

Fall 2022



WALTZ

The Official FC Newsletter

STEP INTO THE
VOID LORE

INTERVIEWS WITH
JOY BELLE
RHELYS INFINIS

SUMMER PARTY
RECAP + PHOTOS

HOUSING,
GLAMOUR,
ARTWORK,
AND MORE!



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Interview with . . .

Rhelys Infinis



How did you get into the game?

My dorm's Resident Assistant during my freshman year of college started playing 1.0 and the game looked great, but back then it took a supercomputer to run so I couldn't actually play it on my own laptop. Instead I'd come play on his every so often. A few years later when I had moved for work, I joined back up as "just something to do" near when ARR had launched. Been playing ever since.

Oh, that's cool! I think there was something about some flower pots that made it difficult for some people back in 1.0.

Yeah. The benchmark just straight up crashed on my laptop after about ten seconds. I even had a gaming laptop at the time and it wasn't enough!

What's your favorite part of the game? What keeps you playing it?

I really enjoy the fact that there's just so much to do in the game. Collecting achievements and challenging myself to harder content are probably the two biggest content things that keep me coming back, but I've also met a lot of cool people in XIV over the years so it's nice to see familiar faces.

You clear Ultimates don't you?

I do! There are still some challenge achievements I'm going for, but I'm pretty sure I've cleared all the combat content in the game at least once

What is your favorite battle class? Favorite non-battle class?

For battle jobs, I always seem to come back to Paladin and it's been my go-to forever, although I've been really enjoying Sage this expansion. For DoH/DoL, it has to be Fisher. There are some really enjoyable spots to just go out and enjoy the ambiance. That and it fuels my need to collect things.

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

I think it has to be either Endwalker or A Realm Reborn (if you count that as an expansion). So far Endwalker's done a great job of releasing some fantastic content and the 6.0 MSQ was a perfect way of tying up the story I've been enjoying for the last seven to eight years. A Realm Reborn is up there too, maybe mostly for nostalgia, but it felt so exciting to re-explore the world I knew from 1.0 and everyone else was also seeing it for the first time.

Oh? You don't usually see ARR when people talk about which part of the game is their favorite.

There hasn't been an expansion I've disliked yet.

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

I think my favorite NPCs are probably Jessie from the Garlond Ironworks or Gerolt. Jessie's always doing her best to keep things moving while dealing with Cid's chaos, kind of like a tired parent where Gerolt's the most skilled blacksmith in the land but he's also a giant doof and somehow keeps getting roped into building more and more relics.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

Savage Criterion Dungeons for sure. I'm really hoping Square-Enix sets the level of challenge right for a group of four so my friends and I can plug away at it for a while.

Do you have a background to your character's name?

Only a bit of one – Rhelys was the first "real" username I made up for myself that wasn't tied to some other video game series. My XIV character's first name was Rhel Takeba and I'm pretty sure "Rhel" came out of the auto-generator haha, I just adapted it later on. Infinis was just a play on some of the alts I ended up making for raiding that were based on elements, like Aquifis or Lucernas.

What is your favorite mount and your favorite minion?

Favorite mount is easily the Demi-Ozma, I love the fact that it changes forms depending on where you're riding it and that it shows that I've completed the Baldesion Arsenal [level cap dungeon to complete Eureka in Stormblood]. For minions, I think my favorite is probably the Magic Bucket. I love the way it hops around and the little fish inside is cute.

Honorable mention goes to the Astrope mount since I had to suffer for it and it's HUGE (plus it seats two).

How long did it take you to get the Astrope mount from completing 2,000 mentor roulettes?

I worked on it off and on for over a year and a half or so. Pushed through the last half of the roulettes in a few months.

What is your favorite hangout spot in the game?

I really enjoy the music and scenery of Old Sharlayan, so I'll frequently do my crafting on one of the bridges or sitting spots away from the main plaza.



Now we're going to move onto some non-FFXIV questions to get to know who you are outside of the game. Are there any other games you play outside of FFXIV?

My friends and I tend to cycle through all kinds of games, but I'm a sucker for JRPGs and simulation games. Recently we've been playing a bunch of Monster Hunter Rise, but I've also been finishing up Ni No Kuni II and modding Dark Souls for fun. I love randomizing games too (Souls games, Pokémon, Mario games, etc.).

What kind of modding do you do for Dark Souls?

The Dark Souls mods I usually mess with are usually just goofy randomizer things. Random enemies, items, door locations—things like that. There are some really in-depth mods out there that can overhaul the entire game.

What hobbies do you have outside of gaming?

Well I also have a ton of board games! But beyond that I have a ton of perler beads that are fun to get into from time to time. I also have a small Warhammer 40K army that's been fun to build and paint.

Which board game do you like the most?

That's a big question... But I think it's Gloomhaven. Campaign-style games that have a bit of complexity are right up my alley.

Are there shows/films or songs you would recommend?

I don't usually watch too many shows or movies, but I'm a huge fan of music. Lately, "From Nowhere" by SpikedGrin & Onux has been at the top of my playlist.

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

My favorite food since I was a kid has always been peanut butter and honey on a tortilla. Bonus points if you get the all natural peanut butter that you stir yourself.

Tell us one awesome fact about yourself!

I guess an interesting fact would be that I've visited the Arctic Circle once and had the opportunity to walk around. It was so silent there that I could hear the blood circulating in my ears.

If you were able to, would you be down to meet people outside of this game? If so, what do you think would be your first reaction when you first see them?

I have already, actually! For the last two expansion launches I've invited some of my friends I met in game to come hang out for a week for a mini-LAN party and just enjoy the launch. It was a great time.

There are people from around the world that play this game, where do you play from?

I play from Washington in the US.

If you have a pet, what kind of pet is it—or if you want to own a pet, which one would it be?

I have three cats! Artemis is our little old lady, then we have two younger cats, Leo and Neptune.

All right, I'm going to probably make you sad, just a bit, ready? The game is coming to an end, you have thirty minutes to an hour to do one last thing, what would it be?

If we knew ahead of time, I'd probably want to grab some friends and clear one last Ultimate together and wait at the end of it for the servers to go down. Last win for the road.

And lastly, share with us a quote you live by.

"Ability is nothing without opportunity."



SCREENSHOTS CORNER!

View some of the stunning screenshots created by your FC mates last month!



Kokoro Votyasch



Neko Para

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Kellin Silverwillow



Devries Bae

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Liesz Feyd



Sharizart

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Noriko Takaya



Brock Hampton

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Vasto Ishuma



Khaishan Bah

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Etney Barrows



Seilera Books

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Fratley Stormfall



Korvus Tenebra

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Trinty Mohun



Xavdak Oreblood

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



Laureall



Lilipi Lipi

SCREENSHOTS CORNER!



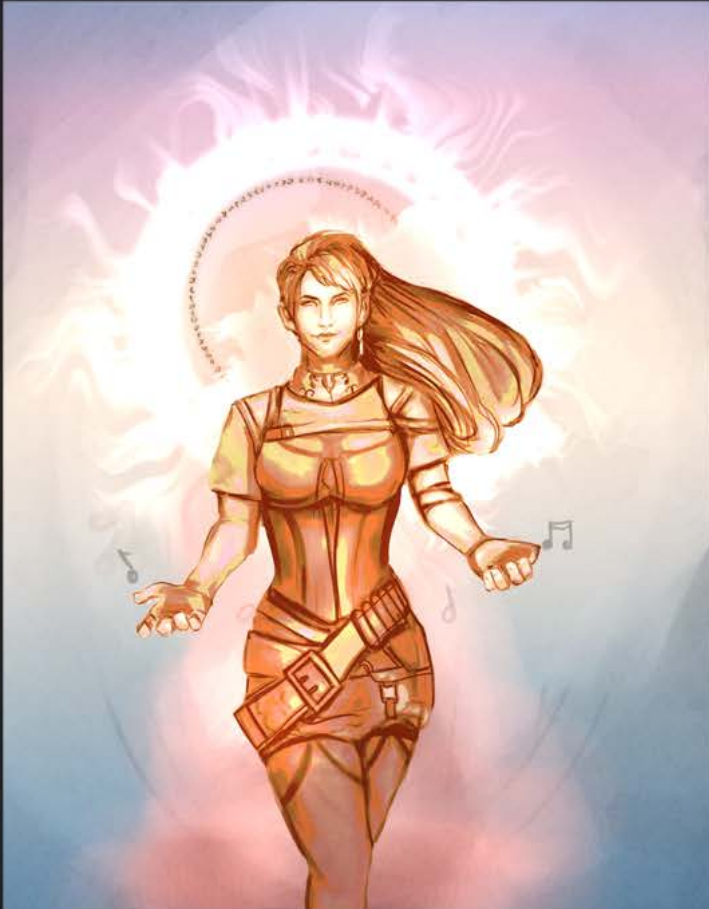
Tsensa Malqir



Dezz Riva

THE BLACK WALTZ ART GALLERY

Take a moment to gaze upon art made by your fellow FC mates.



Selania



Ozette

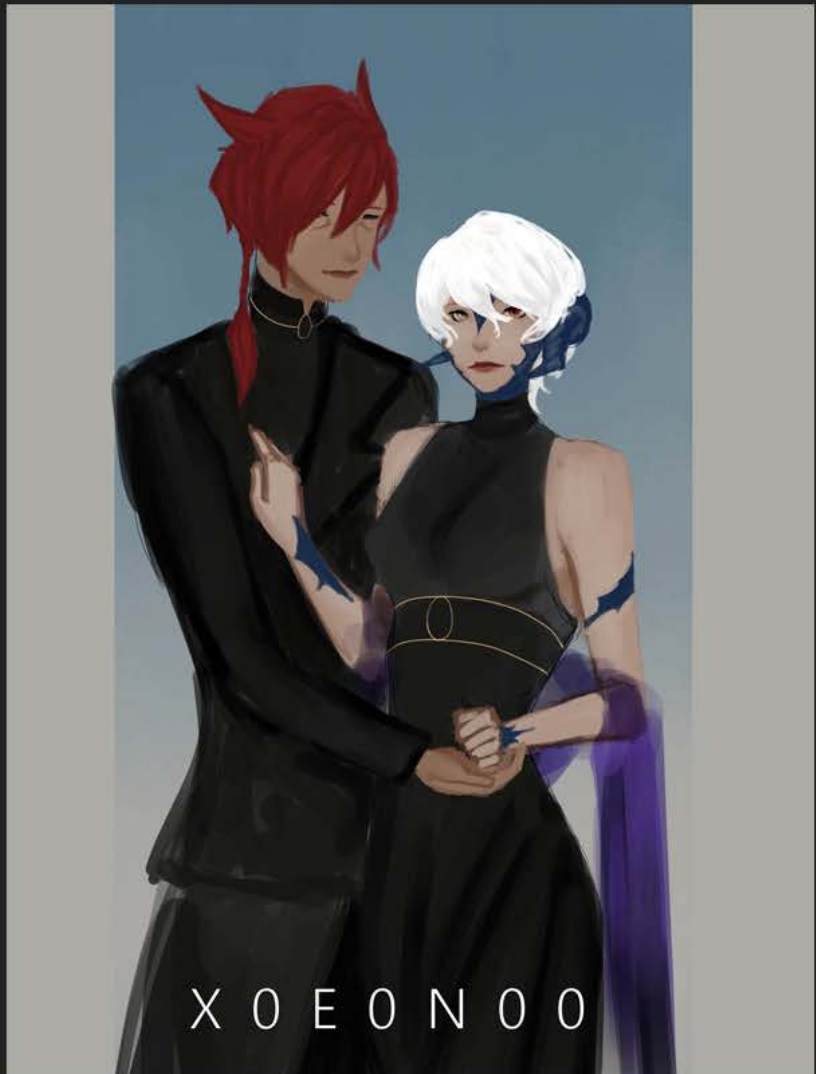
Zara



Lyrie



Selania



Yulia

X O E O N O O



Mufinella



Ari



Finnwaer



Diana



Sienna



Etney





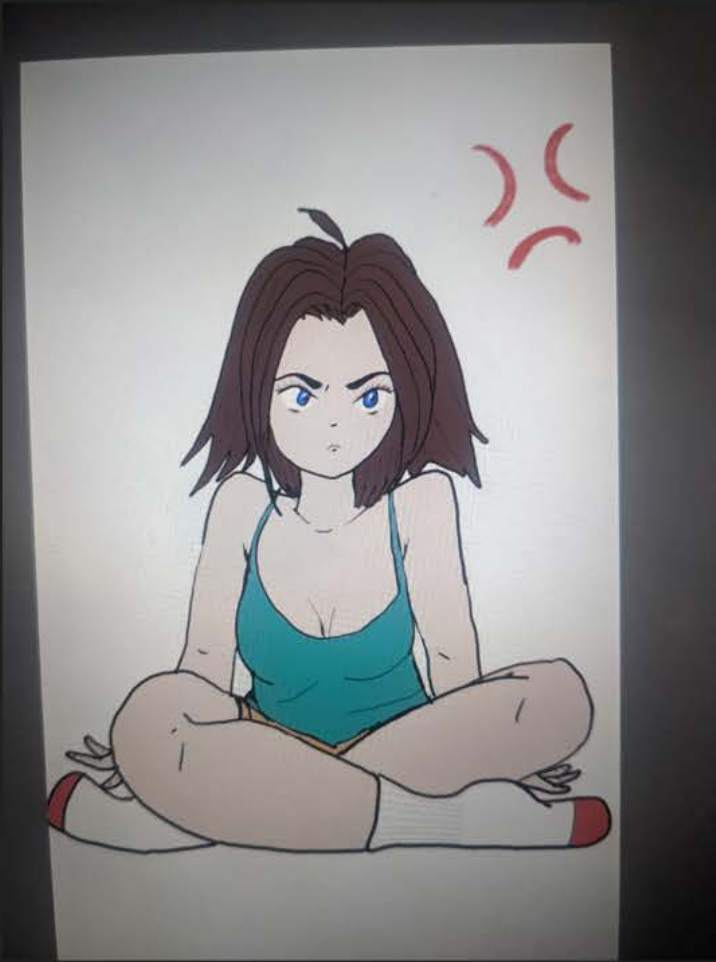
Angel



Laureall



Sulia



Kouya

THE OPEN HOUSE

Tour around in these fabulous housing designs!



FC Room #112 - Scarlett Oreblood



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC Room #154 - Devries Bae



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC Room #133 - Lyrie Mehsair



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC Room #85 - Finnwaer Gremory



THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet Apartments, Ward 1, Wing 1, Room #24 - Olio Averre



THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet, Ward 15, Plot 59 - Aeryi Vaeaihlys



THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet, Ward 11, Plot 58 - Ashldr Stormcaller
(decorated by Devries Bae)



THE OPEN HOUSE



Goblet, Ward 21, Plot 51 - Xavdak Oreblood
(decorated by Scarlett Oreblood)



THE OPEN HOUSE



Shirogane Apartments, Ward 8, Wing 2,
Room #25 - Koochi Fujiwara



THE OPEN HOUSE



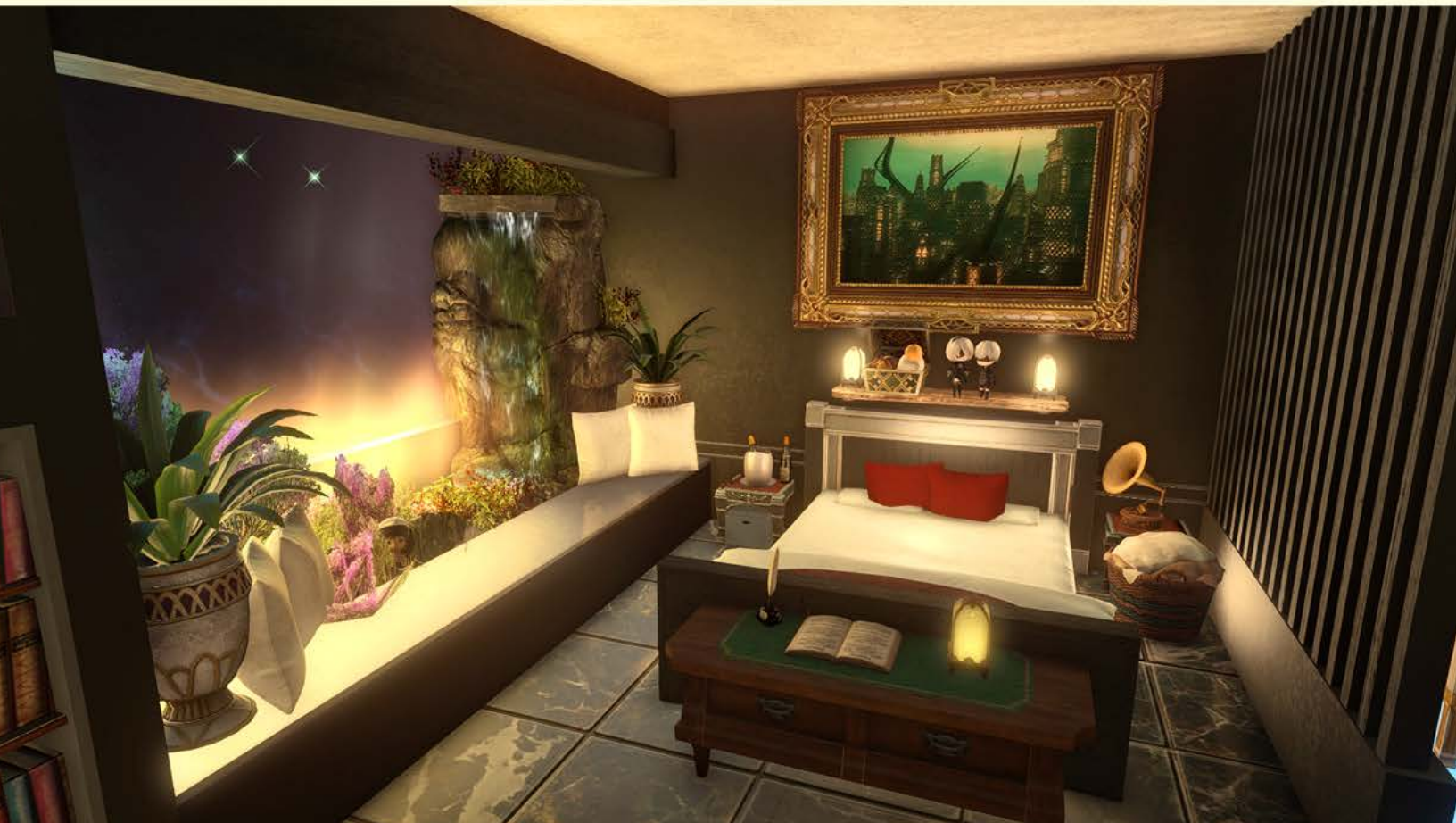
Shirogane, Ward 23, Plot 52 - Dezz Riva



THE OPEN HOUSE



Shirogane, Ward 23, Plot 47 - Noriko Takaya



THE OPEN HOUSE



Lavender Beds Apartments, Ward 24, Wing 2,
Room #56 - Herja Valmeyjar



THE OPEN HOUSE



Empyreum, Ward 12, Plot 33, Arelem Kael



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC House - (Decorated by Mufinella Pemstein)



THE OPEN HOUSE



FC House - (Decorated by Mufinella Pemstein)



Interview with ...

Joy Belle



First question: How did you get into the game?

My husband and I were longtime players of World of Warcraft and were looking for a new game. We did our research and felt FFXIV would be the game for us, and it sure was! I still play, but he is not playing at the moment. We still play side by side in our game room, though, he at his computer and I at mine, chatting away and enjoying ourselves.

Aw, it's great playing side by side with your spouse. What's your favorite part of the game? What keeps you playing it?

I love the social aspect of helping each other and how it is encouraged in this game. Meeting so many new people, hearing their stories and going on adventures with them is something I always look forward to.

What are your favorite battle class and non-battle class?

My favorite battle class is the Scholar. It was my very first job and I enjoy healing very much. For non-battle, I would say the Culinarian, and not so much for what she can make, but I love the gear! Oh that oven! When I first saw that oven, and the tools that the other crafters use, I knew I would have to level them all!

Culinarian requires the most ingredients to craft, doesn't it?

It may... but I don't mind because I can gather what I need for the most part. My Culinarian is at 90, I worked my way through and got all the master recipes. I don't mind the work. That is when I put on an audiobook and get lost in the story while roaming the world looking for mats.

Which expansion has been your favorite so far?

I like them all because I love this game, but if I had to choose a favorite I would say Heavensward. That is when we were finally able to defy gravity... I mean fly!

Of course, this game experience is story driven and I would not have it any other way. It really draws you in and makes you a part of the storyline. Very immersive indeed!

Who is your favorite NPC(s)?

Nanamo Ul Namo! She was always an inspiration to me. Kind-hearted, generous, and cares deeply for the people she has charge over. Plus she is a Lalafell. Mighty things can come in the tiniest of packages.

What's one thing you're looking forward to most in the coming patches?

I'm always excited to see where the MSQ leads and how it expands and progresses. It's like reading a good book, a real page turner, and you can't wait to see where it will take you. I never really mind all the changes they make—I just adjust and do the best I can with whatever they do to the classes.

Do you have a favorite glam? And can you show us?

Oh, my... *rustles through the closet* ...must I pick just one? I like the Gunbreaker glam because it looks like a cowgirl. I always change her hair to braids after that. I also like the white outfit that Joy is wearing in her adventure plate.

Do you have a background to your character's name?

Joy Belle means Beautiful Joy. It applies to who she is and not what she looks like. When I created her, I took a moment and asked myself what her name should be, and what is her life's mission? The answer came to me immediately—spread kindness by helping, listening, and just being present for anyone in need.

It's a perfect name for you Joy, you are such a positive spot in our FC!

Next question: What is your favorite mount and favorite minion? I know this might be a hard question considering how many we have of each.

My Chocobo, Posie! She has gone on all my adventures and has been a faithful and trusted companion ever since I fed her her first gysahl greens. It's hard to say my favorite minion, though I do love the fat cat, as I love cats.

Where is your favorite hangout spot in the game?

I don't really have one, because Joy Belle is a Lala on a mission after all, haha. There are, however, many beautiful areas in the game where I will stop, take a breath and take in the beauty of a vista, forest, or beach. The world we play in is so beautiful and so dynamic that it would be hard for me to choose just one spot.

Now we're going to move onto some questions not related to FFXIV. Are there any other games you play outside of this one?

There are several, though I only focus on playing one game at a time. World of Warcraft and Guild Wars 2 primarily. I have tried others, but did not stay with them, like New World, Elden Ring, Elder Scrolls Online, and Skyrim. I always find myself comparing these to FFXIV. Nothing compares! And I do mean that sincerely. The excellence of what they have created in this game is incomparable.

What hobbies do you have outside of gaming?

I love reading and listening to audiobooks. The subjects are varied, depending on what is piquing my interest at the moment. Currently I am studying some history on Sumerian texts. I also love music and often have it playing throughout the house. Lately I have been listening to a lot of "Big Band" music, with Glenn Miller being my favorite. My music tastes are varied and I will listen to most anything. I used to go to Phish shows as a younger person, I am a child of the 60s after all.

Are there any songs you would recommend?

The musical Wicked and its song "Defying Gravity." I saw an off-Broadway show and it was amazing! It's all about rising above others' expectations of you and showing them who you really are inside. This describes my life.

Tell us a little bit of what you love to eat, even if it's a snack.

Italian food, especially lasagna. Add some artisan-style crusty bread and a crisp side salad and *chef's kiss.*

Tell us one awesome fact about yourself!

I worked in hospice for almost 20 years as a nursing assistant and home health aide. Aside from being a mother and grandmother, it was one of the most fulfilling experiences of my life. And like my children, it was also one of my greatest teachers.

I imagine it was also a tough job! You're amazing, Joy. If you were able to, would you be down to meet people outside of this game? If so, what do you think would be your first reaction when you first see them?

I would have to feel that I really knew and trusted someone before I would meet them outside the game. My reaction, should I meet them, would be like a close friend or family with arms open wide in a warm greeting.

There are people from around the world that play this game, where do you play from?

Arizona, USA.



We share lots of adorable pet photos—if you have a pet, what kind of pet is it?

I have two cats. One is Thomas, who is eleven years old. The other is Molly, who is two years old. They are both orange tabbies. Thomas is the laid-back big brother and Molly is the feisty little sister. Watching them interact is both endearing and hilarious! The unconditional love our pets give us is an amazing gift that I cherish.

All right, I'm going to probably make you sad, just a bit, ready? The game is coming to an end, you have thirty minutes to an hour to do one last thing, what would it be?

What I always do when I know I have to log off soon is repair my gear, clean out my bags, and post anything for sale with the retainers. I then check in with the FC to say goodnight and put Joy to bed in an inn room. After I log out I make any notes needed for reminders for the following day in the game. It helps to keep me organized while I am leveling jobs.

I feel unorganized when you tell me that you take notes. I tell myself I need to do something the next day when I log off and forget it by the time I wake up.

But as for something to remember the game by... I usually stop playing and chat a bit with the FC mates before I log out. To reconnect a bit. So I would say the FC mates, people, connecting. It is what this game really is about for me. The social aspect.

And my last question: What is a quote you live by?
"Life doesn't happen to you, it happens for you."





Over
the
Moon

fashion Quarterly

Born of Blood

By Lyrie Mehsair



Head: Virtu Duelist's Chapeau
+Dye: n/a

Body: Plague Bringer's Coat
+Dye: n/a

Hands: Allagan Gloves of Casting
+Dye: n/a

Legs: Virtu Duelist's Breaches
+Dye: n/a

Feet: Anemos Expeditionary's Boots
+Dye: Loam Brown

Based on Lady Maria from Bloodborne. The musketeer vibe it embodies works great for fancy parties where a sword nearby might come in handy or long strolls through the countryside, people will see you as a gentle-person duelist ready to help.

Late Allagan Rain

By Felynx Cronus

Head: Reain Hood

+Dye: Honey Yellow

Body: Late Allagan Coat of Healing

+Dye: Honey Yellow

Hands: no.2 Type B Gloves

+Dye: Honey Yellow

Legs: Strife Bags

+Dye: Honey Yellow

Feet: Late Allagan Boots of Healing

+Dye: Soot Black

This gear is great for fall rainstorms and fighting the wettest of mobs! Guaranteed to keep you 100% dry! Also great for those deep ocean fishing excursions!



Change of Seasons

By Joy Belle



Head: White Beret

+Dye: Hunter Green

Body: Adventuring Sweater

+Dye: Hunter Green

Hands: n/a

+Dye: n/a

Legs: Tantalus Breeches

+Dye: n/a

Feet: Songbird Boots

+Dye: Soot Black

Accessories:

+ Aurum Regis Earrings,
Lominsan Ring

This is Joy's casual autumn weekend look, something she likes to wear when hiking or attending casual outdoor events. It is comfortable and just the right coverage for those chilly autumn days.

Cozy in Pink

By Lilipi Lipi

Head: White Cherry Blossom Corsage

+Dye: n/a

Body: Winter Sweater

+Dye: Pastel Pink

Hands: n/a

+Dye: n/a

Legs: Linen Tights

+Dye: General-Purpose White

Feet: Whisperfine Woolen Boots

+Dye: Pastel Pink

A fun and cutesy outfit for cuddling up with someone by a nice warm fireplace.



Old But Still Lit

By Mufinella Pemstein



Head: Endless Summer Glasses

+Dye: Soot Black

Body: Calfskin Rider's Jacket

+Dye: Ruby Red

Hands: False Nails

+Dye: Soot Black

Legs: Craftsman's Leather Trousers

+Dye: n/a

Feet: Rebel Boots

+Dye: n/a

When I feel like looking like a bad-A mom at the party scene, I throw on my rebellious set. I find it keeps me warm on those chilly days bebopping around Eorzea looking for trouble (to tell to go home and think of how worried their mothers must be!)

Roguish Librarian

By Diana Waters

Head: Artisan Spectacles

+Dye: n/a

Body: Valentione Rose

Waistcoat

+Dye: Kobold Brown

Hands: Lawless Enforcer's

Gloves

+Dye: Charcoal Grey

Legs: Appointed Slacks

+Dye: Bark Brown

Feet: Appointed Shoes

+Dye: Soot Black

You sit near a window, watching the autumn leaves fall. You take a sip of your pumpkin spice latte before someone catches your eyes.

Did they hire a new librarian...?

You almost choke on your drink.

Guess you'll be spending more time here...





THE ULTIMATE WALTZ COOKBOOK



French Onion Chicken Meatballs

By: Kaymia Evenriver



Ingredients:

1 pound ground chicken
1 cup shredded Gruyere cheese, divided
¼ cup Italian breadcrumbs
2 tablespoons fresh parsley, chopped + garnish
1 large egg, beaten
5 cloves garlic, minced, divided
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 tablespoons unsalted butter
2 large yellow onions, halved and thinly sliced
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
2 cups beef broth
2 teaspoons fresh thyme, chopped
salt and pepper, to taste

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 425 F and line a baking sheet with parchment paper.

In a large bowl, mix the ground chicken, ½ cup Gruyere cheese, breadcrumbs, parsley, egg, 3 cloves of garlic, salt, and pepper. Form the mixture into 16 meatballs and place on the baking sheet. Bake for 18 to 20 minutes, or until browned and cooked to an internal temperature of 165 F.

While the meatballs cook, heat the olive oil and butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onions and cook until golden, about 30 minutes. Add the remaining garlic and cook for another 1 to 2 minutes. Add the flour and cook for 30 seconds to 1 minute, until no dry flour remains.

Add the broth and thyme to the mix, and bring to a boil. Lower the heat to a simmer and cook for 5 to 10 minutes, until slightly thickened.

Add the cooked meatballs to the sauce. Sprinkle the remaining Gruyere over the top, cover, and cook until the meatballs are warmed through and the cheese is melted, about 5 minutes. Serve warm.

Oven Baked BBQ Ribs

By: Mufinella Pemstein



Ingredients:

2 racks pork ribs, about 6 lbs
1 jar BBQ sauce of choice

Dry Rub:

1/2 cup brown sugar
1 tablespoon garlic powder
1 tablespoon onion powder
1 teaspoon salt
1 tablespoon chili powder
2 teaspoon cumin
2 tablespoons smoked paprika
1-2 teaspoons cayenne pepper, to taste (heat level)

Directions:

Preheat oven to 275 degrees

In a small bowl mix dry rub until combined and set aside.

Rinse pork ribs and pat dry with paper towels.

Remove the membrane from the back of the ribs.

Spread the dry rub all over the ribs making sure to cover both sides.

Wrap ribs tightly in foil meat side up, place on baking sheet.

Bake for 3 hours for spare ribs, 2 hours for baby back ribs or until fork tender.

Open foil and drain the liquid from the ribs. Brush your favorite barbecue sauce on the ribs, broil for 5 minutes.

Remove and let the ribs rest 5-10 minutes before cutting.

Pizza Fatty

By: O'zetta Laqi



Ingredients:

1 lb ground beef
1 lb Italian sausage
1 teaspoon dried thyme
1 teaspoon dried rosemary
1 teaspoon dried oregano
2 teaspoons minced garlic
Thinly sliced onion to taste
Thinly sliced green bell pepper to taste
Chopped baby Portabella mushrooms to taste
Thinly sliced fresh basil, to taste
Pork BBQ rub, your favorite or any kind
1 cup pizza sauce
4 tablespoons Harissa sauce
8 oz Mozzarella cheese
Chopped Canadian Bacon to taste (roughly $\frac{1}{4}$ - $\frac{1}{3}$ cup)

Directions:

Get smoker up to 225 to 250 degrees F.

Create a latticework of bacon with 7 strips across, laying strips between the strips and alternating until a full sheet is made.

Mix together beef, sausage, thyme, rosemary, oregano, and garlic before spreading over bacon lattice, leaving about an inch on all sides for layer folding. Drizzle some pizza sauce overtop the mixture, spread evenly. In a pile down the center, place onions, peppers, mushrooms, Canadian bacon, and basil (not too much, still need to roll it!) Top with cheese.

Carefully fold one side of the roll into the middle then fold the other side over, making sure the bacon overlaps and seals in the contents. Pat roll to make sure it's all sealed. Coat outside with pork rub.

Place roll carefully onto heated grill and smoke for 2 hours. Coat with a mixture of pizza sauce, olive oil, and Harissa. Top with cheese. Cook further until internal temp is 165 F, about another hour but check regularly. Let rest 10-15 minutes.

Cereal-crusted French Toast

By: Xavdak Oreblood



Ingredients:

6 slices of white bread

3 eggs

Dash of Cinnamon

Dash of Milk

Crushed cereal (recommended honey bunches of oats with Almond)

Directions:

Mix together eggs, milk, and cinnamon in a shallow dish.

Soak white bread into the Egg Cinnamon Milk Mix, then bread with the crushed cereal.

Pan fry til lightly cooked/crisping up. Toss onto baking sheet with a wire rack. Cook in oven at 425 for 10 minutes.

Serve with Syrup.

Earl Grey Tea Cake

By: Ayumi Enoshima



Ingredients:

Cooking Spray
1/4 cup Olive Oil
1/4 cup (packed) light brown sugar
1/4 cup honey
3 large eggs
1/2 cup plain nonfat Greek Yogurt
1/2 cup unsweetened applesauce
1/4 cup low-fat 1% milk
1 tsp vanilla extract
1 tsp lemon zest
3 tbsp Earl Grey tea leaves
1 3/4 cup whole-wheat pastry flour
1 tsp baking soda
3/4 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1 tsp powdered sugar

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350F. Coat 9-inch round cake pan with cooking spray.

Using an electric mixer, in a large bowl, beat the olive oil, brown sugar, honey, eggs, yogurt, applesauce, milk, vanilla, and lemon zest until completely combined, 1 to 2 minutes. Stir in the tea leaves.

In a small bowl, whisk the flour, baking soda, baking powder, and salt. Using a spatula, fold the flour gently into the egg mixture until just combined. Transfer the batter to the prepared pan.

Bake the cake until a toothpick inserted into the center comes out clean, 25-30 mins. Transfer the pan to a wire rack. Let the cake cool completely in the pan. Remove cake from the pan. Using a fine mesh sieve, sift the powdered sugar on top.

Forzean Chronicles

A deeper look into the lore of FFXIV

12: Voidsent

On a shard known to those on the Source as “the 13th,” or also simply “The Void,” reside denizens of darkness called Voidsent. They are creatures grown twisted in mind and body due to being deprived of ambient aether needed for survival. Consumed in primordial darkness, the voidsent are the distorted, aether-starved remainders within the realm of the Void deprived of life energy who seek to feed on the aether of other realms. Voidsent exist due the excess of dark aether shattering the aetheric harmony of living creatures, altering their natural forms and turning them into monstrosities where their excesses and desires are enhanced to uncontrollable levels. This excess of dark aether was the result of an attempted Calamity gone wrong; instead of rejoining the shard with the Source, it left the shard consumed by darkness.

For almost as long as the Void realm has existed, the people of the Source have recognized its power and sought to control it. They developed methods of creating artificial rends to summon voidsent into their world by creating temporary gateways in the veil between their realms and binding the beings into service with precarious bloodpacts. Voidsent were summoned either through the opening of a floodgate requiring massive amounts of aether to maintain, or a small hole through which the essence or soul of a voidsent passed through to possess a vessel provided by a summoner, requiring a yet stronger vessel to contain a stronger voidsent soul. Typically the Voidsent must inhabit objects or corpses, things that are no longer or never were living. Succubi possess dead elezen women, ahriman possess animal eyes, taurus possess sacrificed cows, etc.



In the Third Astral Era, Emperor Xande of the Allagan Empire sought to enter a covenant with the Supreme Voidsent, the Cloud of Darkness, to utilize her power to conquer the world. Years later, the mages of the Fifth Astral Era Mhach would follow suit and summon voidsent into Eorzea not only to fight their wars, but to power their creations, an endeavor that ended with disastrous results. Since that disaster, summoning from the void had fallen out of fashion, having been deemed both dangerous and harmful to the world's aetherial balance. Separate groups of cultists continue the deadly summoning practice and archived their achievements in finding immortality within forbidden tomes, such as the Necrologus.

Eorzean Scholars of the Void categorized the voidsent into one of twelve rungs representing relative strength and intelligence. The lower the rung, the more formidable the Voidsent is in relation to others. The ranks have no bearing on a creature's actual standing within the void, and merely help Eorzeans better understand the Voidsent. While a lot is still unknown about many Voidsent, the following fall under specific ranking:

Rung 12: Gnats and Deepeyes

Rung 11: Imps, Gaelicat, and Bombs

Rung 10: Flans and Hecteyes

Rung 9: Vodorigas, Ogres, Page 64, and Hellhounds

Rung 8: Personas and Parthenope

Rung 7: Taurus

Rung 6: Soulflayers, Bitoso, and Boogymen

Rung 5: Anchag, Ariocho, Ahriman, and Troubadour

Rung 4: Arch Demons, Ahriman, Succubi, Dahaka, and Blackguards

Rung 3: Ferdiad, Scathach, certain Succubi, Forgall, and Arachne

Rung 2: Diabolos

Rung 1: Cloud of Darkness



In addition to the hierarchy of Voidsent, there are also different categories based on their traits. They break down into the following:

Ashkin: typically undead types such as banshees, bhoots, bogy, gourmands, lich, personas, skeletons, slimes, wights, wraiths, and zombies.

Beastkin: having an animalistic appearance such as some bats, cerberus, some chimera, fat cats, gaelicats, and hellhounds.

Cloudkin: avian types such as deathgazes, along with some hippogryphs, griffins, and zu.

Forgekin: types of constructs or automatons such as bits and certain types of dreadnaughts and demon walls.

Scalekin: draconic types such as certain dragons, dragonflies, and serpents.

Seedkin: plant-based types such as wolfsbane, certain morbols, molds, and sawtooths.

Soulkin: elemental beings such as certain sprites, plasmoids, and servitor's lanterns.

Vilekin: bug types such as gnats and certain wamouracampas and corpseflies.

Wavekin: aquatic beings such as certain hybodius, cetus, and certain sea serpents and slugs.

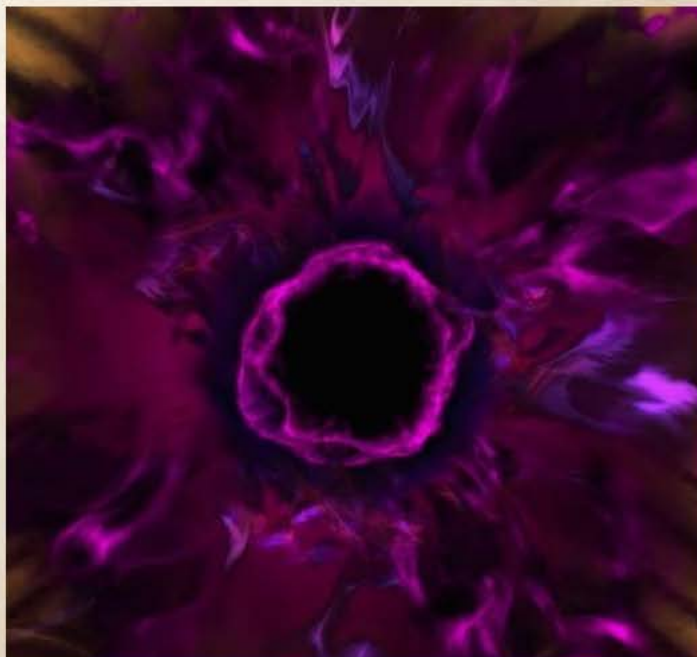
Spoken: intelligent life forms such as blackguard, Cloud of Darkness, Echidna, certain mamool ja, and some demonic types such as Calofisteri, Diabolos, Ferdiad, gremlins, Siren, and succubi.

Voidsent: demonic beings encompassing most creatures from the void realm such as ahrimans, aranches, archaeotantias, atomos, baboulas, bombs, cyclops, dahaks, deepeyes, demon types, gargoyles, hecteyes, imps, lamia, mimics, mindflayers, minotaurs, muud suuds, nagas, ogres, parthenopes, puddings, snurbles, taurus, umbrils, vodoriga, and wisps.

There are also some beings from the Source who gained power from the Void, either controlling it or being corrupted by it. Notable figures were augmented Allagans, Ascians, Calofisteri (a sorceress from Mhach), Lady Amandine (the lady of Haukke Manor), Edda and her fiancé Avere's decapitated head (a pair of fallen adventurers that become enemies within the Palace of the Dead), and the Lalafellin of Nym (the invisible Bitoso spread the Green Plague which turned the Nymians into Tonberries).



While a lot is still unknown about the Void, there still seems to be hope for the inhabitants of the shard. Two residents of the Thirteenth survived the darkness after being rescued by Elidibus and now reside on the First, assisting with recovery efforts in hopes of finding a cure for their people. Unukalhai and Cylva, former companions of their shard's Warrior of Light, hope to find a solution after the restoration efforts began in The Empty. Will they find a solution to bring the light back to their dark realm? Will the Warrior of Light be able to salvage the remains of the forsaken Thirteenth? Perhaps the answers will be revealed in the coming adventures...



What's New In Waltz?

A Quarterly Highlight

Welcome to another installment of “What’s New!” Waltz had a pretty laid back summer for activities, outside of our usual weekly routine events which are popular as always. Participating in these activities gives our members a raffle ticket to be drawn at the beginning of every month called “Mana Points!” For May’s Mana Points raffle, we had some pretty exciting prizes that went out to our members:

Yami Ryujin: Paissa Mogstation Mount

Xi Xim: HQ Pactmaker Set of Crafting

Moonlight Mura: Line Art by Mufinella Pemstein

Etney Barrows: Parasol Pack (black, plum paper, calming checkered, pastoral dot)

Fennel Grey: Ballroom Etiquette (high five and wring hands)

Ashldr Stormcaller: Samurai Barding

Gwell Moko: Antelope Doe Horn

Asterin Whitethorn: Minion Pack (Crabe de la Crabe, Prince Lunatender, Royal Lunatender)

Aya Loha: Varsity Jacket or Buttoned Varsity Jacket

At the end of June we had the return of one of our most popular events: Deathdrop Dartboard! Many willing subjects threw caution to the wind and dove head first into success in this dashing event like none other. From the heights of some of our star’s grandest vistas, we had three brave souls who scored the most points. Our first place winner hit the bullseye on the first round in the Peaks Waterfall while the second and third place winners hit bullseye in round six at the Sea of Clouds Cliff. Thanks to everyone who came out and flung themselves into the fun and excitement that is Deathdrop Dartboard!

First place: Aya Loha

Second place: Naila Safi’jiiva

Third place: Koko Moko



June's Mana Points raffle had even more exciting prizes for our active members, even a big Gil reward!

Kellin Silverwillow: Mameshiba Mogstation Mount

Astro Logian: Sketch by Diana Waters

Azreal Fullbringer: Puppy Minions (Black Hayate, Mameshiba, and Chewy)

Fennel Grey: Dalmascan glam set

Push Pop: A Jacket for Any Occasion (calfskin, casual, kupo, and urban)

Rea'dyu Books: 1 million Gil

Indigo Violet: Ballroom Etiquette (Dark Entreaty)

James Rock'it: Shin-Zantetsuken glam item

For July's Mana Points raffle, we had a unique gift of the new and purrfect game "Stray", which I'm sure it to be popular with our Miqo'te crowd:

Push Pop: "Stray" steam game

Moonlight Mura: Line art by Mufinella Pemstein

Moon' Moon: Minion Pack (Wind-up Grebuloff, Teacup Kapikulu, Wind-up Omega M and F, Drippy)

Push Pop: Hades Auracite

Pharom Whitethorn: Samurai Barding

Sumi Rain: Mogstation emote (Winner's Choice)

Fennel Itsuka: Blue Blossom Parasol

Fennel Itsuka: False Classic Spectacles

Gwell Moko: Zu Horn

At the end of July we had another episode of Family Feud. There was a HUGE turn out, and good times were had by all in this guessing game about how well everyone knows members of our FC. The winning team was "Pizza Ranch," consisting of Rea'dyu Books, Asterin Whitethorn, Fringlo Basil, Etney Barrows, Moon' Moon, Mighty Mog, K'oht Soul, and Azreal Fullbringer! It was a delicious victory all around with each member scoring three points! Second place was team "Toasty Trebuchet" and third place went to team "Floor Tanks." These groups should have gotten bonus points for creative naming!



Mid-August we had our Summer Splash party! It was a chill event, folks came out to dance in our front yard pools and jam out to the awesome beats put down by our very own DJ Brock Hampton. It was a lovely time that ran overtime late into the night cause we were just having too much fun! Thanks everyone for coming out in all your fabulous summer drip!



Finally, we want to give a shout out to our Good Samaritans for the past three months. These people were beacons of goodness in the Black Waltz and we appreciate every bit you've given back to the community:

Noriko Takaya (May)

Astro Logian (June)

Finnwaer Gremory (July)

Upcoming events everyone can look forward to include our All Saints' Wake event coming in October which will be jam-packed with fun activities such as minion gambling, a haunted house maze, spooky story tours, even more DJ action as well as live performances, and much more! You won't want to miss it! Be there or BEWARE!! See you next issue, please look forward to it!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the following for their efforts in making this issue possible:

Asterin Whitethorn: Interviewer

Diana Starborn: Graphics Designer, Photog

Mufinella Pemstein: Editor, Writer

Freya Stormfall: Editor

Brock Hampton: Cover Design, Graphics Designer

Moon' Moon: Content Provider

And YOU, our awesome readers!

See you next issue!