

Finishing a Wall
Scene 3 Draft 3

written by

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Author's Note:

For those not in the loop, *Minecraft*, according to Wikipedia, "is a sandbox video game", where "players explore an intentionally blocky, pixelated, procedurally-generated 3D world, and may discover and extract raw materials, craft tools, build structures or earthworks, and depending on game mode, can fight computer-controlled foes, as well as either cooperate with or compete against other players in the same world."

Characters

JOSH GRAHAM- Male, around 17-18. A high school graduate. Wears the classic "default" skin.

RILEY/AMANDA MILLER- Assigned Male at birth, female, around 17-18. A high school graduate. Wears an anime girl skin.

ETHAN WALKER- Male, around 17-18. A high school graduate. Wears a spooky ghost skin.

Set:

An unfinished "house" (represented by three walls shaped in a small square formation) with a crafting table, furnace, and double-sided chest inside it. It has no roof, and its left-side wall is not finished.

Setting:

Within an Online Minecraft server, or more specifically, one made for this small group of friends. If you're familiar with Minecraft, you might've played on one of these servers.

Each of the friends are on their computers, talking to each other through a chatroom, ala Discord or Skype. They all live in the same town, although JOSH goes to a different High School than AMANDA and ETHAN.

TIME

Sometime between 2017-2020. Past the game's heyday.

SCENE ONE

A video plays on the screen.

Minecraft's "Subwoofer Lullaby" plays, as the video shows the game's title screen. It's Version 1.0.

A mouse pointer comes into view, and clicks on "MULTIPLAYER"

There, we see a server list, with only one multiplayer server on it: "MINECRAFT SERVER." "PLAYERCOUNT: 0/5"

The mouse pointer clicks on it, showing us a loading screen. As it loads...

JOSH

You able to connect?

ETHAN

One sec, my internet's still trash.

JOSH

Gotcha.

AMANDA

Sorry, be right back.

ETHAN

No worries. We'll be here when you're back.

Lights come on, as the screen shuts off.

JOSH stands in place, looking at the Upstage "house", it's left-side wall remaining unfinished.

ETHAN walks in, weary but hiding it well.

JOSH chuckles.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

What?

JOSH

Riley wants to talk to us, and then poof he's gone.

ETHAN

They usually eat around this time.

ETHAN wanders into the house, inspecting what's inside.

ETHAN (CONT'D)

Minecraft's so different now, Josh. There's bees and sea dungeons and it's still getting updated...

JOSH
1.0's the shit.

ETHAN
Ehhhh-

JOSH
No, it is. It's Minecraft but none of this extra crap added.

ETHAN
Yea it sure is.

JOSH observes the unfinished wall.

JOSH
Watch, Riley's just gonna talk about college again.

ETHAN
(Feigning Ignorance)
Probably.

JOSH
(Bitter)
Like great, in three months you're going to Atlanta to waste your life on some stupid art degree. Good for you.

ETHAN looks through the chest.

ETHAN
I'm moving to NorCal for college.

JOSH
Well you guys need to get a job here and work. I could easily hook y'all up at Best Buy.

ETHAN
Can't, I'm working up in NorCal.

JOSH
Just do it here.

ETHAN pulls out a diamond sword. Examines it.

JOSH (CONT'D)
In fact that's better for all of us, you know.

ETHAN weakly swipes the air with this newfound weapon.

JOSH (CONT'D)
We'd get to hang out offline...

But then ETHAN starts getting into it. He swipes the air harder, with more intention.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Instead of only hanging out in Mine... Craft...

Then, ETHAN transforms into a warrior, now slaying fake, airy monsters. Nothing else matters.

JOSH looks inside.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Ethan what the heck are you doing?

ETHAN

Having fun.

JOSH

Well stop that, you look dumb.

ETHAN smiles at JOSH. It's a fake smile.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Here let's do something else, like uh, let's finish this house.

ETHAN tries to speak.

JOSH (CONT'D)

We'll talk to Riley soon. Now come on.

JOSH enters the house, and rummages through the chest.

ETHAN joins him, putting the sword back in the chest...

They each pull out small, stone-looking blocks.

Together, JOSH and ETHAN go outside, and carefully place their blocks on the unfinished wall.

They stare at the wall. Why'd they even build it?

Oh well, it doesn't matter.

JOSH and ETHAN each place two more blocks on the wall.

Then, JOSH sits down.

ETHAN reluctantly sits down next to him.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Why do you guys wanna leave anyway?

ETHAN

There's better opportunities out there.

JOSH

But we've got everything here, Ethan. You, me, Riley, we had so much fun after school. Riley's super gay skin, so much stuff built, so many mobs slain, we slayed the damn *dragon man*, and it was all epic and cool and, fuck those were some great times, you know?

ETHAN

(Lying)

Real good times.

JOSH

... I'll miss you guys.

ETHAN

I'm sure we'll keep in touch.

JOSH

(Hopeful)

That's good. Then we'll keep making new, awesome moments-

AMANDA

Okay I'm back.

AMANDA, whose legal name is still RILEY, comes onstage, dressed like an anime girl.

JOSH

Finally! Where the hell were you?

Silence.

AMANDA looks worried.

JOSH (CONT'D)

So, what'd you wanna talk about, Riley? Graduation, College-

AMANDA

Josh I've been meaning to tell you this for a while now but... my name isn't Riley anymore it's... it's Amanda.

Beat.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

My name's Amanda, and I go by she/her now... I told Ethan at school, my parents know too... Um, I know this is all really sudden but, but I've been thinking about this since Freshman Year, and my parents don't wanna believe it, and I've known you both since Middle School, Josh, and, well... didn't you wanna know why I picked this skin? It's special. Think about it.

JOSH

You're telling me here?

AMANDA

Yea I mean, you go to a different school now, Josh. And, we don't really hang out offline, you know...

JOSH stares at AMANDA. ETHAN takes a deep sigh.

Minecraft's "Stal" starts playing.

AMANDA (CONT'D)

(Resigned)

How's your day been, Josh?

JOSH

... Great. Thanks for asking, Riley.

ETHAN

Josh-

JOSH

Bro, he's fucking around. If I knew Riley was a you know what, I'd know. Now come on guys, let's finish building-

AMANDA

What's that mean, Josh.

JOSH

Bruh I'm not fucking saying it-

AMANDA

Come on Josh say it.

JOSH

Dude you're letting this gay shit get to your head.

AMANDA

You're being mean again-

JOSH

So we're going to minecraftskins and getting you a real skin.

ETHAN

Josh, come on-

AMANDA

I'm not changing shit.

JOSH

Well okay Riley, fine, you're a girl now. I could care less-

AMANDA

Call me Riley again and I'll-

JOSH

Calm down, Riley.

AMANDA starts to leave.

JOSH (CONT'D)

Hey I was joking. I'm sorry, okay?!
Now can we just, can we please get back to playing Minecraft?

AMANDA

You know what Josh? All you wanna do is make everyone-

ETHAN enters the house.

JOSH

For god's sake-

AMANDA

Make everyone play how you play.

JOSH

Let's just finish-

AMANDA

That's our friendship in a nutshell, actually, you trying to control us-

JOSH

Let's just finish building this fucking wall!

ETHAN swings the sword around. Violently. Without purpose. Distracting himself.

AMANDA

I don't want to-

JOSH

Of course you DON'T! NO ONE WANTS TO!

AMANDA

Josh-

JOSH

YOU'RE LEAVING ME!

AMANDA

That's not my fault-

JOSH

I'VE BEEN A GREAT FRIEND AND YOU'RE LEAVING ME!

AMANDA

We just graduated-

JOSH

I'M GONNA ROT IN THIS TOWN AND IT'S CAUSE OF YOU!

AMANDA
What the hell's your problem?!

ETHAN gently drops the sword.

You can't slam items around in Minecraft.

AMANDA (CONT'D)
I just wanted you to accept me and-

JOSH
You're a fucking liar fuck you FUCK YOU FUCK YOU-

ETHAN
(Tired)
Josh, I tried. Really, I did, but... fuck you, man.
Amanda, I'm sorry, this is so stupid, I just... fuck.

ETHAN storms offstage.

A long, tense Beat.

JOSH
Amanda-

AMANDA leaves.

JOSH watches her leave.

He enters the house, grabs the sword, checks it for damages, and puts it back in the chest.

Grabbing a stone block from chest, he goes outside, and places it on the wall.

Then, he goes to grab more stone blocks...

Fighting back angry, hateful tears.

Blackout.