

THE ULTIMATE CARD GAME  
FOR HORROR MOVIE FANS

YOU ARE THE

# MANIAC!

THE MANIAC'S HANDBOOK  
-FIRST EDITION-

# QUICK REFERENCE

## Steps for Taking a Turn

1. Play one Maniac card from your hand.

\*optional

2. Move in for the Kill. Grab the Victim card residing in **The Kill Spot**.



3. Play one Weapon and/or one Mask card, from your hand. \*optional



4. If the Victim was killed, add the card to your Collection.



5. Clean up the Mess. Move the remaining played Maniac and Plot Twist cards to their discard piles.



6. Draw one new Maniac card for each Maniac card played from your hand.



7. Move the remaining Victim cards in **The Group** forward, so there is a new Victim in **The Kill Spot**.



Your turn is now over.

**YOU are the Maniac!** is a horror movie themed card game where you play as The Maniac. The goal is to kill Victims and play Maniac cards to achieve the highest score.

Gameplay is fast-paced with a surprising mix of strategy and dark humor. Slash your way through a 3 round horror-movie trilogy with 2-4 players, replete with a familiar cast of slasher movie stereotypes.

## What's in the Box?

**YOU are the Maniac!** includes **140 cards** in **4 game decks**.

- **The Victim Deck** contains classic horror characters
- **The Maniac Deck** is where the game's horrific scenes unfold
- **The Plot Twist Deck** alters the game in surprising ways
- **The Final Girl** cards confront The Maniac at the end of each movie

## Object of the Game

The goal of **YOU are the Maniac!** is to “kill” Victims and earn points by playing Maniac cards during your turn. Weapon and Mask cards, from the Maniac deck, can be played during a turn to score more points. Certain types of Maniac and Victim cards can be played strategically to boost your score, or to cause a negative effect on an opponent’s score.

The game takes place over 3 rounds, referred to as Movies. During the first Movie, 12 Victim cards are dealt to form “The Group”. When The Group has been killed, or moved to the Survivor Stack, the Maniac confronts the Final Girl. These steps are repeated for the second and third Movies.

At the end of the third Movie, the Maniac with the highest score wins the game.

## Victim Cards

*The Victim Deck contains 4 character types*

### BIMBO



Bimbos engage in a variety of lascivious activities. Punish!

### ATHLETE



The Maniac doesn't like sports. Waste of time... get rid of them!

### FODDER



These insignificant characters are good for a laugh. Bloody fun!

### SUSPECT



Suspects are creepy freaks branded by their bizarre behavior. Haters!

## Maniac Cards

These are the cards that make up a player’s hand. They define the game’s actions. Maniac cards are played to move Victims in The Group to The Kill Spot, strategically discourage other Maniacs from capturing Victims, and boost your score.

The Maniac Deck also includes Mask and Weapon cards, which can each be played during a turn, in addition to a Maniac “action” card.

## Plot Twist Cards

The Plot Twist Deck contains cards that alter the direction of the movie, in both good and bad ways. Plot Twists are drawn when you capture specifically marked Victim Cards.

## Final Girl Cards

Each movie has a specific Final Girl card. The Final Girl is always the last Victim standing, ready to confront The Maniac at the end of each movie. Her point value makes her quite desirable. The Maniac must possess a Weapon and Mask to kill her. Otherwise, she can survive to star in a sequel or trilogy.

## A) Setup the Game

- See Pages 7-8 for more information.

## B) Play Movie Part 1

- Kill Victims and play Maniac cards until all Victims in The Group are added to a Maniac's Collection or moved to the Survivor Stack.
- Confront The Final Girl for Movie Part 1.

## C) Setup Movie Part 2

- Deal 12 Victims. Begin dealing from the Survivor Stack. If there are no Victims in the Survivor Stack, deal all 12 Victim cards from the Victim deck.

**Note:** Players keep their hand from Movie Part 1.

## D) Play Movie Part 2

- Kill Victims and play Maniac cards until all Victims in The Group are added to a Maniac's Collection or moved to the Survivor Stack.
- Confront The Final Girl for Movie Part 2.

## E) Setup Movie Part 3

- Deal 12 Victims. Begin dealing from the Survivor Stack. If there are no Victims in the Survivor Stack, deal all 12 Victim cards from the Victim deck.

**Note:** Players keep their hand from Movie Part 2.

## F) Play Movie Part 3

- Kill Victims and play Maniac cards until all Victims in The Group are added to a Maniac's Collection or moved to the Survivor Stack.
- Confront The Final Girl for Movie Part 3.

## G) Scoring

- Players add the points from the cards in their Collection. The Player with the most points wins!
- In case of a tie game, the Player with the most Final Girl cards wins. If still tied, battle to the death!?

**Note:** If the Maniac or Plot Twist decks run out of cards to draw from, reshuffle the discard pile and restock the deck.

## Getting Ready to Play

To play YOU are the Maniac! you need:

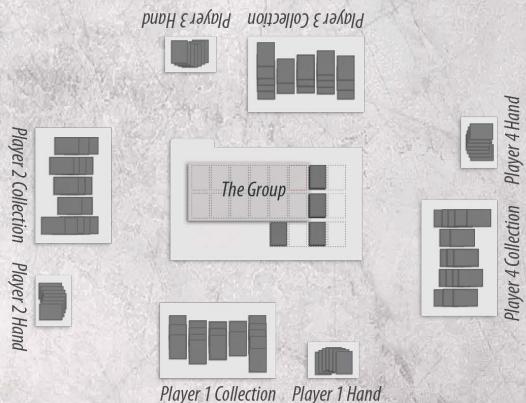
- 2-4 players
- Cards included with this game
- A sufficient playing surface



Allow 30-45 minutes to play a game.

**Note:** The first time you play takes a bit longer.

Example of the Play Area for a 4-Player game



- See Page 7-8 for more information on "The Setup".
- See Page 11 for "Organizing the Collection".

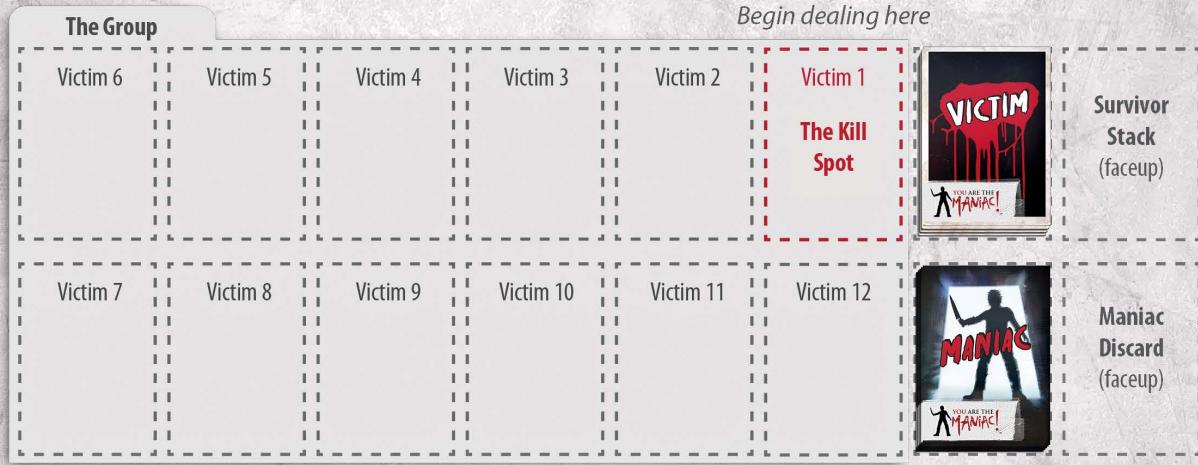


# THE SETUP

## The central playing area consists of:

- The Group - the game area where Victim cards are placed faceup in numerical order beginning with The Kill Spot.
- Victim, Maniac, Plot Twist, and Final Girl decks.
- The Survivor Stack, Maniac and Plot Twist Discard piles and a place to confront the Final Girl.

- Deal Victim cards according to the numerical Victim order, as seen below. **Note:** The values printed on Victim cards do not matter when creating The Group; deal cards out as they come from the Victim deck.
- During a turn, the player always collects the Victim card residing in **The Kill Spot** (shown below in red), unless instructed otherwise.



## How to Setup Movie Part 1

- **Shuffle** the Victim, Maniac, and Plot Twist decks.
- **Deal** each player (**7**) **Maniac cards** facedown.  
(*Do not show your hand to other players*)
- **Place** the Victim, Maniac, Plot Twist, and Final Girl game decks facedown, as shown.
- **Deal (12) Victim cards** faceup in numerical order, as shown above.

These cards are referred to as **The Group**.

When setting up The Group for Movie Part 2 and Movie Part 3, the first victims of The Group are dealt from the Survivor Stack. If there are survivors; put the top Survivor Stack card in The Kill Spot, the second card from the Survivor Stack in Victim 2 spot, and so on.

**Note:** If there are no survivors, deal The Group from the Victim deck.

The Player with the most blank, pale, emotionless face, and the blackest eyes, the Devil's eyes, **goes first**. Turns go clockwise.

## Taking a Turn

**1. Play one Maniac card from your hand.** Lay the card faceup in front of you and read the card out loud so all players can hear. Now, perform the action written on the card.

*Note: Playing a Maniac card is optional, there can be scenarios when it is not necessary.*

**2. Move in for the Kill.** Grab the Victim card from The Kill Spot. If the Victim card has a special instruction written on the bottom of the card, make note and/or perform the action immediately.

*For more information about Plot Twists, see Page 10.*

**\* 3. Play one Weapon and/or one Mask card,** from your hand.

*\* Note: Step 3 is optional. Also, Weapons and Masks may ONLY be played while killing a Victim during Step 3, or while confronting the Final Girl.*

**4. If the Victim was killed, add the card to your Collection.**

Victims, Weapons, Masks, and specially marked Maniac cards are stored in your Collection in front of you.

*For more information about the Collection, see Page 11.*

**5. Clean up the Mess.** Move the remaining played Maniac and Plot Twist cards to their discard piles.

**6. Draw** from the Maniac deck. **Draw one Maniac card for each Maniac card played from your hand, during your turn.**

*Example: If you played one Maniac card to move a Victim to The Kill Spot, then killed your Victim with a Weapon and a Mask card, draw 3 new Maniac cards from the Maniac deck and add them to your hand.*

**7. Move the remaining Victim cards in The Group forward,** so there is a new Victim in The Kill Spot. Your turn is now over.

Some Victim cards instruct the player to draw a Plot Twist card **before** killing a Victim.

To do this, draw the top card from the Plot Twist deck, read it, and **immediately** perform the action. Once complete, place the Plot Twist card in the Plot Twist discard pile.

*Note: Read the Plot Twist action text out loud for all players to hear.*

## Plot Twist Cards

Some Plot Twist cards instruct the player to grab a Victim from an opponent's Collection. If this *newly acquired* Victim card from an opponent's Collection instructs the player to Draw a Plot Twist card, **DO NOT** do so, as this Victim was already killed by another player during a previous turn.

If the Plot Twist card instructs you to grab another Victim from The Group, the player *does* perform the action for the additional Victim card, *including* drawing a Plot Twist card if instructed to do so.

## Plot Twist Nemesis Cards

If the player draws a **Nemesis** card they have two options:

**1. Place** the Victim card(s) in the Survivor Stack. Do not play any Weapon or Mask cards. End your turn by drawing the amount of Maniac cards played before drawing the Plot Twist.

**2. Play** Defeat a Nemesis from your hand, if you have one. Lay this card faceup to cancel the effects of the Nemesis card and send it to hell by moving the Nemesis to the Plot Twist discard pile. Finally, continue your turn as usual by killing the Victim.

*Note: Playing Defeat a Nemesis counts as a Maniac card played from your hand, during your turn, so draw Maniac cards accordingly at the end of your turn.*

### Maniac Pro-Tip:

*'Defeat a Nemesis' can be useful while confronting the Final Girl.*

**The Collection** is the individual area near each player where various cards are kept as a result of killing Victims, playing Masks, and Weapons, and holding specifically marked Maniac cards. At the end of the game, each player adds their score based on the cards in their Collection.

## Organizing the Collection

An example of how to organize the Collection.



- Organize cards into groups according to Victim types.
- Group: Weapons, Masks, and various Maniac cards as shown.
- Place Serial Slasher cards at the top of each Victim class.
- Organizing the Collection makes gameplay, strategy, and scoring easier.

### Maniac Pro-Tips:

- Serial Slasher cards can greatly increase your points.
- Play Maniac cards to kill Victims who are specially designed to boost the score: Cheerleaders, Football Players, Prom King & Queen, and the Hipsters.

If a Victim and/or Final Girl gets moved to the **Survivor Stack**, they survive being killed by a Maniac for the duration of a Movie, unless they are moved back to The Group by a Maniac or Plot Twist card.

Nemesis cards can prevent a Victim from being murdered by moving them to the Survivor Stack. A Maniac may choose to play *Defeat a Nemesis* to override this action and proceed with killing a Victim.

Victims residing in the Survivor Stack are dealt back into The Group for Movies Part 2 and 3.

**Note:** Survivor Stack Victims are dealt first, followed by new Victims from the Victim deck. Put the top-most Survivor Stack card in The Kill Spot, then place the second card from the Survivor Stack in Victim 2 spot, and so on.

If a Final Girl returns from the Survivor Stack to The Group for Movie Part 2 or 3, the same rules apply to kill her. See: *Confronting The Final Girl*.

## THE FINAL GIRL

When all the Victims in The Group have been killed or added to the Survivor Stack, it is time to confront Victim number 13, **The Final Girl**. Begin by dealing the Final Girl for the appropriate Movie.

### Confronting the Final Girl

#### 1. Play one Maniac card from your hand.

**Note:** Playing a Maniac card is optional, as there can be scenarios when it is not necessary.

...continued on next page

### Maniac Pro-Tips:

- If you do not have a Weapon or Mask card, play a Maniac card that might help you get one from the Maniac discard pile or an opponent.
- Play a Maniac card to thwart an opponent from killing the Final Girl during their attempt to Confront the Final Girl.

**2. Draw** a Plot Twist card and perform the action. If the Final Girl is moved to the Survivor Stack, end your turn here by drawing the number of Maniac cards played. This triggers the end of the current movie and (during Movie Part 3) the end of the game. If the Final Girl is *not* moved to the Survivor Stack, continue to Step 3.

**3. Play** a Weapon and Mask card from your hand to kill the Final Girl and trigger the end of the current movie.

**If you cannot** play a Weapon and Mask, end your turn here by drawing the number of Maniac cards played. The Final Girl is now passed to the next Player to Confront The Final Girl, beginning with Step 1.

**If you can** play a Weapon and Mask card... congratulations! You have successfully killed the Final Girl. Add her to your Collection along with the Weapon and Mask cards, used to perform this kill. End your turn here by drawing the number of Maniac cards played during your turn. The movie has now come to an end.

## What if... the Final Girl escapes death!?

If play returns to the first player who attempted to Confront the Final Girl and the Final Girl has neither been killed by a player nor moved to the Survivor Stack by another game effect, place her in the Survivor Stack, as she has escaped the wrath of the Maniac. For Movie Part 2, and Movie Part 3, she will be the first card dealt back into The Group to star in a sequel, and potentially be killed off.

*It is possible:*

- Final Girl Movie Part 1 **AND** Part 2 appear in The Group during Movie Part 3, before confronting Final Girl Movie Part 3
- No player is able to kill the Final Girl Movie Part 3

## Ending the Game

**When all 3 Movies have ended, Maniacs add up the points in their Collection.**

- Each Victim card has a numerical value printed on a bloody thumbprint.
- Include points from Mask, Weapon, Serial Slasher and various point based Maniac cards.
- Subtract negative points from the total, if you have any.
- Subtract points from unplayed Weapon and Mask cards residing in your hand.

## The Maniac with the most points wins!

- In case of a tie game, the Player with the most Final Girl cards wins. If still tied, battle to the death!?

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*"In the end, there can be only one."*

-Juan Sánchez Villa-Lobos Ramírez



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# GLOSSARY

**Athlete** - A character class of the Victim Deck, indicated by their green and yellow school colors. They include Cheerleaders, Football Players, Team Captains, and more. Kill Athletes to increase your score.

**Bimbo** - A character class of the Victim Deck, indicated by their hot pink heading. Kill Bimbos to increase your score.

**Collection** - The game area near each Maniac where Killed Victims, Masks, Weapons, and specifically marked Maniac cards are organized. At the end of the game, each Maniac adds up their score based on the cards in their Collection.

**Final Girl card** - The Final Girl refers to a common theme in horror movies where a last woman, or girl, remains alive to confront the Maniac at the end of the movie. The Final Girl Deck is composed of 3 cards, one for each Movie.

**Fodder** - A character class of the Victim Deck, indicated by their purple heading. They include collectible pairs: The Prom King & Queen, The Hipsters, and more. Kill Fodder to increase your score.

**The Group** - The game area where Victim cards are placed in numerical order beginning with The Kill Spot to the final Victim to be Killed in The Group. A Movie begins when 12 Victims are dealt to The Group, and all the Maniacs have their Maniac Cards in their Hand.

**Kill** - Victims are "Killed" by Maniacs and added to your Collection, affecting your score.

**The Kill Spot** - The lead Victim card in The Group. The Victim in the Kill Spot is Killed or sent to the Survivor Stack during a Maniac's turn.

**Maniac** - You and your opponent players are Maniacs.

**Maniac card** - Maniac cards define the game's actions. These cards are played to: move Victim cards in The Group, strategically discourage other Maniacs from capturing Victims, boost your score, and decrease an opponents score. The Maniac Deck also includes Mask and Weapon score enhancements played during a Kill.

**Mask** - An item class of the Maniac Deck. Masks are played during a turn as a Maniac Kills a Victim, then added to a Maniac's Collection to increase the score. Maniacs may only play one Mask card during a Kill. The Final Girl requires one Mask card to be played in order to Kill her.

**Movie** - 1 out of 3 "rounds" of the game where Victims are dealt from the Victim Deck/Survivor Stack to The Group, and the game is played until the Movie ends. A Movie ends when: All Victims in The Group are killed, a Final Girl is Killed, or sent to the Survivor Stack. When Movie Part 3 ends, Maniacs add up the points in their Collection to determine the winner of the game.

**Nemesis** - A character class of the Plot Twist Deck, indicated by their grey "Nemesis" heading. Nemeses prevent a Victim from being killed by sending them to the Survivor Stack, unless a Maniac can play Defeat a Nemesis, during their turn.

**Plot Twist card** - A plot twist is a moment during a movie where an unexpected change in direction occurs. Specifically marked Victims direct the Maniac to draw a Plot Twist card, before they are killed. Plot Twist cards can both positively and negatively affect the Maniac's turn.

**Survivor Stack** - An area where Victim cards are placed, removing them from play in The Group. Victims are dealt from the Survivor Stack at the beginning of Movies 2 & 3, followed by the Victim Deck.

**Suspect** - A character class of the Victim Deck, indicated by their red heading. Kill Suspects to increase your score.

**Victim card** - Victim cards define the cast of characters for each of the 3 Movies. At the beginning of each movie, they are dealt to The Group in numerical order upon which they are drawn from the Victim Deck. Maniacs Kill Victims from The Group, during their turn.

**Weapon** - An item class of the Maniac Deck. Weapons are played during a turn as a Maniac Kills a Victim, then added to a Maniac's Collection to increase the score. Maniacs may only play one Weapon card during a Kill. The Final Girl requires one Weapon card to be played in order to Kill her.





YOU ARE THE  
**MANiAC!**

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## CREDITS

YOU ARE THE MANiAC! A COUNTERCULTURE CARDS PRODUCTION  
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THANKS FOR GIVING US A HAND! VOICE ACTING BY KEVIN KALAJAN

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