

Not a Coffee Date

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Not a Coffee Date

by [Fire_Cat](#)

Summary

Bdubs still isn't sure what to make of Etho helping him. Isn't quite sure what to think of the realisation that not only does Etho care about him, but he kinda cares about Etho too. Bdubs wants to say thank you though, even if meeting up with the mischivious vampire is likely to result in an unpredictable evening.

(Also known as Bdubs gets coffee. Once with a good friend. And once with the annoying vampire that's left him feeling quite conflicted.)

Notes

More vampire au fic yay! This one is a direct follow-on from Finding a Wolf, it's also from Bdubs POV instead of Etho's so switching things up a little there! And Ren is also here for a bit as well, so that's nice.

I don't really have much else to say about this one I don't think, these two continue to be a lot of fun to write though! And I hope you enjoy it!

And as always, a big thank you to my friend CJ for being their wonderful self and playing with this au with me!

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

"Dubs?" said Ren from across the table, pulling Bdubs out of his thoughts and back to reality, "You alright, my dude?"

"What- oh, yeah I'm fine." Bdubs smiled as he looked up at Ren, remembering that he wasn't on his own and should probably pay attention to the world around him, "Just zoned out a bit I think."

"Yeah, I noticed. Sitting there staring at your phone for nearly ten minutes." Ren chuckled as he picked at the muffin he'd been nibbling on. This little cafe sold some lovely cakes and treats, it was a good place to hang out. Or for Ren's monthly check-ins as was the case today.

The pack leader liked to make sure all his wolves were doing well after a full moon. Usually, this took the form of a quick phone call or a knock on their door to say hello, but occasionally he'd invite people out for lunch or a cup of coffee. And Bdubs, not one to say no to free food, would always say yes to those invites.

Even if today he had other things on his mind.

"Waiting for a message I guess." he shrugged, putting his phone down on the table and sipping his coffee. "You ever text someone and you know they're not gonna reply for ages but you still keep checking your phone every five minutes anyway?" he asked, more thinking out loud than anything, and maybe trying to justify why he was doing it.

Ren looked slightly confused behind his sunglasses, but he gave a small nod all the same, "I guess so?" he said, not sounding entirely convinced, "Can be like that with Doc sometimes, since he sleeps all day." he added with a small shrug.

Bdubs hummed, at least he probably wasn't the only one who did that then. "Same problem, I know I won't hear from him until nightfall, but I still keep checking my phone." he went to reach for his phone again but caught himself and pulled his hand away, shoving both into his hoodie pockets instead. "It's making me anxious and I don't know why."

"Who're you texting anyhow?" Ren asked, popping a piece of muffin into his mouth.

Bdubs hesitated before he replied, telling Ren wouldn't do any harm, right? No, Ren was a good guy, only ever wanted to help. Though he might not approve, that was something Bdubs thought he could live with, "Etho."

"Etho? Oh I know that name, where do I know that name.." Ren paused a moment, scratching his beard as he thought, "Hold on, that's the vampire you told me about a few months ago, right? You were accusing him of stalking you. Is he still bothering you?" Trust Ren to go straight into 'are you okay? are you safe?' mode, the protective wolf pack leader wanting to make sure everyone was alright. Not that it was a bad thing, it was just very typical of him.

A short laugh escaped Bdubs' throat, "Oh he's always bothering me. The man's a menace." he said, "But, maybe not all bad," he paused and sighed to himself before he continued, "he helped me the other morning. Put himself at risk in the process. I- I want to say thank you, I guess." he shrugged, looking down into his coffee cup rather than at Ren, "And I need to give him his coat back, that too."

"That's Etho's coat?" Ren asked, pointing to the fluffy-hooded jacket hanging on the back of Bdubs' chair, "I was wondering where you got that, it's way too big for you dude."

"Yes, I know." Bdubs grumbled, "Etho's like you, too damn tall." Ren snorted at the comment,

straightening his sunglasses. Ren was probably taller, but Bdubs wasn't sure. Etho was like a bean pole, skinnier than any man should be. But Ren was broad and strong, so he might just look bigger. It was hard to tell without them standing side-by-side. "But whatever, it's comfy. I asked him out for coffee. Is that weird?"

"What, like a date?" Ren smiled, quirking an eyebrow at him.

"A DATE?!" Bdubs yelled, and then promptly slapped his hands over his mouth, remembering that they were in public. He ignored how Ren chuckled at him. "No, not a date," he said at a more reasonable volume, moving his hands away from his mouth and grabbing his mug, downing the last of his now lukewarm coffee.

"Dude, he's a vampire," said Ren, shaking his head a little. "Does he even drink coffee?"

Bdubs stared, processing that, and then upon realising that Ren had a very good point, one that had somehow slipped his mind, he groaned and pressed his forehead against the table, curling his fingers in his hair. Ren started chuckling again and Bdubs continued to ignore it.

Why did Etho have to make everything difficult?

<Etho> Coffee? I don't know Bdubs, coffee doesn't do much for me.

<BdoubleO100> Please? The coffee can be optional. I just want to see you and say thanks. And give your coat back, that too.

<Etho> So you do intend on returning it!

<BdoubleO100> I HAVENT SEEN YOU SINCE YOU GAVE IT TO ME

<Etho> Sure sure. Where do you want to meet?

Bdubs sighed and tapped out the name of a little diner he knew would be open this late. It wasn't as nice as the cafe where he'd met up with Ren earlier, but it would do. Now he just had to hope that Etho would show up.

It had already been dark for a while and Bdubs was tired, but the coffee would help and he did find himself wanting to spend time with Etho. He wasn't sure *why*, the man was still a pain in the backside and he doubted tonight would be any different in that regard. But some stuff had been said the other morning, he really would not have expected Etho to care enough to make sure he was okay after a full moon, and it was all very confusing.

Bdubs slipped his sneakers on and grabbed Etho's coat from where it hung by the door, shrugging it on as he picked up his keys and headed out of his apartment.

It wasn't a long drive to the diner, he could probably walk it in twenty minutes, but driving was quicker, and since he didn't know exactly when Etho would be there he'd rather not keep him waiting if the vampire got there first. Which, considering how fast Etho could move, was perfectly plausible regardless of how far away he was when he set off.

When he pulled up in front of the diner and got out of his car, he couldn't see Etho anywhere, but Bdubs had long since learnt that just because he couldn't see him, it by no means meant that he wasn't there.

As he walked towards the door, the smallest hint of movement in the corner of his eye caught his

attention. He stopped in his tracks and turned his head to scowl at the shadows. "Don't you dare try to jump out at me," he said, not entirely convinced that he wasn't just talking to himself.

For a few seconds, the only noise that reached Bdubs' ears was the hum of city traffic and muffled chatter from inside the building, but then the shadows moved, and the tall lanky form of Etho slinked out of the darkness, red eyes locked onto Bdubs and shimmering in the low light.

"Aw, how did you know I was there?" Etho pouted at him, his white hair falling over his eyes as he tipped his head to the side a little. Bdubs still didn't know what to make of a two-hundred-year-old vampire who bleached his hair, but perhaps it wasn't all that important.

"I'm starting to pick up on your tricks." Bdubs said, still frowning at him for a moment before he let it slip away and replaced it with a smile, "I'm glad you came."

Etho shrugged, "I wanted my coat back." It was almost odd seeing him without that thick jacket on. Until the other morning, Bdubs hadn't seen him without it, and tonight he just had a black hoodie on instead.

Bdubs rolled his eyes at him, "Of course you did."

"Yup yup, and now you're wearing it."

Bdubs glanced down at himself, he'd almost forgotten that he'd put Etho's coat on when he'd left the house. "I am. It's warm. Coffee?" he said, gesturing to the doors to the diner before stepping over and going inside, just able to hear Etho's soft footsteps following behind him.

Bdubs brought them both coffee, deciding not to comment on Etho wanting more cream in his than should probably be legal, and the pair sat down at a table in the corner of the diner. It was far from crowded here, so being around other people wasn't a concern, but the quiet was nice, and Etho seemed to prefer the slightly more secluded space.

Etho finally got his jacket back, happily pulling it on over his hoodie. Bdubs ignored how he almost acted like he'd been asking for it back for months, but he did get a thank you, so it wasn't all terrible.

They talked about nothing in particular at first. A mostly aimless conversation that didn't mean much, but it did pass the time and eased the lingering awkwardness a little.

Etho kept his hands on his mug but didn't drink from it for a while. When he finally did, pulling his mask out of the way to sip his coffee, Bdubs found himself staring and he wasn't sure why.

Until he realised that it was the first time he'd actually seen Etho without the mask covering half his face. Showing the rough scars on his jaw and across the bridge of his nose that had been hidden before, and as he moved the mug away from his mouth and smiled, the bright lights in the ceiling flashed against his fangs and grabbed Bdubs' attention.

He didn't know why it made his heart skip a beat. He already knew that Etho was a vampire, it wasn't like he didn't know that he had fangs.

But seeing them? For some reason, that was different, and it sent a strange jolt of primal fear up his spine that he had not expected. The wolf in his chest barked to attack, and what remained of his human self begged him to flee.

Etho's smile turned sly, sipping his coffee again before pulling his mask back up over his face, and as soon as those fangs were hidden again, Bdubs felt himself settle, that strange fear fading away

as quickly as it appeared.

"What's the matter, Bdubs?" Etho asked, resting his chin on his palm as he leaned his elbow on the table. Bdubs blinked and looked away from him, realising that he'd been staring.

"Nothing." he kept his eyes on his mug as he drank his coffee, but he could feel Etho watching him.

Etho hummed, "Is the big bad wolf scared of the vampire's fangs?" there was a mocking tone in his voice that Bdubs wasn't fond of.

"No," Bdubs said quickly, frowning at him, those sharp red eyes making him want to flinch. "No, of course not. Why would I be scared of you?"

"I'm very dangerous, you know."

"I'm not going to deny that," Bdubs said simply, and he wasn't, because Etho was a two-hundred-year-old vampire and vampires that lived that long usually were on the dangerous side, even if they were generally friendly, "but you're mostly just a nuisance."

"Oh, yes, definitely." Etho agreed, pulling his mask down again as he lifted his mug to his mouth.

Bdubs just sighed and rolled his eyes. At least Etho admitted to being a pain in the backside though.

Idle chatter passed between them for a while as they drank their coffee. Bdubs caught a few more glimpses of Etho's fangs, but that odd fear he'd felt before didn't come back. He wasn't entirely sure what it had meant, if anything. Maybe that just happened when you were close to a vampire's teeth. Or maybe he had been genuinely scared for the briefest of moments. He wasn't sure.

"This has been nice, don't you think," Etho said, breaking about five minutes of surprisingly comfortable silence that had hung between them. Bdubs looked up from his phone to see Etho watching him, leaning forward with his arms folded on the table.

"Yeah, yeah it has." Bdubs smiled as he put his phone down. "Thank you, for tonight, and for helping me the other morning," he added, glancing away from Etho as he spoke, almost feeling nervous for some reason, though his smile didn't fade.

"Aw, now you're just being sweet." Etho cooed, the corners of his eyes creasing a little with the smile hidden under his mask.

"Yeah don't get used to it," Bdubs said as he met Etho's gaze again. The longer he'd known Etho, the easier he found it to meet his eyes like this. He wasn't sure why. Maybe he was letting his guard down around the vampire. That probably wasn't smart. "I do mean it though. I'd have been fine even if you hadn't been there," he felt the need to clarify that before Etho got any ideas, "but it was nice, so thank you."

Etho leaned back in his seat and tucked his hands in his pockets, he was still smiling and his red eyes didn't seem quite so sharp for once. "You're welcome, Bubs."

"*Bubs?*" Bdubs glared, that was a new one and he wasn't sure if he liked it.

Etho chuckled, "You know, after all this, I could do with something to eat." he mused, glancing around the diner, his eyes lingering on the small handful of other people that were there.

Bdubs started talking before he'd processed what Etho had said, "They do sell food here too if-" there was a pause, "Wait, no. No. I did not bring you out here so you could start biting people."

"I made my own way here." Etho said as he looked back at Bdubs, "And I can't help being hungry." he added with a shrug. "Human food doesn't do anything for me, I already told you that."

"Yeah yeah okay. But still, don't go biting anyone. Especially not me."

"Oh, I wouldn't. Not tonight at least." There was a glimmer of cheek in Etho's eyes that Bdubs did not like. He also didn't like what Etho might be implying either.

"Not ever. I'm not vampire food." Bdubs didn't like the idea of being bitten by a vampire. Not one bit! He didn't care how hungry Etho was, he was never letting him do that.

Etho hummed, keeping his eyes on Bdubs for a few seconds before letting out another of his low chuckles, pushing his chair back with a squeak as he stood up, "We should do this again sometime."

Bdubs blinked at him. Why was Etho so good at saying things that he didn't quite expect to hear? He hadn't even considered doing this again, but now Etho had said it he was definitely thinking about it. He still found himself smiling up at him though, a genuine smile at that. "Yeah, that'd be nice."

"Thanks for the coffee," Etho smiled back at him, and that was genuine too. When had they gotten so friendly with each other? Etho stepped away from the table and pushed his chair back under it. "I'll see you soon. Take care, have a good night," he said as he turned and walked towards the door, giving a little wave over his shoulder, "bye-bye."

"Bye Etho." Bdubs watched as Etho left, stepping outside and soon disappearing into the night.

Usually when Etho left he'd say something snarky and run off. But not this time. No, that was a surprisingly normal way to leave a meetup.

After about five minutes of sitting there with nothing but his thoughts for company, Bdubs sighed to himself and decided it was time he left too.

He yawned as he sat in his car, running the past hour or so through his head. He didn't know what he'd expected, but whatever it was, it hadn't quite been what he'd ended up with.

Maybe Etho wasn't so terrible after all. Well, Bdubs had never thought he was *terrible*, just *annoying*. But it was almost the same thing.

He turned the radio on as he drove home, trying not to let his mind wander too much, but it was proving difficult.

Every interaction he had with Etho usually involved him being nothing but a nuisance, he somehow knew exactly how to wind Bdubs up and it was infuriating.

But now things were almost friendly, and it was unexpected, but also kind of-- nice.

It was nice. Bdubs had planned for this whole thing to just be a quick 'thank you, have some coffee' and nothing more. So why did he find himself genuinely enjoying Etho's company?

He pressed his forehead against the steering wheel as he waited at a stoplight. This was going to bother him all night, he could tell.

And once again he was asking himself: Why did everything involving Etho have to be so *difficult*?!

End Notes

I think Bdubs is still feeling quite conflicted, don't you?

Oh well, he'll survive. I hope you liked this though! I've still got more fic for this au written out, I'm having way too much fun with it. So keep an eye out for that showing up maybe soon!

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