



# **BATTLE START!**—

• Patrick joined the party!

#### **LANDON!**

#### WHAT DO WE DO!?

You've gotta be kidding me.

## Landon's a furry now!? I can't believe it!

## > Brannon selects INFO, then CHECK!

## Fluffy Rex: 100 Attack | 100 Defense | 300/300 HP

- A creation bound from white latex and dandruff. With his sharp claws and wolf-like reflexes, he'll tear you to shreds if you're not careful.
- *He's still in there somewhere.*

## How did you do that!?

#### Go to INFO and select HELP.

### > Patrick selects INFO, then HELP

- Navigating Menus
- Energy / Mana / Adrenaline / Stealth
- Defense / Attack
- Fleeing Battles
- [New] Death
- [New] The Three Modes
- New Synergies
- [New] Patrick's Battle System

#### > Patrick selects PATRICK'S BATTLE SYSTEM ——————



As long as Patrick is in the party, all battles will include him as a playable character. His menu is accessible by scrolling down on the selection screen and clicking on his symbol ( $\triangle$ ). To return, just reclick the new banner ( $\checkmark$ ).

Patrick has two types of magic: Sun ( $\Psi$ ) and Dark Mana ( $\Omega$ ). Sun is a passive type of magic that focuses on inflicting buffs, debuffs, and healing. Its option in the menu is called "Magic." Dark Mana is an offensive type of magic that mainly deals damage, and its menu option is "Hex."

Sun is gained passively (+25%) with each turn. Dark Mana serves as a reverse health bar for Patrick—it is slowly gained by taking damage.

Interacting with the large symbol will swap the type Patrick is using.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ End

Okay... Did I just use up my turn?

Yes.

—I'm really trying not to freak out right now. What are we going to do about Landon!?

We have to fight him! We literally don't have a choice!

What about the—

- > Garrett selects ATTACK with ADVANCED CLOAK!
  - +16.7% Stealth / +50% dodge chance!
  - Fluffy Rex takes 10 damage!

He can still feel that, Garrett!

Brannon—We're not fighting Landon. We're fighting a *latex beast*.

I don't think you guys could hear it, but Cringe said he's still in there!

We have to weaken him.

- > Destin selects CHARGE!
  - +1 Mana!

> Fluffy Rex uses CLAW!
Fluffy Rex slashes his hands in an X-pattern.
-59 HP

------ 41 HP / 100 HP / 100 HP / 0 DM • 290/300 HP ------
1 Mana / 0% Adrenaline / 50% Stealth / 25% Sun

OW—! WHY'D HE ONLY GO FOR ME!?

He can attack individually!?

Why do I have Plants vs Zombies mechanics!?

It's on, Landon.

- > Garrett selects ATTACK with KATANA SLASH!
  - Fluffy Rex takes 18 damage and gains the BLEEDING debuff!

I don't think this is what we should be doing to him!

You're not the one who just got cut up!

- > Destin selects CHARGE!
  - +1 Mana!
- > Patrick selects MAGIC! Ψ

Peashooter, Paint Gun, Heal Beam

- > Patrick selects PEASHOOTER! Ψ
  - Peashooter (-25% Sun)
  - Fluffy Rex is inflicted with the TARGETED I debuff!

Oh, cool.

This isn't right...

## > Brannon tries to TALK to FLUFFY REX!

Landon! I know you can hear me! We're going to get you out of there! A hint of uncertainty flashes across Fluffy Rex's face.

Fluffy Rex's defense dropped by 3!

Wait, that did something?

Yeah, it made him easier to damage!

> Fluffy Rex uses LATEX STORM!

The battlefield erupts with white latex. It coats the snow and burns everyone's skin.

-36 HP / -34 HP / -38 HP / +11 DM -11 HP (Bleeding + Targeted I)

———— 5 HP / 66 HP / 62 HP / 11 DM • 261/300 HP ————— 2 Mana / 33% Adrenaline / 33% Stealth / 25% Sun

I'M ALMOST DEAD!

Use an item!

You can do that!?

#### > Destin selects ITEM!

- Diabetes Kit
- Probe
- Water Bottle (3)

## > Destin uses a WATER BOTTLE!

- Max Mana!
- +50 HP!

Are you kidding me?

Dude, I forgot we had inventories.

I don't have anything on me, other than this backpack.

#### > Garrett selects ITEM!

- Sunscreen Can (2)
- Water Bottle (2)
- Compass
- Climbing Helmet

#### This stuff sucks!

#### > Garrett selects ATTACK with ADVANCED CLOAK!

- +16.7% Stealth / +50% dodge chance!
- Fluffy Rex takes 12 damage!
- > Patrick switches to OMEGA and selects HEX!  $\Omega$  Oblivio (40 DM), Animascry (70 DM), Malafae (100 DM)

Hey, does anyone know what this stuff means?

It looks like Latin to me.

Of course you'd know that.

Beside the attacks is an option called "Siphon"

- > Patrick selects SIPHON! Ω
  - Destin (*Max Mana*)
  - Brannon (33% Adrenaline)
  - Garrett (50% Stealth)
- > Patrick SIPHONSs from BRANNON! Ω

-33% Adrenaline / +20 DM

Patrick, what are you doing!?

Heh... Nothin' personal.

#### > Brannon tries to TALK to FLUFFY REX!

I need you to focus on taking back control of yourself, Landon! The more you can do that the easier it'll be for us to get you out!

The latex monster forces its eyes shut as if it were trying to concentrate.

• Fluffy Rex's attack dropped by 7!

> Fluffy Rex uses TAIL WHIP!

The beast swings its two massive tails at them, hitting two random party members.

-37 HP / +14 DM

-11 HP (Bleeding + Targeted I)

We're all so close to, like, doing anything!

Forget it. I'm not dying today.

- > Destin selects SPELL with DOME SHIELD on HIMSELF!
  - Destin's wand is broken! Nothing happens!

NO!

#### Oh CRAP!

#### What now!?

Destin, you need to try to use your magic without your wand! You need to focus on it and let the magic course through your body!

SPELL became FOCUS!

#### > Destin selects FOCUS!

Destin doesn't have enough courage!

Why can't I do it!?

#### > Brannon selects TALK!

Fluffy Rex, Destin

#### > Brannon selects DESTIN!

Destin, I don't know how you're supposed to focus on your magic, but I know you can do it!

That doesn't really help, Brannon!

Well, do you remember creating a Dome Shield from your wand? Imagine yourself doing that but with your hands! The magic has to come from somewhere, right?

The magic came from my wand!

Then, uh, try to create more magic! If you can CHARGE without your wand, then you can certainly cast a SPELL!

#### **CHARGING ISN'T THE PROBLEM!**

Suddenly, something shifts in Destin's will!

- Destin is going BAD MODE! (+100% RAGE)
- FOCUS reverted to SPELL!

### > Destin selects SPELL with SUPERSONIC COMBO!

- Fluffy Rex takes 65 damage!
- The ball bounces back! (x2)
- Another bounce! (x3)
- FLUFFY REX TAKES 195 TOTAL DAMAGE!

### Holy crap!

Mana surges at Destin's fingertips like an electric current. *TAKE THAT, YOU STUPID FURRY!* 

I suppose that's one way to do it.

Look how low Landon is! Please don't kill him!

### WE'RE NOT KILLING HIM, BRANNON! WE'RE SAVING HIM!

- > Garrett selects ATTACK with ADVANCED CLOAK!
  - +16.7% Stealth / +50% dodge chance!
  - Fluffy Rex takes 9 damage!

I have no idea what this does, but I'm going to use it on him.

> Patrick selects HEX with OBLIVIO! (-40 DM)  $\Omega$ 

A veil of darkness completely shrouds Fluffy Rex, blinding him.

Fluffy Rex's attack drops by 75% for this turn!

## > Fluffy Rex selects ITEM!

Granola Bars (3) Trail Mix (2)

Bag of Nuts

Oat Cakes (3)

Banana Bread

> Fluffy Rex eats the BANANA BREAD!

HP completely restored!
 -11 HP (Bleeding + Targeted I)

Oh.

There goes 40 Dark Mana...

HE HAS ITEMS!?

I'M GONNA KILL HIM!

- > Garrett selects ATTACK with BLUE CROWN! (-100% Stealth)
  - Fluffy Rex takes 75 damage!

He's just going to keep eating stuff until he runs out.

Attacking him *clearly* isn't the way to defeat him! We need a new strategy!

NO!

Brannon's right, Garrett. We can't just let this go on forever; we'll die if we don't change our tactics.

We need to talk to him.

#### > Brannon tries to TALK to FLUFFY REX!

Landon—You have to use your powers to break out of the latex! The more you try to damage the creature from the inside, the weaker it'll be on the outside!

The latex beast stops moving. Suddenly, grotesque pockets of dandruff begin exploding out of him!

- Fluffy Rex's defense decreases by 10!
- Fluffy Rex's attack increases by 15!

I'm running out of water...

- > Destin selects ITEM and uses a WATER BOTTLE!
  - +1 Mana!
  - +50 HP!

We need to increase our defense and lower his attack!

- > Patrick switches to PSI and selects MAGIC with PAINT GUN! (-50% Sun) Ψ
  - The paint gun gives Fluffy Rex the BORED debuff!
  - Fluffy Rex's defense is lowered by 8% for two turns!

Stupid RNG! I was going for the dandruff debuff!

Are you sure he isn't immune to it?

It didn't say he was.

> Fluffy Rex uses LATEX STORM! -37 HP / -35 HP / -48 HP / +15 DM

This is looking grim, guys.

I know...

Let me see if it says anything about him being immune to Dandruffed.

> Patrick selects INFO, then CHECK!

Fluffy Rex: 108 Attack | 80 Defense | 214/300 HP

- **★** Bored
- A creation bound from white latex and dandruff. With his sharp claws and wolf-like reflexes, he'll tear you to shreds if you're not careful.

- Weak against PATRICK, BRANNON
- Immune to CRINGE
- Next attack: TAIL WHIP

#### Dude!

You can see stuff that we can't, Patrick!

If me and Brannon are strong against him, do you think that means that we're the people who should talk to him, while everyone else defends?

You might be right!

I think I'll charge for Dome Shield. I don't know if I can cast it, but I'll try.

- > Destin selects CHARGE!
  - +1 Mana!

#### > Brannon tries to TALK to FLUFFY REX!

I know I've been talking to you a lot, Landon, but bear with me here! I already told you to fight your way out of the creature, but you're not fighting enough! You have to put *everything you've got* into those attacks! Think about everything you've done in your life — All the friends you've made, all the experiences you've had, everyone you've loved... Use those memories as a hammer; wield it with courage, and destroy the beast from the inside!

Everyone stands in suspense, when, suddenly, a giant laser of energy bursts out of Fluffy Rex's chest! The hole left gives the friends a glimpse of Landon's stomach!

AAAUUUGGGHHH!!!

LANDON!

#### Landon...

- > Garrett selects ATTACK with ADVANCED CLOAK!
  - +16.7% Stealth / +50% dodge chance!
  - Fluffy Rex takes 14 damage!

- > Destin selects SPELL with DOME SHIELD on HIMSELF!
  - Destin tries with all his might to create magic...
  - Success! (-2 Mana) 100% damage reduction for 1 turn and +20 HP!

I did it! — What now!?

I think I might have an idea...

#### > Patrick TALKs to FLUFFY REX!

Listen to me, Landon. We saw you. We heard you. You can make it out of that thing, but you have to make sure we're alive by the end of it. While you are putting everything you've got into it, it ends up just hurting us more. You need to strike a balance with the monster; the two of you need to combine. I know that sounds really bad, and it is, but it's the only way to regain control over it without—

Landon's face tears itself through the shoulder of Fluffy Rex! His expression is slathered in pure rage, and he's sweating more than he ever has in his entire life.

**SHUT UP, PATRICK!** I'M — The latex wraps itself around Landon's mouth, rendering him unable to speak.

> Fluffy Rex uses CLAW! +24 DM ----- 51 HP / 0 HP / 0 HP / 44 DM = 200/300 HP ------0 Mana / 0% Adrenaline / 0% Stealth / Max Sun Okay. Here's the choices I have: I know that my Heal Beam can revive someone when at 100% Sun, so I can bring back either Brannon or Garrett; OR, I can either lower Landon's attack for this turn by 75% with Oblivio, or I can check for his next attack by inspecting him again.

Using Oblivio would just postpone everything else, so don't use that. Checking for his next attack would be meaningless since I wouldn't be able to do anything about it. I think you should revive Brannon so he can talk to Landon—he also has more defense than Garrett.

## Alright.

- > Patrick selects MAGIC with HEAL BEAM on BRANNON! (-100% Sun) Ψ
  - Brannon is revived with 100 HP!

AH! ...I'm alive...?

Welcome back, Brannon. You didn't miss much.

What's going on? Do you two have a plan?

It's still in the works. Landon is making some breakthroughs.

I'm about to drink my last water bottle. I don't want to, but I don't have a choice.

- > Destin selects ITEM and uses a WATER BOTTLE!
  - +1 Mana!
  - +50 HP!

I can't do anything in the turn I'm revived in. That's good to know.

## Ouch! Why is he such a step up in difficulty from the last fight!?

The last fight was completely unfair. It was the three of us against you.

Oh... I was talking about the Wind Elemental.

Bruh.

#### > Destin selects CHARGE!

• +1 Mana!

I think I've finally figured it out.

#### > Patrick TALKs to FLUFFY REX!

I know you're upset, Landon. I've been thinking about things, and I want to apologize to you. I know what Lust told you, and what he said was true. I did have a crush on Kaydence, even while she was dating you, and I did crash because I was thinking about her.

Fluffy Rex stops moving. He stares at Patrick with large, vicious eyes.

• Fluffy Rex's attack increased by 20!

But, none of this was your fault... I died because of my own stupidity. You couldn't have stopped her from moving away. I never told you what I thought of her because I was afraid of what you would do.

• Fluffy Rex's attack increased by 25!

(What are you doing, Patrick!? Stop talking!)

You need to stop blaming yourself for what happened. Out of every regret I can see, your memories outshine all others. Your grief is the strongest out of all of ours, and that destroys me. Patrick takes a deep breath, It destroys me because it wasn't even your fault. It was mine.

Fluffy Rex's attack increased by 30!

Lust gave you the power to exact your revenge on all of us for everything that we've done. He's given you complete control over us. He wants you to kill us so he can destroy the Heart of the Mountain and run free.

• Fluffy Rex's attack increased by 40!

And you *can* kill us. You took Brannon and Garrett out like it was nothing. In the next attack, I expect you to one-shot Brannon and Destin, leaving only

me. Patrick looks at his hands, But you can't kill me; I'll stay here forever. I'll haunt you to the ends of the earth. No matter what you do, I'll be there in your mind, reminding you of everything you lost.

Fluffy Rex's attack increased by 50!

There's a way out of this, Landon. You can't leave your grief behind, and you can't take it with you, but you can absorb it. You can remember that it wasn't you who caused it. If you put one foot in front of the other, you can make it through this and no one will have to get hurt. You have to trust me.

For a moment, Fluffy Rex goes completely still.

Uh, Patrick? I hope you know what you're doing, because Landon's stats are now at...

> Brannon selects INFO, then CHECK!

Fluffy Rex: 273 Attack | 87 Defense | 200/300 HP

- A creation bound from white latex and dandruff. With his sharp claws and wolf-like reflexes, he'll tear you to shreds if you're not careful.
- Bro what did you do

> Fluffy Rex uses TAIL WHIP! +47 DM / +9 DM

## NO WAY!!

- > Patrick switches to OMEGA and selects HEX with MALAFAE! (-100 DM)  $\Omega$  Ancient symbols flow around Patrick, a dark curse seeping from his hands. He casts the spell at Fluffy Rex, knowing that Landon purposefully attacked him to give him the Dark Mana.
  - Fluffy Rex's Max HP is withered to 1/3 of its original value!
  - 100/100 HP

Don't defend yourself, Destin! Bring your Mana to max so you can Double Tap Landon!

## He's gonna DESTROY us!

We have to take the gamble!

NOW is the time to deal damage, Destin!

- > Brannon selects ACTION with HYPERDASH!
  - Fluffy Rex takes 30 damage!

#### FINE!!

- > Destin selects CHARGE!
  - Max Mana!

This is gonna hurt...

Landon's entire torso breaks free from the latex monster!

**GUYS!** 

> Landon uses *DANDRUFF STORM!* -98 HP / -120 HP (A killing blow...) / +45 DM

———— 2 HP / 0 HP / 0 HP / 45 DM • 70/100 HP ————

Max Mana / 0% Adrenaline / 0% Stealth / 75% Sun

# YES!!

G frickin' G.

- > Destin selects SPELL with DOUBLE TAP! (-3 Mana)
  - Fluffy Rex takes 36 damage!
  - THE BALL BOUNCES BACK! (x2)
  - Fluffy Rex takes 72 total damage! A killing blow!
  - YOU WIN! Everyone levels up to LEVEL 8! (Patrick to LEVEL 3)
  - Everyone's MAX HP is DOUBLED!

