

run with me, will ya?

Posted originally on the [Archive of Our Own](http://archiveofourown.org/works/36125701) at <http://archiveofourown.org/works/36125701>.

Rating:	General Audiences
Archive Warning:	No Archive Warnings Apply
Category:	Gen
Fandom:	Hermitcraft RPF
Relationship:	John Booko & EthosLab
Character:	BdoubleO100 , EthosLab (Video Blogging RPF)
Additional Tags:	Fluff , i guess??? , what do you call a nice little jog/run with your bestie?? , Running , there's some mentions of last life pspsp , wanna imagine a pre-II interaction guys pspsp , Friendship , Pre-Last Life SMP , Banter , lots of banter! , the banter wrote itself , Slice of Life
Language:	English
Series:	Part 1 of Running Buddies
Collections:	Anonymous
Stats:	Published: 2022-01-01 Words: 2,564 Chapters: 1/1

run with me, will ya?

by Anonymous

Summary

One day, while the both of them were working on the Horse Course, Bdubs asked Etho if he'd like to be his running buddy.

"Where?"

"I dunno, man. The dirt roads? Where else can we run?"

"The dirt roads?" Etho's puzzled when- "Ohhh, you meant run *with* you, not run *away with* you."

"I-" Bdubs started laughing so hard that he dropped the blocks he's holding back into the shulker. Etho chuckled in amusement.

"Yeah, sure."

Bdubs and Etho run. Like, the running for fitness kind of run. They banter a lot <3

Notes

very very very much a self-indulgent fic, based on my running hyperfixation and experience with my best friend/running buddy. yes, i am projecting.

could be read with romantic subtext. it is some projecting but nevermind that

and also lots of banter, the banter practically wrote itself! writing every scene was nice because i could not stop writing the two of them being silly or joking around. they just kept goofin around y'know?

anyway ok hope you enjoy

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

“It’s still weird to see you without the moss hoodie,” says Etho, pointing vaguely at Bdubs with his water bottle.

“I could say the same for you, y’know,” Bdubs says, pointing the same way.

Etho’s in running shorts and actual running shoes, instead of his usual black pants and socks with sandals. He’s ditched that green vest of his so he’s just wearing his long-sleeve, plus a black neck gaiter that’s a lot looser than the usual face mask.

Bdubs, meanwhile, put on whatever long-sleeve and shorts he had that weren't cotton. He’s left the moss hoodie at home, and the only thing he hasn’t changed is his red bandana. Etho kept his bandana, too.

“Alright, you’ve warmed up?” Etho asks, stretching his legs a little.

“Yeah, ‘course. I warmed up at home,” Bdubs kicks up his knees anyway, for good measure.

“Cool. Let’s start with a slow jog?”

“Yeah,” Bdubs says, but Etho’s already started running. He follows suit.

—

One day, while the both of them were working on the Horse Course, Bdubs asked Etho if he’d like to be his running buddy.

"Where?"

"I dunno, man. The dirt roads? Where else can we run?"

"The dirt roads?" Etho's puzzled when- "Ohhh, you meant run *with* you, not run *away* with you."

"I-" Bdubs started laughing so hard that he dropped the blocks he's holding back into the shulker. Etho chuckled in amusement.

“Yeah, sure,” Etho said, in a hole under the gate, as he mindfully connected some redstone... stuff. The timings of the gate were left for him to work on.

“Might be slow though,” Bdubs laughed nervously. It wasn't like Etho to say no, but something about slowing down the obviously better runner suddenly made him unsure.

He knew Etho was already into the hobby. It surprised him to find out at first, but it made sense – Etho just seemed to be that kind of guy. Something about keeping fit and “because it’s fun.”

“Nah, don’t worry about it. I’ll pace with you, man.”

He let himself breathe. “Good to know.”

“Why you suddenly into it, though?” He could hear Etho clap off the redstone dust from his hands.

Bdubs shrugged, then realized Etho probably couldn’t see him. “I dunno. I mean, why not, yeah?” A pause. “And Grian said he was thinking of doing another 3rd Life server.”

“Oh yeah, heard that too. He’s changing the name too, I think.” Etho stood up from his dirt hole, propping his arms on the ground. “You preppin’?”

“Oh yeah, I’m preppin’!” Bdubs grins, “Well, it’s just endurance, but y’know-”

“Can’t lose your lives if you run faster than them.”

“Yeah!”

The two laughed. With the topic, Bdubs had another question at the tip of his tongue – but, one step at a time.

Asking to team-up *before* the server starts was probably, well, unfair or something. Gentleman’s rules, after all.

For now, he’s just glad to have a running buddy.

—

And the two ran.

At some point during their run, Bdubs slows, his legs sore. Etho doesn’t notice though and keeps running, while Bdubs just watches.

Bdubs says nothing. *He’s clever, he’ll figure it out*, he thinks to himself as he walks. He wonders how far Etho can go without noticing him.

The answer is a couple meters ahead - Bdubs isn’t actually sure how far. And surely enough, Etho looks to his side, sees the mossy man isn’t there, then turns around completely. Bdubs just waves back with a grin.

Etho slows his pace, and when Bdubs still hasn’t caught up (when barely a minute has passed), he stops completely. Bdubs runs up to the masked ninja before slowing to a walk, Etho by his side.

“Leg’s gone sore,” Bdubs says, massaging his thigh while walking. It doesn’t really do anything, since it’s his calves that are actually sore.

Etho laughs a little, “Ehh, same here.”

“Sh’pent the whole day building up stuff in the Big Eye’s Shopping District. ‘S why my leg’s all, uh, jelly.” He slurs his words, his head feeling light as he focuses on catching his breath.

“Yeah, I get that. What did I do today...” Etho stares at the horizon to their left. “I did some building on the base, too. Not a whole lot.”

Bdubs looks at where Etho's looking. The sun is slowly starting to set, with the hues of the sky painted a pastel blue and pink. At the horizon, the sun colors the sky around it a burning orange, making it look like a wildfire where the treeline partly obscures it. Where the moon is rising, the sky is a darker purple, mixing with the blues.

It's pretty. Bdubs has the urge to memorialize it somehow – a painting or a photo or anything. The two of them stare at the setting sun in silence, walking side by side.

He has to tear his head away from the pretty scenery to remember this is a run, not a leisurely walk. “I think my legs are good to go. Yesh.”

“Alright,” Etho stretches his shoulders back. “Let's start when we get to that tree.”

And when they get to it, Etho nods, Bdubs nods back, and the two continue running, side-by-side.

—

Sometimes the two ran in the mornings, sometimes the afternoon (never evening – Bdubs was already asleep by then). Anytime the two were free, really.

And he rarely ran alone. Etho was like an accountability buddy, making sure he wouldn't skip a day. He wasn't as fast as the ninja, but Etho always paced.

Sometimes, Etho mentioned stories about when he used to go running with other hermits (how come he was *only* finding out about their running shticks *now!*?). He was always in front when he was with the hermits, but he never ran too far ahead of Bdubs.

Bdubs was getting better at this running thing, at least.

—

Walk, run, walk, run. The goal is to run more often than walk, of course, but today, Bdubs is tired, and has accepted that it won't be his fastest pace today.

“Hey,” Etho says in an inquiring tone, “You wanna run a longer route today? I found a 7k route.”

“Uhuh,” Bdubs narrows his eyes a little. A part of him already wants to refuse (that's his legs talking), but he listens.

It hasn't been that long since the pause a while back. They usually ran the path at the foot of the mountain Bdubs built, rounding it. Right now, they were only halfway.

“We just have run the dirt path, past Jevin's base, and end a bit around the swamps. Easy route!”

“...So, the path that goes straight to your base?”

“Weeeell, no,” Etho shrugs, “Not all the way.”

“HEY!” Bdubs points, “Bet you just wanna get to your place faster!”

Etho laughs, “No no—”

“Yes! Yesh! Why can’t we just run until Jevin’s base then run back to the Big Eyes? So you can get home and leave me to walk aaaaaall the way back to my base—”

“Then borrow one of my horses and give it back the next time.”

“Pssh, yeah, sure. Won’t be the same as Lulu though, so no thanks.”

“Alright, alright.” Etho brings up his hands in defeat, “We can just do the usual route today and do the 7k next time. I think we’re too tired, anyway. Unless...”

Bdubs thinks for a moment. He sighs. “No, I think I can do the 7k.”

“You sure?” When Etho turns to look at him, it’s genuine. Maybe he felt that Bdubs was running slower today, or he remembered Bdubs was building the whole day, or— whatever it is, Bdubs feels touched. “We can do it next time.”

Bdubs grins. “Yeah, don’t worry man!”

“Alright... but if you get tired, just say and we’ll take it slow.”

He waves his hands, “Yeah, yeah, I got it.”

—

He did *not*, in fact, “got it.”

“I... should have... listened... to you,” Bdubs pants, catching his breath in between words. His legs felt as heavy as lead and his right side had stitches as they continued to walk the path.

Oh goodness *gracious*, they haven't even reached the fork to the Horse Course yet.

Etho only chuckles in response, “Told you.”

Bdubs grumbles, then he feels a hand pat his head, “You’re really stubborn, you know that, Bdubs?”

“Well, of *course*, I mean-” He holds where Etho patted and— “HEY! Are you makin' fun of me?!”

Etho *definitely* did that as a short joke. His shit-eating grin confirms it, even if it is behind his stupid neck gaiter. “What?” He replies. “I didn’t do nuthin’.”

“Uhuh! Yeah! Sure.” Bdubs huffs again, fixing his hair. “C’mon, I’m good to go already, let’s keep runnin’!”

“Are you all rested?” Etho’s still grinning, but the teasing tone has diminished.

Bdubs stares ahead for a moment. “... Alright, maybe after that tree.”

Etho laughs quietly and shakes his head. Bdubs rolls his eyes, silently thanking that his buddy's letting him rest.

—

Walk, run, walk, run. There was a lot more walking, as expected. Bdubs had to get the stitches out – he tried to keep running but they just got too painful. That got a concerned yet amused look from Etho, who told him to take it slow and drink his water. He admitted to having his legs getting sore, too, so it was fine for him to slow down.

When they weren't running, the two chatted as they walked, sharing build progress or planning for the Horse Course. They almost didn't notice the scenery changing - the oak leaves were darker, and a few birches would be here and there (probably planted by Gem). They were now entering the swamp area, the dirt path a lot less dusty and a little more mushy in places, and the two kept running until they passed Jevin's base.

By the time they were nearing False's, their comms pinged. They've reached 7k; Bdubs *immediately* stops the tracker and halts, letting out a relieved shout.

"Thank *goodness* gracious, oh gosh, Herobrine and End void and moon *above*-"

"Chill out, man," Etho puts a hand on Bdubs's shoulder, "Breathe first."

"Yeah. Okay. Yeah. Breathing now."

They walk around the swamp area until they find an area not too damp to sit on. The glow berries that hung from vines lit the area, giving it a cozy feeling. After the two do their cooldowns, they sit on the moss and grass to watch the sunset at the horizon.

While Bdubs drinks from his water bottle, he sees Etho's.

"Hey, we both got bottles from Cleo's fitness gym thing!" He holds up his own, green in color, and brings up close to Etho's blue one. "The, uh, Hive-Hydrate? Hive-Dr8!"

"Huh? Oh, yeah," Etho holds up his own, "They looked pretty cool. The energy drink's okay, too."

The thought of Cleo reminds Bdubs of the impending start of Last Life. Bdubs gently pushes the thought away, *not now*, and hums in agreement as he stares at the sky.

It's a lot darker now – the pastel blue and pink a while ago have given way to a mix of purple hues. Where the sun is about halfway down, the orange is brighter, but will soon die out.

Seeing the sun this low itches something in Bdubs -- he yawns. He takes out the gold watch in his pocket, confirms the time, and fiddles with it.

"Gettin' sleepy, Bdubs?" Etho asks, still stretching his legs out while they sit on the grass. "Sun's gettin' preeetty low."

"Pff, don't worry about it." Bdubs can sleep a little later – he doesn't want to leave just yet. "And-hey! I don't sleep *this* early! I'm just exhausted, that's all."

"Mhmm." Etho stretches out his arms behind his back, "Good run, though."

Bdubs hums, swinging the clock by the chain. "I'm never doing a 7k run again."

Etho chuckles, "What happened to your personal goal and all?"

"Screw em'," Bdubs huffs, smiling anyway.

Etho stands up then, reaching out to the sky to fully stretch out his arms. "You still good to walk out your legs? Or are you gonna sleep under the starry night sky here?"

"I'm *perfectly* fine to walk, thank you very much. Tempting, though." With the moss under his palms and the glow berries lighting the area, he almost wants to collapse right here. Maybe he should, at some point, camp under the stars near Gem's base.

He stretches his arms too, before putting away his clock. Etho holds out a hand towards him and he takes it, allowing himself to get pulled up to his feet.

The masked man's eyes crinkle in a way that tells Bdubs he's smirking, "Alright grandpa, let's go then."

"I- *grandpa*?!" Bdubs pushes Etho, who only responds with a laugh.

—

He isn't walking home yet.

They were supposed to split then and there – Bdubs would backtrack the path while Etho would go straight to his base. But they don't. They walk the same route – to Etho's.

"Hm?" Etho notices, "Where are you going?"

"I, uh, I'm going to drop by the Pass n' Gas by your place. Y'know, check out the inventory, clear out the diamonds we made."

Etho turns slightly to look at Bdubs and smiles. "You just wanna stay a lil' longer."

It's a statement. And it's true. Bdubs does want companionship, and in response to getting caught, he gives a lopsided smile. "...Yeah."

"Gotcha there." Etho looks back ahead, "It's mostly uphill, though. Your legs still good?"

"Oh, but I'm not walking up to your base, man, that's crazy!"

When the two get to Pass n' Gas, Bdubs does actually check stock and clear out the diamonds they've made. He makes a mental note to restock what's running out and leaves quickly.

Etho's waiting outside when Bdubs exits, leaning on the fence pole. He's looking upwards; The sky is now a dark purple.

Etho looks at him, "You can sleep at our base, y'know. Iskall won't mind."

Bdubs smiles, "Pssh, don't worry, man. I got enough stamina in me to fly." He brings up his inventory and pulls out his elytra wings. It shimmers from the lights of the store behind him.

There's a moment where Etho looks between the wings and Bdubs. The gears in his head churns, and Bdubs can hear them. He sighs, "Alrighty then. Take care, and make sure to sleep early, time king."

"Oh, I'm crashin' as soon as I get home. No shower, no changin', just heading straight to bed."

Etho chuckles, "Man, at least change your clothes. Can't have you being a stinky moss man."

"Ooooo, I'm the stinky moss man!" Bdubs brings his hands up like claws and approaches Etho with a grin, "I'm gonna getcha in your sleep! I'm like a boogeyman! Watch out!!"

Etho laughs while he backs away. "Oh nooo, I'm so scared!"

The two laugh for a moment and awkwardly stand where they are, unsure what to do now. Etho lets out a sigh, "Alright. See you around then, Bdubs."

Bdubs gives a big lopsided smile. "See ya, Etho."

Etho waves goodbye as he walks off towards the shattered savanna. Bdubs waves back. He watches Etho walk off until he can no longer see him through the trees and foliage.

As he takes off, flying back to his base, he wonders absentmindedly of when their next 7k run should be.

End Notes

if u leave a nice comment i will maybe write about more running fics. i am not kidding, i'll write about them getting ice cream after a run (an actual experience i had) or whatever . ok hope you enjoyed!

edit: thank you for the comments and kudos ;v; i'm writing on the next part already !
edit edit: part 2 is out :)

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