

This is a guide for flipper fanfiction recommendation engine which can be downloaded [here](#)  
General questions about the application should be directed [there](#)  
Video version of this manual can be found [here](#) (relevant for version 1.0.0)

## What is Flipper

Flipper is a tool that automates finding people with favourite lists similar to yours and creates a merged stream of fanfics from those lists ranked by how relevant they are to your tastes. It also lets you filter that stream like a search engine and exclude fanfics/fandoms from search results permanently.It was created with a goal of “*to see only stuff that might be interesting, and see it exactly once*”

## Creating recommendations.

You should have created your first recommendation list on the welcome screen at initial launch, and it will be automatically loaded each time you launch Flipper, but you can have more. Alternatively, if you weren’t able to create that initial list, the following will describe how to make it.

The new list creation is hidden behind the “**New recommendation list**” button on the top left of the app. Upon pressing it, a menu will unwrap that will allow you to create recommendations using a variety of modes and sources.

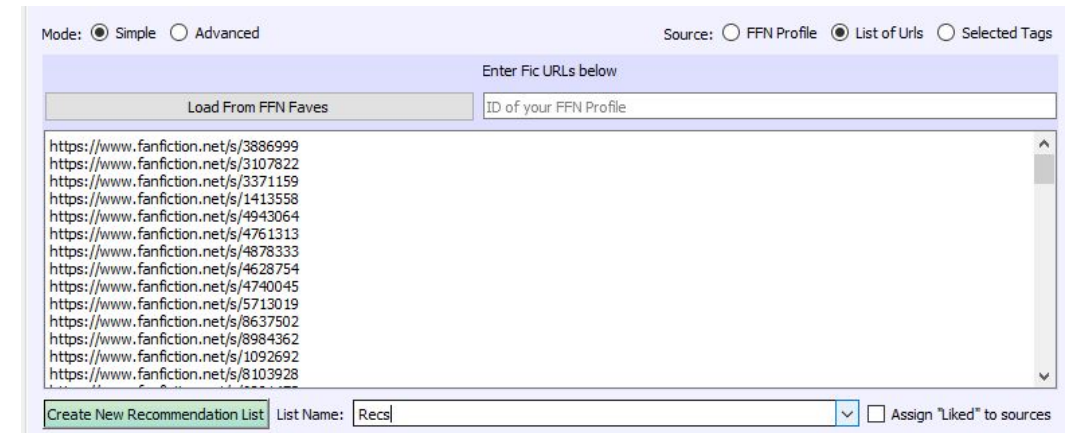
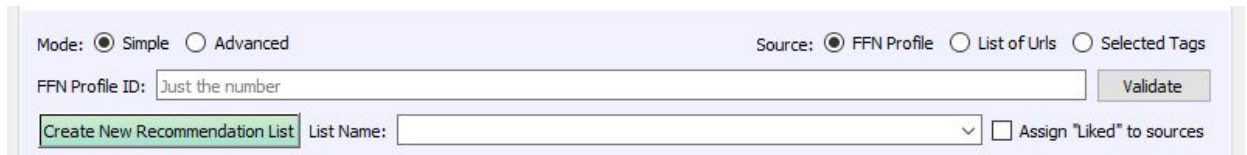
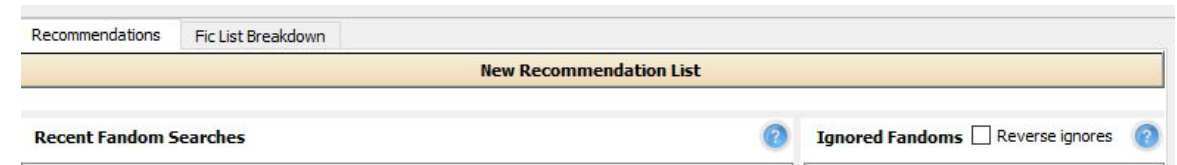
### Using FFN profile id.

The simplest mode. This is what opens up by default. To use it “**Simple mode**” and “**FFN Profile**” must be selected. It requires you to enter just the number part of your FFN profile into the edit line, then to name the new list whatever name you chose (you can even reuse the default Recommendations) and press “**Create new recommendation list**” After a bit of waiting, your new list will be created and saved to your HDD (significantly faster if SSD is used) and the list will be loaded into search results.

note: “Assign Liked to sources” will also automatically tag used fics as Liked in the app. During creation of the initial recommendations on the welcome screen this is used by default. So, if you already have a list, you also have all your favourite fics “Liked”

### Using a list of URLs.

Still done in a “**Simple mode**”, but with “**Source: list of urls**” selected. Drop a bunch of fic urls from FFN, name your list and press “**Create new recommendation list**”. More urls will produce significantly better results. This can still use your profile - if you enter the id into the line edit above and press “**Load From FFN Faves**” you will essentially repeat what is done in the previous method, just manually. It will first load your faves into the text input then you will be able to create a list.



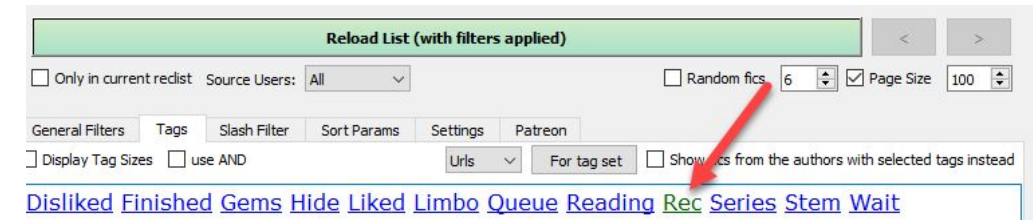
Using selected tags.

This mode is for people who continuously use Flipper and have their favourites kept in it. Select whatever tag(s) you keep your favourites in and press “**Create new recommendation list**”.



Mode: ☒ Simple ☐ Advanced Source: ☐ FFN Profile ☐ List of Urls ☒ Selected Tags

Create New Recommendation List List Name: Recs ☐ Assign "Liked" to sources



Reload List (with filters applied) < >

☐ Only in current recist Source Users: All ☐ Random fics 6 ☒ Page Size 100

General Filters Tags Slash Filter Sort Params Settings Patreon

☐ Display Tag Sizes ☐ use AND ☐ Show fics from the authors with selected tags instead

Disliked Finished Gems Hide Liked Limbo Queue Reading **Rec** Series Stem Wait

Advanced mode.

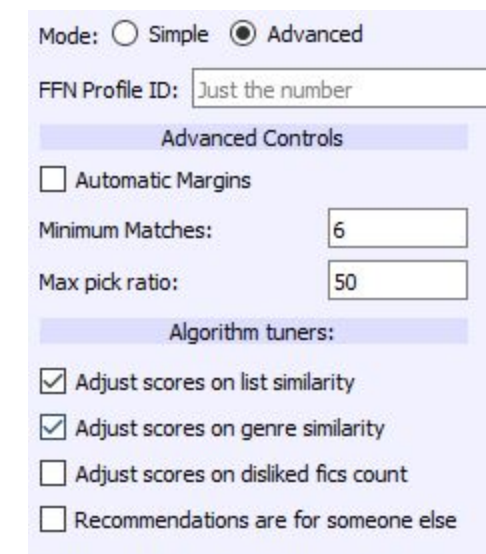
(You most likely can safely skip this section) This mode lets you choose how algorithm creating recommendations operates. If you are willing to delve there you can make them recommendations a bit tighter than what is generated by default, but at the cost of amount of fics that are offered.

If you untick *Automatic* you can adjust how Flipper picks favourite lists to base your recommendations on. It goes like this:

*Given the list of fics to the right, find users that have favourited at least X of them AND have at most Y fics not in your list in their favourites to 1 in it.*

**TLDR:** more minimum matches or lower pick ratio means recommendations will suit your tastes better but there will be (far) less of them. If you fiddle with it, try to find numbers after which there is a significant drop in the amount of suggested fics and use ones slightly above it.

Algorithm tuners let you further increase scores for fics found on lists very similar to yours.



Mode: ☐ Simple ☒ Advanced

FFN Profile ID: Just the number

Advanced Controls

☐ Automatic Margins

Minimum Matches: 6

Max pick ratio: 50

Algorithm tuners:

☒ Adjust scores on list similarity

☒ Adjust scores on genre similarity

☐ Adjust scores on disliked fics count

☐ Recommendations are for someone else


- **Adjust scores on list similarity:** will significantly bump scores for fics on lists that have significantly more matches with your favourites than normal. Recommended state: ON.
- **Adjust scores on genre similarity:** will bump scores for fics on lists that have a good match with genre distribution in your favourites. Recommended state: ON.
- **Adjust scores on disliked fics count:** will decrease scores and outright exclude fics from lists that have a considerable amount of fics you've disliked (Trash and Disliked tags). Will only start working if enough disliked fics are present (at least 100) Recommended state: OFF unless you have a huge amount of fics you've trashed and disliked.
- **Recommendations are for someone else:** use if you have set your FFN ID during initial setup and are creating a list on someone's request. This will make sure your own favourite list is not excluded from potential candidates when fic set is generated.


Recommendations window.

Whatever mode you have selected, after Flipper have processed your favourites it will output you recommendations in the element to the right. Page 1 of 266 means that there are 26600 fics in your recommendations at the moment. Those are displayed from most relevant to least relevant, but you can reverse the order or even traverse them at random.

*Note: Flipper's recommendation results are fandom agnostic unless you explicitly tell it to display just the specific fandom. This massively helps finding new fandoms and fics to read where you normally wouldn't.*

Fic results have a couple of important elements for each one:

 This number displayed next to each fic is a **Metascore**. This displays how relevant a fic is to your taste and the higher it is: the better. It roughly states how much people with similar tastes (to yours) liked this fic and how close were their favourite lists to yours.

 When the heart is half green - it means that you have already liked a fic by this author.

**Ratio: 1/3** This displays how much favourites per point of metascore a fic has. In this case 3 favourites which means in total it has 3\*945 favourites on FFN. This is mostly used for fics at the bottom of recommendations to see stuff like *"oh, this fic has 800 faves per 1 metascore point, it's probably so not readable to me"*



This is a quick tagging block. Clicking on it you can assign a number of properties to a fic(and exclude it from the list) The list goes as follows:

- "I liked this"
- "I disliked this"
- "It's dead"
- "It's trash"
- "Something I have no opinion on but wont read"
- "Something that I don't want to read because I am planning to see the source material soon"
- "Something that I definitely won't read until it's finished"
- "Something that I am willing to read right now despite it not being finished"
- "To read later"
- "Finished reading"
- "Something super cool and barely known"
- "Something that I loved"
- "Part of a series I don't want to read rn"
- Magnetic tag (can be used to assign arbitrary tags, see later)
- 

Clicking any of these will assign the respective tag to the fic and from now on it won't appear in default searches.

You can click any number of these at the same time and later filter on them. The descriptions above are how I interpret those icons, but you have different meanings.

*Flipper helps you keep track of what you've already read. You won't have to read the same fic summaries over and over If you tag fics upon reading or discarding them*

At page: 1 of: 266

### 0.Fate: Reach Out

Fate/stay night & Persona Series

A chance decision leads to an unlikely discovery. The mention of a rumor leads to an unbelievable mystery. And the connection to a long forgotten family leads to an unforgettable experience. Welcome to Inaba, Yu Narukami... or should I say Shirou Emiya? (Co-Authored by Nameless Flame Wielder up to Ch.21)

945 Ratio: 1/3 Words: 345955 Shirō E., Izanagi

Genre: Supernatural, Mystery

Tags: +

Pub:04/01/2013

Upd:21/06/2019

### 1.Avalon:First Order

Fate/stay night & Fate/Grand Order

The long-separated lovers who reunited in Avalon awaken to the prologue of mankind's destruction. Prompted by the sight of Fuyuki in flames, they set forth to fight together once more.

835 Ratio: 1/1 Words: 42750 Shirō E., Arturia Pendragon

Genre: Supernatural, Adventure

Tags: +

Pub:27/09/2017

### 2.The Shadow of Angmar

Harry Potter & Lord of the Rings

The Master of Death is a dangerous title; many would claim to hold a position greater than Death. Harry is pulled to Middle-earth by the Witch King of Angmar in an attempt to bring Morgoth back to Arda. A year later Angmar falls and Harry is freed. What will he do with the eternity granted to him? Story begins 1000 years before LotR. Eventual major canon divergence.

800 Ratio: 1/12 Words: 167653 Harry P.

Genre: Adventure

Tags: +

Pub:16/03/2015

Upd:22/02/2019

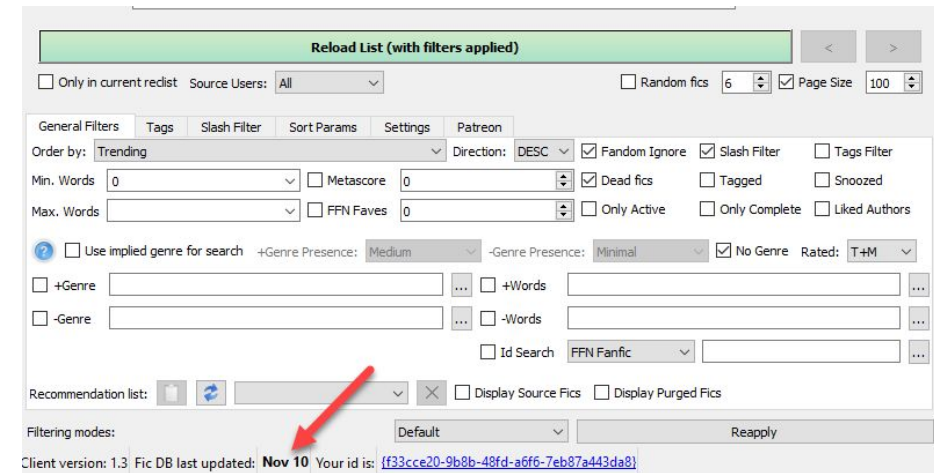
## Updating recommendations

Flipper's fic database is updated once every 2-8 weeks. When that happens, new favourites are pulled from user lists that you might want to take note of. The date of the last database update is displayed on the bottom of the application.

To recreate you recommendation list and see new fics click refresh button next to the list's name



This will regenerate the list with new fics from the recent database update.



## Random Browsing Mode

In addition to just reading through the list sequentially you can have a bit of fun with filters to help you find stuff. A little context: not everything good is popular. More than that, not everything good is hugely popular.

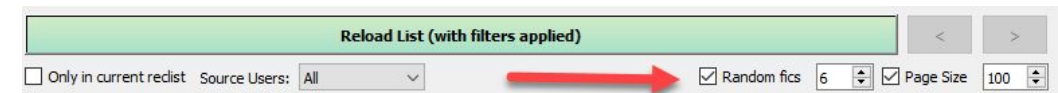
There's a fair amount of stuff on FFN that went largely unnoticed. But the point is: **even when unpopular all the fics in the recommendation list are picked from users with generally the same tastes as yours.**

So, they have a higher than normal chance to be to your liking even if they are not very high on the list. Here's where random browsing comes in.

By ticking the Random Fics checkbox you enable random mode. After that all the presses of green **Reload** button will bring up sets of 6 random fics from your recommendation list. Just read the summaries and decide if you want to dig in or not.

Mostly the lower priority fics will be average, but I've seen more than enough fantastic stuff browsing like that. Some of my greatest finds had just one match in the recommendation list and I was extremely unlikely to ever find those if not for random mode.

Admittedly this mode tends to also produce a large amount of trash, same as reading random stuff from fav lists on FFN, really, but steps have been made to reduce it to manageable levels.





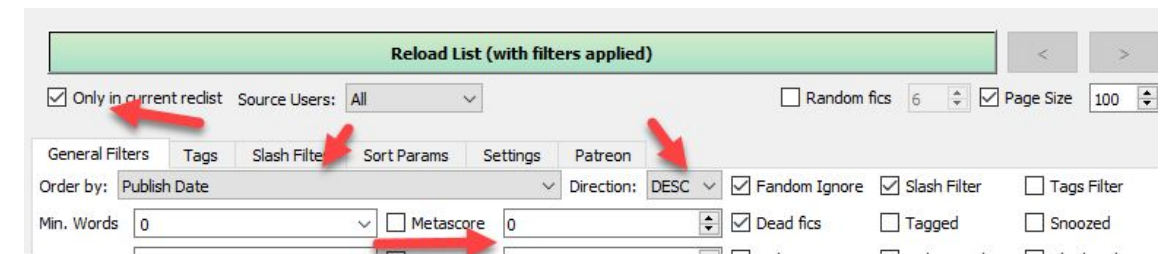
Decent new stuff.

As already said: Flipper updates its database regularly and you should refresh your recommendations occasionally.

By default, Flipper displays the most relevant fics first in your list. But you can also make it show the most recent stuff. To do that, check “**Only in current reclist**” checkbox under the “**Reload**” button, change the sort mode to “**Publish Date + DESC**” and press “**Reload**” .

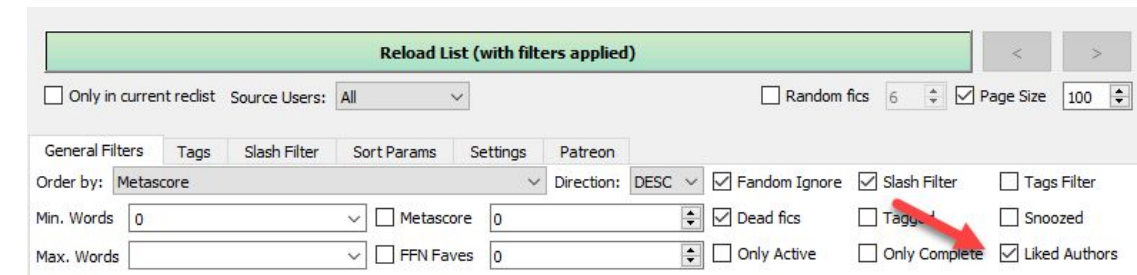
this will bring up fics from the current recommendation list sorted by how new they are. Normally fresher stuff with more than one point in **metascore** next to it is something you probably want to check.

You can additionally set the minimum metascore value for Flipper to display under the sort direction.



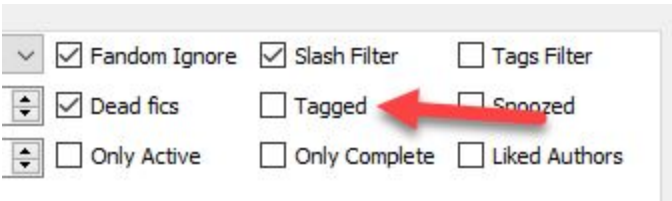
## Fics by the authors whose fics you’ve already liked

Sometimes the sheer size of the recommendation list can be a bit intimidating and you want to be more in your comfort zone. In these cases you can filter your recommendation list to show only stuff from people whose fics you’ve already liked. To do that, check “**Liked Authors**” tick and “**Reload**” the list. “Liked author” is anyone whose fics you’ve tagged as “Liked” or “Rec” tags. (remember that this was automatically done for fics in your initial recommendation list so this tick should always be working)



Excluding fics from searches

To forever exclude a fic from the default displayed results you just have to tag it with anything through a quick tag panel (which was explained above). or through a custom tag (green **“Plus”** on the fic sheet) tagged fics are only shown when you search on their exact tag or **“Tagged”** checkbox is checked.

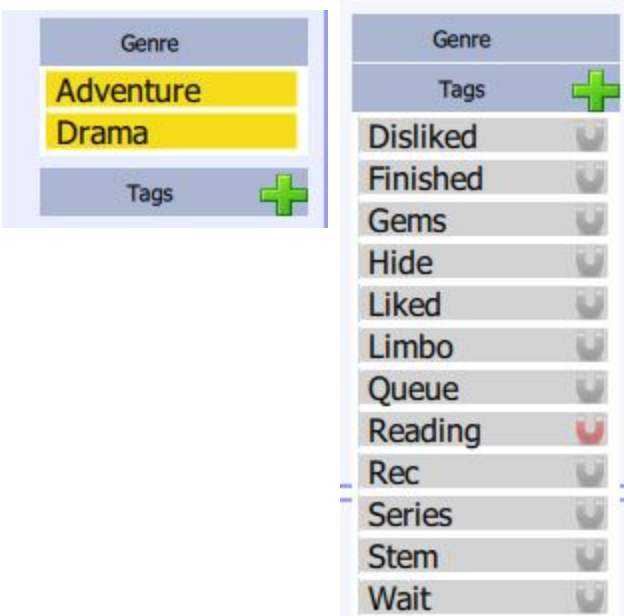


Green **“Plus”** button on a fic sheet contains more detailed tagging mechanism. Clicking it produces a dropdown menu in which you can select more than just stuff present in quick tag panel. The contents of that list can be adjusted on the left in the **“Tags”** section by using Add Tag. / Delete Tag



Point 1: none of these tags go anywhere, those are stored locally to help you track your reading.

Point 2: like, dislike, trash are just shortcuts for tags so fire away, no one will ever see what you’ve tagged fics



as.

Point 3: each fic can have a multitude of tags assigned to help finetune later searches..

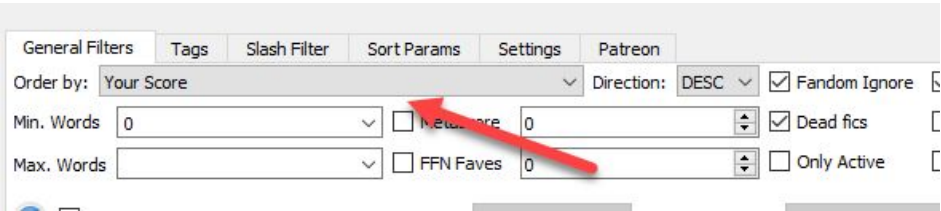
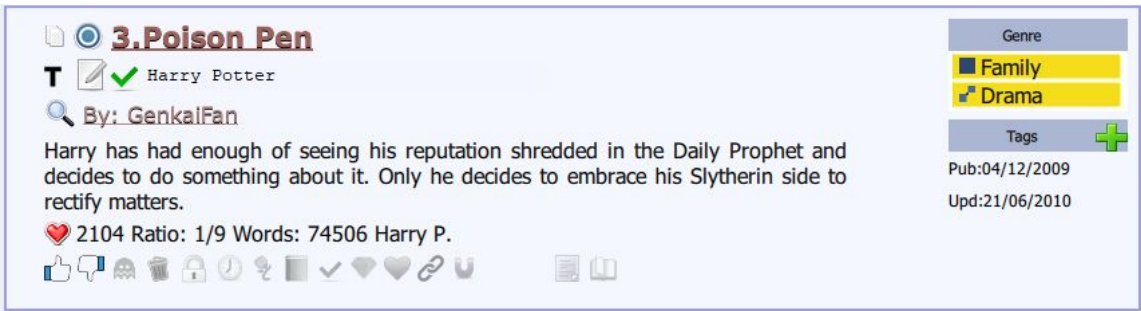
Note that **“Magnet”** tag works somewhat differently, it’s a shortcut for a custom user tag you want on a quick panel. To assign a custom tag to it, create a custom tag with “Add Tag” on the Tags tab of the filter and click on a gray magnet next to it in the dropdown tag menu on the fic sheet. The tag will become red and from now on (and until the next time you select something else) pressing the magnet on a quick tagger toolbar will assign this tag to a fic. You can hover over a magnet to check which tag it currently represents.

Fic ratings

On the right of the fic sheet you will see 5 half transparent stars. Clicking on those will assign a rating to the fic.

While this *can* be used as a rating like on any other website, the true intention of this feature is something entirely different. Ratings in Flipper are meant to work in concert with tags to prioritize stuff. So, if you have a Queue of, say, 200 fics and some of them you are more inclined to read than the others, you can assign a rating to those to quickly bring them up in search when you do a search on “**Queue**” tag with “**Your scores**” sort order.

Notice that this allows you to essentially have different priorities for different tags if you keep things separate. You can totally have Queue rated for priority and Liked rated by how much you've liked something and even Trash can have ratings assigned to it, possibly to mark just how awful a fic is.



Fic Snoozing

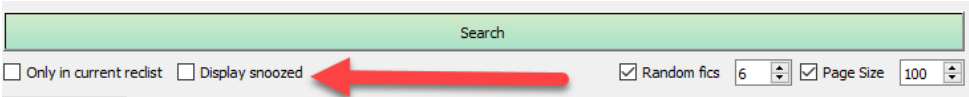
Lets you temporarily hide fics from searches on tags until they update or finish. Basically, this is needed for "Queue" and "Reading" because normally while your are searching on these tags there are fics in there that you have seen times and times again and, possibly, have already read to ongoing. Normally, these will pollute the "Reading" list even though you temporarily have no interest in them.

Pressing Bell icon on a fic sheet will snooze those until flipper has detected a new chapter for them. Optionally in the dropped down menu you can click on "Next Chapter" two times and also choose between "Until Finished" and "Until Chapter X". Note that DB updates happen ~once a month and that's when new chapters will be detected.

Once the snooze has expired the fic will both reappear in search results and will be displayed with green background instead of blue. To toggle off the green highlight - press Bell icon again.



To display snoozed fics in tag searches, tick new "Display Snoozed" checkbox below Search button. Snoozing controls aren't shown on finished fics except those whose snooze just expired.

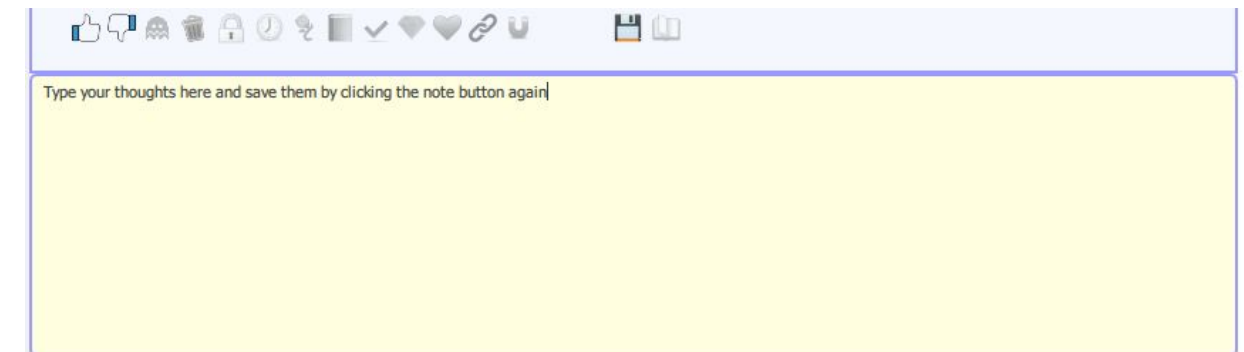


## Fic notes

You can add custom notes to fics. It's done by pressing "**Page**" button on a quicktagger toolbar. Notes can serve multiple purposes.

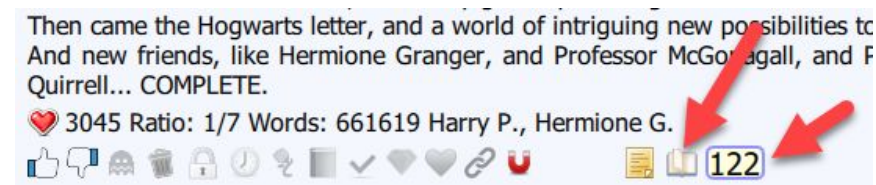
- You can write a review in them.
- You can write where and when you've last read the fic and what's been happening (useful when you know you will skip a couple updates)
- You can just store your thoughts about the fic.

Just generally, this is yet another tool to organize your reading. Personally, I am using it for all those fics I know for sure I will lose my memory of wtf's been going on the next time I enter them (hello, vimesenthusiast).



## Keeping track of the chapters

If you press a Reading tag on a fic, it will display an edit where you can mark which chapter you're currently on. Once you do that, upon the next click on the title fic will open at that chapter.



## Similar fics

In addition to recommendations Flipper can search for fics similar to the one you are interested in. This is basically an isolated case of creating a recommendation list with 1 fic as its source and Flipper has a shortcut for it.

Double clicking the blue circle will replace your current search with "fics similar to this".





## Filtering (out) slash

The ***Slash Filter*** checkbox in the main filter toolbar enables filtering of slash content.

On the lower screenshot you can see that you can adjust if you want to see No Slash, Only Slash and also set filter aggressiveness.

**To explain:** Slash filter in Flipper consists of multiple stages.

First, common words in summaries for a couple fandoms are used to identify slash such as HPSS, HPDM, slash, yaoi etc... The set is rather limited but that's just the first stage.

Then, among the user favourites that Flipper knows of, lists are detected that contain a large amount of fics, that are detected on stage one. In those lists Flipper tries to find fics that are present *only* in such lists, but not on ones without M/M explicit content. These fics are the stage two.

This iterates once more the same way into stage three.

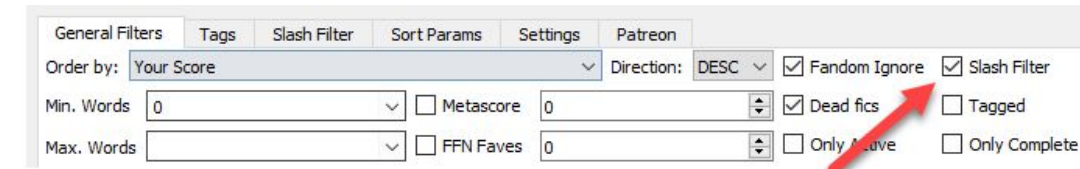
Above said loosely translates to:

*Set light filter to filter out almost certain slash, medium for very likely slash and strong if you want to be extra safe.*

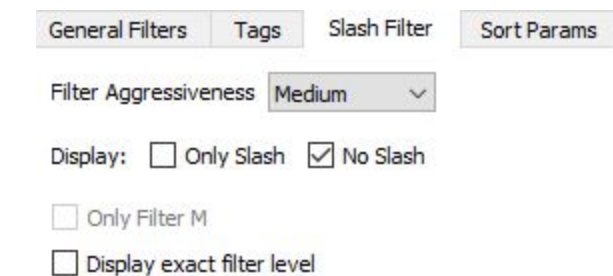
Now, Flipper's slash filter is not a panacea because it only works off of the limited selection of user profiles, and therefore can't catch stuff that it doesn't have enough statistics for but most of the relatively popular fics it *does* detect and filters.

Also of note: slash filter works with varying success between fandoms. Harry Potter/Naruto/Bleach and other more popular ones it covers rather well. Others not so much. If it seems to you that some fics that should not be filtered out are - you can disable the slash filter and/or ping me in discord with key words for your fandom to train the filter better next time I go about updating it.

*If you are someone who actually reads slash you can either untick the filter or even set the filter to display ONLY slash*



The screenshot shows the main filter toolbar with tabs for General Filters, Tags, Slash Filter, Sort Params, Settings, and Patreon. The 'Slash Filter' checkbox is checked and highlighted by a red arrow. Other visible options include 'Order by: Your Score', 'Direction: DESC', 'Fandom Ignore' (checked), 'Dead fics' (checked), 'Tagged' (unchecked), 'Only Active' (unchecked), and 'Only Complete' (unchecked).



The screenshot shows the 'Slash Filter' settings panel. It has tabs for General Filters, Tags, Slash Filter, and Sort Params. The 'Filter Aggressiveness' dropdown is set to 'Medium'. The 'Display' section has checkboxes for 'Only Slash' (unchecked) and 'No Slash' (checked). There are also checkboxes for 'Only Filter M' (unchecked) and 'Display exact filter level' (unchecked).

## Sorting fics

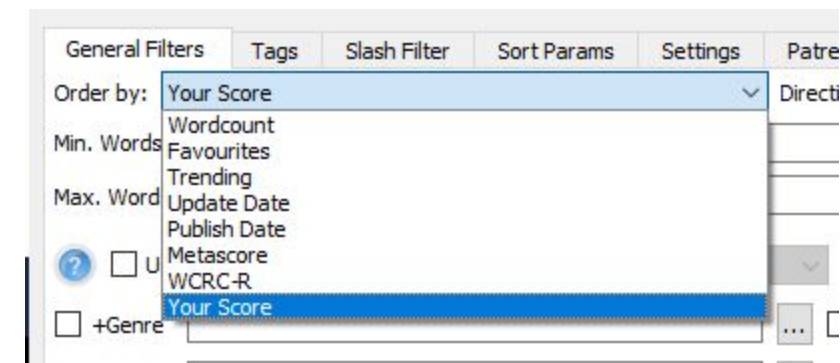
Flipper allows you to sort fics in a way FFN doesn't. The current list of available sort orders is displayed on the right. Some of them don't need explanation. Those that do are:

**WCRC-R** aka wordcount to review count

**Trending** helps find popular new stuff. (most favourited and started during the last year)

**Metascore** which sorts recommendation list on relevance.

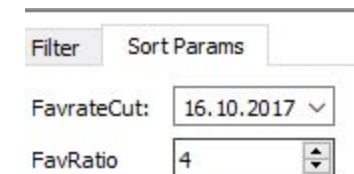
**Your Score** sorts fics on the scores *you've* assigned to them. Note that you probably want to use this with Tagged checkbox checked and a bunch of tags selected.



*Note:* you can adjust what to consider “popular and new” for “**Trending**” sorting in the Sort Params tab.

FavrateCut is what's considered new.

FavRatio means “Favourites to days running”



## Excluding fandoms.

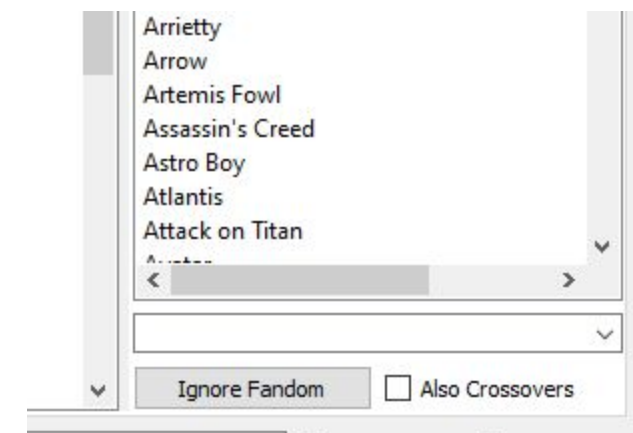
Since Flipper's recommendation queue is fandom agnostic, it's fairly important to be able to exclude fanfoms from the list. For example, if you don't want to see them ASOIAF crosses everywhere you can just ignore the whole fandom.

Flipper offers to ignore just pure fandom fics or also crossovers. Just type the fandom name below

Ignored Fandoms list (there's autocomplete), check if you want to ignore crosses and press **Ignore Fandom**.

You will not see these fics again. If you did something wrong right click on a fandom in the list lets you remove it from ignores.

*Alternatively you can click on the fandom name in the fic sheet to drop it into the edit above ignored fandoms button. If it's a crossover, clicking repeatedly cycles between fandoms*



## Automatic genre detection.

There's a saying *"if it's tagged humor on FFN it's probably not funny"*.

All too often authors use genre that is barely present in the fic or not set one at all.  
Furthermore, when something is tagged as double genre it's impossible to tell which is the main one.

Using a bit of userlist analysis I've come up with a system that suggests real genres for fics based on the kind of favourite lists it lives in. It looks like the screenshot to the right.

**Big rectangle** means the main genre, it's sufficiently present to be the "meat" of the fic. There can be more than one main genre.

**Linked smaller rectangles** mean genre is sufficiently present to be significant.

**Small dot** means fic has inclusions of indicated genre but it's not a focus of the fic.

[Automatically indicated genres may be different than the ones that the author have set](#)

Now, the main question: how well does it work?

The answer is: kinda. It's not 100% accurate but it's helpful enough that I myself leave it on.

Couple times it helped me notice the fics I'd have completely ignored because the author tagged those as Drama/Romance.

Note that it only works for more popular stuff as there needs to be enough data for Flipper to take a guess.

## Searches on implied genres

This is done by checking **"Use implied genre for search"**, adding the required genre into +/- Genre, selecting desired genre presence (or lack thereof for -Genre) and pressing Search.

This will only leave fics in list with required parameters. So if you only want to filter "Humor", that is actually funny and not 99% romance, this is your option.

[The example to the right only shows fics that are considerably funny and have at most "minimal" Drama in them.](#)  
[Genres in inclusions/exclusions are OR'ed. Presence is set for the whole line.](#)

**Note:** searching on implied genres automatically filters out 9/10 of Flipper's fic database because only 1/10 has enough statistical data to actually suggest what genre it has. This doesn't mean that the mode is useless though, because the 1/10 that is left is mostly good and/or popular fics. To put it into perspective: 1/10 = roughly 400k fics.



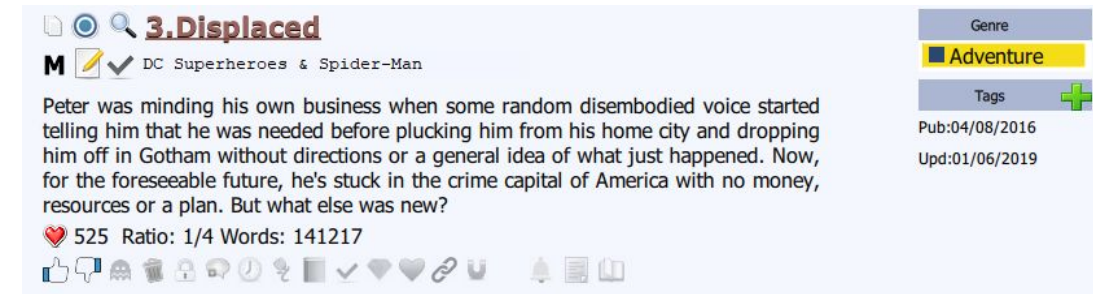
☒ Use implied genre for search   +Genre Presence: Considerable   -Genre Presence: Minimal   Rated: T+M

☒ +Genre   ... ☐ +Words  ...

☒ -Genre   ... ☐ -Words  ...

Metadata display.

I've just reorganized fic display to be a little more consistent between subsequent fics, so that stuff like wordcount is more or less always at the same place and easily distinguishable from other numbers.

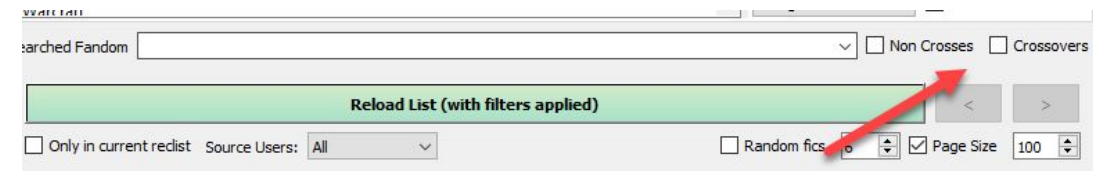


## Fandom(s) Structure

I don't like the sheer amount of subsections FFN has for what is essentially the same fandom. Take Star Wars for example: TV, Movies, Books, Games... crossovers for each of that..

Flipper eliminates all of that. Fandoms in Flipper are merged and accessible under the same search mechanism. If you want to filter out/in crossovers just tick respective checkboxes above the green button and press it.

*Fandoms in the list to the left are **not** all the fandoms Flipper can search in, these are just the history of your recent fandom searches. Typing in fandom name into “Searched Fandom” will autocomplete for the whole list of fandoms on FFN.*





Non recommendation searches

Flipper can also be used as a generic search engine over FFN with some limitations.

It doesn't have all of the fics from FFN in its database. Currently there are ~5 million  
It doesn't have an automated updater yet. Updates happen once in 2-8 weeks and I currently don't scrape whole  
fandoms, just reprocess user favourites.  
You also can't do wide scale text searches, you will have to set a fandom first.

As a pure search engine you can do everything that you can see on the screenshot to the right.

- Search the whole database or within a single fandom only
- Exclude/include crossovers from search.
- Set arbitrary limits on fics sizes
- Search within fics with a least X favourites.
- Exclude dead and incomplete fics.
- Exclude fics for which the author haven't stated a genre.
- Set genres that fics must have to appear in the results.
- (Within a fandom) search for words within summaries.

The rule of thumb for using Flipper as a search engine:  
*If it's even relatively popular it's likely listed.*  
*If it's by a popular author it's also likely listed.*  
*If it's very new but good, it will likely appear within a couple weeks.*  
*If it's not popular and the author doesn't have popular stuff it's likely it won't appear in the database any time soon.*  
*If something is popular but you don't see it: either you've tagged it already or slash filter is interfering.*

Searched Fandom

☐ Non Crosses☐ Crossovers

Reload List (with filters applied)

☐ Only in current reclistSource Users: All

☐ Random fics6

☒ Page Size100

General FiltersTagsSlash FilterSort ParamsSettingsPatreon

Order by: MetascoreDirection: DESC

☒ Fandom Ignore☐ Slash Filter☐ Tags Filter

Min. Words60000☐ Metascore0☒ Dead fics☐ Tagged☒ Snoozed

Max. Words☐ FFN Faves0☐ Only Active☐ Only Complete☐ Liked Authors

?

☐ Use implied genre for search

+Genre Presence: Minimal

-Genre Presence: Medium

☒ No GenreRated: T+M

☒ +Genrehumor

...

☐ +Words

...

☐ -Genre

...


☐ -Words

...

☐ Id SearchFFN Fanfic

...

Once you've selected the options to search with and pressed the "**Reload**" button the search results will appear to the right. The elements of fic sheet in order of appearance:

- On the right of each fic page there is a block for genres and tags.  
Display mode can be changed by clicking on “tags” and “genres” respectively.
- Clicking on the green plus button  opens up tag selection interface where you can add one or more tags to the fic to organize your reading. Note that every tagged fic will disappear from default searches.  
There is a separate control option to see tagged fics (more later)

Note: by default the search results are separated into pages of 100.  
This can be changed by changing the “Page Size” in the filter options (or unticking the page size entirely)  
Stepping forwards and backwards between the pages can be done at the top via arrow controls.  
Note that yellow section is editable and you can set the exact page to go to and press Enter.

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