

News Section

Sorted: Old - New

Welcome!

Posted: 16th September 2017

- Andrew

Good taste dictates that every new blog and website needs to have a “News” section, and so behold the News section!

If you’ve managed to find this without finding any of my short stories — welcome! This site is where my short stories live. About four of them have been published so far, but more (many more) are in the works. Go read them! They’re good, people have told me, after a lot of persuasion and puppy-dog eyes. *Ardour* is the first one, and if you ask me, probably still the best. Where my *Ardour* fans at, or something.

Some people have noticed that *Ardour* and *Dragons of the North* have a few characters in common, and have asked me if that was just bare laziness, or if there’s a greater plan. Well, there’s a greater plan! No, even greater than that, in fact! All four of the stories take place in the same setting, and basically every story I have written and plan to write do so too. Hopefully, everything new I publish will peel back a little bit of the bardic curtain, and over a few more stories (maybe I’ll just do one more, who knows), some great big congealed heart will emerge over time.

Anyway, I’m planning on getting a good, edited, and a bit smart story out each month, so if you see it’s only taken me a week or two to write something, remember: those are the crap ones! If it takes months to get something out, its because the Mona Lisa is crawling out of my brain, busting it down Athena-style. That’ll be the good one, go read that.

That’s all from me. Check back here soon, or follow me on Twitter or Tumblr pr whatever.

- Andrew

More Stories

Posted: 23rd December 2017

- Andrew

I’ve released six new stories since the blog post last. I’d like to revise what I said earlier, they aren’t the bad ones, I think they’re actually quite good. Maybe not “busting it down Athena-style” good: I think the Athenian busting is yet to come. It’ll bust, one day. Who lets me write, oh dear god.

As a small early Christmas present, I thought I’d elaborate on *Eighth Peak*, since I think it resonated quite a bit with you all. Obviously it’s a bit of a sister

to *The Foot of the Peak*, which bforth78 helped me write enough that I'm basically gonna call him co-writer. So really, most of your questions should go to bforth78, not the idiot at the keyboard before you.

Eighth Peak has a lot to say on its own I think too, and if I'll be indulged a little bit (I mean clearly you like my writing a *bit* if you're here), I have a bit to say about what it has a lot to say.

It's strange to write in third-person present in a story with a single character, given that you're necessarily writing at least a bit about yourself, and almost certainly after a lot of reflection. It's hard to know if anything you've written appeals to anyone else until it lands — unless you're me, in which case the positive reception it received is just according to keikaku (which means plan). I'd be very interested to know if people saw that ending coming. I wrote most of it in 2 hours, because I had the very beginning and the very end in my mind and I needed to build that sandcastle in a blizzard before the tide came in too far, or something. People seem completely split on if it came out of nowhere or if it was obvious from the start, which represents gross failure on my part, since mediocrity is probably better, and might sell more. Still want to see what people thought, maybe even get some numbers.

Anyway, if you love writing, write something like that yourself. Pick an ending and a start, set yourself a time or word limit, and then break your dishwasher accidentally. See what comes out of it!

I'm not going to push one of these out any more just to notify people I'm writing, I'll leave it to the important events, so until then, everyone enjoy your Christmas or your holidays or non-denominational events or whatever.

Feliz Navidad!
- Andrew

Stories Like “A Further Than Here Place”

Posted: 1st August, 2019
- Andrew

So, uh, that was big.

I assume most of the people reading here have just come here from Kleptofurious's video about *A Further Than Here Place*. If so, welcome! If you've been reading my output since *Ardour*, or any of the (oh christ) 23 stories — play nice! If I see any toxicity, I'll be forced to make a news post about it. I'll call in an artillery strike if I have to!

There's no official reading guide and tempers have somehow been forged hot hot *hot* about the best way to read these stories, so I thought I'd extend a helping hand and do some long overdue actual clean-up of my stories.

If all you know is *AFTHP*, first of all, actually read it, please, crying face. It's a good video, and it's almost a better story in text, I promise.

Secondly, did you know its a sequel to another story? You better! Kleptofurious brought it up a ton! You should read it too, though, there's a lot in *AFTHP* that actually comes from other stories.

If all you care about is *AFTHP* (hey, I'm the same nowadays), then make sure you read *Eighth Peak...* first? Or second, maybe. Honestly, I don't know which enhances the other the better, but if you only read one, you're only getting a few of the ventricles of the heart. After *8P*, a few of the characters turn up again:

- Drewan reappears in *The Storms* for a few lines. It's a shameless cameo, but if "sad man who almost dies in a mountain" gets you screaming in the theatre, motherfucking scream away.
- Otis and Mana are from *Diechology* just as Big K said, but in their Kleptofuriousness, they left out that there's a whole mini-series of O&M, pretty much: see them also in *The Foot of the Peak* and *Blade One Blade Two* (read after!).
- Epirachelli has actually never appeared in any story before. The crooked-smile, realm-travelling man with an umbrella in *Fairy Tales For After Grandmother Dies*, in *Money In The Hand*, and in *Other Matter* is, therefore, a completely unrelated character.

Before you shower me with praise, remember that a few of those stories are written by bforth78, so always make sure you check the byline.

All new readers, I hope you enjoy. Once you've worked your way through those and obviously loved them more than Shakespeare and another Shakespeare put together, the stories as a whole start at *Ardour*. Get puzzle piece assembling!

- Andrew

Darker In The Day, or Something

Posted: 1st September, 2019

- Andrew

A lot of people really want me to write a sequel to *A Further Place Than Here*, so let me say first of all, I'm not going to write a sequel to *AFPTH* for a while. Nothing against the idea, the well is just dry. The next story *is* up, however: *Darker In The Day*. It's very different, but I hope you enjoy it anyway.

Before the online alligators tear me apart, however, I'll throw you some morsels: some *author commentary*. On *AFPTH*. Hold the applause!

8P was meant to feel a little cosy and comforting, which I think is why I felt it had to be a one-hander. Being in a cottage in the woods? Awful, there's no supermarkets and everything smells of cows. Being in that cottage under the rain, tea in hand and a storm outside? An absolute delight.

AFPTH had to be lonelier than a satellite cast into space, however, which is why its a huge ensemble piece. I've heard a lot of people say it's the Endgame (or other Avengers film) of the whole Arasur setting, and that's insane, it hasn't

even got Tom Hiddleston in it, but I guess it isn't not un-anti-that. I've heard some people say that the whole series has this lonely core, and I suppose it does, purposefully and otherwise. *AFPTH* is definitely that. It isn't just that it lacks a main character, I tried to make it have an anti-main character. Everyone you love is here, but no one is actually *important* to the piece. There's a huge hole in it, like a hole in a semiconductor, moving through *AFPTH* like a main character but without any actual object being present. If I had to come down hard, it's probably the thing I've written that came from somewhere in my body closest to the heart.

Do you read it as if this negative space can be a character itself, or do you invert the whole story, attributing agency where none purposefully exists and removing it from the characters who *are* actually present? Most people have only encountered the story from one of those points of view (and, especially in the latter camp, bounced off it hard like a high-speed trampoline collision (sorry, fanfic writers!)), so maybe try having a look at it from the other if you hadn't thought to before.

Yeah, how's *that* for some criticism? Kleptofurious is all "magic system this" and "gorgeous intertwining of viewpoints and a crushing longing for connection and a human home", but never "maybe read the story a little different", like an AMATERUR.

Not meaning to diss the fanfic writers: hold on for something exciting about that soon...

Thanks to everyone for all the love you've given me about all the stories. Thanks also for actually going back and reading the ones I told you to! The web traffic data doesn't lie: the kids are still literate!

- Andrew

Announcing a "The Writing Team"

Posted: 8th January, 2020

- The Writing Team

The rumours are true: hold your applause. Arasur is getting a few new faces, joining me and bforth. We've recruited this (let's be frank) motley bunch from some of the greatest fanfic writers that have entered the orbit of the site and have been writing some excellent stuff for some time now. You'll recognise them from *...and The Wild Ones* if you're *really* in deep, and if so you've probably read some of their works around. This whole project is blessed with a community far greater than its original creator, so its about time the plebs got put to use.

They are (drumroll please, stamp those feet, slap those knees):

LadyInYellow (she/her): hiiiiiii! so excited to be a part of this finally! im emily :D ive been reading arasur for a IOOOOOOOOng time (;-;) and its so cool to have a chance to be able to actually contribute. my main mission is to make drewmana canon its going to happen ur going to regret this immediately ahahahaha. *Favourite story?* afpth easy

BlueFireRedFire (he/they): Hello! I'm BFRF, which everyone pronounces "Blue-Red". I wrote "Wild Ones" a *little* bit, but really I'm known most for "Angels Above" and "The Sword Before The Stone". I'm really excited to see how I can refine some of those themes and really expand the depth of the side and one-and-done characters of Arasur. If anyone wants to read a hundred thousand words on the spider in the cave in "Money in the hand", then I think I'm the guy to watch. *Favourite story?* "More fairytales for after grandmother dies".

Prithzee (she/her): hi everyone p here. i wrote red in the face a few years ago, but i guess im best known for being around. did a lot of editing on wild ones and almost thirty other fics (if u can believe i promise when it matters i write gooder). like a lot of u arasur means so much to me and i promise to be a thoughtful custodian of this beautiful world. *Favourite story?* the whole is much greater than the sum of its parts in my opinion.

Wow, what a lovely bunch of sycophants! The first publication we put out is going to be a hagiography of Saint Andrew, it seems. In all seriousness, we're kicking around some great ideas (maybe even including canonising some of the best fics by these writers). I'm sure our The Writing Team isn't done growing yet, and this is just going to be the start of something brilliant. I have faith.

Athena style.

- Andrew

An Update On Older Stories

Posted: 30th May, 2020

- Andrew

Recent events in the world have made almost everyone look inwards at their own principles and previous artistic work, and we've been no exception. We are naturally horrified both at the circumstances that led to recent peaceful protests, and also at the excess of the police violence to the protests. The works of Arasur have always had diversity and an appreciation for the beauty of every human life at their heart, and of course we wholeheartedly condemn all racism and bigotry. Personally, I've always noticed and been glad that the fanbase of Arasur has been incredibly diverse, in race, in sexuality, and in effectively all ways you could draw lines you want. However, for the few racists who somehow enjoy my works: either look inwards, or fuck off.

These intense explosions haven't come from anywhere: they are spawned by a whole culture that exacerbates tensions, and that we can contribute to even without intent. As artists, it is our responsibility to reckon with our previous works, and attempt to make amends where we may have fallen short of decency in the past.

A lot of heat has fallen on *The Foot of the Peak* and some of the other works by bforth. While I don't think any of these stories were written with bigoted intent, its impossible to not see *FP* in a harder light nowadays. Now, bforth has been a personal friend of mine for a long time, and while he shies from the limelight I

can promise as much as I can promise that he is a huge believer in humanism and equity, and any harm he may have caused horrifies us both equally.

So, we're not going to host *The Foot of the Peak* on this site any more. Nothing gets removed from the internet forever if you're desperate to re-read them, but it just isn't right for us to be actively promoting it ourselves any more.

Temporarily, bforth's other works are going to be hidden: contentious passages may be tweaked, and external agents will make sure that they're brought up to a standard that reflects our own morals and truly represents bforth's intent and soul.

A lot of harassment has fallen on bforth and the other members of the team. First of all, I personally review every word that ever appears on this site, so don't blame the writers, a lot of whom did nothing to deserve this and are in places where such harm could do a lot of real harm. Give me the shit, I'll handle the shit. Secondly, bforth is going to be stepping back from his projects for the moment, and focusing on getting the more important parts of his life in order.

Keep loving each other, and thanks for enjoying the stuff by the other writers on the The Writing Team. It's not just been this, I've had some other things in the works keeping me from writing (some Arasur related, some not), but I'll be back soon.

- Andrew

New Stories

Posted: 6th June, 2020
- The Writing Team

We have some new stories up: *Red In The Face* has been migrated from FF.net to here (our first canonisation :D), while *The Rapier and The Crow* has been published just today.

LadyInYellow: i wrote the rapier and the crow, and it was so much fun to write with andrew and everyone else :3 i think everyone wanted to see more of tomas, our favourite badass walker of the world ;w; and ze has such a fun voice to write thru. a lot of villains and other elements that were excited to bring back later are also making theyre debut here, so this is one you really wont want to miss!!! thanks so much, everyone

- The Writing Team

Announcement on the Future of Arasur

Posted: 18th May, 2021
- The Writing Team

We've got good news and bad to share today.

The first, most important thing to say is that Andrew has passed responsibility for this website and the Arasur cycle of stories more broadly to the other members of the Writing Team.

Andrew: There's a lot of reasons for my move. I've been under a lot of stress, and been pursuing one too many projects and leads for Arasur. The biggest reason is that I think that I'm not the right person to be leading these stories onwards. I've done almost everything I'd want to with this big, messy, and beautiful project. A lot of people think there's more to draw from this well, and I agree, but I'm not the person to draw them any more. It's been the honour of a lifetime to write almost fifty short stories and have them avidly read by such a talented community. I want everyone to be on good behaviour around the other talented writers contributing to Arasur, and to keep reading the very, very good work by LadyInYellow, BlueRed, and Prithee. It's as canon as mine!

Thanks for everything, Andrew. The good news is that Andrew isn't GONE gone. Grandfather Arasur is still going to be around, behind the scenes, coordinating some super exciting things that are in the works! There's been a lot of talks about wider media networks, PHYSICAL BOOKS, expanding the writing team, and maybe even moving into comics?

We know people will be sad that Andrew is leaving his responsibilities, but we promise there has never ever ever been a better time to be an Arasur fan.

Easily the biggest announcement we have to make is that we are in talks to publish a future cycle of Arasur works: *The Mendicant*. The stories that will be featured in this big linked story will of course be published here first, as well as the existing Arasur stories that matter and even some fics that the community accepts as basically-canon. This is an absolutely massive step that Andrew has set up for us, and is still working on, and we are so hecking excited!

Much love from everyone at the Writing Team!

Welcome New Writers!

Posted: 24th July, 2021
- *The Writing Team*

Work proceeds apace on *The Mendicant*! It being such a huge opportunity, we really want to make sure we get it right before we share these things we're super excited to show you all :D if you're disappointed at the pace of writing, we really feel you, but the wait will be incredibly worth it.

The big thing to announce, although I'm sure many of you know it already, is that a few more faces have joined the Writing Team. We always planned to expand the group, and we're super thrilled to have these new writers working on *The Mendicant* and getting some more stories produced.

One of things that attracted all of us (writing and reading) to the original setting was the sheer breadth of stories that could exist alongside each other, all intertwined and improving each other by proximity. It's important to us that

everyone can see themselves in this setting, and that all the stories looking for somewhere to settle have a home within Arasur.

These new faces are, for the record, **blue_pogo**, **intrasuria**, **leijoNep**, and **Yorjaran**. A lot of them are well known in the fic community, and have already been helping and contributing a ton to *Mendicant* and the other projects that are in the works.

Much love and be good to each other: keep checking here for news we'll have a lot to share with you all soon!

- Writing Team

Our Response

Posted: 3rd March, 2024

- bluefireredfire

Over the last few years, misinformation has proliferated about *The Mendicant*, and unacceptable, targeted harassment has been directed at the writing team for what we see as spurious and regrettable reasons. We didn't want to have to write anything addressing this, but the storm has reached such a point that we can no longer appear to be silent.

Work has never stopped on *The Mendicant*. Contrary to the allegations, the Writing Team has never accepted funding nor sought funding from an outside source. The original author was given an advance that was then given to the present Writing Team.

These funds were not spent "personally": they were used to get writers, new and old, out of genuinely horrific personal situations. We have several POC writers and almost everyone on the team is queer, and while we all face discrimination in some form or another, the writers being accused were trapped in situations that could only be described as brutal. Even under the most cynical interpretation possible, the liberation of these team members allowed them to keep writing for *The Mendicant*, which is clearly a use of the funds for the purpose of furthering the project.

Money from adverts on the site has always gone to hosting the site and nothing more, as far as we are aware. Andrew still has control over the AdSense accounts, so we can't answer any questions on that.

We obviously know that former writer Peter has been selling the work of writers on this project without our consent, a practice which we obviously condemn. We are shocked that Peter, who were considered a friend, responded with such vitriol when we tried to figure out why he was doing this and what legal rights he had to do such a thing. To address the actual salient points in his recent statements:

"[member of the Writing Team] purposefully conspired to reduce the public output to 0": this is patently false, given that we have released

several well-received short stories in the time after Andrew's departure. We frequently found Peter's work to be substandard in his time with us, and we believed incorporating the best aspects of it into *The Mendicant* and other stories and projects was a compromise Peter was happy with. We never received any formal complaints from him about this. We certainly have made no active effort to reduce our output: that would be counterproductive at best and an active betrayal of our fandom at worst.

“the compilation of the earliest Arasur works was compiled alongside [member of the Writing Team] and Andrew, who still held the rights”:

one member of the Writing Team was indeed contacted to do this, but that particular project was quickly deemed to be unfeasible for her to take on at this time. Peter presents his own project as a continuation, but this was done entirely on his own initiative, and possibly directly subverting our attempts to work alongside him. There may even be a very serious copyright issue, as to our knowledge Peter did not gain permission from Andrew for this new initiative.

Deletion of earlier stories: claims that active censorship of works pre-Writing Team are absolutely baseless. bforth's early stories were removed as part of an on-going project to look at all parts of our works and continuously improve them to our moral and editorial standards. We have never hidden our shame at aspects of previous parts of Arasur, values we do not share or avow ourselves, and it is public knowledge that previous works by bforth have fallen short of these standards.

It would be very improper to respond to Peter's personally-motivated disparagement of the creative direction. We are doing what we always have, and what Peter originally agreed with: expanding this setting dear to all of our hearts in directions that matter to us and to our fans. There is great latitude for creative disagreement, and it is regrettable that Peter felt that he had to leave for such a small reason. There is no way that this justifies the vitriol of Peter and his followers as directed against the Writing Team.

- Writing Team

Other Projects

Posted: 3rd December, 2024
- bforth78

Hi, everyone! Andrew again.

I'll keep my section short. I'm still thinking of writing some new stories again for Arasur, but I have nothing to share just yet. Expect them to appear silently, and deadlyly, just at some point when you refresh the *Story* page, if they ever do.

I have a new writing project! While *The Mendicant* isn't happening any more, I do have an actual, tangible book being wrought into the world as we speak:

Ascensure. Some small prequel stories, as well as the first draft of Chapter 1 are uploaded: if it smells good, slap yourselves down a pre-order. Does that even make sense?

To answer the question I get asked the most: feel free to disregard *Red in the Face*, *Rapier/Crow*, *Ice Hatchet*, and whatever other stories you want as “non-canon,” if it helps you sleep at night. Ignore *Ardour* and *8P*, if you want. This isn’t the real world: these people only matter as much as you want them to.

Peace out, stay in school

- Andrew