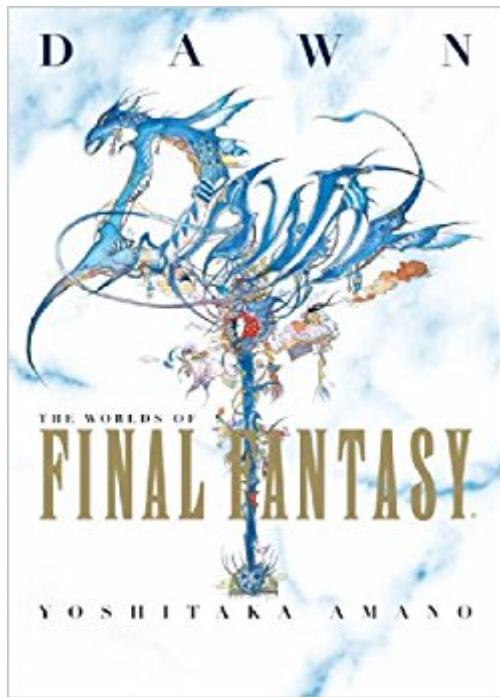


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# Dawn: The Worlds Of Final Fantasy



## Synopsis

There is only one Final Fantasy. Through more than a dozen wildly diverse adventures, from the release of the first game in 1987 to the most recent expansion on the story, the international influence of the game is legendary both inside the video-game industry and throughout popular culture. It is a tale of bold heroes and heroines, breathtaking landscapes and terrifying creatures. Through Final Fantasy, names like Luneth, Refia, Rosa Farrell, Cecil Harvey, and many others have become household names to millions of players across the globe. With two feature films, a host of action figures and apparel, posters, soundtracks, and more, the vast landscape, defined by the Final Fantasy storylines have all begun with the games, and for the first six games those worlds grew from the remarkable vision of one man: Yoshitaka Amano. Now, for the first time outside Japan, Amano and Square Enix, Inc. have permitted the artwork that inspired the designs of the Final Fantasy games to be published. In *Dawn* you will see the development of the first four games through Amano's paintings, detailed line art, and preliminary sketches. Plus, in a special afterward, you'll learn the genesis of this history-making collaboration.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Length: 0:24 Mins

*Dawn: The Worlds of Final Fantasy* contains the development sketches of the first four Final Fantasy games, I to IV. All the characters in this book are foreign to me since my first acquaintance with the game was Final Fantasy VII. All with the exception of the monsters and summons which are

also used in later series. An index of titles is provided to identify the characters. This is a character design book. Right at the start are a few foldout pages that unfold into larger illustrations. Most of the illustrations are done in pencil and watercolour. The designs are filled with detail although they are really sketches with fury pencil lines. A few black and white designs towards the end of the book. If you're played the games before, you'll see familiar characters like Cecil Harvey, Rosa Farrell and Cid, just to name a few. There are of course lots of creatures -- high level ones -- like dragons, Leviathan, Ifrit, Odin, Bahamut, Chocobo, etc. It's interesting to see how the designs of these traditional legendary creatures have evolved since the first game, which was released in dot matrix. I'm really glad to see that Chocobo is now cuter in the later versions (original Chocobo in the pictures below). There are no game screenshots or highly polished splash pages in this book. All are concept art by Yoshitaka Amano. This book is recommended to character designers and game artists with reservations. Whether you like the book will depend on how much you like the style of Yoshitaka Amano. There are more pictures of the book on my blog. Just visit my profile for the link.

I first discovered Yoshitaka Amano's artwork when Final Fantasy VI was released, but also in a guidebook for this game, which was filled with many characters or scenes from the game. The designs were unlike anything that I imagined. To me, the paintings were wild, unique, eccentric, and much more adult than the conventional character designs I found in 1990's video games. Though there is of course a sense of caricature in his artwork, I felt Yoshitaka Amano's penstroke was dramatic and told a story about each character, whether it was Celes, Locke, Terra or the devilish Kefka. In fact, each drawing clearly defined the context and personality of the characters that were there. But I was disappointed that the only drawings I could find were in this guidebook or on the Web. But when I found out that Amano had released some of his character designs, sketches, and paintings for the first four Final Fantasy in this volume, I had to purchase a copy and relished each page. In each of them, I managed to spot and catch characters that I had found or played in the first four Final Fantasy. And I was marveled by the large sumi-ee painting called Dawn or Reimei in Japanese. To me, this painting was a visual presentation of Yoshitaka's imagination bubbling up before getting to work and bringing down the visual designs of the characters, monsters and architecture of the Final Fantasy worlds. Then again, I still wish that all the illustrations had been separated together into chapters identified by the games they were involved. It would have made it a little easier in identifying who went for what game, especially for some of the monsters. But then again. That is just a little detail that hasn't ruined my pleasure of reading this book, which I will soon accompany with the latest and richer book that Amano will release in October 2012, which means

this month. So for me, this volume is an appetizer before the main dish.

Beautiful artwork from the early Final Fantasies, but overall the collection feels a little sparse for the price. Maybe worth it for purists and dedicated fans (which I am) but those who aren't should probably pass.

This book is amazing. It has many illustrations that I've never seen before and that I can guarantee won't be found by simply sifting around online. Besides, it's very reasonably priced and well worth it. There is a generous amount of colored work, all in that very familiar, very endearing Amano style that I love. Granted, his work (to me) is either the best thing I've ever seen, or very mediocre. I'm sure someone knows these style variations I'm referring to. Anyway, to those that understand, this book is gold. But, as it is a compilation of concept art for the first four installations of the Final Fantasy series, its main focus is on character and monster design. What I particularly love about this book is the way that I can just prop it up when I'm working on my art school homework, and it pretty much acts as an infinite source of inspiration. That, and for my inner geek, it comes with a fabulous little index (in English) that names each character/monster/what have you and what page they are on. (The reviewer was compensated for posting this review. However, the opinion stated in the review is that of the reviewer and the reviewer alone. Further, the reviewer independently selected this product to review and has no affiliation with the product maker/distributor, or the review requester.)

This was a gift for my son. The book is full of page after page of beautiful illustrations. He is an art lover and requested this book as a gift. I am sure that he loves it.

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