

hello my old heart

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/40638465) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/40638465>.

Rating:	General Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	M/M
Fandom:	Hermitcraft SMP , 3rd Life Last Life SMP Series
Relationship:	John Booko/EthosLab , John Booko & EthosLab
Character:	John Booko BdoubleO100 , EthosLab (Video Blogging RPF)
Additional Tags:	Hermitcraft Season 9 , Cuddling & Snuggling , Literal Sleeping Together , Getting Together , Fluff , Morning Cuddles , First Kiss , Cryptid Bdubs , Fox Hybrid EthosLab (Video Blogging RPF)
Language:	English
Collections:	Hermitcraft Book , Completed stories I've read
Stats:	Published: 2022-07-29 Words: 1,346 Chapters: 1/1

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by [WinterEnchantress](#)

Summary

Bdubs goes looking for Etho in his basement, since he has a gift for him. He doesn't find him there, but he *does* find him somewhere else. And maybe finds (or rediscovers) something else as well.

or ethubs early mornings and talking without many words

Notes

its just a soft thing that evolved from a discord drabble because people (and me) melted over it so much. enjoy!

See the end of the work for more [notes](#)

"Etho?!" he calls out as soon as he enters the basement.

It's cold and damp, but sounds carry easily, and Bdubs knows that Etho can easily hear him, even all the way down there. Still, he's not replying.

"Etho! Come on, I don't wanna go all the way down there!"

Bdubs enjoys cold and damp spaces, thank you very much, but he's *tired* and it's late - he just wants to give Etho his gift and go to sleep, maybe after taking a long, warm shower.

When no one replies, Bdubs rolls his eyes, but goes downstairs, muttering all the while. His spines rattle, tail lashing in irritation - Etho so loves to annoy him, but even this is a bit much. The mobs stay away, probably being able to sense just how dangerous his spines are, but Bdubs isn't happy anyway.

"I've been calling for you for-"

He stops in his tracks, looking around. Etho's base is very cosy, all woody and warm, and there's even a bed in a small nook. It's empty.

"Oh, come on," Bdubs breathes.

Etho isn't out mining, Bdubs knows that because he could smell the other man by the entrance - Etho passed by the door recently, which means he's home. Or well, he *was*.

Bdubs groans, but decides to just leave it. His gift will be a bit more stale the next day, but he honestly wasn't expecting Etho to be gone. He knows the other man isn't the best at sleeping, but he's a homebody and doesn't want to be out for long periods of time.

He climbs all the way up and just ends up throwing all his things around - he will clean it later. A bath sounds heavenly, and Bdubs stays there for way longer than he should, but he's relaxed and sleepy when he finally stumbles into his bedroom.

Only...his bed isn't empty.

Bdubs' heart does something that is probably bad for his health, jumping in his chest, but Etho is laying in his bed, curled around Bdubs' pillow, his white tail wrapped around him.

"Oh, Etho," he breathes.

It's been months now, but Bdubs still remembers Last Life, and it's almost an instinct to slide into the bed next to the other man. Etho doesn't disappoint - for such a mysterious (to others) man, he's very clingy, at least towards Bdubs.

Almost immediately, Etho is curled on his chest, fluffy ears tickling Bdubs' jaw, making small sleepy sounds.

"dubs? 's that you?" Etho asks sleepily, and Bdubs chuckles, before pressing a small kiss between his ears.

"Who else, you dingus?" he asks, fondness dripping from his words.

Etho makes a satisfied sound and pushes even closer to him, his fluffy tail wrapping around Bdubs'. He makes sure to stay still, so that his spines don't hurt Etho, but the other man seems fearless.

"Relax," Etho groans. "I trust you."

Oh.

Bdubs swallows heavily and wraps his arms around Etho, pulling the other man closer. It's warm and safe, and the bed smells like *them* again, and the feral creature in Bdubs' chest relaxes, letting out broken purrs.

His bedmate hums, and the last thing Bdubs feels before falling asleep is a small kiss being pressed against his neck. He falls asleep smiling.

It's been a while since he slept in the same bed as Etho, but Bdubs adjust naturally, and he's not surprised to find himself pinned to the bed when he wakes up - Etho has a habit of laying on top of him or just wrapping himself fully around Bdubs, as a way to keep him in place. It's awfully endearing.

This isn't Last Life, however, and Bdubs doesn't have to immediately get up and *do* stuff, so he can just lay there, Etho's face pressed against his neck, Bdubs' tail wrapped around the man's calf.

Maybe they're *both* clingy.

It's a nice morning, though Bdubs can hear that it's raining. It makes sense, as Xisuma warned them about allowing the server some rain, as a way of balancing the climate. Most of Bdubs' work right now is outside, so he's in no hurry to get up.

He can't really see Etho, as the other man has him well-pinned to the bed, but it doesn't matter. Bdubs can just enjoy the warmth and weight of him, soft and familiar, though it's never been this gentle in Last Life.

He's still not sure why they never spoke about Last Life, why he allowed Etho to stay away and never tried to breach the subject. Bdubs knows him, he knows how much he probably kept bottled inside, how he probably felt when Bdubs died... Etho can play at being emotionless, but Bdubs *knows* him, and he knows how soft and vulnerable the other man is inside.

Instead of pressing, Bdubs allowed Etho his space, and he regrets it now - they wasted so much time. Right now, with Etho in his bed, in his arms, it's pretty clear that the other man never really let Last Life go, never really forgot about what happened between them.

This time, Bdubs won't let him run away.

"Morning, sleeping beauty," he says as soon as he hears Etho's breathing change. He's so easy to read, his Etho.

The other man stiffens immediately, because Etho doesn't being caught unaware, and Bdubs is pretty sure he was just sleep deprived when he crawled into Bdubs' bed instead of his own. But there's a reason why he chose *Bdubs'* bed, and he's not about to let this go.

"Bdubs," Etho says, voice hoarse.

He smiles, squeezing him a bit, until the tension drains from Etho's shoulders, and the other man drops back on top of him, curling up a bit. They stay in silence for a while, because Bdubs can be patient, and sometimes Etho needs some time to think.

"So," Etho says. "I'm guessing you wanna talk."

Bdubs raises an eyebrow, but doesn't turn his head to look at Etho, allowing the other man some privacy. He can tell Etho isn't *that* stressed, as his tail is laying lax and relaxed by Bdubs' leg, but the tension is still there.

"That'd be nice," Bdubs agreed. "Think it's *way* overdue, really."

"I- Do we *have* to?" Etho asks, trying to weasel his way out of this.

He just snorts, not taking it personally.

“I dunno Etho, I found you sleeping in my bed and now you’re awake in my arms, so I’m pretty sure this is a bit *important*.”

Etho sighs. “I know,” he mumbles. “It’s just-”

“I know,” Bdubs soothes. “But listen, we can’t run away from this forever. And I don’t think it’s *that* bad...”

“It’s not bad,” the other man says immediately. “Just- We don’t have to *talk*, you know?”

Bdubs rolls his eyes fondly. It’s a game at this point, as things often are with them, and he curses himself for how soft this makes him. Etho has such a special place in his life, and after 10 years he’s only burrowing deeper and deeper into Bdubs’ chest, becoming someone *vital* to him.

And now he’s living in Bdubs basement, out of all the people’s bases, and now he’s in Bdubs’ arms, after sleeping in his bed...

Maybe they actually don’t need the words.

“Dumbass,” he says fondly, and he tilts Etho’s head.

The other man giggles (he can be so endearing it’s insane), but meets his kiss easily, cupping Bdubs’ face in one hand, smiling. They’re both suffering from a bad case of morning breath, but it doesn’t seem to matter when he has Etho there, kissing him softly, all warm skin and soft clothes.

Bdubs closes his eyes, wraps his arms around Etho’s waist, and gently slides his hand under his shirt, just to feel his warm, soft skin, feel how he’s *alive*.

“Words are overrated anyway,” Etho whispers against his lips, a wild smile on his face.

“You’re terrible,” he complains without heat, and then laughs when Etho pinches his slide and kisses him again, even softer this time.

They don’t get out of bed until noon.

End Notes

please let me know if you liked it! just 2 comments would be lovely, from the ethubs enjoyers - i am VERY soft for those boys, it's insane.

as always, love ya and see ya next time 🙌

Please [drop by the archive and comment](#) to let the author know if you enjoyed their work!