

# Final Fantasy IX Story Analysis

by Rairi\_Fujin

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Final Fantasy Story Analysis(1.0!!!)

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Quote:" ...Shut up. The cycle of nature and your stupid plan don't mean a thing. Aerith is gone. Aerith will no longer talk, no longer laugh, cry..... or get angry..... What about us..... what are WE supposed to do? What about my pain? My fingers are tingling. My mouth is dry. My eyes are burning!" Cloud Strife

"Obi-Wan never told you what happened to your father?"

"He told me enough...he told me YOU killed him."

"No, I am your father" -Revelation between Vader and Luke in Empire Strikes Back.

"I want the money, women, fortune and fame...even if it means I end up in hell in scorching flames. Im using your checkbook and name for personal gain, cause' this lifetime's filled with enternal torture and pain"-Marshall Mathers

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Part 3: Plot FAQ's

Chapter 1: Character

Chapter 2: Plot

-Credits-

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-Version History-

.01:9/27/2005 10:16:14 PM: Began writing 1st draft of this guide. My goal is of course, as always, to inform people. I hope someone who has had problems understanding plot points and other questions will learn something from this analysis.

.07:9/28/2005 1:47:18 PM: Starting writing character section, as last night grew very tiring. I only got basic info(Version History, Copyright..ect...) done last night. But I got the actual start of the story going.

.20:9/29/2005 9:14:03 PM: Got 3 chapters of the story completed. This is going to take ALOT longer than I originally expected...

.28:9/30/2005 8:03:15 PM: Added two more chapters. Changed copyright. Spellchecked the guide(the stuff that has been written).

.33:10/1/2005 6:08:20 PM: Finished Disc one, working on FAQ's and other misc. stuff.

.40:10/4/2005 7:36:50 PM: Added another 10 chapters. Biggest update so far in this FAQ. Added more 'FAQ' questions, and went into theoretical detail about the more philosophical issues. Changed my Copyright around, and the intro.

.42:10/4/2005 9:15:43 PM: Finished disc 2.

1.0:10/8/2005 3:45:02 PM: Finished. Done, it's over. It is OVA! I got the storyline finished, and started on the FAQ's. Biggest update so

far. Hope everyone enjoys this. I finished!!!!

-Copyright-

This is copyrighted to Riley McCoy, Oak Hill W.V. I am the only person who has any rights to this FAQ. If you should want this on your website, simply e-mail me and I will gladly send this too you. IF you do not ask me, you will be dealt with SERIOUSLY. In the past, I have had problems. All I ask is you e-mail me with you asking for the Guide...simple enough? Copyright Riley McCoy 2005.

-Contact Info-

Contact me at Rairi Fujin@AOL.com or Geostigma7@Hotmail.com. I accept EVERY E-mail sent to me. If you have any questions, suggestions, tips, or grammitcal or story errors, email me. If you would like to use this FAQ on your personal website, email. If you do not receive my written consent, you cannot use this.

-General Info-

Hello, my name is Riley McCoy. I have 2 FAQ's written so far, and this is my 3rd. I am writing this, mainly, because I haven't seen a FAQ given basic story line info. I will attempt to asnwer basic question about the plot, as well as creating a txt. version of the story. This will help people to quickly identify what part of the story confuses them, and quickly read that section in order to get a second opinion on things. I provide quotes, but I hope this doesn't become like a game script(Which, all FAQ sites have enough of). I suggest you play the game though, as the game allows you to see each of the characters personalities. You cannot with this guide(I try as best I can, but smaller characters like Amarant and Quina wont be too detailed). With out further ado...I proudly present....

The FFIIX Story Analysis

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++Part 1: Characters++  
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=====  
Zidane Tribal==  
=====

"you don't need a reason to help people"

He is a cocky, womanizing, self-confident theif. A employee of the theatre troupe "Tantalus", he loves the troupe like family. But in actuality, they are a band of theives. The journey starts when they get their biggest job, kidnapping the princess of Alexandria!

=====  
Princess Garnet til Alexandros 17th==  
=====

Aka Dagger

"Some day I will be queen, but I will always be myself"

A shy, reclusive princess who has never seen the world. Possessing Eidolon powers, she is a scientist DREAM. Not to mention, a dream on the eyes..... Heir to the throne of Alexandria, she decides to escape on her 17th(lol) birthday. Though, as luck would have it.....

BTW. what kind of name is til Alexandros? 17th? jeez...

=====  
Vivi Orunitia==  
=====

"How do you prove you exist? Maybe we don't exist..."

Another shy guy, he is a black mage. Just a kid, he is lost in the big town of Alexandria, during it's busiest day. The Theatre troupe "Tantalus" is in town to preform "I want to be your canary"...and Vivi happens to find a ticket. Not knowing how powerful his powers truly are, he seeks answers to basic everyday life.

=====  
Captain Albert Steiner==  
=====

The head knight of 'Pluto Knights'. A whimsical Knight, he is the sworn protector of Princess Garnett. When she decides to escape/Kidnapped, he is there to keep her safe, Though, he doesn't want her to leave. Infact, he demands she stays in Alexandria until.....

=====  
Freya Crescent==  
=====

"To be forgotten is a fate worse than death"

A once great soldier of burmecia, she is now traveling the world, searching for her long lost love, sir Fratley. Meets Zidane and crew at lindblum, but is reluctant to join, untill she hears of the battle for Burmecia. See obviously is an old friend of Zidane's.

=====  
Quina==  
=====

"I do what I want. You got problem?"

What is there to say? Quina is Quina, alot like Gogo is Gogo... not a very plot devopling character, if you will. Look at his/her quote, I think it fits her, but is stupid nonetheless. She is Qu, who likes frogs, and well, she eats. I guess, you could say, she is the gourmand of the party, but how is that important to the story? She is a head chef in Alexandria's kiothen.

=====  
Eiko Carol==  
=====

"I don't want to be alone anymore"

Er....this one is a little hard to describe without giving away plot

information. She is a 6 year-old little girl who lives in Madian Sari, outside of the mist continent. She has summoning abilities just like Garnet, is there a connection between the two?

=====  
Amarant Coral==  
=====

"The only thing certain about the future is it's unpredictability"

The Flaming Amarant is a bounty hunter who was hired by Queen Brahne in order to get the pendant back from Dagger/Garnet. He has morals though, unlike his teammate Lani, who takes Eiko hostage, until Amarant helps the heros....

=====  
Kuja==  
=====

"Kweheheheheh, what a bunch of idiots."

The obvious villain of the game, though there is much, much more to his character than just the villain of the game. He is shrouded in mystery most of the game, and his storyline keeps changing until a certain point in the game. He possess' great magical ability, and rides around the world on his silver dragon.

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++Part 2: The Story++  
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=====  
==Chapter 1: And they put on a show for the ages==  
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As the Prima Vista Airship is seen flying over the grand city of Alexandria, A man is seen walking down a ladder, into a hallway of some sorts. He opens one of the hallway doors, into a room of complete darkness. He of course, will light a candle in the room. Just at that moment, a man in a dragon mask jumps down and begins hitting our hero, but fortunately, he misses almost every time. Then, the hero's friends come, aiding him in the battle. We learn his name is Zidane Tribal (you didn't know?). Even though it seems Zidane doesn't need their help, they offer it anyway. After the man's masked is cracked by the gang, he yells out.....

Zidane: Whew...

Cinna: Whew...

Blank: Whew...

Marcus: Whew...

Baku: Hey, fools! You're lookin' a lot better! Gwahahaha! Alright!  
Let's start this meeting already!

Inside of the meeting room, baku, the leader of tantalus explains the situation. They are to kidnap the most beautiful princess in the world,

Princess Garnet. They are to preform a play, and during the intermission between acts, Blank(A tantalus member) and Zidane are to rob some soldiers of the uniform, and enter the castle. Where at this point...they are going to kidnap the princess....

Baku: Here's the plan! Tantalus, the infamous band of daring thieves (that's us), is headin' to the kingdom of Alexandria... Our mission: to kidnap the heir to the throne, Princess Garnet!

Cinna: I'll take it from here, so listen up! Our ship's about to dock at Alexandria... And when it does, we're gonna put on our costumes... ...and perform 'I Want to Be Your Canary,' the most popular play in Alexandria! Break a leg, Marcus! 'Cause you're playin' the lead!

Marcus: Leave the actin' to me! Of course, the real kidnappers'll be Blank and Zidane!

Blank: I'll distract the audience from the backstage with these little buggers. I can't stand oglops... But I'll manage, so don't worry about me. And that'll be your cue, Zidane!

We see the airship fly over towards the castle of Alexandria. Then...we see a little boy who gets tripped during all the hustle and bustle going on down on the streets....

In the whole mess, a man dropped his ticket to the play. The boy picks it up, and continues on toward the ticket booth. When he is showing his ticket to the gate master, he is turned down. It turns out his ticket is a fake. He then decides to go on to the church, but ends up meeting a boy named "Puck", and he offers to get Vivi(we learn that is his name) into the play. But there is a catch, he must become his 'slave'. Vivi reluctantly agrees and Puck steals a ladder. Proceeding upon rooftop, they arrive on a near by awning where they can see the play....

Through Vivi, we now see the play being preformed. Marcus comes out of the stage, and thus begins the play. It's an emotionaly play, and during the whole thing, Blank and Zidane have an epic sword fight. This is merely a ruse to get inside of the castle...in which place they steal the guards uniform.

This is where the duet splits. Blank is to use oglops for distracting the crowd and queen...while Zidane is to sneak up behind the queen and run off with the Princess. Seems perfect...Until....

A hooded girl runs into Zidane. Intrigued, he begins talking to her:

Zidane: (Hmm? She sure dressed funny...)

Hooded Girl: Umm... Would you let me pass?

Zidane: Hmm... (Let her pass.) Wait. Hold on a sec! Haven't we met before?

Hooded Girl: No, I do not know you...

Zidane: Hmm... Maybe you're right... I'd never let someone as pretty as you get away. Say, you wouldn't-

Hooded Girl: I must go...

Then Zidane realizes it is Princess Garnet herself. Frantically, he runs up

and tries to catch her. Just then, two short clowns come into the hallway, screaming of a mess. It seems they are headed towards queen brahne herself, and are afraid to tell her of the news. Arriving on the balcony (where the queen is watching the play)...The captain of the Knights of Pluto will not allow them to interrupt the queen...yet Beatrix (A royal General) allows them to tell her of the news...

Beatrix: So, what exactly is the problem?

Zorn: Her Royal Highness...

Thorn: Princess Garnet...

Zorn: ...is in danger!

Thorn: ...is in danger!

Beatrix: I see. Wait right there.

Queen Brahne: No interruptions! Can't you see I'm watching the show!?

Beatrix: Your Majesty, I'm afraid Princess Garnet has-

Queen Brahne: Ah, yes... She did leave her seat awhile ago.

Beatrix: Your Majesty, it seems that Princess Garnet has run off with the Royal Pendant.

Queen Brahne: Well, of all the... What could she be thinking? General Beatrix!

The queen orders Steiner to find the princess. Without even a thought of grief or worry, he begins his search. While he is searching, Zidane has finally caught up with the princess...where he learns SHE WANTS to be kidnapped....

Just at his moment, Steiner comes in demands the princess returns. In a grand escape, Zidane and Garnet jump off of a watch tower, hanging on to a confetti rope. Steiner follows suite, and they all land on the stage...interrupting the play in progress.

Furious...Steiner threatens Zidane's life. They begin an epic battle, where Blank, Marcus and Cinna all help out. Eventually, the three leave Zidane in order to prepare the airship for their grand escape.

Now being found out, Queen Brahne orders their death. She sends rockets, bomb and fire at the airship. Vivi gets hit by one of these, and Zidane helps him out. He offers to take Vivi with him on his Airship (Maybe because of his black magic..or maybe because Zidane doesn't need a reason). Zidane, Garnet and Vivi jump onto the Airship at the last moment, and Steiner AGAIN follows suite.

The queen fires all rockets at the airship, as if in a rage. In the battle, the airship loses its wings (or..sails..) and crashes right outside of Alexandria...

=====  
==Chapter 2: Who said "Evil Forest"?==  
=====

The Prima Vista Airship, being badly damaged, has crashed landed in a region known as the "Evil Forest". Zidane, who seems to have jumped off before the crash, rejoins his comrades in the wreckage. We know see Garnet and Vivi in the woods all by their lonesome. Just then, something comes and attacks them. All we hear is a scream.

Zidane, not hearing this scream, decides to go looking for Vivi and Garnet, though, Tantalus stays at the base of the wreckage...

Finally, after much searching, Zidane encounters Vivi with Steiner. They look on as Garnet is getting attacked by some Plant Cage monster. Vivi, being imbolized by some unknwn force, leaves Zidane and Steiner to save the princess.

They...fail.....Not in defeating the monster, but the Prison Cage managed to escape with the princess...

Steiner: Princess? PRINCESS!!!

Zidane: What the heck? Where did they go?

Vivi: She's gone... I was too scared to cast any spells... That monster's probably gonna eat her...

Steiner: How could I let this happen!?

Zidane: Don't worry. She's not dead yet. That monster was only a minion. He's probably gonna take her to his master.

Just then, the Prision Cage comes back, and Captures Vivi. Steiner, enraged, defeats the plant monster, but not before the Prison cage spews posionous seeds at Steiner and Vivi. Zidane carries them both back to the Prima Vista.

Blank gives Vivi a potion to cure his 'poison'. Baku and Cinna lock up Steiner. Zidane tells Vivi to be more brave, as Vivi possesses Black Magic. Steiner is outraged that he is being locked up...but a zealous Zidane comes in and ask for his assistance. Zidane is going to look for the princess, and needs someone elses help. Of course, Steiner agrees...but doesn't like working with a 'common theif'.

Zidane, wanting even more help, enlists Vivi, and in doing so, builds up the young Black Mage's confidence. He asks for Blank as well, but he is refusing. Blank though, tells Zidane to tell the 'boss' of his plan. Zidane tells Baku that he is quitting tantalus...as that is the ultimatum that Baku gives Zidane...Blank gives Zidane the medicine for the posion..for Garnet. They trio sets out, and eventually finds the master Plant Brain. Having garnet captured, the trio must attack catioously, but they still are more than a macth. Partly due to Zidane using a mythical force known as trance, which he didn't willing call upon, but it is still powerful nonetheless. It deals with a surge of emotion.

Although they rescue the princess, Zidane realizes that with the plant brain gone, the forest cannot function. Plant Spiders follow them out of the forest, as the party desperately escape. Blank, having something for Zidane, joins in on the escape....though he doesn't make it. The forest is petrified, solid stone. But Blank somehow managed to get the "Continent" Map out of his hand before he is set to stone....and the hero's just barely make it out of the forest.....



=====  
==Chapter 3: 'An ice cavern is no place for ME!'==  
=====

Whew, what a sequence of events! After the forest becomes pure stone, the party decides to set a base camp outside of the "Evil Forest".

Zidane expresses his worry that perhaps Baku and Tantalus didn't make it out of the forest in time, but Garnet consoles him.

Garnet also wants to thank Blank for helping save her(The medicine), but hears the sad new: he is stone. Zidane, focusing on what to do next, decides to try and get above the mist, as to avoid monsters. The whole continent is composed of mist. Monsters spawn from the mist.

Zidane: We'll come back for him. I'm sure there's a way to cure him. Let's get going. According to the map that Blank gave me, there's a cavern to the south of us. Maybe we can get above the Mist through that cavern. Are you alright? Everything's gonna be fine. Trust me.

Arriving at the Ice Cavern, Vivi tells the group that he knows of this place. He tells us that his grandfather told him about this place, but he recently passed away. Steiner gives condolences. Zidane tells the group to hurry on (After hearing vivi say its no big deal).

Inside the cavern, Garnet expresses her love of the beauty of the Ice Cavern. It is composed all of ice. She has never left the castle but once or twice, and even then to visit other castles.

After traveling for a bit, with Vivi's black magic 'Fire'(melting certain obstructions and blockades), they come to a tunnel. A fierce wind is blowing, and everyone passes out. Shortly later, Zidane wakes up, to find everyone asleep...and a bell ringing. He investigates.

???: Why didn't you fall asleep?

???: You should be dead by now...

Zidane: Are you the one causing this blizzard?

???: Hee-hee-hee... That's right!

Zidane fights the mysterious creature(Resembling a Black Mage)...and learns he is Black Waltz No. 1. The black waltz summons a Sealion monster, but Zidane is still to powerful for that to matter. After the fight:

Thorn and Zorn: You defeated No. 1, but No. 2 and No. 3 will reclaim the princess!

Zidane: Wh-Who's there? Oh, whatever... I've gotta go back and check on them!

Going back into the tunnel, Zidane finds everyone still safe. Slowly, the group awakens. Zidane, not telling the group of what just took place, tells them to hurry on, Steiner still not trusting him.....

=====  
==Chapter 4: 'Dali, Mages, and Mr. Black Waltz himself'==

=====  
Zidane and the party finally exit the cave, and see the sun, as they are above the mist, high on a mountain plateau.  
Traveling, Zidane notices a village, and decides Garnet needs a new name. He states that the princess can't just rush in, people are looking for her, but Steiner has different ideas....

Zidane: Look, there's a village. I think I've been there before...

Garnet: It sounds like you've been everywhere, Zidane. The only other worlds I've visited are in books. You may have been to that village. Let's go visit.

Zidane: Wait. Hold it. You're a princess! You can't just go rushing in there. People are looking for you. You need a new identity.

Steiner: Insolent fool! The princess need not sneak around! Besides, we're heading back to the castle. You leave her alone. And you will address her as 'Princess' from now on, you silly peasant!

Zidane: Dammit, Rusty! Why don't you shut up? Who do you think you are? I don't take orders from a stuck-up jerk like you!

Garnet agrees with Zidane, and decides she DOES need a new alias. Seeing one of Zidane's daggers, she picks it up and decides that is her new name (Without knowing what it is called).

The group simply proceeds to the village. Zidane immediately recognizes the village as being Dali. Zidane tells the party to get some sleep before deciding the next course of action. They all go to the inn, and buy a room.

Zidane: Tell me one more thing before we go to sleep. Why did you wanna leave the castle, Dagger?

Dagger: If the theater ship hadn't crashed...

Zidane: It would've arrived at the neighboring regency of Lindblum. You were gonna leave Alexandria!? I see. If you hadn't been caught, you would've reached Lindblum by now. But now... We'll have to cross South Gate on foot. Border crossing, huh?

Dagger: Zidane, please listen. There is a reason I must leave this kingdom. I cannot tell you why... But...please...

Zidane: I understand... I'll get you to Lindblum somehow.

Steiner: I've heard enough! (to Dagger) Princess, you cannot trust the words of a thief! He may expose you to even more danger, like he did in Evil Forest! I beg of you, Princess. Please return to the castle.

Zidane: I know I screwed up in Evil Forest. But there's no doubt in my mind now. I'll protect Dagger with my life!

So as it would seem, Zidane was going to take her back to Lindblum. But without the Airship, it is going to be extremely difficult, as they are still in Alexandrian territory. Alexandrian soldiers are obviously looking for them, and Steiner only wants the princess to return to Alexandria Castle...this is going to be difficult....

Even though, the group falls asleep. Zidane, dreaming, hears a beautiful voice and then abruptly wakes up. Finding everyone awake and gone, he roams the village. Finding Dagger in the item shop, he critiques her on her dialect, and gives her some pointers. We also see Steiner giving some clean-up services to a local bar. Returning back to the inn with her, she wonders where Vivi went. Zidane and Dagger elect to go searching for the little black mage.

Nearing a well, Zidane notices a chocobo noise....and the...a yelp for help. It turns out, He is hearing Vivi crying. vivi tells Zidane that he is stuck underground. Zidane, being a phycsic genuis, goes into the windmill and finds a hacth leading underground. Underground, Dagger and Vivi overhear a conversation about Vivi...

Young Man: Oh, about abandoning the farm? He probably only said that because he was fighting with the mayor. Who cares? We need more workers anyway. Hey, let's put this in a box.

Man: I guess the guys at the castle will take care of it.

Dagger: The castle...!?

Young Man: Yup. We're only in charge of production.

Dagger: !

Man: Gotcha.

Dagger: The pattern on this barrel...

Man: Come along, now. [at Vivi] Hurry, up.

Zidane: That bastard!

Dagger notices that the pattern on the barrels undeground resembles the Alexandria symbol. This is puzzling, and the duet proceed further into the labyrinth.

After moving down the corridor, the two-some notices(or hears) a sniffing noise. Zidane investigates....and finds Vivi INSIDE a box...

Zidane: What happened?

Vivi: After you left, some men kidnapped me and brought me here. They told me to stay put. I was so scared... I didn't know what to do. They asked me, 'Why were you outside?', and then they said, 'The cargo ship isn't even here yet.' I didn't know what they were talking about, so I didn't say anything, and then they said, 'Let's put it in today's shipment.'

Dagger: And they put you in that box?

Vivi: ...Yeah.

Zidane is understandably angry, but Dagger implores him to calm down. She wants to know more about the connection between the shipments down here and Alexandria. The trio then moves on(After Dagger asks Vivi if it is okay if they continue).

Then, the team arrives at a conveyor belt...and to their shock, they find

Black Mage's being hung like meat or car parts. Vivi is obviously disturbed, and Zidane is speechless. After this revelation, Zidane grabs the two partners and jumps on the conveyor belt. This is to avoid two men coming.

Along the way, the group sees a mist machine...ABOVE the mist.  
Interesting.....

It appears the Village of Dali is shipping Black Mages as an extra source of income, as farming is not supplying enough. This is the mayor's decision.. and a lot of the citizens are not happy. But...who is making them...and why are they being shipped to Alexandria?

The trio is boxed up and set outside. Of course they get out of the boxes, and the scene switches to Steiner outside of the village....

Steiner: Pardon me! I must escort a person of high rank to the castle!  
When will the cargo ship arrive?

Morrid: The smell of coffee relaxes me. How about a cup?

Steiner: Oh, thank you.

Steiner: I am not here to drink coffee! Tell me when the cargo ship will arrive, or else the Alexandrian royal family will appropriate this properly.

Morrid: And then what?

Steiner: I order you to tell me when the cargo ship will arrive! Tell meeeee!!!

Just as everyone is getting out of the barrels, Steiner is seen running out from the distance. He approaches, and tells Dagger that the Cargo Airship is heading to Lindblum, and Dagger is overjoyed. But before the group can proceed onto the ship....

Black Waltz No. 2: Princess Garnet, the queen is waiting for you at the castle!

Zidane: You were all sent by the castle!?

Steiner: What? What are you talking about!?

Zidane: You were all unconscious from the blizzard. He said he was a Black Waltz!

Black Waltz No. 2: Are you the one who defeated No. 1? I am Black Waltz No. 2! My power, magic, and speed make me far superior to No. 1! Resistance is futile! Come, Princess. The queen awaits!

Dagger: No! I will not return to the castle.

Black Waltz No. 2: Come with me, or you'll regret it!

Steiner: Wait! I, Steiner, shall escort the princess back to the castle!

Black Waltz No. 2: Kee hee hee! You think I care? I won't let you stand in the way of my mission!

Zidane and Co. Fight the Black waltz, and Steiner uses his newlyfound techinque. It invloves Vivi powering up Steiner's Sword, and thus causing physical AND magical damage...this proves too much for the black waltz.

Black Waltz No. 2: Wh-Why...!?

Black Waltz No. 2 died.

Dagger: Black Waltz No. 2... Did my mother really send him to capture me...?

Steiner: It can't be! There is no reason to trust the words of some bandit. He was just another criminal, scheming to use the princess for some evil deed.

After this whole ordeal, Dagger wishes to rest before the trip to Lindblum. The party agrees, and they head back to the inn.

Finally, the group boards the cargo ship(Im guessing they are sneaky, but they kinda just walk up).

They kinda just hang out on the bridge, Vivi being worried about getting sucked into the sky. Dagger practices her 'street' voice, and Steiner applauds himself for getting the princess on her way BACK to Alexandria.

Vivi is amazed...the pilots of the ship(and crew) are all black mages. Dagger is also puzzled, and is also amazed....

Zidane: We're you able to talk to any of them?

Vivi: No... It's like... ...they don't even... ...see me at all... I tried... ...again  
and again... ...but... ...they won't even turn around.

Just then, the scene swicthes to Zorn and Thorn on somesort of flying-car-airship(like an escape pod), with...Black Waltz No. 3!!!!

The black mages protect Vivi, but No.3 easily overpowers them. He kills them. Vivi himself goes into trance, and Zidane tells Dagger to steer....

Zidane: We'll take care of the Black Waltz. You steer the ship. Things are gonna get even more dangerous from here on. It's not too late to turn back. You can go back to the castle or cross South Gate into Lindblum. It's your choice! I'll be with you either way! But try not to crash the ship!

With Vivi's strong double casted magic, Black Waltz has to retreat back to his little airship car thingy. He still chases the cargo ship, which has now been turned towards South Gate, and to Lindblum!

Dagger has made up her mind...she is heading toward Lindblum. But, Dagger is not a good pilot. She crashes and bangs into the Gate(A huge cylinder tunnel inside of a mountain[Airships use mist]) as the Waltz continues his chase. Eventually, the gate is closed on the Waltz, and the quad-o makes it into Lindblum's grand Falcon Gate.....

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==Chapter 4: 'Decsion Lindblum==

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Arriving at the grand airship entrance, the Falcon Gate, Dagger declares that she would like to see Regent Cid. Of course, the guards tell her she is crazy and that Princess Garnet is at Alexandria Castle. She shows them proof that she is who she says she is. The Falcon Claw, a sarced pendant showing that she is the princess. She declares to speak to minister Artania. He tells the group to follow him to the Regent's Chamber...on the way he explains the layout of the castle....

Minister Artania: Lindblum Castle has three levels, all connected by this lift. From the Base Level, which lies below the Mist, you can take a trolley to the harbor and the back gate. Ships hardly arrive at the harbor anymore since travel by air has become so popular. The Mist poses great danger, so we've sealed off everything. Just above the Base Level is the Mid Level. You can ride the air cab from the Mid Level to go to town. The Upper Level contains the royal chamber and conference room. Access to that level is restricted, because the regent himself resides there.

Lindblum is also where Zidane has been living for a number of years. Finally, the party reaches the regent's chambers, and to everyone's shock, he is an Oglop!(Oglops are ladybug like slimy bugs).

Regent Cid: Yes. Greetings, all <Hiccup>. I am Cid Fabool, regent of Lindblum. I knew it was you-I recognized your pendant's description; it's so much like my 'Falcon Claw.' I'm delighted to see you again, Garnet. You have truly <Hiccup> become a fine lady. I, on the other hand...

Minister Artania: Allow me to explain. About six months ago, someone snuck into the castle and attacked the regent in his sleep. Unfortunately, we were too late... The regent had been transformed into an oglop, and his wife, Lady Hilda, was abducted.

Aye-Yai-Yai...the situation just gets worse and worse for our hero's.

Dagger tells the Regent(from her on out called [uncle] Cid) that they need to talk about her mother, but...he tells her to wait till tomorrow. The minister announces that it is lunch time, and Zidane leaves the group.

He travels the city(Where he used to live) and goes into a restaurant. Here, he orders food, and meets a character in a red robe....

Zidane: So, how've you been, Freya?

Freya: ...Same old, Zidane.

Zidane: How long has it been?

Freya: About 3 years.

Zidane: Hey, did you ever find out anything about your boyfriend?

Freya: No...

Zidane: So... What brings you to Lindblum?

Freya: The Festival of the Hunt. What else? It's a good opportunity to test my skills.

Zidane: Oh... Well, I'm sure you'll find him someday.

Freya, an old friend of Zidane's, is a once great burmecian soldier, who loved a legendary dragon knight, sir Fratley. He left searching the world, and never returned. She has now decided to search for him, leaving the army. She seems to have come to Lindblum for the Festival of The Hunt, a ceremony resembling the running of the bulls in our world.

After that scene, the story switches to the next morning, where Dagger meets up with Cid. They talk about various things, the most important being Dagger's mother. It appears that Queen Brahne has been acting weird lately, and even more puzzling is the strange man that has been prowling the Alexandrian Castle.

Dagger: We haven't spoken much lately. Also, a suspicious man has been prowling around the castle. I don't know what's going on anymore... I fear that she might be planning something terrible. I've brought this matter to everybody's attention, but no one has taken me seriously. They all think I'm distraught over losing Father...

Regent Cid: I understand why you are so eager. I'm happy that you came to me for help. At this point, I think you're the only person Mother will listen to...

Dagger: When I heard that Lindblum's theater ship was coming to Alexandria, I decided to sneak on board and come here no matter what. I just never expected the crew to kidnap me...

Regent Cid: It was me... I was the one who ordered Tantalus to kidnap you.

Dagger: !?

Cid is explaining everything to her. After a short break.....

Regent Cid: I once promised father <hiccup>, that should anything happen, I would protect you. We've known about the disturbances in Alexandria for some time. But had we acted directly, it would've started a war. So, I asked Baku for help. He and I go way back. The plan was the perfect cover to enter Alexandria and get you out. No one would suspect Lindblum was behind it. We were <hiccup> forced to take action, because we knew Alexandria would never seek our help. I'm relieved we were able to get you here.

After another short rest break...

Regent Cid: At the Village of Dali, we saw numerous black mages. They looked like golems, controlled by some powerful magic.

Dagger: On top of that, they were being created under Alexandria's supervision. I don't know how they're related to Vivi, but if Mother is planning to use them for war...

Regent Cid: We won't let that happen. Even if she were to command an army of black mages, she won't make a move as long as we have our airship fleet. Don't worry <hiccup>. Everything will be fine.

This is a very revealing conversation. It appears that Brahne is looking to use the black mages for war. She might try to overtake Lindblum. Cid though, with his powerful airship fleet, will not allow that.

Somewhat even more startling, Cid knew what was going on, and elected to have Baku and Tantalus to kidnap her. It seems that Brahne scared Dagger, and that is the reason she left. What about this strange figure mentioned at the beginning of the conversation?

In either case, Cid takes Dagger to his Airship dock No. 1, where research and construction is carried out. If it were not for his Oglop state, he tells her that an airship requiring no mist to fly could have already been created. But, his Oglop state affects his judgment and thinking.

In the morning, at the inn, Vivi comes and greets Zidane. Vivi tells Zidane how amazed he is at the sheer number of people. Zidane explains how he has lived in Lindblum for a number of years. He tells Vivi that he doesn't remember how he came to Lindblum, but before long, he was living and working for Tantalus. Zidane asks Vivi if he wants to go to the old Tantalus hideout, in the theatre district. Vivi tells Zidane that he is just going to check out the town. Zidane finds his old buddies alive and well. Tantalus lives on...

Zidane wants to visit Dagger, and heads to the castle. He meets up with Steiner, who cannot find Dagger, and believes Zidane to have abducted her. Zidane tells him he just got here, and he wants to see Dagger himself. Just as Steiner leaves, Zidane hears that beautiful music again, and determines that it is coming from upstairs. He proceeds, but the guards won't allow him to use the lifts. He steals a guard's uniform, and proceeds up to the castle balcony. There, he meets Dagger, singing a beautiful melody.

When he arrives, they talk.

Dagger: Zidane... Why did you help me come here-to Lindblum? ...Is it because your boss ordered you to?

Zidane: I just wanted to help you. That's all. The boss didn't agree with me... ...so I ended up leaving the band.

Zidane asks about the song, and Dagger mentions she doesn't know where she learned it, but she just knows it. She says it comforts her, and Zidane asks her to sing again. He calls it "A mystical Song".

The scene switches to the royal guest room, where Zidane decides to enter the 'Festival of The Hunt'. Zidane makes a deal with Dagger: If he gets first place in the hunt, she will go on a date with him. She (hesitantly) agrees. Then, we see officers letting monsters out of the cages...and we hear the official rules of the hunt:

Announcer: Hunters, on your mark! Ferocious beasts swarm about the castle town! The bigger the catch, the higher the score! The time limit is 12 minutes. Use air cabs to go to other districts. Once you lose in a battle, you will be forced to retire. The winner will be crowned Master Hunter and receive the hunter's reward. Who will come out on top!?

Everyone is standing in the business square, where the announcer goes over his list of participants. Everyone is surprised when he lists Vivi's name! Vivi, telling everyone he never signed up, is very worried. Zidane comforts him (also telling Vivi he is the one that signed him up) by saying if Vivi wins, he will get a date with Dagger (though, it seems Vivi doesn't care).

BOOM! It's off. Dagger and Steiner overlook the whole hunt from above.



Some of the dialogue is pretty funny:

Steiner: Hmm, you're right. I can see the entire town. Princess, look!  
Mast Vivi is also participating!

Dagger: I can't believe it. He seemed reluctant earlier.

Steiner: MASTER VIVI! THE PRINCESS AND I ARE ROOTING FOR YOU!!!

Dagger: COME ON, VIVI!!! YOU CAN DO IT!

Steiner: No! Master Vivi!

Dagger: Look out! Oh, gosh! I can't watch anymore!

Steiner: YOU CAN'T WIN JUST BY RUNNING! A GOOD OFFENSE IS THE BEST  
DEFENSE! ATTACK! You can't lose to that monkey Zidane! YES! THAT'S IT!  
NOW'S YOUR CHANCE! ONE MORE TIME! VIVI, BEHIND YOU! YES! GO!

Vivi, though, doesn't win, and Zidane wins (by being a hero and saving  
a kid and mother) and gets his money reward. Just as people are celebrating,  
a burmecian soldier spoils it all....

Burmecian Soldier: Regent... Please forgive my intrusion... I bring urgent  
news... from our king.

Regent Cid: The king of Burmecia?

Burmecian Soldier: Our kingdom is being attacked by some unknown force!  
We are severely outmatched! Please send reinforcements immediately!

Regent Cid: !!!

Burmecian Soldier: The enemy looks like an army of mages  
wearing...steeple-crowned hats.

Regent Cid: The king and I are old friends. We will send reinforcements  
to Burmecia immediately.

Burmecian Soldier: Thank you, Regent! The king...and all of Burmecia will  
be most grateful! I must...return now... ..Ugh.

Zidane and Dagger console Vivi, though Dagger is equally as concerned.  
Later, everyone decides on a course of action. Dagger is worried that  
the attack might be caused by mother. Cid tells the minister to recall  
the troops over south gate, but that will take away their 'eyes' on Alexandria  
and might be a risk. So, he can't do that. Zidane announces that the group  
will go to Burmecia and see what they can do. Freya, a friend of Zidane's  
and former Burmecian soldier, decides she will go as well. Dagger tells  
everyone she can stop her mother from doing this. She is confident, though  
Cid doesn't want her to leave (and says he won't).

later, they are all seen around a huge dining table. Everyone is eating,  
no one more happy for food than Vivi.

Regent Cid: The Festival of the Hunt feast is one of our oldest  
traditions. It began well over five centuries ago. It is customary to  
eat everything with your hands, so go on, before it gets cold.

Everyone is eating, having a good time (Wasn't a dead soldier in here

just a few minutes ago?) and talking. Not a worry in the world... until.....everyone falls asleep. Execpt, Steiner and Dagger.

Dagger: It's not poison. It's just a medicinal herb Zidane gave me. Believe me, this was not what I had planned. Steiner, I have to make my own decisions... I had no choice. Uncle Cid would never let me leave the castle.

Steiner: No, you don't understand...! War is a terrible thing! You must never experience it as I have. I'm sorry, Princess. I cannot follow any orders that might put your life in danger.

Dagger: ...What if Alexandria is behind the attack on Burmecia? It could lead to war between the three great nations. Many innocent people will die... As the princess of Alexandria, there must be something I can do. I have to help Mother... I don't want to see anything happen to her...

So, the fellowship is split. When everyone is awake, Zidane realizes his mistake. She said she needed the medicine for her sleeping problem, though it seems she was more slick than everyone believes.

The group heads out of the Dragon Gate, and into the great plains. Freya mentions that they have to use Gizamaluke's Grotto(another cavern) to get to Burmecia(on the other side of a mountain).

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==Chapter 6: 'Jingle bells, Jingle bells'==  
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While looking for directions, a they stumble upon a marsh, and meet a 'qu' named "Quale". Quale asks Zidane and Co. if they will help Quina(another Qu') travel the world, looking for fine cuisine. Zidane agrees, and the group adds another ally to the fight.

Finally finding the grotto, the party enters. Immediately, they find signs of the battle. They meet a Burmecian soldier, and well, he is going to die. Upon dying, he gives the party a bell, to open each door within the cavern.

Eventually, the party reaches a lobby area. Zorn and Thorn are there, along with two black mages. The terrible two-some orders the mages to kill the party, even Vivi. Vivi wonders why they don't even hesitate. But no matter what, the group defeats them. Finally, they reach the exit, but trouble still lingers. A burmecian soldier tells Freya that master Gizamaluke has gone crazy. Just then, Gizamaluke arrives and attacks Zidane and Co.

Even though it is a tough battle, our hero's do it again. They exit the grotto, and the scene switches to....

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==Chapter 7: 'I scream, you scream, we all scream for gyshal...'==  
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We are now at south gate, and Steiner is carrying a large sack over his back. He walks up the large steps....

He reaches the gate, and two guards block his path. They want to know what is in the bag. He is trying to cross over BACK into Alexandrian territory. You might think of this as border crossing.

They inspect the bag, and quickly move away! One guard notes the terrible smell. Steiner(acting as a worker on the gate) tells him that he is bringing gyshal pickels, a lindblum delicacy, to the work force. Not wanting to get any closer to that putride smell, the guards simply allow him to cross.

Inside the gate, he finds a nice cubby(allyway) to store the bag, and let out...suprise!...Princess Garnet(aka Dagger). She is relieved to be out of the bag, and it turns out it was HER idea. There is more than meets the eye with her. Steiner is still calling her Garnet, and she sharply scolds him for doing so....

Dagger: You have to call me Dagger until we reach Treno. Don't salute me, either.

Steiner: Yes, until we reach Treno and find a way back to the castle, I will be careful.

The duet buy a ticket on a cable car that will take them over the mountain, and towards the dark city Treno, where they hope they can find a passage route to Alexandria...and stop Queen Brahne(well, actually, only Dagger is worried about that. Steiner just wants he back in Alexandria).

Steiner notes on the journey from Lindblum to here:

Steiner: That is understandable. Our journey from Lindblum was very tough. But... ..it was your white magic that helped me through the battles against all those monsters... ..your fortitude that got us past the obnoxious moogles in Chocobo's Forest... ..and finally, your idea to use gysahl pickles to get past the South Gate guards! I am thoroughly impressed by your intelligence and courage, Princess!

Steiner also mentions how the two are better off without Zidane, though Dagger doesn't seem to think so....

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==Chapter 8: 'It never rains, it pours'==  
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The scene once again swicthes, this time BACK to Zidane and Co. They have just reached the other side of the mountain, and are heading towards Burmcia, the city that never stops raining(City of preputual rain).

When they arrive, descruction...the entire city is in ruins, everything. Freya is lost in emotion, but Zidane quickly tells her of the urgency needed if they are to save the king. She agrees, and they are off towards the castle. When the arrive at the base, the party sees Thorn and Zorn again, and once again, the twins unleash two black mages to destroy the party. These guys once more follow orders un-questionably. But of course, they are no machth for Zidane and Vivi's powerful black magic. Freya mentions they should continue.

Freya simply jumps to the upper level's of the castle, but it is not so easy for the rest of the party(espically Quina!), though they simply walk around and inside the castle. Zidane climbs along side Freya, and they reach a balcony overlooking the courtyard...there they see Beatrix, Brahne, and a mysterious fellow. Freya drops back into flashback....

In the flashback, she is saying goodbye to a dragon knight, sir Fratley.

She is wondering why he has to leave. He tells her to be strong, and to protect Burmecia from other nations that are gaining power, and he leaves...telling her he will return after he has finished his journey around the world(Confusingly, he tells her him leaving will PROTECT Burmecia...yea...good job!).

Thus ends the flashback, and Freya believes Beatrix to be the one who has killed Fratley, though, he never has been recorded as dead.

Then, the two(Zidane and Freya) over hear Brahne and her minions....

Mysterious Person: I find this rain quite pleasant... It feels as though the raindrops are blessing our victory...

Brahne: This is great victory for us. Kuja, your black mages made this conquest so simple. My only concern now is finding the king of Burmecia. We must take care of him once and for all, and prevent these rats from ever rising up again. (to Beatrix) Beatrix, what's taking so long!?

Beatrix: I don't know, Your Majesty. I've ordered Zorn and Thorn to search the perimeter, but there's been no word so far. I will join them and lead the search right away.

Kuja: You're wasting your time.

Beatrix: What?

Kuja: Rats often look for new homes when they sense an earthquake. They probably moved to the sandy tree house by now... So, you see, it's too late. The king has already turned tail and fled.

Brahne: Sandy tree house... Surely, you don't mean Cleyra!? It'll be quite difficult if they escaped to Cleyra.

....later:

Kuja: Of course, Your Majesty. I will present you a marvelous display of my power. I am certain that you will be most pleased. (to Beatrix) I was wondering if you would gather your troops near Cleyra. I'm certain those filthy rats will retaliate in full force, and my black mages may not be enough.

Freya is alarmed upon hearing that the Burmcecians might have gone to Cleyra...the huge tree surrounded by a huge sandstorm. Freya asks Zidane if he knows this "Kuja"...but Zidane says he has never seen or heard of him.

Just then, a Burmecian soldier jumps out into the courtyard, and attempts to fight the legendary Beatrix. Just when it looks over for the soldier, Freya saves his life. Maybe at the cost of her own, as now Beatrix is focused on her. Zidane of course jumps in too, and Vivi and Quina join in.

Beatrix proves too much for the quadruplets. Yet still, she spares their lives, and her and the queen simply walk out of the courtyard...

We see Kuja standing over top of the gang....

Kuja: Now, what do we have here...? Another filthy rat, and... Hmm... This boy could become a problem...

He is obviously talking about Vivi (the boy) and Freya (the rat)...and then gets on his wonderful Nova Dragon, and flies off into the moon....

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==Chapter 9: 'One ol' friend derserves another'==  
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Now, we swicth back to Steiner and Dagger, traveling in the cable car. Dagger is sleeping when the car arrives at the other side of the gate. But, they are finally in Alexandrian Territory.

Reaching the station, they still have another cable car to travel on before reaching Treno, and hopefully, a passage way to Alexandria. Inside the waiting lounge, she meets a familar face....

Dagger: You're Marcus, right? What are you doing here?

Marcus: Princess!? What are you doing here?

Cinna: Hey, check it out! It's the princess.

Marcus: When we escaped from Evil Forest...

Steiner: Princess! You shouldn't waste your breath on criminals!

Dagger has a word with Steiner, and the Marcus and Cinna laugh...she is hounding him! Anyway, Marcus says he is going back to Treno, to rescue his bro. Dagger wonders what he is talking about, but she realizes that Blank is still instoned. She mentions she is going to Treno, and they hook up together (Not a date, but...form a party). Cinna is going back to Linblum to check on the other crew members.

Inside the cable car, Marcus explains that to save 'bro', Blank is the only person he calls 'bro', he needs a super soft. He recently heard that a noble in Treno has one...and he is going to steal it. Steiner, of course, wants no part of this...but Dagger says she will help the restore the person who rescued her. Marcus wonders where is Zidane. Dagger tells him that she left him. Marcus, smart allecky, ask her "Got rid of him as soon as he got you to Lindblum, huh?"

Dagger, seems a bit taken back, but responds by saying if Zidane didn't treat her like a child, she wouldn't have had to dicth him like that (Though, she still wants to see him again. By no means does she mean 'I never want to see him again' or anything like that).

Just then, something attacks the car. The trio exit to investigate, and what they find is shocking....

Black Waltz No. 3: Mission...retrieve...princess...alive...

Dagger: Isn't that the one we saw on the cargo ship?

Steiner: Monster! I'll finish you off this time!

Dagger: Wait, Steiner! (to Black Waltz No. 3) Tell me something! Why do you want to capture me?

Steiner: Princess, it's too dangerous! Please stand back!

Black Waltz No. 3: Mission...retrieve...princess...alive...

Marcus: It's no use! It doesn't understand!

Dagger: But-

Black Waltz No. 3: Eliminate...all!

The trio defeats No. 3, and Dagger wonders why he wants her so badly. After this, the group makes it to Treno without incident.

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==Chapter 10: 'Treno, the city that never sleeps'==  
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Finally making it to Treno, Dagger and Marcus go over the plan. It seems Baku is here in Treno, and they are to go meet up with him. After deciding on this, they leave Steiner. Now Steiner, all by himself, searches for the princess. Eventually he finds her at an auction house.

He insists the princess give up this useless quest, but she is set on her morals. As they are leaving, she sees an unusual person....

But without delay, they meet up with Baku in the slum district. Baku tells the two of them that he knows where the supersoft is. He mentions it is owned by a noble, and they are to sneak into his house tonight and steal it. He also is disgusted that Marcus brought along the princess, and hates Steiner's whining and crying about morality of not stealing.

The group sets off, and use a row boat to traverse the canal system in Treno. Finally making it to the Nobel's house, we have an unexpected turn of events....

Tot: P-Princess! Princess Garnet!

Steiner: Doctor Tot?

Marcus: You know him?

Steiner: Doctor Tot is the highly respected scholar who tutored the princess!

Tot: Ah, Master Steiner. You must be quiet, or you'll wake the shopkeeper. But, Princess, what on earth are you doing here?

Dagger: It's a long story. We're looking for SuperSoft right now.

So as it turns out, Tot is willing to give the SuperSoft to the crew. He also illuminates on Daggert's past. It appears that Tot was a scholar in Alexandria. He taught Dagger (Garnet) all about history, ethics, morality, duty and how to be a princess. He also knew about

Dagger's summoning abilities...

Tot: Two phrases are commonly found in documents more than 500 years old... One is 'jewel.' The other is 'summoner tribe.' But 500 years ago, the phrases mysteriously vanished from history... The archeologist Fredrick Ash theorized that 'jewel' refers to the pendant passed down to the ruler of Alexandria. But the pendant... It is much too small to be referring to the same 'jewel.' Other research suggests a relationship between 'eidolons' and magical 'stones'...

Back to the present, he asks if there is anything else that Dagger might need. She of course tells him about the attack on Burmecia, and tells him that she is the only person that can straighten mother out. He tells Dagger of a fast method of transportation, and shows her the way.

Apparently, they are going to use an old tunnel. They are going to use a gargant...a huge bug that moves forward and backward on a huge vine. It seems that they are going to ride this thing all the way to Alexandria, by hanging food in front of him...jeez!

Well, they board the carriage on the gargant, and they are off....

Reaching Alexandria though, Zorn and Thorn greet them with a gift... a TRAP! The whole crew is (Minus Tot who stayed in Treno) is trapped inside of a double gate. To everyone's surprise, it was Queen Brahne who ordered the trap and capture...what awaits during the next segment of this crew's story?

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==Chapter 11: 'This tree is no rope swing'==  
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We now shift our attention to Zidane and Freya in Burmecia. It is still raining, and our heroes still beat up from that beautiful Beatrix.

Freya announces they MUST go to Cleyra and see if they can protect it. Maybe even the king is held up there. Vivi asks if they will learn more about the black mages, and everyone agrees that they will. Freya offers directions (I guess you wouldn't need them though, it is a huge SANDSTORM AROUND A TREE!!!).

Finally, they reach the trunk of the tree (After passing through the sandstorm) and proceed up to the branches of the tree. When the group makes it up to the city, Freya immediately leaves the party to check and see if the king is alright. Vivi also checks out stuff, and Quina goes to see if sand taste good.

Vivi is feared, and hated by the refugee Burmecians. He tries to tell them that he is different than the other black mages, but they want no part of it.

Zidane gets a message from one of the oracles telling him to stay at the inn, as Freya says that "this will take awhile". So on his way to the inn....

A GIANT ANTILION ATTACKS! Aye-Yai-Yai...it seems a boy named 'puck' is caught in the sand monster's swirl. It is up to Zidane and Co. to rescue him. When Freya joins in, she immediately recognizes the boy as 'Prince Puck'. Vivi arrives, and Puck laughs....

The crew finally defeats the monster, and Vivi is relieved that his first

friend is still alive. Eventually, the entire party makes it up to the chapel, where the king resides.

King of Burmecia: And yet both you and Puck decided to return to me this time of danger. I am grateful!

Cleyran High Priest: Freya, we shall conduct an ancient ceremony to strengthen the sandstorm. Surely no enemy of ours would attack with the powerful storm protecting Cleyra. And with the help of a dragon knight like you, the storm should grow even more powerful.

Freya: Ah, the ceremony from the time when Burmecia and Cleyra were one. I understand. (to Zidane) Zidane, I met with utter failure when trying to defend Burmecia... And I will not allow Brahne to exert her will upon us any longer!

It seems they Cleyrians are going to use a time old spell to strengthen the sandstorm, as to keep Brahne and Beatrix out. During the ceremony, one of the strings on the harp snaps...and to everyone's dismay, the sandstorm is....gone?

Cleyran High Priest: I have never witnessed anything like this since we settled here. On the harp, there is a magic stone. Since ancient times, we have used the power of the stone to control the sandstorm.

King of Burmecia: Perhaps someone is trying to invade Cleyra.

Cleyra High Priest: I fear you may be right, my lord.

Just as the drama is thickening.....

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==Chapter 12: 'They should have just used "Win-Zip" to Extract'==  
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We are taken back to Alexandria, where Dagger is in her room, awaiting the time when she can speak with her mother:

Dagger: I wonder if Mother will even listen to me... Why did she attack Burmecia? And why did she arrest us like this? I must be sincere with her. She hasn't been herself lately... Actually, she's been acting rather strange since my birthday last year. The same day that tall man visited us... Maybe he had something to do with it. Come to think of it, that was when things began to change. Doctor Tot left Alexandria shortly afterwards, too. What happened that day?

Thorn and Zorn arrive, and tell her the queen needs her. They take her to some type of chamber, where the queen waits...

Dagger asks her question, wondering if she is the one responsible for the attacks on Burmecia. The queen says no, but then her reply is startling. She tells her daughter that the 'filthy rats' have been plotting against Alexandria, and she was merely protecting the kingdom.

Then...Kuja...arrives....

Kuja: May I play a part in this act?

Dagger: Act?



Kuja: Yes, an act from a beautiful play... There is a knight on a white horse... ..and a beautiful princess. It is a tale of tragic love. Overcome by grief, the princess must sleep for a hundred years...

Dagger: You... I've seen you before...

Kuja: It appears we were destined to meet again. My sweet angel, come to me. I will take you to a world of dreams.

She is taken to a huge..oval chamber place. There...Zorn and Thorn begin casting some sort of spell, extracting...Eidolons from her! They extract the 'Odin' Eidolon from her, and present it to the queen.

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==Chapter 13: 'Did I just see...Odin?'==  
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We are now back at Clerya, and everyone is freaking out. The sandstorm has stopped, and everyone is worried. Freya tells Zidane they should go to the entrance and see what is causing the sandstorm to stop.

Along the way...they encounter...Alexandrian soldiers. Oh no, this is not looking good for our heros or Cleyra in general. Zidane battles through all these soldiers, but Freya tells him it is useless, they should just return to the city and try and protect it.

At the city, things are worse! Black mages are teleporting from out of thin air. Destruction is being caused everywhere. Freya goes to protect the king, while Zidane and Vivi attempt to save the towns people. Zidane, after running with kids and children, finally reaches the chapel(with almost every townsmen), but, is finally surrounded by Black mages.

Everything looks over, until a mysterious figure slashes away the black mages. He jumps down, and proceeds into the chapel.

Inside the chapel, Freya instantly recongizes this guy....

Freya: Sir Fratley, I... I have missed you so much... I began my search for you immediately after you left Burmecia. Where have you been all these years...? To what corners of the world have you traveled? My dear Fratley... I climbed the highest mountains only to hear rumors of your victories... I searched the deepest valleys only to find your footsteps. But I never found you. And in the end, I heard something... Something unbearable!

Fratley: Freya, you say? I believe this is the first time we have met...

Freya: What...did you just say?

Fratley: I'm sorry, but I cannot remember you for the life of me...

Freya: Y-You jest! You cannot have forgotten me! It's me, Freya! Freya of Burmecia!!

Fratley: I am sorry...

It seems that Freya's long lost loved is alive and well, though he

has no memory of the past. This is terrible news for Freya. She has to accept it though, as Fratley runs off, Puck giving the reason for his coming to Cleyra...

Puck: I found Fratley during my travels around the world! And you guessed to, he didn't know who I was! Or even who he was! But when Burmecia was attacked and he heard that Cleyra was in danger... His faint memories as a dragon knight called him back here!

Just then, Beatrix drops in. She takes the prized jewel, and runs outside. Zidane tells Freya they have to stop her. The party goes outside, where they face Beatrix's awesome power once again.

Zidane tells her she is no different than a black mage, following orders without question. Beatrix doesn't want to hear anymore of it, and performs the devastating 'Shock' move, almost killing the party once again...and she and the black mages magically teleport away....

Zidane is furious, and follows them, teleporting along side of them. Freya and Quina are amazed, and Freya uses another Black Mage's teleport to travel alongside Zidane...

Vivi shows his courage, wanting to learn more about black mages, by taking the leap of faith. He too teleports. Quina simply leaves Cleyra the way she came...

When the group is seen once more, they are on the Red Rose, the queen's royal airship. Zidane sneaks up to a spot where she can see and hear the queen and her evil general....

Brahne: It's time... Without her summoning powers, Garnet is helpless. With this Dark Matter, I now hold the power to summon an eidolon. Now, I'll find out if Kuja's claims are true. Odin, come to me!!!

Uh-Oh...this is not good...

Odin appears, and devastatingly destroys the entire Cleyran trunk(It was huge mind you) with his Gung Lance....Brahne looks on with joy...

Zidane listens on, as Beatrix gives the SandStorm jewel to the queen, and discusses the princess' status...

Beatrix: ...Yes, Your Majesty. By the way, how is the princess doing?

Brahne: Garnet... We have drawn all the eidolons from her. She is no longer of any use to me.

Beatrix: What do you mean, Your Majesty?

Brahne: Garnet has committed a crime. I shall have her executed for stealing the jewel.

Beatrix: What?

Brahne: Don't make me repeat myself! When we go back to Alexandria, I'll have Garnet beheaded! Now, go! Find the last jewel!

Beatrix: Your Majesty...

Brahne: Hahahahaha!

Queen Brahne is going to execute her own daughter after she has extracted all the Eidolons from her. Beatrix tries to object, but the queen is set in her greed.

Zidane tells the crew this, and everyone agrees they should go to Alexandria and rescue the princess, but they haven't any time to lose. The group proceeds to use the black mage pods again, this time to travel to Alexandria...

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==Chapter 14: 'Grand Escape in Alexandria!'==  
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The scene swiches to Marcus and Steiner, who happen to be trapped in a hanging bird cage. Marcus tells Steiner to use the momentum of their swinging back and forth to crash up on the edge of the balcony.

The duet run from the guards, climbing a ladder. Electing to go save Blank, Marcus splits on Steiner. But Steiner is saved, Zidane and Co. come from out of nowhere. The three teleportees now form a four person party with Steiner. Zidane tells Steiner of Queen Brahne's plan, but Steiner still cannot believe it. But he is willing to go and rescue the princess nonetheless.

The Quad-o now proceed deeper into the Alexandrian dungeon. After navigating a multitude of hidden doors and traps, the team finally makes it to the bottom and proceed to rescue the princess. But it seems that Zorn and Thorn are preparing another extracting spell. The team defeats the jester twins, and rescue the princess successfully. Steiner is wondering why the queen is doing this...but...Dagger is still not conscious. Zidane takes her up to the Queen chambers(Yea, good idea) and places Dagger on the couch. Zidane worries Dagger might be dead, and blames himself for not getting back in time(Steiner lightens up, placing the blame on himself).

Just then, Thorn and Zorn come into the chamber yelling "There they are, they cannot escape", and in comes in General Beatrix....

Once again, the party is powerless to do anything agaisnt Beatrix, even with Steiner's added strength. She laughs, and greets Steiner back, asking if he enjoyed his company with the 'scoundrels'.

Just then, Zidane manipulates the general into turning sides...

Zidane: ...Hey, wait a minute... You're the general of this kingdom. As the general of Alexandria, what is your sworn duty!? Isn't it to protect Dagger-your Princess Garnet? I'm sure you know who's sitting over there.

Beatrix: It can't be... Princess... ...So, it was true. The queen really did mean to kill her...

Steiner: WHAT!? No! The queen would never do such a thing!

Beatrix: Steiner, it is time for you to accept the truth. ...My heart is set. All this time, I have been mistaken...

Beatrix casts a cure spell on the princess and she wakes up. Zorn and Thorn are in a daze, they thought the spell was irresversable. But at this moment, the queen walks in. She asks if all the Eidolon's have been extracted, and

the twins answer yes. The queen then tells Beatrix to lock up the princess, but the general pleads with her. Beatrix now realizes that the princess needs protecting, and refuses the queens order. The general tells Zidane and Dagger run to the Gargant and head back to Treno to talk to Doc. Tot.

Freya elects to stay with Steiner

and Beatrix to fight the queen and jester twins, while Vivi runs along with Zidane and Dagger. Just then, the guards have another trap set for the trio, and it seems the adventure is over...until! Blank arrives, and along side Marcus, they successfully kill the guards and release the team.

After escaping certain death at the spells of a couple of black mages, the trio makes it to the Gargant, and head back towards Treno.

Freya, Steiner and Beatrix battle the twins' bandersnacth and spells, successfully allowing the princess to escape, though...what about them?

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==Chapter 15: 'The crazy old fool Ramuh'==  
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In the gargant, Vivi is happy. He likes it. But as the party is feeling relief, the snake monster Ralvuimago attacks the gargant, but the trio successfully ward it off. But now a bigger problem arises. The Rav is behind the Gargant, and the gargant speeds up to avoid the Rav. This causes the gargant to spin out, and....crash....

The scene swicthes to Alexandria, at the queens private balcony. Here, Zorn and Thorn have urgent news. The two are not allowed in, as they are not in the queens good graces. The officers relay the news...it seems that the private bounty hunters have arrived. The queen has specific orders for the two...

Brahne: Hmph. You have two objectives. The first is to retrieve the pendant, a national treasure, from Princess Garnet. The other is to assassinate the black mage traveling with them.

Red-headed Man: ...What is that?

Brahne: A soulless golem. A defectis running free.

Lani: I don' t know what happened between you and the princess, but what should I do if I meet with resistance?

Brahne: Hmph. Just get me the pendant back from that wretched girl!

Back to the trio, it seems that they have overshot Treno and landed near Lindblum, at pinnacle rocks. Everyone is disoriented, and still trying to get their way around.

Just then, a voice is heard. Dagger says she recongizes the voice, and the voice responds by saying he is Ramuh, the great Thunder Eidolon.

He tells her that he knows of Queen Brahne's attack on Cleyra, and he is deeply disturbed by this. Dagger tells him that she is ready to receiver Eidolon powers once more. But Ramuh is unsure, wanting to know if she will cause MORE destrcution. He has her piece together and ancient story piece by piece to prove if she is worty.

Ramuh questions her logic in choosing the parts of the story. She answers with honesty, even if her logic is flawed. This is proof enough to Ramuh that Dagger is ready to receive his powers. He passes them into a stone, a Peridot. This contains his power for Dagger to use.

Dagger feels very sure of herself, and tells the gang to head to Lindblum. Zidane is still confused, wondering why Dagger had to play that silly game, but Ramuh puts his mind to ease.

Zidane: I wanted to ask him why he made Dagger play such a silly game. Heroic? Human? Those are just things people say after the fact. Why try to give meaning to what the main character of the story chose?

Vivi: ...I think the old man would've become her eidolon either way. That's the impression I got.

Dagger: Zidane! Vivi! Let's go!

Voice of Ramuh: You're exactly right... It's not what the people say afterward... What's important is being true to oneself. She may not have realized it, but when she wished to learn how to use summon magic... The summon power returned to her. Summon magic can be used for good or evil. She is still young, but there is room for growth... So I chose her as my master. I'll be watching over her... I hope you two will also protect her.

It seems Ramuh is very wise indeed...as the group proceeds to Lindblum...

The 'Red Rose' flies over head and begins teleporting black mages into Lindblum. Dagger looks on in horror from the cliff side. Then, a bunch of Airships come, a whole fleet. It is chaos, black mages destroying everything. Lindblum is powerless, as the black mages easily defeat the imperial guards. Cid orders an airship attack, but they are depleted of forces. Just when it cannot get any worse, the queen summons....Atmos....

This huge Eidolon sucks things up with his huge gulp of breath, literally taking in parts of the city. Dagger looks on in shame, trying to will her mother to stop, even from there. Zidane holds her on his chest.

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==Chapter 16: 'A nation in ruins'==  
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After the dust settles, Lindblum is in shambles. Everything is gone, the theatre district ruined and the business district trying to rebuild. Zidane cannot believe the damage. Dagger is only worried about why her mother would do such a thing.

Alexandrian soldiers are still roaming the streets, not because they are lost or stranded, but because they are declaring this Alexandrian territory now....

Zidane and crew notice this upon entering the city, and tell Vivi to wait and hide. Vivi is reluctant at first, but realizes this is for his safety.

The duet find Minister Artania and he directs them to Cid. It seems the castle was spared, and Cid is still alive and well(as an oglop,

he is still not very 'well').

Dagger is happy to see him, but Cid is suprised she is here. She tells him of all the things Zidane has done for him, but is sad when he tells him of Beatrix, Steiner and Freya. Cid tells her she has nothing to worry about, Beatrix is very capable...

As this is going on, a few special guards say they have an Alexandrian soldier in their custody. It turns out to be Vivi, and the guards apologize for the misunderstanding. Cid tells him of the orgin of the black mages, and who is responsible for Brahne using them....

Regent Cid: I've acquired more information about Queen Brahne <gwok>. A weapons dealer named Kuja is behind the recent string of attacks. Kuja has been supplying Brahne with highly advanced magic weapons.

Dagger: Supplying my mother...with weapons?

Regent Cid: Yes. Those black mage soldiers are among these weapons.

Minister Artania: According to eyewitnesses in Treno, Kuja appeared from the northern sky on a silver dragon.

Minister Artania: That he came from the north suggests that he is from the Outer Continent.

Dagger: The Outer...Continent?

Zidane: There are many unexplored continents in the world. The Outer Continent is an unexplored continent located to the north of our Mist Continent.

Cid wants the team to find out about Kuja, and defeat the source of the problem. Basically, when the team arrives after Kuja's death, the Linblum airforce will launch a counter-attack, as Brahne will have no more black mages or weapons. Only problem is, they have to go to uncharted territory, the outer continent, with out a boat!

Dagger says she cannot forgive mother, but will exact revenge on Kuja for taking advantage of her mother's situation. Dagger also pleads for Zidane and Co. to rescue the trio in Alexandria, but Cid tells her that he cannot spare any soldiers.

So how are they going to get to this outer continet? They cannot use a boat, as the harbor is under Alexandrian rule. The Airships only fly using mist, as a gasoline if you will. Zidane asks if they can use the new(Non-mist) airship, but Cid tells him the bad news that the ship too was taken, along with the Falcon Claw...but what could Brahne want with that stone?

Cid explains to the group that there is an old excavation site known as Fossil Roo. There, supposedly, a tunnel connects to the outer continent. The only problem, they have no clue where the entrance is...and it is supposed to have an exit, perhaps it doesn't....

At any rate, the group proceeds(after receiving the continetal map displaying the whole world) to search. After many of searches, the team tries Qu's marsh. They meet back up with Quina...who, as the team attempts to learn of the Fossil Roo location, chases a frog. The team follows her, and makes it to the excavation site.

Inside however, traps run rampant. Doors, huge stones, evil demons, everything attempts to chase them out of the Roo, but our hero's remain strong....until....

Lani: I'm Lani. I'm under order by the queen to find you, Princess.

Dagger: My mother? What does my mother want with me? I am not returning to Alexandria.

Lani: I've got bad news for you, Princess. It's not you I'm after.

Rut-Row! It is that bounty hunter Lani, who has come to collect her prize. It seems she is not after the princess, and actually just wants the princess to give up the pendant without a fight. But of course, Dagger cannot do this. The team backs up Dagger, and defeat Bounty Hunter Lani, but she escapes.

After tunneling and using wild gargants, the team makes it out of the Fossil Roo, and onto...the Outer Continent....

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==Chapter 17: And a good "Rally-Ho" to you==  
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Finally making it out of Fossil Roo, the team immediately notices that there is no mist at all. The party does not know where to go next but they find a nice looking place their next destination.

Upon entering the suspended town in a valley, everyone is greeted "Rally-Ho"...Rally-Ho. It is the city greeting for Condie Petie. A truly weird city this is, but everyone seems to do just fine, except Zidane, who refuses to say Rally-Ho until the last moment.

Everyone is stocking up, buying things(Quina looking for Cuisine)... everything is normal. Zidane checks up on Vivi, and notices something odd:

Derek Stonehammer: That hen ye cooked fer me was awful good, it was! What way did ye cook it? Did ye frizzle it wi' some o' yer mejick?

Kelley Fingerwaver: The berries ye traded me were astoondin', too! But likesay, what's a wee lad like ye doin' here the day?

Zidane: Hey, Vivi... Do you know these people?

Vivi: How could I? I've never been here before.

This is weird, they are talking to Vivi like they have known him or something. Like they have bought goods from him. Interesting...

Just as Zidane looks for Dagger, he sees...GASP!\* a black mage. Even more shocking, the store owner is talking to the black mage after he buys some goods.....Zidane investigates...

He finds out that the Dwarves here call those people "Pyntie-Hets" meaning 'Pointy Hats' in our speak. It seems alot of them come to Conde Petie to buy and sell goods. He says they are even friendly. The store owner tells them that they live deep within the south-east forest, but he doesn't know where in the forest....

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==Chapter 18: 'You talking to me? Are YOU talking to me?'==

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The party finds this south eastern forest, and proceed into it. Zidane finds a black mage, and wants to get a word with him...but he runs away before Zidane can say anything to him. After Zidane gets completely lost, he finds that black mage again. He wants to talk to him once more, but he disappears into the path. Zidane decides to follow his path, and he just simply walks through a magical veil. It seems this veil made it impossible to find the black mages unless you knew were to look.

Once arriving, the party finds a 'Black Mage Village'. Zidane is in awe, but none more so than Vivi. Vivi runs off to check on this new discovery, and Zidane tries to talk to the locals, though, they give no response.

Vivi is very happy to find normal black mages like him...but the black mages seem more afraid of Zidane than anything else. They won't respond at all.

Dagger juts, and Quina hopes to find good food once more. Vivi talks to Black Mage No. 288 at the 'graveyard'. What Vivi learns helps him tremendously, though he doesn't know it yet. The black mage said that the mages here escaped from an Alexandrian ship when they 'woke up'. Vivi is ecstatic until...

Black Mage No. 56 : I... I came here with Mr. 36.  
We escaped together. We had so many things to learn.  
It was really scary at first,  
but we helped each other.  
Then one day, Mr. 36 stopped moving.  
He just stopped... Wouldn't move or say anything.  
My friend who knows lots of things  
told me that this was what 'death'  
was, and we had to bury him.  
Mr. 36 is buried under the ground now.  
But I don't understand why.  
He's going to come out again one day, right? When he does, I'm going to  
was him off in the pond.

Vivi: Wh-What's he talking about...?

Black Mage No. 288: "....."

Vivi: Was it a disease? Or was he hurt?

Black Mage No. 288: .....

Vivi: Tell Me! Why?

Black Mage No. 288: That's because...

Vivi then runs past Zidane and Dagger. Zidane asks Vivi if he is okay, and Vivi replies with a yes. Zidane tells the crew they should get some rest before heading out to look for Kuja's palace. While resting, Vivi walks out of the room. Dagger is disturbed about it, but Zidane gives a nice talk. He explains how happy Vivi must be to find other black mages like himself. He also talks a little about finding 'home'...

Zidane: Once upon a time... ..there was a man. There was a man who didn't



know where he came from...

Dagger: ...Zidane?

Zidane: This man had longed to find his birthplace ever since he was a small child.

We now see a flashback of Zidane at Linblum harbor...

Zidane: His birthplace. A place he only remembered in his dreams...

Dagger: Why...?

Zidane: He wanted to know more about himself, maybe. About his parents, the house where he was born... One day, the man left the home of his adoptive father and went on a quest to find the answer. His only clue was the blue light he saw in his dreams...

Dagger: A blue light?

Zidane: Yeah. He thought it might be a memory of his birthplace. An ocean, maybe...?

Dagger: Did he find it?

Zidane: Hey, you're jumping ahead. A lot of things happened along the way. Alright, we can skip ahead... No, he never found it. How could he? His only clue was a colored light. So he went back to the home of his adoptive father... What do you think his father did when he came home?

Dagger: ...Welcomed him home?

Zidane: No way! The father raised his fist and beat the son he had worked so hard to raise...

So, Zidane tells Dagger a little about his search for home. Dagger asks why did Baku(the father) beat him...and Zidane can only reply that it was out of love. His father worried about him, and beat him because he didn't want to feel the worry he felt while Zidane was gone.

This is a metaphor for Vivi's search for home, but also explains Zidane's story a little more. The scene swiches back to Vivi and Black Mage No. 288. Vivi asks why do the mages "Stop Moving"...and No. 88 tells him that they stop after 1 year of being 'produced'.

No. 288 hasn't told any other mages out of fear of panic. He wants the mages to live in harmony. The other mages no of the friends who have died, but they don't know it is after a year of production.

The next morning the black mages are alot more friendly, after realizing that the group is good, and not bad. They offer services and directions. The black mage tells them that he has seen a silver dragon over Conde Petie, and the sanctuary that lies beyond it. Zidane is almost postive Vivi is staying behind, until Vivi says that the other mages want him to see the outside world and tell them about it(in the words of Vivi "!Yay!").

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==Chapter 19: 'Am I invited to the reception party?'==

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The group travels BACK to Conde Petie, and when they attempt to travel across the city to the other side of the mountain(think bridge) they are stopped in their tracks. It appears the only way the group can get to the Sanctuary is if they marry one another and go to the Sanctuary for their honeymoon. Of course, Dagger volunteers to marry Zidane. This confuses Zidane, but he accepts. This little rule though, poses a problem for Vivi and Quina. They simply decide to sneak on past the guards, into the road ahead. Zidane loves this situation, calling Dagger honey and sweetheart for the time being. She tells him that it was only to get past the guards, and after this they are not married. While they are exiting the city, a young girl is seen running from two dwarf guards and barely escapes. The group of course investigates, and Quina tries to eat her moogles friend.....this girls name is Eiko.....

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==Chapter 20: "This is my home: Madain Sari, the village of summoners!"==  
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The little girl Eiko saves her mog from Quina's clutches! She tells them the way to her village, and the Sanctuary. She suggests they get some rest. This is mainly a plan to win Zidane's heart, as she has already fallen for him. She calls the Sanctuary the "Iifa Tree". This is the true name of the Sanctuary.

when arriving in Madain Sari, her home, they are startled to notice it is in ruins. There are 100's of mogs living there, all of whom tell Eiko not to tell the newcomers of what happened here. Zidane proceeds into her house, where the mog won't let him in. It seems Eiko is also preparing a meal for the team.

Zidane wanders the village in ruins, and finds Vivi once again. Also, Eiko tells her mog to tell Zidane to go to the Eidolon wall while he is waiting. Morrison takes him there, and Moco lets him in the restricted area(though not happy with Eiko's decision).

Zidane is stunned, this wall contains murals of every Eidolon. The moogles explain the wall a little better, telling Zidane that the summoners have protected this wall for centuries. Zidane knows he must get Dagger for this, and does so.

Dagger: These eidolons all exist?

Morrison: Kupo. This is a holy place for the summoner tribe. Lady Eiko comes here everyday to pray and burn incense for her ancestors.

She also notes the Eidolons that have attacked the Cleyran and Lindblum nations. She wants those Eidolons back, not for power, so that no other innocent people get hurt. Eiko yells it is time to eat, but Dagger wants to stay a little longer...

Zidane notes that this stew is a good stew, but it turns out Quina cooked most of it. She is a very good cook, and an expert chef. Eiko tries to move in on Zidane...While providing a backstory on herself and summoners in general...

Eiko: Oh, don't worry about me. I'm really happy here. Ten years ago, which is four years before I was born... A natural disaster struck the

village. Even the survivors suffered a great deal. But my mom and dad fell in love and had a family. Not that I remember what they look like, because they died when I was very young.

Zidane: I see...

Eiko: I've been told that when I turn 16 and my body builds a resistance to summon magic... I can leave the village with any eidolon I want! That's only a short time away! Just like the small difference between our ages, Zidane!

Zidane: But you already know how to use summon magic, Eiko.

Eiko: Well, a summoner can't choose her eidolon until she has come of age. That's why I can't choose an eidolon or leave the village until I turn 16. We just keep training until then!

Dagger: How do you train?

Eiko: How...? Oh, it's our horn. We use our horns to communicate with eidolons. How do you communicate without a horn, Dagger?

It appears that each summoner has a horn that allows communication with the Eidolons. Dagger doesn't have one, interesting....

Zidan asks how to get into the Iifa tree, and tells her of Kuja's evil doings. She says you can't get in, as they sealed a failed Eidolon at the Iifa tree. She said that is customary to do that. They needed another Eidolon to seal that Eidolon, because it was so powerful that the summoners couldn't seal it themselves. Zidane asks if Eiko can remove the seal, and she doesn't reply....

Outside, Vivi is wondering about his life once again. He is worrying about things, and tells Zidane that he should stop, just as Zidane told him. Zidane replies that you can't be just like someone else, and it comes down to choices, you do or you don't. Zidane once again tells us he just wants to help people in need...

So, the next morning the team sets out for the Sanctuar/Iifa Tree. They are prepared to ditch Eiko and her moogle gang, until she mentions that you cannot break the seal without an eidolon (Nice timing, plus Dagger should have one by now...oh well). She tags along, and the group proceeds to the Iifa Tree....

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Chapter 21: "I have seen the end of my thousand-year life, and it is not now"  
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When the group arrives at the massive Iifa Tree, Eiko immediately breaks the seal, but without calling an eidolon. It seems she just merely communicated with the eidolon with her horn. The seal is broken, and the team traverses the massive roots into the tree itself.

After battling many undead enemies and going deep into the tree, the team comes across a huge spiral platform. Eiko/Vivi jump on bravely, but nothing happens. Even when Dagger gets on nothing happens. But when Zidane hops on, it begins to move. Interesting?

The team hops on, and proceed downward. Many monsters fight them, and Zidane says he can feel a presence...When they arrive at the bottom, everyone

says the can feel 'Life'. It is just radiant, I imagine. Everyone is looking for Kuja, wondering if he is going to be here or not. After searching carefully, they find no such person. Zidane wonders what is deeper, as they can see a green light shining down even farther.

Just as he wonders that, SoulCage appears, and thus begins his speech:

Soulcage: So, it wasn't Kuja.

Vivi: Huh? What's going on? I can hear a voice inside my head!

Zidane: You just said Kuja! Where is he!?

Intresting...."So, It wasn't Kuja." Anyway, more dialouge...

Zidane: Are you the one who makes the Mist!?

Soulcage: It is not produced... Mist is a by-product of the refining process. It is discharged through the roots.

Vivi: Discharged?

Dagger: So it's sent to other continents through the roots, right?

Zidane: But why!? Why would you do that!?

Soulcage: I contaminate the other continents with Mist to stimulate the fighting instinct. This, in turn, leads to war among the leaders of nations, and then to the fall of civilization. Kuja merely puts the by-product to a different use.

Vivi: A different use!? What is Kuja trying to do!?

Soulcage: I cannot lie. Kuja used the waste product to make weapons. Weapons...like yourself.

He also tells them of Kuja calling the black mages "Dark Spawn of the mist".

After repeatedly calling Vivi a puppet, the team has had it, and defeat Soulcage. The view switches to outside, where we can see the mist actually clearing up. It seems the SoulCage's death caused the mist to stop. Everyone is so happy, and now they expect Kuja to arrive to see what the problem with the mist is...but trouble arrives....

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==Chapter 22: "Go ahead, make my day."==  
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Just as it seems Zidane's plan to wait for Kuja looks like a genius plan, trouble comes in the form of theft. Morrison arrives and tells Eiko that her prized jewel has been stolen. It is a family heirloom given to her by her grandfather. She elects to leave, and tells the others to stay. Zidane though cannot sit and watch her in despair without trying to help. He tells the whole crew to return to Madain Sari and track down this missing jewel.

She returns, and is extremely sad, though she wont cry because she is 'grown up'. She tells everyone that the stone is a sign of

a summoners heritage. She must find it.

While looking for clues, Vivi rushes in and tells Dagger and Zidane that the girl from Fossil Roo has come and taken Eiko...and she went to the eidolon wall.

Zidane of course arrives quickly, and a climatic showdown begins...

Dagger: If it's my pendant you're after, then leave the others out of it!

Lani: No can do. This is way too convenient to pass up! Hand over the pendant, and I'll hand over the girl, capice? What happened to the pendant that you always have on!?

Zidane: I have it.

Lani: Oh, you really are a good knight. Now, cough it up already!

Zidane: First, tell me something. Was it you who stole the village stone?

Lani: Queen Brahne is after the royal pendant. I found another jewel just like it in this village! I'm glad I came all this way looking for it! Now, hand it over!

Just as Zidane agrees in order to save Eiko, a red haired man jumps down from outside the wall. He tells Lani this is not fair, taking hostages and kidnapping. He tells her to run(after giving the jewel back to Zidane) and challenges Zidane one on one... totally fair.....

After losing to Zidan's power, he wants to die. He says that is nature's selection. But Zidane cannot perform such an act. He wishes to let the red haired man live.

Later on during the day, Dagger is singing her song by the harbor in Madain Sari. Zidane is captivated by this song, and of course he goes to her. Dagger expresses her thanks for helping her in Lindblum and in the journey and when she lost hope.

She asks "Why did you come with me" and Zidane replies...

Zidane: Hey, that's Ipsen's line.

Dagger: Ipsen? Who's that

Zidane: Ipsen is a character from a play, but he's a real-life adventurer. I think the play is based on his adventures. It kinda goes like this... Ipsen and his good friend Colin worked at a tavern in Treno. One day, Ipsen got a letter. The letter was so wet from rain that most of the writing was illegible. The only part he could read said "Come back home." Nowadays, we have airships and stuff, but back then, it was really hard to travel. He didn't know why he had to go back, but he got some time off, gathered his things, and set out on his journey home. He walked a thousand leagues through the Mist. Sometimes he was attacked by vicious monsters, but he made it, because his friend Colin was by his side. And then, after much time on the road... He had to ask Colin something. "Why did you come with me?"

Dagger: And? What was Colin's answer?

Zidane: 'Only because I wanted to go with you.'

The boat they are on moves out of the harbor, out to sea. Dagger has some violent flashbacks of Madain Sari being destroyed by a hurricane with a literal eye at the center. She then can't remember her childhood, mentioning she was raised in Alexandria from age 6 on. She then starts to piece it together...

Dagger: I still can't remember everything. Some things are like they're shrouded in fog. But I do remember one thing... About ten years ago, an unbelievably huge hurricane hit this village. That's as far as I remember. That day, I...I was with my true mother on a little boat, far from the village. There's a cove behind Eiko's house, right? The boat I was on was just like the one there. It all came back to me when I heard that song on the boat.

The next morning, the team decides to leave for the Iifa tree and to stop Kuja. As they are leaving, the red haired man confronts them again... this time he wants to join the party. He wants to observe exactly how it is Zidane is so strong. He also is curious about Zidane's method of helping others and working as a team(Also, partly wanting to get a chance to prove himself stronger than Zidane).

He tells the team his name is The Flaming Amaranth, but they can call him Amaranth....then the group walks on out to the Iifa Tree.....

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==Chapter 23: Puppet Master Kuja==  
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When the team arrives, they see Kuja on his silver dragon and flies to the top of the Iifa tree. The team climbs up the branches, and the scene switches to Kuja....

Kuja: The weak lose their freedom to the strong. Such is the way of the strong. And it is the providence of nature that only the strong survive. That is why I needed strength. I learned of powers that would daunt even him...over ten years ago. Such a long time... Now my forces are ready to strike! Ahh... The suspense is terrible! So they've come this far, have they? Perfect. I'll warm up on them until the elephant-lady shows up.

The team makes it up to where Kuja is, and are determined to defeat him here and now. But first, Kuja is willing to weaken their spirits with a bit of insults...

Dagger: You are Kuja, correct? My name is... ..Princess Garnet Til Alexandros. I wish to ask you something. Was it really you who persuaded my mother to start the war-

Kuja: The war that threw the entire Mist Continent into chaos?

Vivi: And you made everyone...the black mages into instruments of war!?

Kuja: Oh, dear... The princess has such a bloodthirsty little puppet. I don't have the power to do such a thing. I just gave them a little recipe. Begin with broth of Mist, add fermented souls, and boil... Then,

pour genuine black magic into a mixing bowl and heat to-

Vivi: Stop it!

Kuja: I'm not done telling how to make soulless toys out of the dregs of souls!

Zidane: Dregs of souls? You mean Mist!?

Kuja: First, you don't want to listen, now you start asking question? Oh, brother... But you're not ready yet!

Dagger: Why, you-don't you feel anything!? Taking the lives of so many...

Kuja: Spare me the lecture. Lives come and go all the time. What's the big deal? Speaking of warmongers, why...what about that mother of yours, Princess? She said she won't feel alive until she has everything! It breaks my heart to see such greed! The war was my fault? No, no! Your mother wanted it! All I did was give her a little push!

Dagger: Liar! My mother was sweet and kind. You changed her!

Kuja: Mwahaha... So the curtain rises! Perfect, my canary. Let me show you the truth about your mother! First Act: The End of the Ugly Desire. It's showtime!

The armada of Alexandria battleships arrive, and Brahne is ready to kill Kuja (Don't know why...perhaps more greed?). She speaks one of my fav. lines.... "Bwahahaha! Kuja! So you finally decided to show your girly face here!"...but she is no match. Kuja summons mist monsters for Zidane and Co. to fight while he takes on Brahne. Dagger wants to save her mother now and is not worried about Kuja.

Kuja: Your mother isn't satisfied with just one continent! Her ugliness and stupidity are truly impressive. Ahh...everything is proceeding as I have foreseen.

The silver dragon begins destroying ships...and black mages. Their spells are not any thing against the finely tuned beast. Brahne then has them focus all their energy into a single spell...and Eidolon....

Dagger runs down to the roots of the tree, and asks Eiko if she can have the summon that created the seal. Eiko agrees, but tells her that the eidolon is Leviathan...the sea god who whipes out enemies with a huge tidal wave. This will of course, kill her mother too.

Then, as this happens, Brahne uses the black mage power to summon Bahamut, the king of dragons. He begins attacking Kuja on the silver dragon. He spits all sort of fire and spells, but Kuja is able to dodge most of them, but Bahamut actually got a piece of Kuja...made him bleed. Kuja laughs, and tell Bahamut...

Kuja: Blood... Hahahaha... Excellent, Bahamut! Power, mobility... You are truly the best! You even hurt me...a little. And you, Brahne... Your tragic role in this drama now comes to an end! I'm sure you'll enjoy the second act from your soul's hellish prison, since the stage will be your former home! The final act will take us away from Gaia, and I will kill my nemesis...with my own hand! Hahaha! Everything is according to plan.

Just then, a huge eye in the sky cast a red light down, and Kuja laughs. Bahamut then changes sides, and attacks Alexandrian ships relentlessly. Kuja laughs, as he now has Bahamut under his command. Bahumat kills Brahne before heading up to the eye in the sky.....

Zidane: (to himself) I don't know why Bahamut attacked the one who summoned him. But we found Queen Brahne on the beach, next to her escape pod. She could hardly move. And I thought she'd come to a stop any second. I hate Kuja a lot. But I hate Brahne a lot, too... ..so much that I wanted this to happen to her. I should be happy, but... Once I saw Dagger start to cry, I didn't know how I should feel. I kind of wanted to cry, too...

We then see Dagger back in Alexandria, getting prepared to become queen. She cries, wondering if she deserves to be queen, seeing as Brahne is not her real mother. Beatrix says she always knew, and tells her she still deserves to be queen, not because of royal blood, but because of leadership....

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++ END DISC 2 ++  
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==Chapter 24: A princess becomes a Queen==  
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Dagger is in a boat with Tot and Steiner/Beatrix. Tot is thinking of the days when Dagger(Garnet) was a little kid, and is pondering how it is time went by so fast, as he is now going to be calling Princess Garnet 'Queen Garnet'.

Tot says he will be her counsel, and Steiner tells us there is only 3 more days until a new queen is on the throne. The scene swicthes to Zidane in a bar, drinking away his sorrow...

Zidane is really sad that Dagger will have to be queen, and he cannot travel anymore with her. Maybe, but perhaps he feels he can't be with her because she is queen. Ruby tries cheering him up(Ruby is a member of Tantalus) by telling him she started a Mini-Theater. The other Tantalus members go with her, but Zidane elects to stay and drink some more...

Outside, Blank runs into Vivi. This is a sort of happy reunion. Blank tells Vivi to come to the Mini-Theater and wacth a play, but don't be late, ruby cannot stand that. Vivi goes in the theater, and meets Ruby for the first time. She thinks he is odd, but finds out that he is sweet. He wacthes the horrible play, and the scene swicthes to Dagger...

Dagger: Um... I'd like to find Zidane and talk to him...

Steiner: Princess, you have more important matters at hand! You live in a different world now!

Tot: O-Oh. What's happening here? Princess, it is time for you to get changed. General Beatrix, will you help her?

Beatrix: Yes, sir!



Tot: Oh, there is something I must give you, Princess.

Tot gives Dagger an Opal, Topaz, and Amethyst stones, which contain the Eidolon that the queen took.

Tot: Those stones contain your power, which Queen Brahne forcibly... Well, that is all in the past...

Again, the the scene swicthes and we now see Eiko, trying to write a letter to Zidane. She thinks that with Dagger being queen, she can scoop in and take Zidane's heart. She begins writing, and sees Doctor Tot, and decides he is the prime canidate to help her in the writing. He agrees, and they begin writing...

He notices her horn, and makes some initial observations...

Tot: I had completely forgotten about it until now... I'd never been as surprised as I was that day. A ship drifted ashore after a storm... Inside the ship were a woman and a baby girl... The woman was dead, but the girl was still breathing... Imagine my surprise as I looked into the girl's face! Because the girl... looked exactly like Princess Garnet who had just passed away. With one exception... She had a horn! A human with a horn... Where had she come from? The king ordered the girl's horn removed. The girl cried out in pain... He and his wife, Queen Brahne, decided to raise the girl as Princess Garnet... But that girl who spoke to me... Could she be related to Princess Garnet...?

This is a revelation! Dagger had a horn as well, so she was from Madian Sari and WAS a summoner. After this Eiko rushes to get it to Zidane, but gets stuck on the balcony, hanging by a thread. She gives the letter to a passing Baku, and tells him to give the letter to Zidane. He laughs, and proceeds into the city.

While waiting for a boat however, the letter drops, and is sitting on the edge of the dock....

Just then, Beatrix appears, and thinks that Steiner left the letter for her. She reads it...and believes that Steiner is in love with her....

Back to Zidane, he is getting more angry at the thought of losing Dagger just because she is a queen. He asks if he can rejoin tantalus(To Baku) and go hunting for more treasure. Vivi walks in and tells Zidane he wants to see Dagger, and Zidane tells Vivi they will cheer her on before she becomes Queen.

Baku forgets all about the letter, but doesn't worry about it.

The guards tell Zidane and Co. that the queen has made special orders for them, allowing them inside the castle. Freya asks if Kuja will come after Dagger once more, and will he protect her. Zidane says she is queen, and has all the guards she needs, and they proceed into the castle...

The gang is looking up at a bridge/staircase thing, and then the Princess comes out wearing a beautiful dress. She greets everyone, and looks down at Zidane, who cannot say a word to her...

Zidane: I couldn't say anything! I had a whole speech ready for her.

But it would've been a lie! How could I lie to her!? 'Good luck, Dagger! I'll be watching you from afar.' 'Come find me if you need someone to talk to.' It's a big fat lie! That's not how I feel at all! That's not how I feel...at all.

Later that night, Beatrix and Steiner find each other. Steiner thinks that Beatrix wrote her the letter, and Beatrix the ditto. They fall for each other after a sequence of events...

Doc Tot wants to know more about Eiko, and asks her about the name of her village. She answers "Madain Sari" and Tot wants to know even more. She agrees, but asks to go to his place(LOL!)...he tells her it's in Treno. Zidane wants to come along to partake in a Card Tournament...

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==Chapter 25: WSOTM(World Series of Tetra Master)==  
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Zidane arrives at the city of Treno, and wishes to partake in the Tetra Master Tournament. Vivi is left all alone. He know this area though, and meets marco, who it seems is a friend of Vivi's. Vivi thanks him for letting him get a ride on the airship to Alexandria. Later, he travels the short distance to his grandfathers old dweling....

Vivi: This place hasn't changed...

This is where I fell...I was starring at something down there. Grandpa helped me...I haven't liked heightsever since." Wow... Dusty... I guess that's natural.It's been a long time since I left... Grandpa didn't eat anything towards the end... His cooking tools are badly damaged now." Oh yeah, he said something like...

Quan: Vivi! I learn art of fulfilmentwithout eating food!"

Vivi: .....You know, Quina looks so much like my Grandpa.

The scene swicthes back to Zidane, who wins the card tourney, beating Sailor Erin, the past champion. Itturns out infact, Cid is the real champion, but had to not partake due to his Oglop status, but decides to coach Erin through it. Eiko comes with bad new, straight from mog....

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==Chapter 26: Alexander The Great==  
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Kuja: Peace is but a shadow of death, desperate to forget its painful past... Though we hope for promising years. After shedding a thousand tears, yesterday's sorrow constantly nears. And while the moon still shines blue, by dawn, it will turn to scarlet hue. What an auspicious day for Alexandria. Garnet's ascension to the throne has brought hope and peace to this kingdom. The people are overjoyed; they believe a wonderful future is ahead of them. ...But the celebration isn't over yet. It's time to really light things up! Your former master is here, Bahamut. Play a requiem for her and all of Alexandria!

Mog has learned of the events taking place in Alexandria, and warns the party. I guess through moogles communication...Anyway, we see Bahamat being summoned and literally destroying Alexandria at his whim. So powerful, so quick, so agile, so smart...Bahamat is more than a match for the forces of Alexandria...

Dagger looks on in horror, then gives the soldiers orders to signal for help, protect citizens and fire cannons. Steiner is impressed and so is Beatrix. The two of them begin to fight for Alexandria, and protection of the city. Dagger then gets magically drawn into a place closed off by the castle for ages. She hears a beautiful song and goes off on a mystical journey to the top of the castle.

Zidane and group are heading to Alexandria in Cid's new airship, the Hilda Garde 2. It doesn't need mists to run, but it is really clunky and not very safe for the crew. Eventually, and by good luck, they make it back in time.

Then Eiko suddenly jumps from the airship to the castle below, where her and Dagger's pendants react to each other....

Eiko: A summoner's light of destiny, brought on by the hidden powers of the 4 jewels. This light appears when a holy eidolon calls for its summoner. Come on, Dagger! As summoners, we have to fulfill our destiny!

Then Alexander, in the shape of the castle, attacks Bahamat with a flurry of magical beams. It kills Bahamat. Kuja admires its powers, saying he has waited for him, and brought him a magic carriage for him to ride on...the invincible. It arrives as a huge eye in the sky and begins to emit a strange red glow, as it did during the Iifa Tree quest. But, then...an ominous figure approaches from inside the ship...

Garland: You have gone too far, Kuja. I granted you the freedom to do as you wish in Gaia for one purpose alone. Now that you have lost sight of your mission, I will no longer tolerate your actions. You have not the slightest idea whom you are defying. I will show you soon enough. You too, Zidane...

Kuja is shocked as the Eidolon simply dies. The Invincible simply kills the Eidolon. Kuja becomes frightened...and runs off....

Inside the castle, everyone lands. Zidane is extremely worried about Dagger, and heads off to find her. He finds her and Eiko and tells the others to hurry out, as he has this situation under control. The trio evacuates...and then we see another video of the Invincible destroying Alexandria...and then, inside the airship...

Garland: More souls have returned... In microscopic proportions, the process still continues after thousands of years. Eventually, these circulating souls will no longer belong to Gaia. They must never be circulated back... Kuja did well. If only he had last longer... I never imagined he would choose to end his remaining days on Gaia... Perhaps, this was his fate, set in ages past. I, too, cannot escape my fate; someday, I must face your counterpart...

Then, Alexandria is completely destroyed....

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==Chapter 27: Do you need a cough drop?==

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The group all returns to Linblum. It seems Zidane passed out during the rescue of the princess, and severely injured. He awakes to find Blank, and is told to go to the confrence room. First though, he goes to find Dagger. He goes to her usual spot at the telescope. He attempts to talk to her, but when she doesn't respond he gets paranoid. He keeps trying to get a response, and he gets nothing. Eventually, he just walks out. Dagger though, responds to every thing he says in thought...

Zidane goes to the confrence room, where Cid is awaiting his return. Cid begins talk of the next course of action, and share some facts he learned while the group was away....

Regent Cid: Kuja is a man of many mysteries, indeed. I still can't believe what I saw when we were evacuating from Alexandria.

Zidane: What!? What did you see?

Regent Cid: I saw him escape on my stolen airship, Hilda Garde 1 <gwok>. There were black mages onboard, too. They weren't any old black mages! They were talking normally!

Vivi: NO!

Zidane: No way... Are you sure about this!?

Regent Cid: There's no doubt.

Vivi: WHY!? Why are they with Kuja...?

This is startling news. When Cid tells the group they must find Kuja and defeat him. It seems that Kuja single handly has destroyed the four nations of the world..Linblum, Alexandria, Cleyra and Burmecia. Zidane has no clue to where Kuja might be, and of course, tells Cid he doesn't have an airship. Cid cannot build an effective one until he restores his previous form as a human, but only his wife, Hilda Garde, can reverse the spell. Tot arrives, and tells the group that there is a way that you can reverse the spell. It seems it requires 3 potions and you simply mix them together.

Just as there is a sign of good news, Eiko rushes in telling the group that Dagger has lost her voice! This is startling...and everyone knows why. Her hometown was just destroyed. In the past week or so, her mother died, found she was not brahnes real daughter, Alexandria destroyed and she learned that Madain Sari was once destroyed. Crazy...anyhow, Zidane goes out to find those potions, though with terrible result. It seems when Tot mixed the potions, and Cid drank them, Cid turned into a FROG! Aye-Yai-Yai.

After this, Cid decides to just go after Kuja at any cost. He resolves to use the Blue Narciss, a grand boat. They decide to go to the Black Mage village at Vivi's request. This sounds good, as they might learn of Kuja's hideout....they cross the ocean to the Outer Continent once again...

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==Chapter 28: Kuja, I know you are but what am I?==

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The team heads to the Black Mage village...and find it deserted. Every body is gone. Vivi runs off to the grave-yard, where No. 288 is still there. Vivi asks why the mages went with Kuja, and 288 tells him that Kuja said he could extend their lifespan. They became terrified of death, and would do anything to keep living. Vivi asks why did 288 stay....

Black Mage No. 288: ...I don't know. I wanted to follow Kuja because I was so scared of dying. But I couldn't... I felt like I was leaving something important behind.

....

Vivi: ...I was really confused when my grandpa died. He told me, 'Vivi, no need be sad.' So I told myself, I can't be sad. That's why I felt confused again when I heard that everyone was stopping around here. I didn't know what to do or what to feel... But when I saw Dagger crying when her mom died, I wasn't confused anymore. I was sad... If I were just a puppet, I never would've felt that way. Mr. 288...we aren't puppets. I know we aren't. ...I hate him. I hate Kuja!!! He's turning everyone into puppets just to kill people!!! If it weren't for him, I know everyone would understand someday. It's not fair...

288 tells the group where Kuja's hideout lies. The party proceeds to the area with quicksand, and fall into his quicksand lair.

When the quad-o awakes, they are stuck in seperate rooms, and Kuja shows off his lair's powers...there is a lava hole at the center of each cell. He calls for Zidane to come into his room. He tells Zidane he will kill his friends if he doesn't follow his every wish. He is going to send Zidane on an errand...

Kuja: Oeilvert is south of the Seaways Canyon on the Forgotten Continent. It isn't really my kind of place.

Zidane: What do you mean by that?

Kuja: You see, there's an anti-magic barrier around the place. And I want to send you because you're too stupid to use magic. Once there, I want you to retrieve the Gulug Stone for me. What do you say? Isn't it a simple task? I'll even send you on my luxury cruise ship, so you won't have to worry about transportation. Perhaps it's too much for you. I'd better send you with three of your friends just to be safe. Besides, nobody likes to fight against himself.

Zidane picks his more physically able comrades, and heads in the Hilda Garde 1 with Thorn and Zorn. Arriving at Oeilvert, he immediatley notices the wierd shape of the place. He begins his search for the Gulug Stone. Along the way, he sees many murals, images and projections of planets and things. One suchs image is the merging of two planets, and a weird room with faces on them telling the group of a planets decline. It seems the world was magnificent, filled with joy and people. But slowly the planet died out. The people of the planet contrsucted this place so that people would not forget the people of the planet. Also, he sees a projection of the history of Airships, all looking foreign. One such airship is the Invincible. After finding the Gulug Stone, the scene swicthes to Eiko's group....

Voice of Kuja: So, how do you like the special suites I reserved for each of you? By the way, Zidane is out running an errand for me in return for your safety. But I hate keeping promises... And I so love deceit. So, I thought I would give you a special death to remember me by. My palace is home to a magnificent hourglass. As its sands fall, the floors of your rooms slowly open. Well? Isn't that a fabulous idea? Your lives will be spared if the hourglass is reset. If Zidane comes back in time, that is. Oops, just ten more minutes. Better start praying. Farewell... My sweet, lovable morons. Ahahahahahahaha!

Cid decides he should rescue the team. He walks to the Hourglass after carefully avoiding the guards. He then takes it in possession and in a weird scene, everyone simply opens their door(Perhaps cid also released the locks...but we never see that). Eiko takes charge, and the group proceeds to exit the place....

Zidane goes into Kuja's chamber and sees his comrades unconscious and lying in a pit all together. Kuja asks for the stone, and Zidane is about to give it to him when....the real party arrives..Kuja laughs as he realizes he screwed up...

Kuja: Oh dear, I wasn't expecting this. That's right, the ones inside are fake! But don't think you've won yet.

Anyway, he simply snatches the stone and runs off with Eiko....for reasons unclear as of now. The team chases him in the Blue Narciss....

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==Chapter 29: The return of the Ribbon==  
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Finally reaching land the team finds they are on the Lost Continent, a continent covered with snow. The place they should look first is obviously Esto Gaza, the only town on the landmass. Arriving there, they ask a holy bishop if they have seen Kuja or any black mages coming through here. At first the bishop is apprehensive to tell, but he soon tells the party that Kuja and the black mages came through here with a little girl. Everyone knows this is Eiko, and Zidane rushes off to find her.

The group learns that the mages took Eiko to a volcano, Mount Gulug. The bishop tells the crew that Mount Gulug is a secret sealed off place. But Kuja and crew easily passed through.

The team heads off to the volcano, and when they arrive to Eiko's location, they see Thorn and Zorn using the extraction spell on Eiko. They obviously want to get another Eidolon, or rather, Kuja wants another Eidolon. As the twins are performing the extraction spell, kuja demands they hurry up. The spell fails, and Zorn tells Kuja that the girl is too young to have Eidolon's extracted. Kuja demands it, even if it means her death. Thorn and Zorn continue to extract the Eidolon, but just as it means Eiko's certain death, Mog the moogle jumps out from inside her dress and becomes...Maden! This new Eidolon completely whipes out the twins, and Kuja is amazed....

Mog: I wanted to be by your side, Eiko... so I became Mog. Don't worry. I'll always watch over you, kupo.

Zidane: !!! Eiko, are you okay?

Eiko: I'm alright. Mog saved me... I never knew that Mog was an eidolon. She always looked after me... disguised as a moogle. Even though... even though she was weak... She fought her best to protect me.

Then, the two defeated twins merge together to form MetlaGemni. Zidane and Co. easily defeat this new terrifying monster. Kuja realizes what Mog has just done, and simply walks away before Zidane and company can fight him. Vivi talks to some of the black mages, who were told by Kuja their life could not be prolonged, and they were idiots for believing him. Vivi consoles them. A ribbon falls from the sky, and it appears to be Mog(Madeen) protecting Eiko still....

Just then, Zidane hears a certain "Pardon me, but is someone there?" from within a wall. Zidane opens a door, and finds a lady inside. After talking to her for a little while, he learns of her identity, Hilda Garde! She says she will tell the crew everything once they return to the castle....

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==Chapter 30: The Hilda Garde 3==  
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At the confrence room in Linblum, Hilda is talking to Cid. Cid says he is really sorry for cheating on her, and would like to become a man again. After working out their marriage problems, Cid is a man again, and calls everyone to the confrence room to discuss the next course of action.

In the confrence room, Hilda discusses Kuja's master plot. It seems he wants a greater power, and he is not of this world...

Hilda: We call our world Gaia. But he called his birthplace Terra.

Freya: Terra, huh...?

Hilda: This Terra seems to be connected with a place called the Shimmering Island.

Zidane: I don't know where Kuja went, but maybe we can find him if we go there...

Hilda: ...Unfortunately, you can't get directly to Terra from the Shimmering Island.

Amarant: Of course you can't. Everyone would've discovered this 'other world' by now if it were that easy.

Zidane: So, what do we do?

Hilda: ...I'll tell you. The gateway that connects the two worlds is sealed, but Kuja said there is a place where the seal can be broken.

Zidane: Where's that?

Hilda: He said it's an old castle located in the northern area of the Forgotten Continent. An explorer left a record of his trip to this particular castle on the Forgotten Continent. If I remember correctly, he wrote that the cliffs were too steep to explore. Other than that, very little is known about the Forgotten Continent... Well, since this castle doesn't have a name, let's call it Ipsen's Castle.

The team decides to go their, unlock the seal and defeat Kuja at his

own game. Steiner comes in, telling the team he cannot find the princess... and he even asked for Tantalus' help. She must not be in Linblum, so Zidane decides she can be in only one place....

After arriving in Alexandria, Zidane cannot find Dagger either. He goes with Baku to the harbor, where the two of them meet Beatrix. After a short chase scene, Zidane finally gets a hold of her. She tells Zidane that Dagger must be at the graveyard, if anywhere.....

SO! Zidane goes to the graveyard, and of course, finds Dagger. She is weeping over her mother's grave when....

Dagger: Zidane!

Dagger has gotten her voice back. She talks of not being ready to be queen, and if she should even be considered queen. Zidane consoles her, telling her that like a piece of coal, she will become a diamond...(Sorta). After this, Dagger decides to cut her hair to become more "Serious".

They arrive back at Linblum, where Cid has finished his masterpiece Airship, the Hilda Gard 3. The party boards, and heads out to "Ispen's Castle"...

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==Chapter 31: Four of a shrine==  
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Arriving at Ispen's Castle, they instantly notice it looks like to castles smashed on top of one another. Amarant decides that he can disprove Zidane's theory that teamwork is more efficient by beating Zidane's team to the top. Zidane tries to keep him in the team, but Amarant refuses. The team proceeds in after Amarant.

They uncover some clues, blah blah blah. They make it to the top, and Amarant is already there. He decides this is enough to let him leave the party for good, and he doesn't even try to decipher the meaning of the 4 mirrors placed on the world map mural.

Zidane abruptly takes the four mirrors for further study. Before he can leave however, Taharka gives an eerie message:

Taharka: Energy flow...interrupted... Energy to...Terra... You dare get in the way of Terra's master plan...?

He demands the mirrors be returned, but Zidane can't allow that. His TEAM defeats Taharka and proceeds to exit the Castle.

Outside, Dagger tells Zidane he won the challenge with Amarant. Zidane is confused, and asks if she has seen him. She said he hasn't come out yet and that Zidane is the first one out. Zidane elects to go back in and rescue Amarant. Inside, Amarant is badly wounded. Zidane carries him out. Amarant then learns the meaning of life and teamwork, and decides to stay with the party.

Outside Zidane discusses the plan of action:

Zidane: Listen up, everyone. Let's sort out what we found in the castle. On top of this castle is a mural, a map of the world. There were 4 mirrors on the mural. The writing on the mirrors was in the language only I can read. 'My power is protected under the shaking ground.' 'My power is protected behind a tornado.' 'My power is protected high atop a fiery mountain.' 'My power is protected



underwater, surrounded by the earth.' I'm sure the mirrors are pointing us to the locations that help us break the seal. What the monster said before he perished provided us with a clue about the seal... 'One is all. All is one.' Meaning there is a connection between these 4 seals...

He also concludes that "One is all. All is one" means they need to conquer each seal at the same time. He drops a pair of members off at the Water Seal(West of Ispen's Castle), which happens to be Eiko and Dagger(Eiko wants to discuss if Dagger loves Zidane). The next stop is the Fire Seal, which is Mount Gulug. Zidane drops off Freya and Amarant. Next stop is the Wind Seal, which is located south of Oilverlet. He drops off Vivi and Steiner. The final and last stop is the Earth Seal, located east of Kuja's hideout. Zidane is stuck with Quina, and the two proceed.

Inside, they avoid many traps, including smashing walls and pitfalls of sort. We see scenes of Dagger and Eiko, Freya and Amarant, and Vivi and Steiner. The fire guardian tells Amarant "It's just as Kuja said... He said I should expect intruders."....

Back with Zidane, the duet defeats the Earth guardian, just as everyone else puts the mirrors in the proper place on the shrine. Everyone exits the Shrines, and awaits the Airships return....

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==Chapter 32: Terra, a world apart==  
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Back on the airship, everyone is wondering what is going to happen next. Zidane tells everyone they are now heading to the Shimmering Island, not far from Esto Gaza. Infact, the people there worship the island. When they arrive, they see a huge sucking tornado thing, think of water when you fill up the sink and then drain it all at once. Everyone is a little apprehensive to enter it, but it is Vivi who gives them the confidence to do so.

There is a huge amount of stress on the airship, and Erin(the pilot) tells them they cannot proceed further. Zidane tells everyone to JUMP! They follow his advice, and then...they...enter...TERRA.....

Arriving, Zidane hears an ominous voice, Garlands. He tells him "So you Finally arrived" and that he needs to proceed further to realize his true self.

On the way(to where, they do not know yet) Zidane meets a young girl, with a tail like himself. The girl runs off, and Zidane follows her all the way to the city of Bran Bal.

At the entrance, Dagger and the team see the Invincible hovering above the city. Dagger has a violent flashback, and then learns that it was the Invincible, not a hurricane, that destroyed her hometown, Madian Sari.

When looking for a place for Dagger to rest, Zidane makes a startling discovery...everyone here has the same hair color and a tail, just like him. He goes to the inn, and puts Dagger down on the bed.

Eiko is looking for medicine for Dagger, but everyone is unresponsive. They only give one word answers and such. Zidane talks to Dagger some more, then

wants to find that one girl....

Zidane: ... Oh, so that's what's going on... Geez, I should've guessed... So, this is what you wanted to show me?

That One Girl: Yes. I am glad you understand.

Zidane: I don't wanna understand! Sorry, but I'm not like that. I mean all these guys with tails, who look just like me... They're bunch of zombies.

That One Girl: They are my peers. We are Genomes. We live in this village.

Zidane: Genomes? Is that what they're called?

That One Girl: Not just them, but you and me, too. It is the name of the seed given to all of us. Its name is Genome.

Zidane: Talk about a let-down. Who would've guessed that the home I've yearned for would be a dump like this. No wonder I never found it. It's not even on Gaia!

That One Girl: Why are you not happy? You have returned to the place of your birth.

Zidane: Happy? You guys can process that emotion? Look at 'em! Look at all their blank faces!

That One Girl: What can we do? After all, we are made that way. And we are built to watch over each other and work together as soulless Genomes.

Zidane: What's it all for!? Get to the point already! How come I grew up on Gaia if I was born here!? I'm alive! I have a soul! Why is everyone here so...

That One Girl: Because you are...special.

Zidane: What!?

That One Girl: We are mere vessels. You have been given a greater purpose. The will of Garland is absolute...

She tells him Garland is the wachter of the planet, and it's his mission to restore Terra back to it's former glory.

She tells Zidane that her and him are merely vessels waiting to be occupied with the souls of the people of Terra. That is the purpose of their life.

That One Girl also says that when the light of Terra changes from red to Blue, the transformation will be complete....

That One Girl tells Zidane that is how it has always been, Terra has always absorbed otherp planets to survive.

Zidane asks why doesn't Garland just whipe out every city like he did with Alexandria...That One Girl tells him that he once tried, but failed....

Girl: Because of his failure, he was forced to wait a long time. ...To wait until Gaia's civilizations gained tremendous power. The power to use eidolons.

Zidane: So that's why you attacked the summoner's village and destroyed

Alexandria.

Girl: Planets have a cycle of souls. Souls are born from the planet, and then return to it. Garland planned to gain control of that very cycle... ..and you were supposed to help him achieve that.

She says Garland is waiting....

Back at the inn, Eiko is fed up with waiting for Zidane, and goes to Amarant for help. Vivi goes with her, and Amarant actually enjoys Eiko's company. They look for Zidane....who teleports into a teleporter(that's what they do!).

He arrives at Garland's "Haunted Mansion" Pandemonium, where he follows his ghostly tour guide, Garland. Garland tells him that 12 years ago he lost one of his most successful Genomes. He sent the Genome to disrupt the cycle of souls on Gaia, to help the assimilation of Terra into Gaia. Zidane was that Genome, and Garland is happy he has returned.

Zidane asks Garland why does he wish to destroy Gaia, and Garland replies "I have no intention of destroying Gaia. I only wish to make Gaia to Terra". He also tells Zidane everything was planned..Zidane going to Gaia, growing up on Gaia...it was just, another Genome.... threw a wrench in his gears(paraphrasing).

Garland explains the Genome....

Garland: I constructed the Genomes to be vessels for the souls of the people of Terra when they awaken. About 24 years ago, I gave life to a Genome that was much like you. His will was too strong to make him into a proper vessel, and I even considered discarding him. But then I thought that I should put his strength to use. I sent that Genome as my servant, to disrupt the cycle of souls on Gaia.

Zidane is really pissed now, wanting to know who the Genome is. Garland tells him that Zidane and the Genome are very similar, but do not judge on appearances, but by how their souls are similar. Zidane is really anxious now, and Garland spills the beans...It is...  
KUJA!

Zidane: Kuja!? He's a Genome!? Impossible! He doesn't even have a tail...

Garland: He is only hiding it. He denies his own identity. He rejects the meaning of his existence and tries to assert his own individuality. Don't you see resemblance?

Zidane: Shut up! I'm not like him at all!

Garland: He said the same thing when speaking about the other Genomes: 'I'm not like these guys.'

Zidane continues his tour with Garland...

Garland tells Zidane that Kuja was ambitious, and that was why he was perfect for the mission. The mission to disrupt the cycle of souls on Gaia. The disruption of souls is best brought on by war, and war is exactly what Kuja started. Zidane asks about himself...

Garland: When you received the gift of life in Bran Bal, Kuja could not bear it. He could not bear to see a Genome with more power than his

own; he felt threatened. Kuja discarded you. He dropped you onto Gaia, the world he would destroy.

Zidane: So I was to be your slave, just like Kuja, to start a war on Gaia?

Garland: That is correct. I did not expect Kuja to abandon you, but I believed it was his nature. And to him, bringing war to Gaia would prove his victory over you. Perhaps it is because of his desire to justify his existence that he let you live as well.

Zidane wonders why so many innocents had to die, and the answer he receives is confusing, and startling...

He tells Zidane that he needed to disrupt the souls and sort them out. When a person dies, they return to the planet, and then are reborn as another person. But something is sorting these souls, making them Terra's...

Garland: You saw it with your own eyes. You saw the Iifa Tree and the Mist it emits. The role of the Iifa Tree is that of Soul Divider. The Mist you see comprises the stagnant souls of Gaia...

Zidane: Oh yeah? But we stopped the Mist! So much for that!

Garland: All you saw was the back of the tree... Even now, the Iifa Tree blocks the flow of Gaia's souls, while it lets those of Terra flow freely. Come and see for yourself. See the true form of this planet.

Garland wanted to speed up the process by causing chaos, and more souls will return to the planet. This means that more souls will be divided by the Iifa tree, and thus, more souls will enter Terra's void....

Zidane continues...

Garland: That is the center of the planet. The end and the beginning of the cycle of souls. The light remains Gaia's, for now, but when the blue changes to crimson, all will belong to Terra, and its restoration will be complete. That is why I wrapped up the light in the Iifa Tree, to prevent the cycle of the judgment of souls on Gaia from inside the planet. Such is the Iifa Tree's true purpose, its true form. All you saw was its material form. The flow of Gaia's souls cannot be changed simply by stopping the disposal of Mist.

Zidane: So...Kuja is just an angel of death who sends souls to the Tree of Iifa.

He tells Zidane that Kuja is his angel of death only for a period of time. Only until Zidane becomes stronger than Kuja is Kuja the angel of death. Zidane is puzzled...

Zidane: I wouldn't want that kind of power...if I only had a place to call home... My brothers in Tantalus, Vivi, Freya, Amarant, Quina, Steiner, Eiko, and...Dagger... My home is with them in Gaia! If you say I have a motive, then it's to punish all of you who brought pain to my friends! I'll destroy Terra! That's reason enough for my birth here as a Genome!

,Kuja is seen above in the Invincible...

Kuja: ..... I can't believe I actually returned to this place, but... Soon... Soon, the power will be mine alone. Mhwahahaha... Just you wait, Garland! And you too, Zidane! I'll exact sweet revenge upon you both for insulting me! I'll make the people of both Gaia and Terra know whom rules over all of them! Ha-Haha... Ahahahahahaha...

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==Chapter 33: Kuja, don't pop a blood vessel==  
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Zidane is passed out, and awakes in a sorry mood. He has a different attitude, and doesn't want the party's help. He continues to fight by himself, even when Dagger comes to help him. Eventually though, he comes around and realizes that he is going to fit for his memories, and his laughter, and his joy of life.

After deciding his morals, he teams up with Vivi, Dagger and Freya to stop Garland from destroying Gaia. When they arrive back at his observatory, Garland discusses life...

Garland: There's the observatory... You told me you'd become my angel of death... But think for a moment... Isn't life death itself? It must kill other life-forms to survive... Sometimes it even kills those with whom it shares blood... To live is to give life meaning, yet one must take others' lives to survive... A mature civilization becomes aware of this paradox... Terra's souls will sleep until they forget such nonsense. They will begin a new life in a new dimension. It's a world I which life and death become one... That is the dimension in which we are meant to live, as beings that transcend life and death! Zidane... I'll ask you one more time. Who are you!?

Zidane doesn't answer the question and defeats Garland. He accepts his defeat, and just then, we see Kuja once again in the airship...

Kuja: Hahahahaha! This is too easy! The Invincible is mine! Now, I have the power to control all souls! Garland gave me everything without a fight. The old fool was too busy dealing with him. Now, only death awaits him. Poor Garland... Bitten by his own dog... This is no accident. Fate has chosen me to become new ruler of Terra! Time for me to put on the finishing touches.

Kuja jumps down from out of the airship, and greets Zidane with kisses and joy. He tells Zidane he is following his plot perfectly. Zidane opened the gate to Terra, and even defeated Garland for him! Zidane is really pissed now, and the group fights Kuja. Kuja is no match for Zidane with Zidane's newfound morals. After getting beat down (LOL!), Kuja is furious. He radiates a red light, and then begins to fly up. He cast ultima on the party, almost killing them. He flies around, dancing...and then discusses his new power!

Kuja: It's Trance! You know how it works. But a normal Trance won't be enough to defeat you... You're all as resilient as oglops. Even tiny moogles possess the power of Trance... When I saw that in Gulug Volcano, I came up with a plan. It was easy. I just needed to borrow the power from wretched souls that can't die... Where did I acquire it? It was the Invincible, or should I say, that large eyeball in the sky? The ship sucked up the souls of Madain Sari, the Iifa Tree, Alexandria, to feed

upon them... When it fought Bahamut at the Iifa Tree, the Invincible drew in a powerful spirit... Can you guess to whom it belonged?

Dagger: No...

Kuja: That's right! It was your mother's soul. A wretched soul that clung to life to the bitter end. The souls trapped inside the Invincible welcomed me with open arms. [to Garland] They were fed up with being your prisoners, Garland. So, master Garland. You are no longer needed. And after you've worked so hard... I shall rule Terra and Gaia with my unconditional love from now on...

He kills Garland with the simplest of ease, and then decides what to do with Zidane. When he is about to complete their death with his new, terrifying power, a spirit tells Kuja that he is not eternal, and will die VERY soon, no matter the power he possess. Garland tells Kuja that Zidane became more powerful than Kuja (without trance) and thus, Kuja will die soon. It was too dangerous to leave Kuja alive for a long time.

Kuja: A mortal...? ...I'm finished? I don't believe you! Why would I believe such a silly story! You're telling me that I'll die soon, now that I'm more powerful than anyone? I'm gonna...die!? Lose my soul...? Ha... HAHHAHAHAHA! What comedy! Zidane, isn't it hilarious!? I'll die just like the black mages I so despise! I single-handedly brought chaos unto Gaia, but in the end, I'm nothing but a worthless doll!

Zidane: Kuja... ...Kuja?

Kuja: ...I won't let it happen. I won't... I won't let this world exist without me!

He completely destroys Terra....in a rage of chaos.....

The team knows they must escape, and decide to use Kuja's own airship, the Invincible to escape. Everyone is leaving, but Zidane needs to rescue his brothers and sisters..the Genomes.

He meets up with That One girl, who explains her life:

Girl: ...Unlike the rest of them, Garland gave me a soul, that I might replace you and Kuja. But Garland is dead. Terra will soon be destroyed. What's the point?

He tells Zidane her name is Mikoto...and everyone escapes on the Airship Invincible....

Inside the Invincible, now in Gaia, the team notices that Mist now covers the entire planet.....

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++ END DISC 3 ++  
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==Chapter 34: The beginning of the end==  
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The scene is now at the Black Mage Village, and the mages greet the Genomes with open arms. It was Vivi's idea to give the Genomes a place to call

home. They use this as hope so black mages and humans can one day get along.

The genomes are all having trouble understanding the basic facts of life, and the black mages try to help. Dagger can't go to Linblum to ask for help as she doesn't want to start a panic. The team is at a lost for words, they are completely confused as to the next course of action. All Zidane knows is they must stop Kuja somehow. Mikoto tells Zidane he hasn't got a chance as long as Kuja has his super-terrifying power...but this doesn't effect Zidane....the team heads out on the airship to the Iifa Tree....now with a swirling ball of energy....

When the airship attempts to enter the mass of energy, a army of silver dragons appear out of the ball and attack the ship. Just then the airships of the world come out and help the Invincible make it inside the mass of energy. Everyone is confused as to how the nations of the world knew that they were going to attack Kuja...but Zidane knows it was Baku(who likes big battles and such) who alerted the nations of the world.....

The team successfully makes it inside the area, called Memoria....

Spirit of Garland: Yes, your memories brought forth this place... Here, you shall witness the entire truth. You have no choice. Now, go...'

Zidane's group heads forward to where they see an attack on Alexandria recreated...

Spirit of Garland: In his bid to defy me, Kuja tried to acquire Alexander... A incident, 10 years ago, started everything...

In the next area, Zidane sees a girl and her mother getting inside of a boat during a rainstorm. Zidane tries to tell them not too, but they are unresponsive. When Zidane tells Dagger this, she tells Zidane it was in her memories.....

Spirit of Garland: I feared Gaia's eidolons more than anything... However, I decided to deal with them before they became a major problem.

Then, in the next area, Zidane sees a huge eye in the sky attacking a town....he asks Garland what this could mean....

Spirit of Garland: Once you accept everything, the answer will appear before you. A tremendous force was summoned to Gaia during the age of war... However, the Gaians were not ready to harness so great a power... They were terrified and broke the jewel into 4 pieces...and they prayed never to see it again.

Then, in the next area, they see two planets crashing into each other. Zidane is completely confused now, and asks for Garlands assistance once more.

Spirit of Garland: That is a picture of Gaia being assimilated by Terra. Five thousand years ago, Terra, already an old planet, sought to assimilate Gaia. Terra needed to merge with a younger planet to survive. However, there was already life on Gaia. And so, the story begin...Life on Terra was coming to an end... We had no choice but to proceed with the fusion, which tragically destroyed Terra's native civilizations. Terra was too old to assimilate everything. Thus, I created the Iifa Tree to regulate the flow of souls back to Terra.

Zidane moves on to an area with a huge fireball in the sky...Garland tells Zidane this is the birth of Gaia.....Then there is a ladder. Zidane asks what is this for...

Voice of Garland: See for yourself. Terra reached the peak of its prosperity at this time. The people believed that their future was secure. Ultimately, that very hubris led to Terra's demise. Thus, I was created to deal with our plights...

Zidane climbs the ladder to a space area.....Zidane notices there is no ground, but Garland tells him to simply take the leap of faith. Zidane is now floating in space towards a crystal like structure....

Voice of Garland: ...Do not limit memory to just one individual's experiences from birth. That is only the surface. Every life born into this world, whether natural or artificial, requires a parent. And that parent also requires a parent. Life is connected, one to another... If you trace the root of all life, there exists one source. The same can be said for memory. All life constitutes an intelligence that holds memory beyond experience. Memory is not isolated within individuals. It is an accumulation of generations of memories that continues to evolve. You can say that memory and evolution go hand in hand. But most life-forms do not understand the true nature of memories... ..which explains why most memories never cross paths.

Zidane: ...So, what am I gonna find by tracing back our roots?

Voice of Garland: ...A presence that presides over all life and memories. The crystal...

Garland wishes Zidane good luck in defeating Kuja....

They meet up with Kuja at the very center of Memoria. Kuja tells Zidane that he will destroy the crystal, thus ending existence and life itself. Even if Zidane does defeat Kuja, the assimilation of Gaia into Terra is almost complete. Gaia is doomed his says.

Kuja and Zidane face off together, along with Vivi, Freya and Eiko. The teamwork between the group is more than enough to defeat Kuja. Though, in a rage, Kuja casts the Ultimate spell, Ultima. This completely whips out the party... and they awaken at a round, huge, cylindrical structure with no ground accept one piece of floating rock....

Necron: All life bears death from birth. Life fears death, but lives only to die. It starts with anxiety. Anxiety becomes fear. Fear leads to anger...anger leads to hate...hate leads to suffering... The only cure for this fear is total destruction. Kuja was a victim of his own fear. He concluded he could only save himself by destroying the origin of all things-the crystal....Now, the theory is undeniable. Kuja's action proves it. All things live to perish. At last, life has uncovered this truth. Now, it is time to end this world.I exist for one purpose... To return everything back to the zero world, where there is no life and no crystal to give life. In a world of nothing, fear does not exist. This is the world that all life desires.Foolish creature... Your fears have already deluded you. One day, you will choose destruction over existence, as Kuja did. When he sought to destroy the crystal, the purpose of life ended. Now, come... Enter the zero world that you desire.



Zidane: No! We'll destroy you and prove you wrong! And through our memories, future generations will see that we can overcome any fear! ...We can't give up now. ...We have to fight together. Even if we lose, it doesn't matter... Our memories will live on inside others. So, even if we are born to die, I'm not afraid. I'm gonna live!

Necron magically lifts them up in the air, and thus begins the final fight. After receiving their friends powers, they defeat Necron.....Perhaps the true form of the Iifa Tree....

Necron: This is not the end. I am eternal... ..as long as there is life and death...

After this, the Iifa Tree has violent reactions, with the roots uprooting and ground shaking. Everyone gets back in the Hilda Garde 3, except Zidane, who hears Kuja's voice somewhere in the tree.....

Everyone asks him to stay, and that Kuja is too risky a person to keep alive. Zidane says he cannot live with himself if he doesn't save him, and he thinks Kuja has changed as a person...

After avoiding attacks by the roots of the Iifa Tree, he reaches Kuja....

Zidane: Hey! Are you alright?

Kuja: Zidane...? What are you doing here? In thought I told you to go...

Zidane: Wouldn't you do the same for me if you knew I was dying?

Kuja: .....

Zidane: .....Never mind.

Kuja; Your comrades were able to escape?

Zidane: Yea... I knew you had something to do with it.

Kuja: ...I'm glad they made it.

Zidane: Yeah, well...it's our turn to get movin'

Kuja: ..... ..I don't deserve to live after all that I've done. I'm useless to this world

Zidane: No one's useless... You helped us escape, remember?

Kuja: ..... After you guys beat me, I had nothing left...nothing more to lose. Then, I finally realized what it means to live... I guess I was too late.

Zidane: !!!? Hey! Don't you go dying on me, alright!? !!!?

Just then, a massive root attack takes place from all corners of the tree....at it seems Zidane and Kuja are dead....

Then, we hear a mysterious narration:

"Kuja... What you did was wrong... But you gave us one thing... Hope... We were all created for the wrong reason, but you alone defied our fate. We do not want to forget this. We want your memory to live on forever... ..to remind us that we were not created for the wrong reason-that our life has meaning."

Back in alexandria, some time after the game ends, we see puck running along. He runs into Vivi...and greets him so. But it's not Vivi...it's Vivi's Sons!

"I always talked about you, Zidane. How you were a very special person to us, because you taught us all how important life is."

We see Freya and Sir Fratley talking Burmecia. It seems Fratley has fallen in love with Freya once again, though he still doesn't remember their past relationship....

"You taught me that life doesn't last forever. That's why we have to help each other and live life to the fullest."

We then see Beatrix inside the queens chamber, saying goodbye to her trusted sword...Save The Queen. She gives her farewell to Alexandria.

"Even if you say goodbye, you'll always be in our hearts. So, I know we're not alone anymore."

We then see Lani and Amarant walking the high-road to Alexandria, with Lani complaining the whole way....

"Why I was born... How I wanted to live... Thanks for giving me time to think."

We see Quina inside the kitchen cooking at Alexandria.....showing off her master chef ability....

"To keep doing what you set your heart on... It's a very hard thing to do. We were all so courageous..."

Eiko is with Cid and Hilda, telling them to hurry up. They are heading to Alexandria on the Hilda Garde 4. Eiko is worried the theater ship will get there before they will....and then tells her 'father' to hurry up. Hilda smiles, and Cid is taken back....

"What to do when I felt lonely... That was the only thing you couldn't teach me. But we need to figure out the answer for ourselves..."

As Beatrix is leaving the castle, Steiner confesses his love for her, and asks if she will stay to protect the queen. He asks if they will do it together....

"I'm so happy I met everyone... I wish we could've gone on more adventures. But I guess we all have to say goodbye someday."

We then see the inside of the Theater Ship, where Baku is going over lines and such with Tantalus. Everyone is getting real hyped....

"Everyone... Thank you. Farewell. My memories will be part of the sky..."

Then we see Queen Garnet (Dagger) looking down at the stage with Steiner and Beatrix guarding the doorway....

Dagger: The theater ship will arrive any minute. It's been so long... I can't wait to see everyone. But... It'll never be the same... I have to let go of the past... I have to move on, just like he taught me.

Then, Baku dressed as King Leo, discusses the play to the audience...

King Leo: Ladies and Gentlemen! Tonight's performance is a story that takes place long, long ago. Our heroine, Princess Cornelia, is torn from her lover, Marcus. She attempts to flee the castle, only to be captured by her father, King Leo. Tonight's story begins when Marcus and Cornelia decide to run away together. And now, Your Royal Majesty, Queen Garnet, Lord Steiner, Lady Beatrix... ..noble ladies and lords, and our rooftop viewers, Tantalus proudly presents 'I Want to Be Your Canary'!

The play goes off without a hitch...and Marcus is proclaiming his love for Cornelia...They are going to get married, even though he is a peasant and she is a princess. Blank tells them that this could cause problems in the peace talks between the kingdoms...

That night, when Cornelia and Marcus are going to escape the pressure of kingdom life, Cornelia stands up Marcus.....Then, Marcus (Wearing a hooded cloak) proclaims his love once more for Cornelia....

Marcus: Could she have betrayed me? Nay, ne'er would my love speak false. I must have faith! She shall appear if I only believe! As the sun lends me no ear, I pray instead to the twin moons! I beseech thee, wondrous moonlight, grant me my only wish!

The hood is off, the cat is out the bag...It is Zidane!!!!

Zidane: Bring my beloved Dagger to me!

We see the whole party (Freya, Amarant, Quina, Eiko) jump for joy! Dagger rushes out, but Steiner and Beatrix look like they are going to stop her. Just as it appears so, they both open the double doors to let the queen out. Dagger runs to and fro (like that?) and loses her pendant among the crowd. She looks back, and lets it lie...as she is too concerned about Zidane....

She makes it up to the stage where Zidane and her embrace...with Dagger crying....she pounds his chest with her fist. She cries while the crowd cheers and stands up. Zidane sheds a tear, and then...the credits roll.....

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+THIS IS THE END OF THE GAME, NO MORE STORY, NO SPECIAL EVENT...NOTHING!!!!!!+  
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++Part 3: FAQ's++  
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==Chapter 1: Characters==

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--Zidane--

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Q. Why does he have a tail?

A. He is not of this world, he, along with Kuja, is from a world called Terra. He is a 'Genome' used to fill the souls of Terra with a body when the awake. Though, he is given a soul, as he is to replace Kuja as Gaia's chaos causer.

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Q. Why does Zidane help Kuja out at the end?

A. Becuase, like his tagline says, you don't need a reason to help people. He has seen that Kuja has changed, and thus, decides to help him survive. He cannot live without knowing if he could've helped a good soul...like Cid from FF7 says "I don't want to regret not having done something later".

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Q. Why did he join Tantalus?

A. It really wasn't his choice. He was found on the Lindblum coast, and took raised as an orphan...by...Baku, who beat him as a child. But, Baku still loved Zidane as a son. Baku of course, is the leader of Tantalus, which would explain why everyone looks up to Zidane as a big brother, and why he is Baku's favriote.

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--Garnet aka Dagger--

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Q. Was she really Brahne's daughter? I mean, look at that ugly \*&#!?

A. Well, not really. Even though Dagger loved Brahne, even through all her greed and deceit, she wasn't her biological mother. Dagger was raised in madain sari(Eiko's hometown), but a diaster struck, and forced Dagger's mother to flee. Dagger landed on Alexandria's coastline, and Brahne raised 'Garnet' as her own(hmmmm....sounds familar?).

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Q. What is the connection between her and the pendant?

A. The pendant that Dagger wears is part of a larger Stone, used to summon Alexander. The pendant was shattered to prevent anyone from summoning such a powerful Eidolon. Eiko has another part, and the gang finds the other half, and when Bahumat attacks, Dagger is able to summon Alexander.

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--Vivi--

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Q. Does he die?

A. Of course, but...the real questions is..."Does he die before the end of the game?". I cannot answer that. Although I believe he does, that is my opinion. We know that Black Mages have limited lifespan(1 year), though Vivi's was longer. I would like to think that maybe his was normal, like a humans, but...the fact that Vivi has sons seems to indicate to me that he is 'survived by his sons' if you will. Just my opinion.

Also, Think of all the lines the narrator says at the end. They seem to sound like Vivi's talk, but you have to believe that Vivi is the narrator for those lines to indicate death.

Another thing, Everyone else is at the end, I mean, everyone else is in alexandria, even Amarant. I would think Vivi would show up considering his sons do. Also, how else would they know that a gathering was going to be held at Alexandria without Vivi? If this is the case, Vivi would of course show up. Im saying, in a nutshell(I know there are other ways of the sons knowing that a gathering was held at Alexandria[I.E It would be widely publicized, considering those are the people who saved the world, and we know publicity is in FFXIX worlds, as we see flyers for many of things during the game]) that Vivi would show up if his sons did, it is the logical thing to think.

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==Chapter 2: Plot==

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Q. What is the 'Mist' comprised of?

A. Stagnant souls that cannot return to the lifestream of the planet. I understand there is no lifestream, but there is enough evidence to suggest that souls make the planet run, and souls are reborn into other lifeforms. Eventually, Gaia would run out of life, as the Iifa Tree was stopping the souls from returning to the planet, and releasing them as 'Mist'.

Q. What is "Terra"?

A. It was the planet opposite Gaia. Dead for thousands of years, Garland is attempting to restore the souls of Terra by stopping the souls of Gaia from recycling themselves back into Gaia. He was going to stop the flow of souls from returning to the planet, and thus making the planet weak, and allowing the souls of Terra(Who lay dormant) to travel to Gaia and take the Genome body as their own and then...start over. this was the Iifa tree's function....

Garland: All you saw was the back of the tree... Even now, the Iifa Tree blocks the flow of Gaia's souls, while it lets those of Terra flow freely. Come and see for yourself. See the true form of this planet.

Also...

Garland: We must sort the souls. I want to disrupt Gaia's cycle and drain its souls, filling the void with the souls of Terra. To speed the cycle of souls is to speed the work as a whole. Thus, war... And in time... Gaia's souls are gone, and Gaia becomes Terra.

Zidane: But...how!?

Garland: You saw it with your own eyes. You saw the Iifa Tree and the Mist it emits. The role of the Iifa Tree is that of Soul Divider. The Mist you see comprises the stagnant souls of Gaia...

This will prove that Genomes are used for bodies for the souls of the people of Terra:

Garland: I constructed the Genomes to be vessels for the souls of the people of Terra when they awaken.

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++Part 4: Credits++  
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