coming home

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coming home

by WinterEnchantress

Summary

After Double Life ends, Etho can finally come back to Hermitcraft - to his friends, his family. To Bdubs. Home.

or ethubs fluff once again. reunions and soft boys in love. i wish you all a very pleasant 'etho and bdubs know about ethubs'

Notes

i felt like i needed to write some ethubs fluff to celebrate the ccs finding out about fandom and this ship lmao. personally, i find it very funny and idc as long as my fics don't get linked/shown anywhere so plz don't do it coz i will delete them

anyway, enjoy this short ethubs fluff

See the end of the work for more notes

The moment Etho opens his eyes, he knows he's back home.

Now, home used to mean any server he was currently working on, one of his private worlds depending on the mood, but ever since...well, ever since Hermitcraft is home, no matter what.

Etho spent the last few months on his personal server, before participating in Double Life, and even though he doesn't yet have a base on Hermitcraft, it's already home.

It's not about a base now, it's about so much more.

His body is still faintly aching, and there's an echo of Joel's heartbeat behind his, but it fades quickly - the bonds dissolve the second you both die, and Etho trusts Grian to keep it like that, there's no reason to be bound to Joel anymore.

Now, if his soulmate was someone else, Etho would be more willing to keep the bond, but as it is...

"Etho!" comes Tango's voice, bright and happy.

He laughs and turns around to see his friend, his hair flaming in excitement. Tango is different here than he was on Double Life, and Etho gladly hugs him, quick and easy. Tango is warm, decked out in Netherite, and there are builds *everywhere*. Hermitcraft is amazing as always.

"How you doing' man? Gonna build a base?" Tango asks with a smile, and Etho falls into the easy interaction.

He loves the Life servers as much as the next man, but there's the ease and comfort of being on Hermitcraft with his friends, his family. Etho explains his plans to Tango, and then he's off, exploring and planning. Hermitcraft is relaxing, and there's so much to do, so much to build and plan for...

Etho is very much behind most people, but he has a plan already - Bdubs' monolith is looking awfully cozy and inviting, and he knows the man won't mind him visiting or even living there for a bit.

Bdubs himself is out somewhere, probably gathering resources, so Etho sneaks into the basement as quietly as he can. It's a work of art, not that he was expecting anything less from Bdubs, even if it's full of mobs - damp and dark, sort of like a cave.

It's so very much *Bdubs*, even if it's not the side of himself the man likes to show to others. Etho knows better, and he gladly settles down in a small cave, starting to work.

It doesn't take Bdubs long to come home, and Etho's heart starts to pound when he hears the other man walk down the stairs.

"Etho?! Etho!" Bdubs yells, laughter in his voice.

Etho laughs as well, and he opens his arms instinctively, Bdubs throwing himself at him the next second. He spins them around, safe in the knowledge that it's just *them* here, and Bdubs is warm and solid in his arms.

His hair is back to dark brown, just like his eyes. He has a moss cloak on him, soft-looking and warm, and his newly-materialised tail is swishing in happiness behind him. Etho's heart settles when he looks at the man in his arms, finally at peace after all the turbulence and reluctant disappointment of Double Life.

"Good to see you, Bdubs," he says warmly, and Bdubs is already pulling his mask down.

Etho doesn't tense, more than used to this - Bdubs is the only person allowed this, the only person who gets to see maskless Etho this much, the only one who can touch his mask as well.

He just laughs and obediently leans down, meeting Bdubs in a kiss. It's a bit messy, as they're both smiling, but it's warm and familiar, and Etho sighs, leaning into Bdubs' arms around his waist, into the other man's body.

"There you are," Bdubs mutters, strangely soft. "It's been a while."

"We saw each other yesterday," Etho points out dryly, but he can't stop smiling, his hands cupping Bdubs' face, gently stroking the scales and spines on his cheekbones.

Bdubs smacks his arm. "Shut up," he mutters, before pulling Etho into yet another kiss. "It was different."

"Sure was," he agrees, closing his eyes.

The other man holds him up easily, for once staying quiet, though Etho can hear his tail moving in happiness. It makes his heart warm, arms sliding to wrap around Bdubs' neck. They stand like that for a long while, just soaking everything up.

Etho likes his space, his solitude, but Bdubs is different, and he missed him the most out of all the Hermits - and it's saying something, as Etho *really* missed his friends.

"You gonna live here now, mister? In my basement, like some gremlin?" Bdubs asks eventually, leaning back.

Etho snorts and lets him go, before taking a look at the start of his base. It's a small space, but he already has a vision, and it's going to be a cosy space for sure. As good of a starter base as any, to be honest, and probably more thrown-together than most of his previous ones.

"Why, you don't want me here?" he can't help but tease.

Bdubs rolls his eyes. "Shut up! You're terrible, really, shouldn't be allowed here. You're gonna have to pay me rent!"

He laughs and gets back to work, Bdubs bothering him the whole time. It's just how they work, and Etho really missed this. Even when shenanigans happen and they're left chasing each other around, it's *nice*. He's not alone anymore, and Bdubs is certainly loud enough, in spite of his small statue.

To be fair, Bdubs isn't *that* short, there are certainly shorter Hermits around, but he just gets so enraged whenever Etho teases him... He can't help himself.

"This is gonna take a while," Bdubs comments once it's close to the night, watching as Etho covers the stone walls in planks, by the entrance.

He already mined out some more space, and Bdubs took to sprawling on any available surface, his tail idly slapping against the stone - lazy, but endearing distracting.

Etho sighs and looks around properly. There's still much to do, and he's excited about the work, but it is late, and he's still a bit tired from Double Life. Besides, he knows Bdubs won't let him work well into the night, even if he enjoys dark, damp spaces.

"Time to sleep," Bdubs announces just as he thinks that, and Etho can't help but smile. "You can't sleep here, it's a bit of a dump, no offence, so you're coming with me, mister."

"How very forward of you," Etho teases.

Bdubs just rolls his eyes and starts tugging him up the stairs, many mobs watching them from the sidelines. They do make Etho a tiny bit uneasy, but Bdubs doesn't seem to care, and it *is* his house at the end of the day. He's led all the way to the small bedroom, admitting the interior the whole time - Bdubs is getting *really* good at this, and he can't help but explore more the next day.

Etho showers first, because he's uncomfortably sweaty from the work he did, as Bdubs changes the bedding in that time, prepares them a simple supper as well. They take turns eating and showering, and it's so much like Last Life, but *better* too, and Etho is happy, full, and content when he finally sprawls in the bed.

It smells like Bdubs and the outside, and Etho moves to the side to allow Bdubs to get in as well, the smaller man latching onto him immediately. Etho's fluffy tail wraps around Bdubs', the other man letting out a small chirp, and then Budbs' face is in his neck, and Etho curls around him properly.

This is how they slept in Last Life, and Etho really missed it during Double Life and everything.

"You better sleep soon," Bdubs orders, already sleepy. "I'm waking you up bright and early."

"Yes, honey," Etho deadpans, but drops a kiss to the top of his head.

Bdubs makes a satisfied sound and promptly falls asleep. Etho follows soon after. It's the best sleep he gets in months.

End Notes

hope you liked it! i'd love to see like 2 comments underneath. tell me how u feel about etho and bdubs knowing, what you thought of the fic, all of it. i may write a longer ethubs fluff fic later, we shall see how much you want it /j

as always, love ya and see ya next time \aleph

Please drop by the archive and comment to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!