

There's a Fan Fic for That...

A Freeform Scenario by Kat Jones

There's a Fan Fic for That... is a game about creating live action “fan fiction” stories. Set in alternate universes and crossing multiple canons the stories can be funny, romantic, or even angsty. Part of the fun of the game should come from trying to remain “in character” even when Characters are put into strange or ridiculous situations. No prior knowledge of fan fiction is necessary to play this game. It's all about putting familiar characters into unusual and interesting situations.

Roles:

There are three different roles in *There's a Fan Fic for That...* Characters, Readers, and Author.

Characters: When players are acting out the characters in the fan fic they will be role-playing as Characters.

Readers: When players are not role-playing they will be watching the fic unfold and acting the role of the Readers. At the end of each Chapter the readers will help the Author decide the next scene, shift the tone, adjust relationships and make suggestions about what they want to see. Readers should offer enthusiasm, suggestions and perhaps constructive criticism.

The Author: While the Author fills the standard Game Master role they should act as more of a director and actively collaborate with the other players. The Author should set the scene for the Characters, give them clues about what the Readers want to see, the mood, the prior action, and then let the Characters have at it. Try to give prompts for action rather than an explicit narrative, give the Characters some freedom to generate the narrative through play. The Author will be responsible for calling for Chapter Breaks and soliciting feedback from the Readers.

**If you're playing with two groups the Author will need to make sure there's time for both fics to be played. Divide the time evenly between the two groups and stick to the schedule! This may mean

shorter scenes and less scenes, but you want to give everyone a chance to be a Character.**

Gender-swapping, historical accuracy, and queer content:

This is fan fiction so anything goes! (as long as its not Out Of Character...) If you draw a character and would like to swap their gender—feel free. Don't be overly concerned about making your setting historically accurate, or even overly plausible. The setting should add flavor to the story, not limit your creativity. Fan fic is all about queer content. Your in-game romantic relationships should not be constrained by gender, species, canon, or monogamy. Don't let gender, cannon, or historical accuracy constrain the roles your Characters take on in the fic. Focus on what will be the most fun to play and best reflects the personalities of the Characters, rather than what makes the most logical sense. This is fan fic after all.

Sexual Content and Safety:

You and your players should establish a rating for each story (General audience, Teen and Up, Mature). Sexual content is totally not required and does not need to be included in any of the stories you create. But if all players are comfortable feel free to include it in your story. Make sure you have a code for stopping a story if things are getting uncomfortable for any reason and set boundaries for what players are comfortable with, such as how to simulate kissing, whether any touching is allowed, etc.

The “Cut & Brake” technique is one I find simple and effective. If someone does something you’re not too sure about, that pushes your boundaries a little too much, say “Brake”. They should immediately tone down, back out a bit, but play still goes on. If you feel like things have gotten out of hand, or you feel scared or very confused, say “Cut”. All play stops immediately, and the group should be quiet and listen to whoever cut the game. Be supportive, find out what the problem is. Don’t continue unless everyone feels safe and wants to go on.

Playing the Game

Step 1: Create Characters

Draw 2 cards from the Slash pack. To become a Character the card should fit the following criteria:

- 1) All players should know who the character is.
- 2) One of the players is willing to play the character.

If the character on the card doesn't match the criteria discard and draw again. This process should go fairly quickly. Once you have chosen two starter characters choose 1- 2 additional characters from the cannon to be the remaining Characters (Rule 1 and 2 still apply).

Step 2: Choose an Alternate Universe (AU)

If you have 3-5 players you should choose 1 AU to start. If you have 6+ players you should divide into two groups and choose 2 additional cannons with corresponding Characters.

Step 3: Create Relationships

AUs come with a list of relationships, sit in a circle and create relationships between the Characters. Each Character should have a relationship with at least two other Characters. Now add at least one romantic relationship (you can definitely add more!) between a pair of Characters.

Step 4: Generate Locations

Choose 3 locations where the action for your fic will be set. Locations should be related to the AU. At the beginning of each chapter the Author should announce where the Chapter is taking place.

Step 5: Choose some Tropes

Each AU comes with a list of tropes. Choose at least 1 and up to 3. These tropes are common elements in fan fiction. In game they should help drive action and give inspiration for scenes. If a player has an additional idea for a Trope feel free to add it in.

Step 6: Create a Summary

A summary should give a general idea of the kind of story you want to tell. Try to indicate mood and

maybe a very sketchy idea of what will happen in the fic. You don't want to be too specific since things might change during play, but think of the Summary as something to guide action rather than fully determine it. A summary shouldn't be more than 3 sentences long. Here's an example from fan fic: "Crossover flashfic. Yuukan Club encounter a certain binge-eating boxer while dressed to infiltrate a church."

Step 7: Set up a Chapter

The Author should set the scene for the Chapter: what is the setting, which Characters are present, what does the Author want to see in this Chapter. Just like the summary, these should be general ideas, like "Uther gets suspicious" or a title that hints at the action "A celebration turns to horror."

Step 8: Call a Chapter Break

The Author should call for a Chapter Break when they want to end a scene. Try not to let scenes run too long. It's totally fun to end scenes on cliff-hangers and leave the Readers wanting more.

Step 9: Get Comments from the Readers

The Author should solicit comments from the Readers about what new Chapters they want to see. Maybe they want to see a particular Character's POV (have the character give a monologue), maybe there is something mentioned during a Chapter that they want to explore in more detail. Readers and the Author should work together to make sure all Characters get some attention, that the fic doesn't get too full of side plots and that relationships and Tropes are put into play.

Didn't like how a Chapter went? The Readers and Author can decide they want to do a Re-Write and play through the Chapter again.

Repeat Steps 7-9 until your story comes to a satisfying conclusion OR you run out of time, leaving a frustratingly unfinished Work In Progress (WIP).

MOOOORE Please??

If you've ended your first story and still have the time and desire to play more here are a few options:

- 1) Choose new Characters
- 2) Choose a new AU
- 3) Re-Mix your story by changing up the relationships and Tropes. Or play through some of the same scenes with additional new ones.

SO MANY LISTS!!!

Alternate Universes, Relationships and Tropes

Romantic Relationships:

3 Players: Choose @ least 1

4 Players: Choose @ least 1

5 Players: Choose @ least 2

*****For more than 6 players split into 2 groups.*****

Unresolved Sexual Tension

Forbidden Love

Old Flames

Just Married

Former Lovers

Crush/Object of Crush

Lovers

One-Time Fling

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#### **Coffee Shop AU:**

***\*\* All Characters should choose a role, then give it an adjective\*\****

Manager

Employee

Customer

#### **Coffee Shop Relationships:**

Siblings

Parent and Child

Friends through thick and thin

Frenemies

Secret Friends

More than Friends

Rivals

**Coffee Shop Tropes:**

Blind Date  
Interrupted  
Dating Other People Even Though they Belong Together  
Snowed In  
Rivals to Lovers  
Breaking the Fourth Wall  
Anguished Declaration of Love

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**High School AU Relationships:**

Siblings  
Parent and Child  
Friends through thick and thin  
Frenemies  
Secret Friends  
More than Friends  
Rivals  
Bully and Victim  
Authority figure and ne'er do well  
Undercover cop and the one who knows  
Creepy outcasts

**High School Tropes:**

School Dance  
Passing Notes  
Fish Out of Water  
Water Fight  
Fake Dating  
Interrupted  
Snowed In  
Rivals to Lovers  
Breaking the Fourth Wall  
Anguished Declaration of Love  
Geeky Turn-On

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**Old West AU Relationships:**

Sheriff/deputy  
Ranch Hands  
Miners  
Supervisor/Employee  
Grew up together back east  
Mail-order bride and groom  
Crime boss and toady

## Outlaws

### **Old West Tropes:**

Accidental Baby acquisition  
Bound Together  
Presumed Dead  
24 hours to live  
Amnesia  
Drunken Confession of Love  
Love Potion  
Matchmaker  
Domesticity  
Snowed In  
Rivals to Lovers  
Breaking the Fourth Wall  
Anguished Declaration of Love

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### **Future/Space AU Relationships:**

Patient mentor and arrogant protege  
Space pirates  
Hotshot rivals  
Android/Creator  
Former enemies  
Grizzled space veteran and wide-eyed greenhorn  
Fast-talking con artist and stoic problem-solver  
Friends through thick and thin  
Captain/Crewmember

### **Future/Space Tropes:**

Giant Robot  
Road/Space Trip  
Presumed Dead  
24 hours to live  
Amnesia  
Drunken Confession of Love  
Love Potion  
Matchmaker  
Domesticity  
Snowed In (Meteor Shower??)  
Rivals to Lovers  
Breaking the Fourth Wall  
Anguished Declaration of Love  
Geeky Turn-On