

WHATS INSIDE:

THOUGHTS ABOUT SWORDS

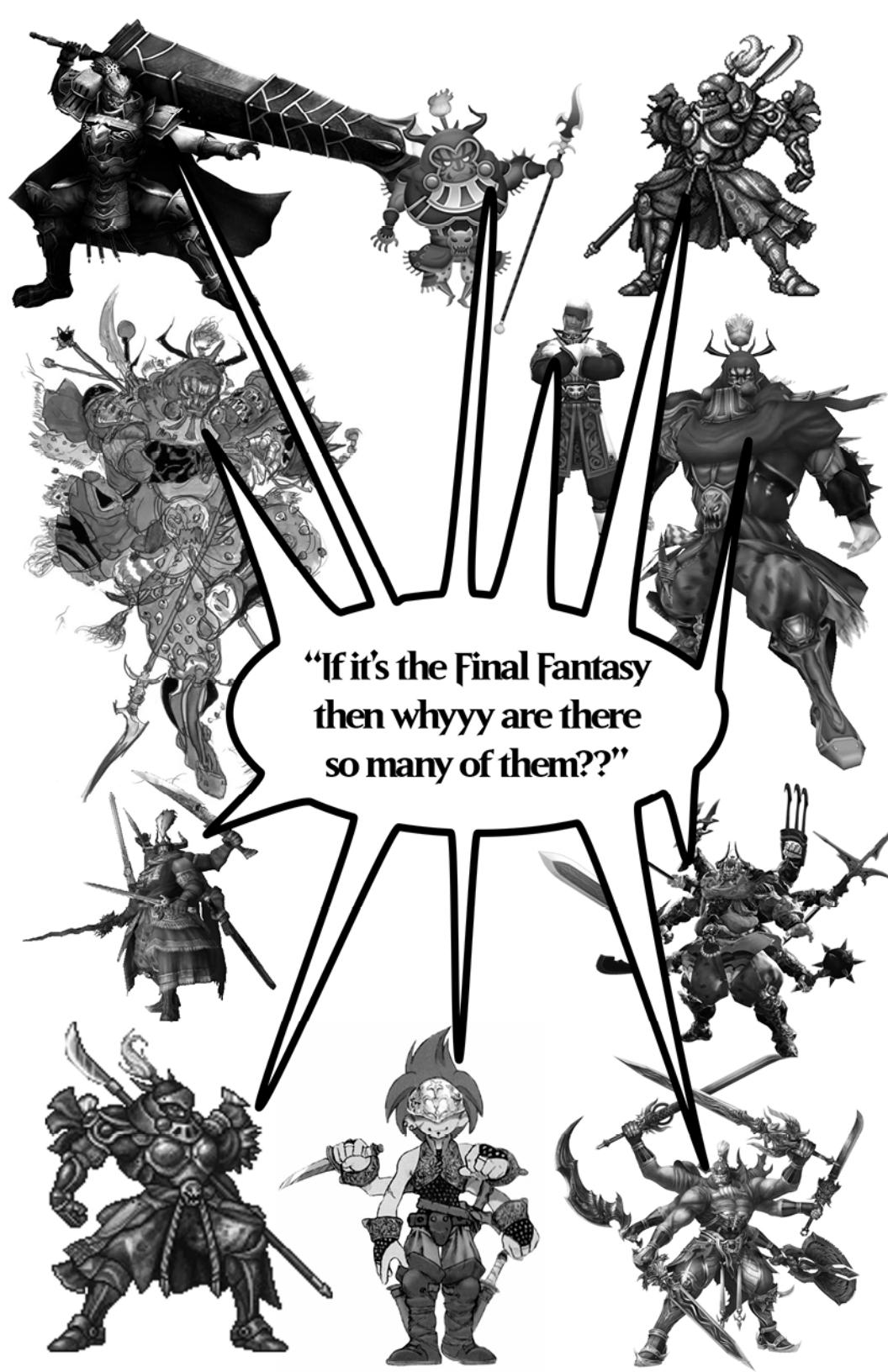
PICTURES OF SWORDS

MAGIC EYE ACTIVITY PAGE

SIDEQUEST: DANDAN

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

IN OUR NEXT ISSUE



**"If it's the Final Fantasy
then whyy are there
so many of them??"**

From the “editor”:

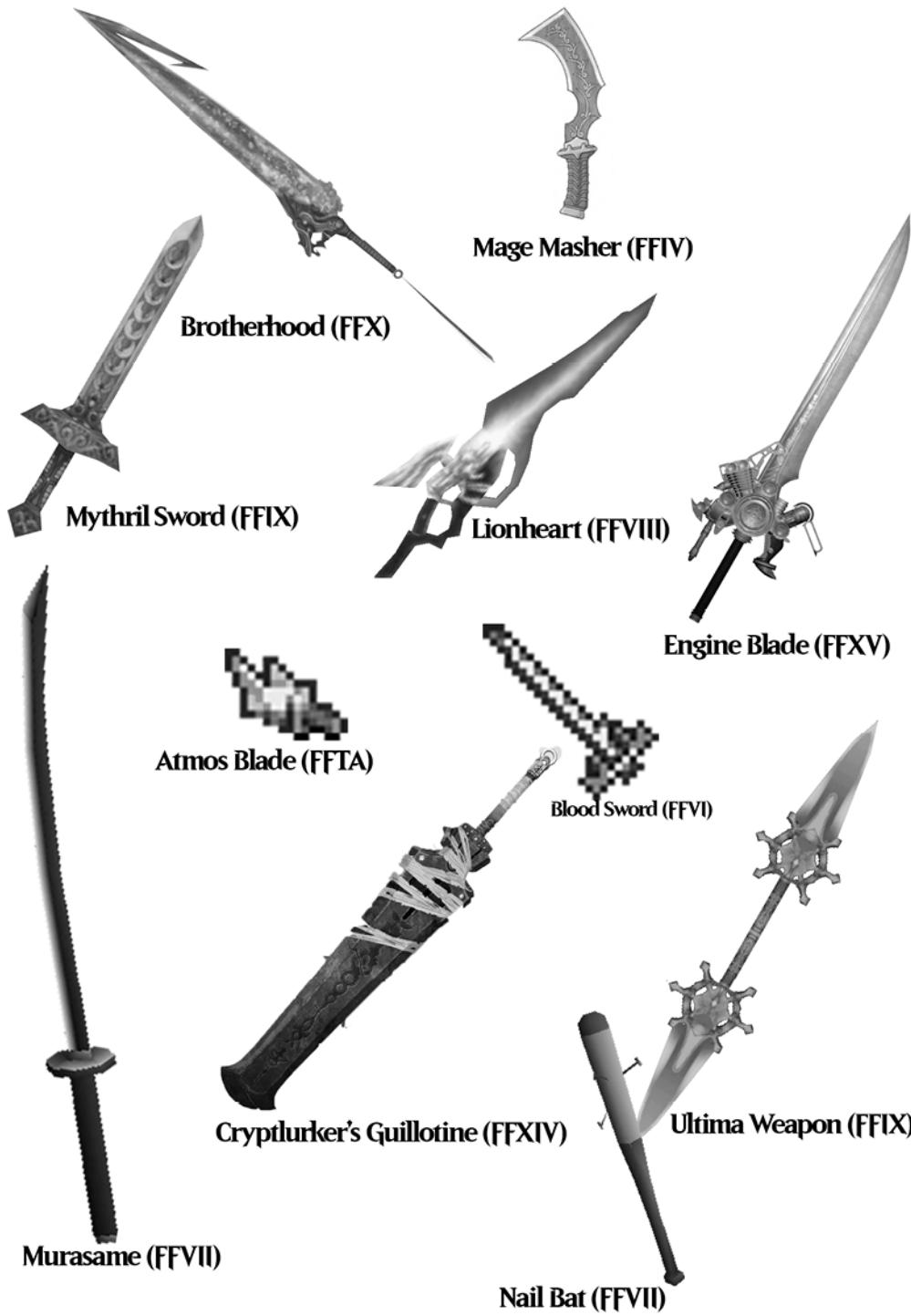
Growing up, my uncle was extremely into three things: JRPGs, Science Fiction, and anime figurines in various states of undress. He would always host the family thanksgiving dinner, and afterwards, my brother and I would sneak down to watch his Evangelion DVDs after dinner.

One year, he had two swords on the wall: Andúril and The Masamune.

For better or worse, now that LotR and Final Fantasy are set to be the top selling Magic: The Gathering sets of all time,
maybe he was onto something...



Coolest swords of Final Fantasy





**What is Dandan? A fish! And also the key piece in a
an alternate format also called Forgetful Fish. This is
how the inventor, Nick Floyd, describes the rules in
his original primer:**

This Magic: the Gathering variant is designed for two players who both play out of the same 80 card deck.

The deck contains ten copies of the signature creature for which the deck is named, the Dandān (originally from Magic's first expansion, Arabian Nights), and eight Memory Lapse*, which are also represented in the variant's name. There are four copies of Accumulated Knowledge, and two copies of each of the other cards in the deck (aside from basic Islands), many of which manipulate the top of the single library in some way.

What cards do I need?

4 Accumulated Knowledge	2 Izzet Boilerworks	2 Ray of Command
2 Brainstorm	2 Lonely Sandbar	2 Remote Isle
2 Crystal Spray	6 Memory Lapse	2 Supplant Form
2 Dance of the Skywise	2 Metamorphose	2 Svyelunite Temple
10 Dandan	2 Mind Bend	2 Temple of Epiphany
2 Diminishing Returns	2 Mystic Retrieval	2 Unsubstantiate
2 Halimar Depths	2 Mystic Sanctuary	2 Vision Charm
2 Insidious Will	2 Mystical Tutor	
18 Island	2 Predict	

Would you like to go fishing?



Yes

Of course

RULE CHANGES — Forgetful Fish is played like a standard game of Magic with these simple rule changes.

- The two players share a library and a graveyard placed between them so that both players can reach them with ease. A card that refers to the "owner" of a library or graveyard or refers to "your library" or "your graveyard" refers to the singular library or graveyard. The "owner" of a card is the person who played that card from his or her hand.
- For starting hands and anytime both players must draw cards from the same effect, the cards should be dealt from the top of the deck, one player than the other, as though dealing a standard card game. The active player deals.
- The standard mulligan rule applies, but anytime a starting hand of seven cards does not contain two or more land cards or does contain six or more, that player may reveal those cards and take a free mulligan without having to put an additional card on the bottom of the library when finally deciding to keep a hand.
- Players start the game with 20 life, but since they will only lose life in increments of four, a starting life total may be simply represented by five counters ($5 \times 4 = 20$ life) or tracked on a single six-sided die. Each time a Dandan deals its 4 damage to a player, he or she loses one counter, or one number off the die.
- The stack works as normal, but can get quite complex. Players should allow time for their opponent to respond and make sure his opponent passes priority before beginning resolution of the stack, each time a spell resolves, and before drawing a card from the top of the library.

The following pages contain the author's generally uneducated opinions on how cards in a traditional Dandan deck interact and how to use them to your advantage

DANDAN



Dance of the Skywise Saves Dandan from Crystal Spray, Mind Bend, for Metamorphose interaction

Crystal Spray Removes 1x Dandan

Mind Bend Removes 1x Dandan

Vision Charm Boardwipes all Dandan

Brainstorm Can draw a Dandan

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Topdecks permanent on battlefield (resolution could replace it)

Mystical Tutor Can replace a topdecked Dandan

Predict Can mill a topdecked Dandan

Diminishing Returns Attempt to remove Dandan hoarding / revoke stolen Dandans

Supplant Form Returns Dandan to owner's hand and you make a token. Player Turn: Return defending Dandan and steal one. Opponent Turn: Return attacking Dandan and steal one (can use it to defend against/remove another dandan) **Strategy thought:** Do you want to use this on your turn if opponent isn't defending? Doing it your turn lets your opponent play on their next/get up to attach in +2 turns, but playing on opponents turn can potentially move that clock another turn. Especially if played during their end step, putting your token up without summoning sickness on your turn **Strategy thought 2:** When compared to Unsubstantiate, SF prob better for stealing on opponent turn vs using Unsub to return.

Unsubstantiate "Counterspell that bounces to hand, not topdeck or graveyard. Useful for when you don't want the spell (early Accumulated Knowledge). Probably wouldn't use on opponent's Dandan unless in a pinch . Would use on own Dandan while it's on the stack if it's getting MB'd

Ray of Command Steals a Dandan. Player turn: Steal opponent dandan to attack with / Opponent turn: Steal dandan so opponent can't attack with it (or to block opponent's dandan and remove both)

Any turn you don't have an island but opp has DD: Steal opp's DD and it dies when you don't have the island

Combo opportunity: Ray of command then Supplant form/Unsubstantiate at end of turn to remove it before it goes back, forcing opponent to recast.

Combo 2: On opponents turn, RoC to steal and feint

a block, but during end step, Metamorphose and draw it yourself. (watch for Metamorphose interaction)

DANCE OF THE SKYWISE

Ray of Command Can steal skywised Dandan to block and destroy - probably only way to straight up kill a DoS'd Dandan
Crystal Spray Dance of Skywise fizzles CS
Mind Bend Dance counters MB
Vision Charm DoS saves from VC removal
Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack
Metamorphose Bounce protected Dandan
Diminishing Returns Sorcery speed/not avail on opp turn: If opponent goes SF-DoS, then n/a. If opponent goes DoS and SF could be next, then DR removes SF from hand.
And they're a sloppy player"

Supplant Form HUGE ADVANTAGE: Supplant Form on a Dance of the Skywise'd Dandan to have permanent Blue Dragon Illusion style DD until it's bounced (via Meta, Unsub, even by another Supplant Form)

Unsubstantiate Unsub bounces DoS'd DD, or bounce spell on stack



UNSUBSTANTIATE

Ray of Command Can RoC to remove DD if you don't control an island

Crystal Spray CS removes Unsub'd Dandan before unsub resolves, destroy DD opponent's trying to Unsub

Mind Bend Destroy DD opponent's trying to Unsub

Vision Charm VC to boardwipe before DD bounced

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Meta your own in response to play it back new and void out Unsub

Supplant Form Supplant to make a copy before DD's unsub'd



RAY OF COMMAND



Ray of Command

3 C

Instant

W

Untap target creature an opponent controls and gain control of it until end of turn. That creature gains haste until end of turn. When you lose control of the creature, tap it.
“Heel.”

— Andrew Robinson
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Ray of Command Trade Dandans, or hold to steal back after resolution

Crystal Spray CS removes Rayed DD before opponent takes it

Mind Bend Remove Rayed Dandan before it can be stolen

Vision Charm VC to boardwipe before DD stolen

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Remove Rayed Dandan before it can be stolen

Diminishing Returns Sorcery speed/not avail on opp turn:

Supplant Form Supplant your own DD before RoC resolves to save it, and you get to keep a token copy anyway

Unsubstantiate Unsub your own DD before it's RoC'd, or bounce spell on stack

ACCUMULATED KNOWLEDGE



Accumulated Knowledge

1 C

Instant

Draw a card, then draw cards equal to the number of cards named Accumulated Knowledge in all graveyards.

“I have seen and heard much here. There are secrets within secrets. Let me show you.”
—Takara, to Eladanni

040/249 C
225 • EN • RANDY GALLEGO

Accumulated Knowledge Extra draw for each other AK in graveyard

Crystal Spray Draw the card off the top before AK draws it

Vision Charm Vision charm to mill cards opponent wanted to get with AK

Brainstorm Play AC and respond to it with your own Brainstorm. Set up the deck to draw off of it.

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Respond to AK with Meta to force opponent to redraw own card

Mystical Tutor Use MT to set up AK draw

Predict Disrupt a targeted draw

Unsubstantiate Most useful (imo) to bounce AK to disrupt draw-out calculations, or deny card draw in general, or bounce spell on stack

Mystic Retrieval Put trash on top for opponent to draw from

CRYSTAL SPRAY

Dance of the Skywise Saves Dandân from

Crystal Spray,

Crystal Spray Draw the card off the top before CS draws it

Mind Bend MB is basically just CS but can act as defense if you want to not remove DD for some reason

Vision Charm Mill cards topdecked by opponent before they can draw / Take revenge on targeted removal by nuking board"

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack Metamorphose Topdeck DD before it can be removed

Mystical Tutor Play CS, hold priority, tutor to put card you want to draw on top

Predict Play Predict in response to CS in order to remove card being drawn by CS

Supplant Form Supplant Form can save Dandan targeted by CS

Unsubstantiate Unsub to save Dandan targeted by CS, or bounce spell on stack



MIND BEND

Dance of the Skywise Saves Dandân from Mind Bend

Crystal Spray Similar effects, doesn't end at end of turn

Mind Bend Revenge?

Vision Charm Revenge.

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Topdeck DD before it can be removed

Diminishing Returns Sorcery speed/not avail on opp turn:

Supplant Form Supplant your own DD before MB removes it, and you get to keep a token copy anyway

Unsubstantiate Unsub your own DD before MB removes it, or bounce spell on stack



MYSTICAL TUTOR



Instant

Search your library for an instant, interrupt, mana source, or sorcery card and reveal that card to all players. Shuffle your library and put the revealed card back on top of it.

"To the tutors, a 'poem of sand' was of little account, a 'poem of ivory,' priceless."
—Afari, Tales

Illus. David O'Connor
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Accumulated Knowledge Steal tutored cards (post MT resolution)

Crystal Spray Play after MT resolves to steal off the top

Vision Charm Use after MT resolves to force mill of tutored card

Brainstorm BS tutored card to hand Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose When MT played during your end step, respond with Meta to make your opponent shuffle their own dandan back in, unable to get it back?

Mystical Tutor Possibly the worst move, your card gets reshuffled

Predict Predict on opponent upkeep if they MT on your end step to force the discard before they draw, and then you draw 2 before they draw for turn

Unsubstantiate Counter the MT, or bounce spell on stack

BRAINSTORM



Instant

Draw three cards, then put two cards from your hand on top of your library in any order.

"I reeled from the blow, and then suddenly, I knew exactly what to do. Within moments, victory was mine."
—Gustha Ebbasdotter, Kjeldoran royal mage

Illus. Christopher Rush
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Accumulated Knowledge Steal BS'd cards

Crystal Spray Draw the card off the top before BS draws it

Vision Charm Can choose to mill cards opponent wants

Brainstorm Dig deep with double brainstorm, respond to opponents brainstorm to give them trash

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Play Brainstorm, hold priority, bounce opponent's dandan with Meta, steal off the draw

Mystical Tutor Play Brain, hold prio, play MT, draw tutored card off of brain

Predict Predict to remove top card and disrupt a brainstorm

Supplant Form Could put Dandan back into deck after supplant form for some reason?

Unsubstantiate Bounce it, don't take their forced garbage right now, or bounce spell on stack

METAMORPHOSE

Ray of Command RoC to steal opponent's DD after they Meta yours

Crystal Spray CS kills Dandan before Meta moves it

Vision Charm Nuke all dandans instead of giving one up. / Cast after resolution to force mill of topdecked DD

Brainstorm Draw opponent's bounced dandan

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Bounce an opponent's DD if they do yours so you both have to draw them back

Mystical Tutor Counter Meta with MT to put another card under the removed one / Meta'd on your turn: without intervention, opponent will draw your removed perm on theirs, so put card to get yours back / Meta'd on opponents turn: without interventionl, you'll redraw your removed perm, so you can MT to put garbage on opponent's draw. "

Predict Predict doesn't counter Meta other than clearing out screw card from a draw that Meta sets up

Supplant Form Supplant your own DD before Meta removes it, and you get to keep a token copy anyway

Unsubstantiate Unsub to save own DD from hitting library when targeted by Meta (then you can recast vs needing to draw), or bounce spell on stack



DIMINISHING RETURNS

Mind Bend Remove a DD while you have the opportunity, and it's shuffled back into the deck?

Vision Charm VC to boardwipe so all DD get shuffled back in

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Supplant Form Supplant to move opps DD into hand (the shuffle zone) while you keep the token

Unsubstantiate Bounce DR



VISION CHARM



Instant

V

Choose one — Target artifact phases out; or put the top four cards from target player's library into his or her graveyard; or all lands of one type are basic lands of your choice until end of turn.

Illus. Greg Spalenka

Dance of the Skywise Saves Dandan from VC

Crystal Spray Targeted VC without options

Brainstorm Brainstorm in response to VC to draw before the potential mill, and put some cards back on to mill out

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack Metamorphose Topdeck DD before it can be removed

Mystical Tutor Try to force a discard instead of opponent nuking? Kind of a strategic gamble

Predict Predict to draw a card that would've otherwise been milled (after losing the first one either way)

Supplant Form Supplant to take the DD back, but you still lose the token Unsubstantiate Save DD, or bounce spell on stack

BRAINSTORM



Instant

V

Draw three cards, then put two cards from your hand on top of your library in any order.

"I reeled from the blow, and then suddenly, I knew exactly what to do. Within moments, victory was mine."
—Gustha Ebbasdotter, Kjeldoran royal mage

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Accumulated Knowledge Steal BS'd cards

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Vision Charm Can choose to mill cards opponent wants

Brainstorm Dig deep with double brainstorm, respond to opponents brainstorm to give them trash

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Play Brainstorm, hold priority, bounce opponent's dandan with Meta, steal off the draw

Mystical Tutor Play Brain, hold prio, play MT, draw tutored card off of brain

Predict Predict to remove top card and disrupt a brainstorm

Supplant Form Could put Dandan back into deck after supplant form for some reason?

Unsubstantiate Bounce it, don't take their forced garbage right now, or bounce spell on stack

MEMORY LAPSE

Crystal Spray ML puts CS back on top

Brainstorm Steal memory lapsed card (away or back) with BS post-ML resolution

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack
Metamorphose n/a

Mystical Tutor Counters and topdecks
Predict Can predict after ML to draw 2

Diminishing Returns Sorcery speed/not avail on opp turn: Can shuffle and redraw as response to ML, and when ML resolves, countered spell gets topdecked on the newly shuffled deck

Unsubstantiate Unsub your own spell ON THE STACK that's being ML'd to put it back into your hand instead of library, or to bounce spell



Crystal Spray Steal card set up for prediction

Vision Charm Counter Predict with VC to remove known top card/stacked deck

Brainstorm Brainstorm, correctly predict, graveyard trash and draw back extras

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack

Metamorphose Make the prediction a Dandan. Can either hold priority after playing predict to guess Dandan, or counter opponents prediction (though they'll predict Dandan) / Cast Meta while Predict is on the stack to force milling the permanent

Mystical Tutor MT with Predict on the stack to draw 2

Predict Predict the card your opponent is going to predict (assuming they topdecked something) and steal their draws

Unsubstantiate Bounce spell on the stack

PREDICT



SUPPLANT FORM



Dance of the Skywise SF can presumably copy Dandan in Dragon form and fly over forever

Ray of Command Can RoC to remove DD if you don't control an island

Crystal Spray CS removes SF'd Dandan before opponent copies it

Mind Bend Destroy DD to deny token Vision Charm VC to boardwipe before DD token made

Memory Lapse Topdecks spell on stack Metamorphose Remove Rayed Dandan before it can be copied

Supplant Form Supplant your own DD before opponent does to take the token

Unsubstantiate Unsub before SF resolves to deny token, or bounce spell on stack

MYSTIC RETRIEVAL



Vision Charm Cast vision charm mill with your own MR on the stack to try and take a milled card

Memory Lapse Counters and topdecks EXCEPT when MR's flashbacked, it's not going into the graveyard anyway, so the replacement effect doesn't apply. Instead, it's countered and hits exile. Weird strat: to take MR entirely out of play, flashback it, then hold priority and ML it

Mystic Retrieval Steal the card before opponent's resolves

LANDS



PSA:



BOYCOTT TCGPLAYER CWA

Per @tcgunioncwa.bsky.social as of May 29, 2025:

 TCGunion-CWA @tcgunioncwa.bsky.social · 7d

eBay announced that they're shutting down the Syracuse Authentication Center to crush the union, putting us all out of a job.

We're calling on our community to stop purchasing from TCGplayer until they agree to keep the Authentication Center open.

 1  30  257 

 TCGunion-CWA @tcgunioncwa.bsky.social · 7d

eBay is a corporation worth billions of dollars, and spent millions on a multi-year anti-union campaign.

We need to call this what it is: an illegal and vicious attempt to break a union, all so that they won't have to pay workers even an extra \$1 an hour.



TCGunion-CWA
@tcgunioncwa.bsky.social

Thank you for your support. We are calling this boycott out of necessity, and appreciate the outpouring of support from our community.

May 29, 2025 at 12:43 PM

 TCGunion-CWA @tcgunioncwa.bsky.social · 7d

Putting 200 highly specialized card Authentication Center workers out of a job will only hurt the TCG community and provide a lower standard of service.

 1  8  189 

 TCGunion-CWA @tcgunioncwa.bsky.social · 7d

For everyone looking for alternatives to #Gredebay and TCGplayer, we suggest these alternatives:

- Support your Local Game Store
- Card Kingdom (union-made!)
- Utilize peer-to-peer networks on Discord & Facebook

 5  67  300 

From the mailbag:

In late August of '99, I sat in the back seat of my dad's car looking at the cover of Official U.S PlayStation Magazine #24, Sept '99 - 'Final Fantasy VIII' issue. Being a six year old, the cover made me think three things:

1. that guy in the leather jacket looks really cool, I hope I look like that someday. Woah and he is holding a gun and so is that cowboy behind him, cool.
2. The lady in the blue shirt is pretty, kinda looks like a teacher at my school. This reminds me of a star wars movie poster. Man, I love star wars.
3. My final fantasy is playing this game or even a game like it, a game where I can be pretty cool.

If you picked up a zine in a public space, and are reading it with enough interest to reach this page, well, I'm gonna guess you are 'playing with a full deck'. So the following might be obvious.

FFXIV is a MMORPG, where you can be almost anything and participate in adventures. Yes, you can be a muscle bound cat dude who enjoys weaving, a lizard lady market board manipulator, even a bunny boy blue mage, however all that some people want to be is a pervert. I've been playing FFXIV for a while, and in that nonspecific time, I've understood this behavior is just a symptom of a MMORPG existing. I think game player to pervert pipeline is accelerated in FFXIV due to the difficulty of content, free to play ability, and anti social tendencies of the modern gooner (e.g. dang, this is really hard, I give up, time to treat ffxiv like an 18+ chat room, or worse a discord dms space).

Personally speaking, when a difficult raid is kicking my butt, my instinct is to go take a break and mess around with outfit options on my character. Yes, the virtual barbie simulator in FFXIV is robust. It lets me create characters as cool and pretty as the ones I remember from that 'Final Fantasy VIII' cover of PSM #24. Here's the rub, when you make an attractive character in game, it seems to embolden others to send in game direct messages like "hello, you r really hot" or "are you looking at my butt? it's ok if you are.... ;)". You get the idea.

I grew tired of these messages, and asked my in-game friend, "why do people feel the need to send this stuff?" and he replied, "I mean dude, your character is hott!!" Thinking about all this now, maybe I shouldn't be so critical, I guess my final fantasy did come true. Ha. Anyways, don't sent unsolicited messages in FFXIV.
-m.k.

**IN OUR
NEXT ISSUE**

**SPACE STUFF, I GUESS?
SUBMIT YOUR THEORIES ON
UFOS, DISTANT GALAXIES,
AND OTHER INTESTELLAR
INTERESTS TO**

SUBMISSIONS@MANABURN.NET