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STORIES OF THE
NERDY WORLD
MAGAZINE

THE POD

COSPLAY OF
THE MONTH

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242 Cosplayer Of The Year Edition

A Gamer's Review:
Hollow Knight: Silksong

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DEAR

Cosplayers, you are the heartbeats of conventions and the living color of every fandom you touch. You stride into crowded halls wearing armor forged from foam and pure determination. You bring to life characters who once lived only in panels, pixels, and pages. With every snap of a wig cap, every swish of a cape, every delicate brushstroke of makeup, you remind the world that imagination is not something we outgrow, it's something we step into.

You are alchemists of craft.

With EVA foam, thrift-store fabric, resin casts, and a little late-night magic, you transform the ordinary into the iconic. You turn kitchen tables into workshops, living rooms into sewing studios, and hotel bathrooms into last-minute prop repair stations. To store buyers that gotta “make that touch up Magic because that one thread made that one sleeve too tight,” and commissions that just make you feel like a kid on Christmas eve, and the results are nothing short of astonishing.

You are storytellers without scripts. You give shy fans the courage to approach, excited kids someone to look up to, and photographers a moment worth capturing forever. When you walk the con floor, when you donate your time to make someone smile, especially when those smiles are bringing joy and hope back into their lives, you become a moving, breathing love letter to the characters who shaped you.

You are community builders.

Cosplayers lift each other up with tutorials, shared materials, emergency safety pins, and genuine joy. You swap tips, trade patterns, and give heartfelt compliments because you know how much effort goes into every detail. And most important of all is holding each other accountable and reminding everyone, “Anybody Can Cosplay.”

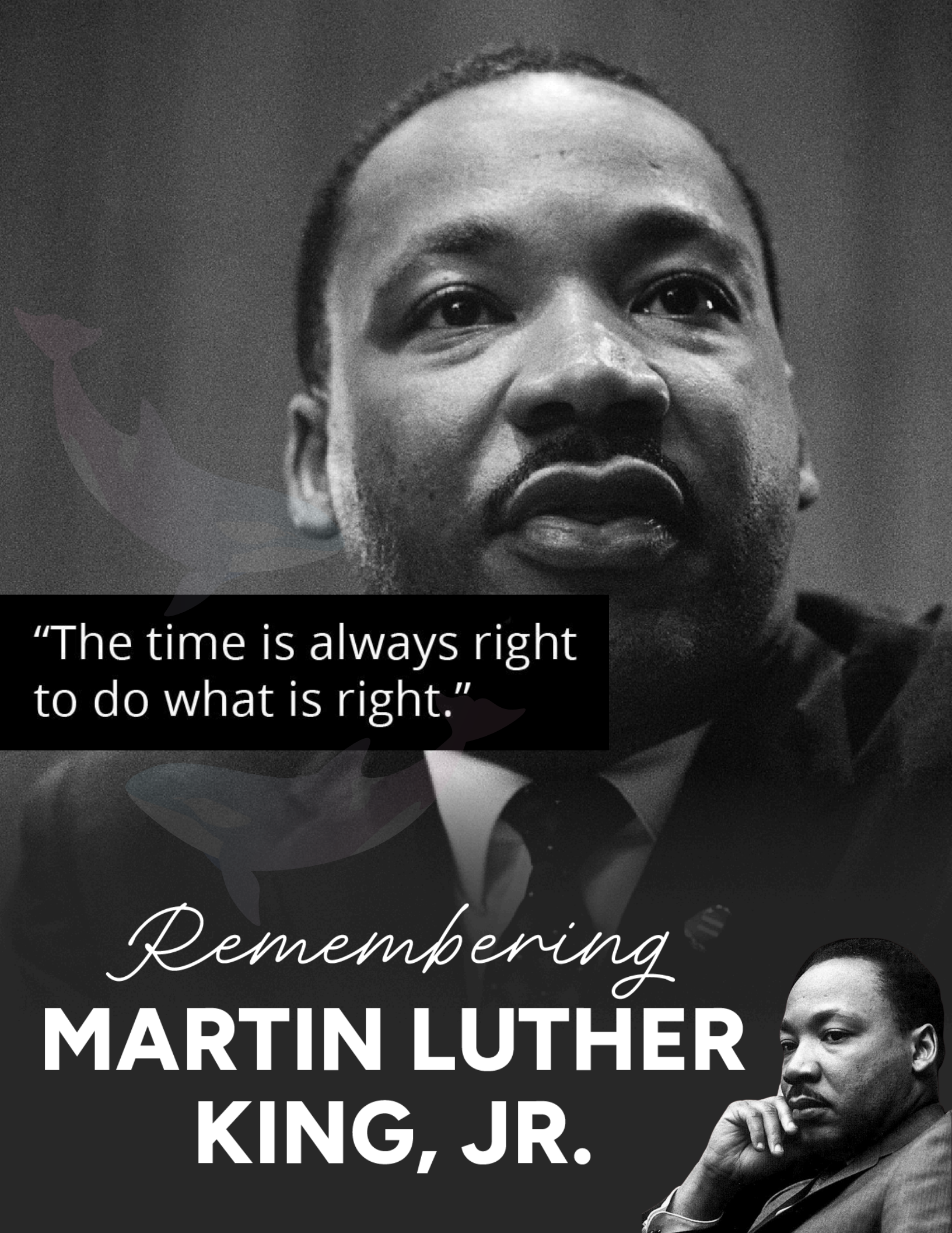
Most of all, you are creators in a world hungry for creation.

You remind us that passion is meant to be worn proudly, sometimes with LEDs, sometimes with glitter, sometimes with twenty pounds of thermoplastic. Or body paint that you hope you don't get a reaction. So here's to you, cosplayers: For being the spark.

For making conventions feel like home, Parties are Magical, fantasies come to life, making us blush, bringing hope to hospitals and centers, even scaring the pants off of us
To prove that fandom is not just something we watch, it's something we become.

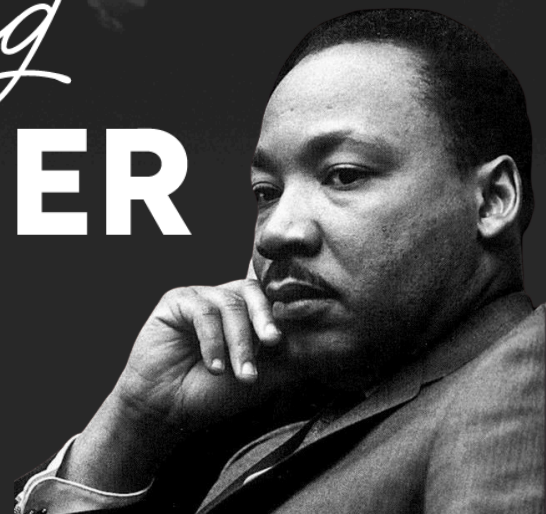
With admiration, applause, and endless appreciation,

This magazine loves you. Always will.



"The time is always right
to do what is right."

Remembering
**MARTIN LUTHER
KING, JR.**





GAME CHANGERS SPOTLIGHT:

242 COSPLAYPLAYER NATION

Facebook, Tiktok, Youtube

Please about your tell us about your (Group, Business or Organization)

242 Cosplayer Nation is The Bahamian Cosplay Community, officially founded in March of 2019 by SJ Slays Cosplay and Kadesh Collie after collaborating on a Spider-Man themed photoshoot together. Since those humble beginnings, the community has grown in leaps and bounds, producing numerous Cosplay Champions who have represented us both locally and regionally at the Caribbean Cosplay Championships at Alias Entertainment Expo in Trinidad and Tobago. In 2024, 242 Cosplayer Nation produced the 242 Cosplayer Nation Awards and crowned the first ever Bahamian Cosplayer of the Year: Tara Woodside aka Modern Day Alchemist.

What inspired you to create this or Join?

Building a Community of Bahamian Cosplayers for Bahamian Cosplayers was always at the forefront of my mind when I decided to start Cosplaying. Before 2018, Bahamians weren't really Cosplaying locally outside of Halloween or the occasional one off photoshoot/makeup artist collaboration. I always wanted to Cosplay, but feared it would only be something I could do in The States for fear of being Othered, something I was already struggling with being a neurodivergent white Bahamian. What changed my view point was Bahamian's response to the popularity of the Marvel movies, Black Panther in particular. Bahamians, like many other Black people around the world, attended the premiere in droves in all Black or African print, which is essentially a form of Cosplay known as Closet Cosplay. That emboldened me. I felt Cosplay was something we as a Country could be normalized to. And I was right. Now The Bahamas has a thriving Cosplay Community, and I'm forever grateful to have had the courage to try.

The 242 Cosplayer Nation Awards, on the other hand, was created as my way of giving back to the Community that was given life through the shared courage of other Bahamians who stepped up and claimed Cosplay as something they also wanted to do. Specifically Bahamian Cosplayers that pushed the Community forward by their incredible skills, sense of community service, or their achievements. I was also inspired by other Cosplay Communities that had similar ways of recognizing their community members, most notably the TriniBago Cosplay Community at Alias Entertainment Expo. Not to mention our producer, Ringo Kosplays had a wealth of experience in working on the Elevation Awards, another Awards Ceremony hosted in The Bahamas for Bahamian Creatives. Her influence and extensive knowledge can not be overstated, as it had molded the 242 Cosplayer Nation Awards into what it is today. I might have sparked the flame but Ringo built the pyre and Carib Crochet decorated the altar. Community is not a "one man band", though I am Founder, 242 Cosplayer Nation would not be where it is without the combined passion and efforts of its members. Especially now, in a time of excessive discourse and strife especially for Black Cosplayers, I believe it's important to recognize and honor their achievements as The Bahamian Cosplay Community is (much like our country) 90% Black.

What was the biggest challenge you faced while doing this, and how did you overcome it?

Not allowing the actions of a few to dictate my motivation and intentions, which everyone has Ringo Kosplays, Carib Crochet, Mutant Glue, Seiryou and my beloved partner JaystotheTiger to thank. Without their support, 242 Cosplayer Nation wouldn't have survived.

What first motivated you to get involved?

Partially, I wanted the Community that I needed at one point in my life. Partially, I wanted to contribute something to my Country. Mostly: I just really wanted to Cosplay and I knew it would be more fulfilling personally if I could inspire others to do something I suspected they already very much wanted to, but may not have felt comfortable being the "first".

Who or what has influenced your journey the most?

So many people. In terms of Cosplay, I was initially influenced most by Mutant Glue, Sassy Black Feline, Cosplay Doctor, and Panterona.

In terms of Community building, I would again have to credit Mutant Glue, but also Ringo Kosplays, Carib Crochet, and my partner Jaystothetiger. Not just for their unyielding loyalty even in the face of my misanthropic pessimism, but because they are all leaders in their own right and have each guided me in one way or another on serving in my role as Founder.

How do you stay motivated when the work becomes overwhelming?

By not allowing myself to get to the point of overwhelm anymore. I've learned to center myself. To take breaks. To ask for help and advice. I'm blessed to have a wonderful support system, and I've learned to lean into it.

How has giving back changed you personally?

It's definitely challenged me in ways I never expected, but mostly for the better. It's certainly improved my communication and networking skills, which were both abysmal before.

I think, in an odd way, giving back also helped me to become better at asking for help when I need it. It also repaired my trust in Community, to see that it is possible with just a few people with good intentions.



Can you share a story of a moment that reminded you why this work matters?

One of the perks we offer the Cosplayer of the Year Nominees of the 242 Cosplayer Nation Awards is complimentary Maid service via our Maid Cafe Sweet'ry Eat'ry which we convert into a more Hors d'oeuvres/cocktail style service specifically for the Awards. For this, we rely entirely on Volunteers. So when it came time to post our Call for Maids for the 2025 Awards, I was stunned to see that one of our COTY Nominees from 2024 (and our youngest member, mind you), Faith had submitted an application, stating she'd was so honored to have been nominated the previous year and had such a wonderful time that she wanted to give back. I was touched to the point of outright sobbing. Little acts of kindness and generosity move mountains for the Community and I'm grateful that our impact has cultivated the kind of Community Members like Faith, who, on top of being an incredibly skilled Cosplayer at her age, also think about the bigger picture and strive to be a part of something bigger than themselves. Community only thrives through the small intentional combined efforts of it's members. I thought about giving up many times this year...Faith's words in her application is genuinely what kept me going.

What misconceptions do people often have about what you do?

I could write a Novel Series about the misconceptions others have about me personally and what I have or haven't done as a Community "leader"...but I prefer to not give Haters podiums on my platforms: mental, digital, or physical.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get involved but doesn't know where to start?

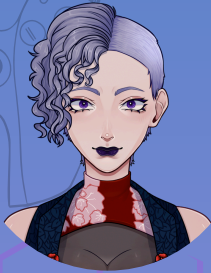
Don't be afraid to ask. My Cosplay journey started when I reached out to cosplayers like Cosplay Doctor and Sassy Black Feline who answered my silly questions with both patience and enthusiasm. It leveled up when I asked Mutant Glue for make up advice, when I ask my partner how he would handle something Community-related, how my friends Ringo and Crochet might think about a Community decision that affects more than me, when I asked Bahamian Fashion Designer Delano Marc if he would consider teaching me how to sew. Most times, you just have to be willing to have the conversation and accept the feedback. Especially constructive criticism, not just what you hope to hear.



A GAMER'S REVIEW

Reviewed By: @eurydiceandreams

About The Gamer



Dreamer, writer, and nerd with a degree in writing, though it's ultimately just a degree in being a massive nerd. I've been writing since I was six years old, and have a variety of interests when it comes to stories and gaming.

What first got you into gaming, and what was the very first game you ever played?

To be honest, I don't know what got me into gaming. Probably watching my Aunt playing games back on the Nintendo 64? And then I would steal them, much like I did with her comics.

Do you prefer single-player story-driven games or multiplayer/competitive titles?

While I will play multiplayer/competitive games, it is much like trying to pull teeth. You give me a good story, I'm hooked.

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The highly anticipated sequel to the indie hit Hollow Knight, Silksong took eight years to develop because the trio at Team Cherry had too much fun, and too many ideas. And honestly? It shows. The product delivered was fun, exciting, and as frustrating as ever. If you've never played either game, Silksong is the terrifying lovechild of a Soulslike game in a Metroidvania font.

The game opens with Hornet breaking free from capture, landing in a serene, beautiful setting. While you can invariably return to this location, and sometimes might have to in order to uncover the veritable treasure trove of secrets buried in the game, this is the calmest part of the entire game. No, that is not a joke. Make yourself comfortable with the idea of dying. A lot. The world is out to kill Hornet as she uncovers the secrets of who she is. Unfortunately for the world, Hornet is stubborn.

As was I, as the player. On more than one boss fight, I spent more than two hours, dying again and again. The backgrounds are stunning, and the music is, much like it was in Hollow Knight, beautiful and memorable. The gameplay is fluid and exciting, but it can get repetitive. Especially in the beginning, it's increasingly easy to die, difficult to save money to be able to increase her health, and she doesn't do a lot of damage. The game challenges you to think strategically, as well as to learn how to recognize patterns. The continuation of the lore and worldbuilding in the setting is rich and full; the new characters are enjoyable and memorable. (Sherma, my beloved.) It is an excellent continuation of the story that Team Cherry wanted to tell.

For most people, it would be satisfying and enough, but I am personally very greedy and eagerly look forward to whatever Team Cherry wants to deliver as their next title, be it another story in this setting, or something new entirely. You don't have to have played Hollow Knight before playing Silksong, but you very much should want to. It is functional and as easy to understand without playing Hollow Knight as it is if you do. Take that however you will. A masterclass in what happens when a team loves the product they're working on, and importantly gives themselves the time and space to be able to complete the product, Silksong is an amazing game. It's not for everyone, but if you think you can handle the challenge? Give it a try!

GAMER RATE



**242 COSPLAYER
NATION
AWARDS**



2025

Cosplayer of The Year

@venuscreatecosplay

Cosplay Of The Month

HAUMEA

IS A FORMER THIRD-GENERATION PYROKINETIC AND A MEMBER OF THE WHITE CLAD. SHE POSSESSED AN ADOLLA BURST AND IS KNOWN AS THE SECOND PILLAR FROM THE ANIME FIRE FORCE

Venus gained the respect of many in her Cosplay journey, having shown immense promise early on in both the realm of Craftsmanship & Performance at both 242 Cosplayer Nation and Homemade Heroes Universe organized Cosplay Competitions. She has racked up consecutive wins in a very short period of time for both categories, not just for herself individually, but also for her Cosplay Group: Better Than The Best. She's crafted looks, often times completely original designs, on tight deadlines, without the use of patterns, and always with the inclusion of her culture by incorporating Androsian print, traits which have earned her great affection from The Bahamas' leading Craftsmanship Champions. Venus was also the second Bahamian Cosplayer selected to be featured in Otaku Noir's 2026 My Cosplay is Black Calendar. 242 Cosplayer Nation could not be prouder to crown her as our Cosplayer of the Year 2025.



Written By: Jaystothetiger 

This episode of “The Tiger's Den Takes”, I'm doing my Take on Five Nights at Freddy's 2, the movie. Of course, every Take that I do is based on my opinion and my critical thinking, which may have been influenced by Lore, facts, theories, and the opinions I've accumulated through my experience in the FNAF Fandom. First, I am a fan of Five Nights at Freddy's. I've played the games (I'm still working on the books) and I've seen both the first and second movies. This will be a spoiler-free post

I will say, going into this, I had to be in a different mindset because of certain facts about this movie franchise. Not just related to the second film, but also the first one. Those facts being that this series is not completely a carbon copy of the game or the books. The Movies are their own story, a retelling of the FNAF series, which they have officially confirmed is different from the other source material. Which is fine by me, even though some people might feel like they just should be a carbon copy, and some things just need to be left alone. I also believe that to an extent, but for certain franchises, when it comes to telling certain storylines (coughs, Transformers, lol). After watching these two films, though, it literally has its own story where certain characters have somewhat different roles than the ones that we are familiar with.

So far, I'm liking the direction of the films. Especially with FNAF 2, on how they're playing out for a series of events, certain roles of certain characters. However, it might not be appealing to a lot of people who really deeply fell in love with the game or book franchises as they currently stand, but it's nothing new. Especially when the games and books came out before the movie, and they were already saying that these stories are completely different and stand alone, adding to the FNAF universe. However, I am enjoying the films: doing Easter eggs that pay homage to the original concept, to special guest appearances, even adding certain people in roles within the film franchise, and I definitely cannot forget how they cater to the community by doing certain memes.

I'm not going to say which ones, but if you know, you know!

Now, I'm not going to say this film is perfect, because it's not, but it's fun. It's a PG-13 movie. Come on, guys, you really think you're going to see a lot of blood and guts in this movie? Let's get real here, even the games did not have a lot of gore. It was implied, but it was hardly shown, and even if it was, the scenes were mostly pixelated. Still, I will say some of the scare tactics are getting better since the first one, even though certain scenes are laughable. If it turns out to be a Cult Classic, I'm for it. Definitely looking forward to seeing the third film, especially now that it's confirmed that “he always comes back”. I look forward to seeing what happens next, especially with the characters that we have now and where they're at.

I give Five Nights at Freddy's 2 an 8 out of 10. It's an enjoyable movie, has a lot of laughable moments, Scare Tactics, and the kills are better than the first one. The cameos are dope, and we got to see some of my favorite Animatronics in this movie. All the animatronics look awesome. I would definitely recommend this movie to people to go see (after you see the first one). I'd also recommend that if you've never played the games or read the books, just watch the movies and enjoy them for what they are, since they're their own storyline.

But, as always, stay nerdy and blerdy! Jaysto out.

8  10

Cosplayer Spotlight: DefiantCupcake

@DefiantCupcake on TikTok | Instagram | Threads | Bluesky | OnlyFans



How has the cosplay community influenced your journey?

The cosplay community helped me lose all the shyness that I had when I first started. They've brought out all the colors of my imagination, and showed me that there's nothing to be afraid of.



@purpleorcaproduction | The POD

Can you introduce yourself and share how you first got into cosplay?

I go by DefiantCupcake and first got into cosplaying by just playing with makeup. I wanted my makeup looks to be more exciting. So, I would try different styles, designs, and techniques until I eventually discovered artistic makeup. The full face, neck, and body kind that takes hours to do. I'd try to recreate the looks I found on Pinterest. Then I found cosplay and just knew that's what I wanted to do.

What was your very first cosplay, and how do you feel about it now?

My very first cosplay makeup look was Mettaton from Undertale. I was actually pretty proud of that one, and still think I had done a good job. However, my next look was Ursula from The Little Mermaid and that one was HORRIBLE.

How long have you been cosplaying, and what keeps you motivated to continue?

I've been cosplaying for about 8 years, now. I don't think I've ever had an issue staying motivated to cosplay. I just always have new ideas, and love bringing those ideas to life!

Do you make your costumes, buy them, or a mix of both?

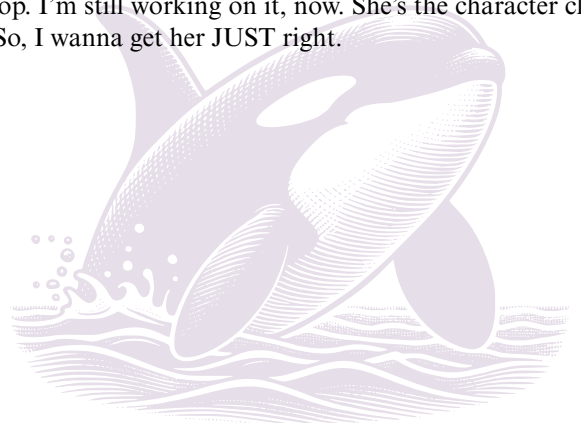
I both make and buy my costumes. I tend to piece together a look with random clothing items from thrift stores or Amazon. Sometimes I make the accessories, and sometimes I just buy them. The hero of all my costumes, though, is the makeup.

How do you choose which characters you want to cosplay?

I make up my own characters. I rarely cosplay from shows or movies, but I do from time to time. Most of my cosplays are characters from my Dungeons and Dragons campaigns. Opal, for example, is a Warlock matron. I made a subclass for her and everything.

What's the most challenging cosplay you've ever worked on?

The most challenging cosplay I've ever worked on is my character Opal. I've spent years looking for just the right wig, contacts, outfit, and weapon prop. I'm still working on it, now. She's the character closest to my heart. So, I wanna get her JUST right.



Have you had any memorable fan interactions while cosplaying?

I don't really have interactions with fans outside of the internet due to medical issues and my inability to attend conventions. However, I've had more than a few people online express that my confidence, performances, outfits, etc. all helped them find the confidence to do the same. That one thing always brings me such warmth, and really solidifies that I'm on the right track, and I'm doing okay.

What's the funniest or most unexpected thing that's happened to you while in cosplay?

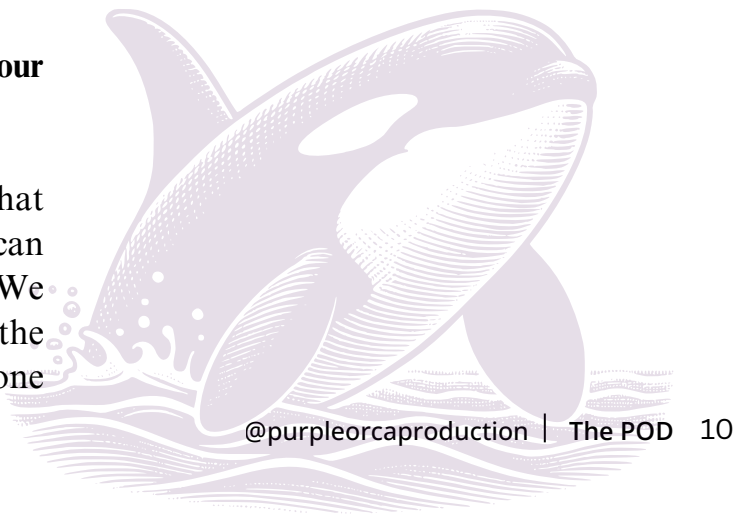
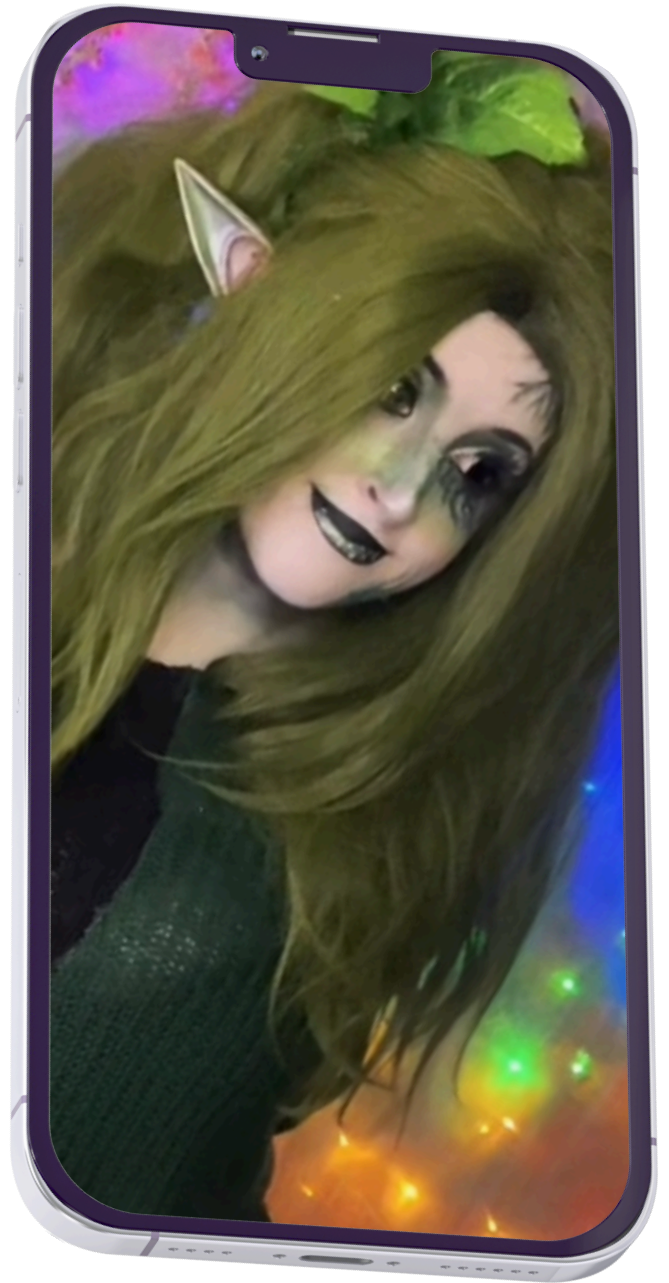
I have a really bad habit of tripping in cosplay. Especially when the timer to record is winding down. I've gotten used to it, and usually I'm able to right myself before filming starts. So, when I was collaborating with Bermuda Penguin for TikTok videos and tripped on my way on scene, I did what I normally do. I immediately ignored it and started the scene. Bermuda, however, couldn't hold it together to save his life. I think we both fell over laughing afterwards.

Do you think cosplay has helped you express yourself in new ways?

Cosplay has ABSOLUTELY helped me express myself. I can be anyone that can do anything, and the only limit is whatever I can come up with in my head. Now, I have a character for every color and a bedroom that looks like a fairy forest to match!

What do you hope readers take away from your cosplay story?

It may be cliché, but I just want people to know that cosplay is for everyone. That is chonky folks can dress up and have fun, and do it confidently. We don't have to limit ourselves based on what the world tells us we should be. The only limit is the one you place on yourself.



The Smut Review

Written By: [thatkedchick_](#) 

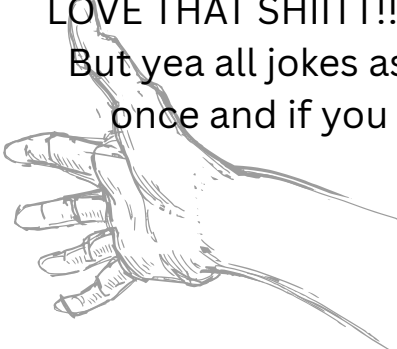


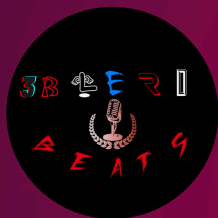
That Sick Luv Author: Jescie Hall

Characters: Briony Straight, Aero Westwood

Content Warnings: Stalking, Religious trauma, discretion of religious artifacts, cult-like settings, Consensual Non-Consent, Degradation, Humiliation, Voyeurism, Exhibitionism, Somnophilia, Possessive behavior, graphic depictions of violence/murder, and exploration of various aggressive forms of sexual and BDSM.

Review: PLEASE HEED THE TRIGGER WARNINGS before reading this book. It does get very dark and severely messed up so just be safe. Your Mental Health Matters. That being said... boy this book did a number on me!! I love everything about this book, I mean not really everything, but the story itself was amazing! Aero is traumatized daddy! He's absolutely insane, but he...somewhat has a reason. Briony was a phenomenal FMC! She's so different from the ones I've read. She's honestly one of my favorites. She's not easily pliable, she can think for herself and make her own decisions and being in an environment that's so heavily male'dominated in this story, she handles it quit well and I love the corruption aspect, but hey I like fucked up shit so? Are we really surprised? The way Aero from the beginning was corrupting her?! AND SHE LIKED IT! The whole time she wanted to tell herself it was bad and it was wrong, but she always loved it. And the training!! OMG she already was a force on her own but, when Aero taught her how to fight and kill?!? Oh it was over! Babygirl did her thing!!!! Now the reason Aero is daddy is because that man does no holding back when he fucks!! AND I LOVE THAT SHIITT!!!! DESTROY ME SIR!!! Have you crying and shaking ya feel me? But yea all jokes aside, this is one of my favorite reads. I have read it more than once and if you can handle all the triggers add it to your TBR and enjoy!!!!





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