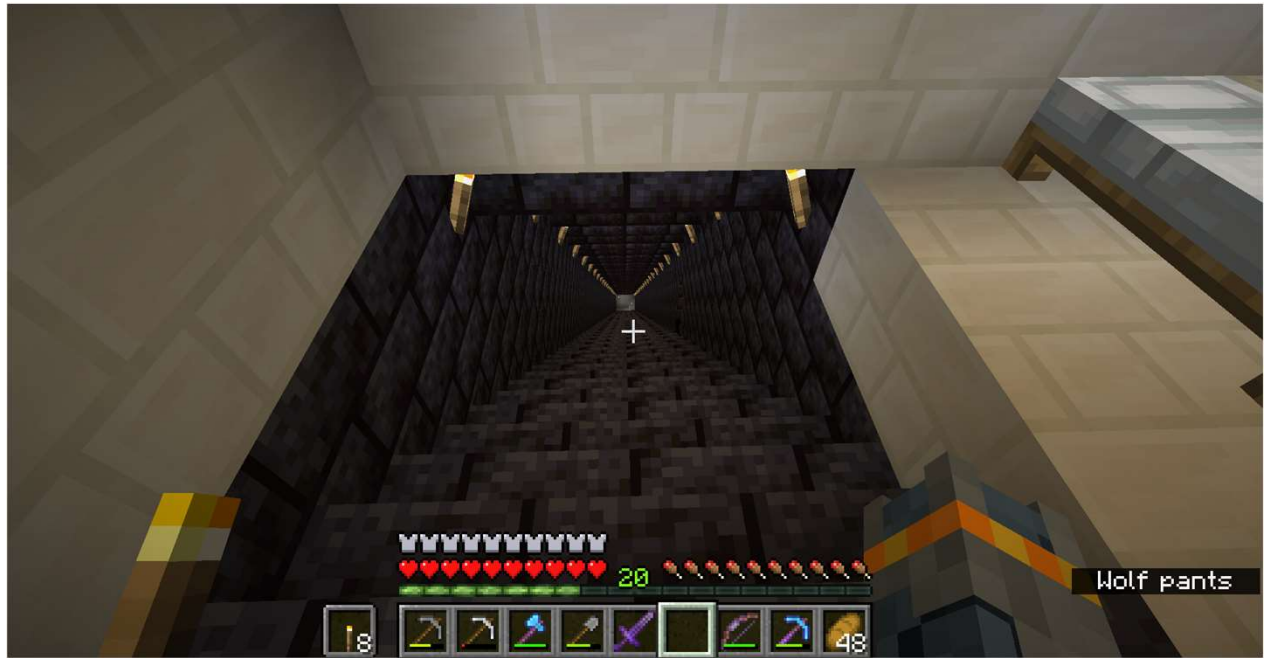




Chicken Farm!

Nether Home Entry





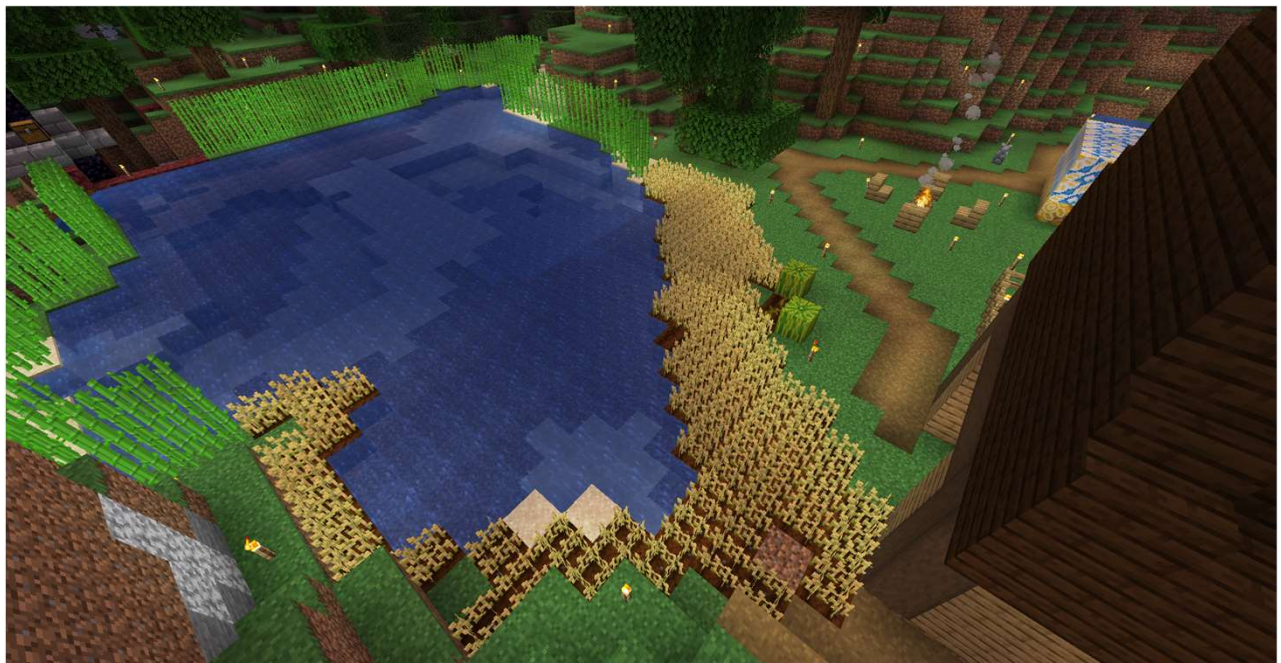
Pictures of Clan Umbra's Clan Base

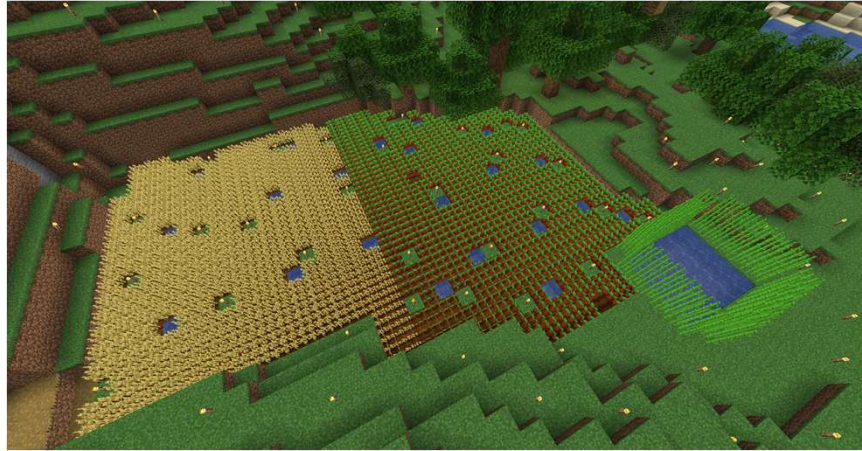




Clan Treasury

First Clan Farm





Morrow's Farming Obsession

Dad's Thoughts

You know what really grinds my gears? Guys named Mathew.

Not Matthew.

But Mathew.

Like their parents thought they were being 'hip' by leaving out one of the t's.

But how do you make that choice with your kid? How do you decide to leave out a 't'? Which 't' do you remove? The left one or the right one? Don't you think the removed 't' is going to feel bad about itself now, knowing that it wasn't good enough to make it into your child's name despite having a rightful place there? And then you place the burden of this calamity on your child?

What if you remove the left 't', but your child would have preferred you remove the right 't'? Are you prepared for them to have an existential identity crisis because you chose their 't' for them?

And how come we only remove t's? That's being awfully exclusive isn't it? You never see someone with 3 t's...

Matththew

You should be preaching inclusivity by including more t's, not removing them. T's have a place. In fact, they have at least two places. Let t's express themselves freely.

July 2020 Team Points



Hippocampus: 570



Griffin: 515



Dragon: 275



Sphinx: 215



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