

OVERPOWER

APRIL 2025

HOME  BASE

EDITION 3

UPDATES

OUR NEWEST PARTNER

SKYBOUND!

GRATEFUL FOR OUR

TOURNEY ORGANIZERS

OUR VISIT TO

**WONDER
CON 2025**

STRATEGY 'MUSINGS'

ON THE NEW ERA OF

OVERPOWER'

AUTHORED BY: SEAN BALENTYNE

PRESENTED BY

**LAZARUS
RISING
GAMES**



OverPower Homebase

Edition #3

FRIDAY, APRIL 25, 2025

Time to Power Up, Overpower Fanatics!

Welcome to Issue Three of the OverPower newsletter — your backstage pass to the wild, weird, and wonderful world of the greatest card game in history. We've got big things packed into this issue, so hang onto your hologram cards, because we're kicking it off with a cover story that's gonna knock your cape off!

That's right — we've teamed up with none other than **Skybound Entertainment!** Get ready to welcome iconic heroes and villains from *Invincible*, *The Walking Dead*, *Birthright*, and *Excellence* to the OverPower Card Game. You'll see them clashing, smashing, and strategizing their way into your decks starting this January.

But that's just the beginning, gang! Inside this issue, you'll find strategy tips straight from the minds of our top-tier tacticians such as Sean Ballantyne, deep-dive development diaries, brain-busting trivia, and a brand-new fan-made card that's as clever as it is captivating.

And holy handwritten letters — it's finally here. Our first-ever **Letters From the Multiverse** page! We put out the call, and YOU answered — in pen and pencil, no less! Two hand-written letters from passionate players made their way to our HQ, and I had an absolute blast reading and replying. Keep 'em coming — your words make this world feel more connected than ever and if you send them, yours truly will respond in these pages.

By the time this reaches your inbox, the **Edgar Rice Burroughs** set will either be in your hands or en route via temporal teleportation (or maybe just a shipping service). We can't wait to see the wild deck builds you concoct with these pulp-powered heroes — and which combos rise to the top of the competitive scene.

Speaking of competition... drumroll, please... we're just about ready to reveal the cities for our **FOUR** regional tournaments! That's right — the road to OverPower glory is about to get a lot more real. Start prepping your travel plans, polishing those playmats, and building the deck that'll carry you to the top and keep your eyes peeled for the location announcement soon!

So, rally your teammates, shuffle those cards, sleeve up with your official OverPower Titan Shield sleeves, and most importantly — **get out to your local brick and mortar game stores, my fabulous OverPower fanatics.** Venture Well!

Joseph Gagnepain

CEO, Lazarus Rising Games

DISPATCH DIARIES

Dispatch from HQ: The Edgar Rice Burroughs Set Is GO for Launch!

Alright, OverPower Fanatics — gather 'round the shipping crates and production logs, because it's time for a behind-the-scenes update direct from the Homebase of Lazarus Rising Games.

If you've been keeping your ears to the ground (or your eyes on our updates), you've probably heard we hit a few minor production hiccups along the way. But in true OverPower fashion — we turned a potential KO into a power move! Thanks to the slight delay, we were able to include the Power Card Stations in the very first wave of shipments. That's right — if you don't already have them in hand, your parcel of pulpy perfection is on the way, and it's STACKED!

You're getting:

- ✓ Booster Packs
 - ✓ Starter Decks
 - ✓ Power Card Stations
 - ✓ Play Mats
 - ✓ 2023 & 2024 Promo Cards
 - ✓ Custom OverPower Titan Shield Sleeves
- A haul worthy of Tarzan himself!

Considering the scale, scope, and sheer creative chaos involved in bringing the Edgar Rice Burroughs OverPower set to life, it has been nothing short of Herculean. We're talking about over 30 top-tier artists creating 400+ original pieces of art, two entire companies forged in the fires of fandom, our very first licensing deal (a big one!), and a playtest gauntlet that included 8 playgroups and over 50 die-hard players.

To say we underestimated the scope would be like saying Dejah Thoris is only kinda cool. This was a BEHEMOTH — and every challenge, every late night, every brainstorming session was worth it to bring this set to you, our amazing community. We're beyond proud of what you're about to open — or maybe already have, if your carrier was faster than a Barsoom White Ape on a rampage.

This is, most likely, the final Dispatch Diaries for this set — bittersweet, I know. But fear not! We'll be back at the end of the year with updates on our next epic team-up: the Skybound Set. Our team is FIRED UP and ready to take everything we've learned and go even BIGGER, BOLDER, and BETTER.

And before I sign off — if you're a retailer, now's the time to connect with our distribution partners:

- GTS and ACD (U.S.)
- Universal Distribution (Canada)

If you're a player, rally at your local game store! Tell them where to order the Edgar Rice Burroughs OverPower set and take the soon to be released Ambassador test and help bring this game to tabletops everywhere!

Thanks for taking this Kickstarter-powered journey with us. You're not just fans — you're OverPower pioneers. And the best is yet to come.

Until next time... Venture Well!

Here's a
sneak peek...

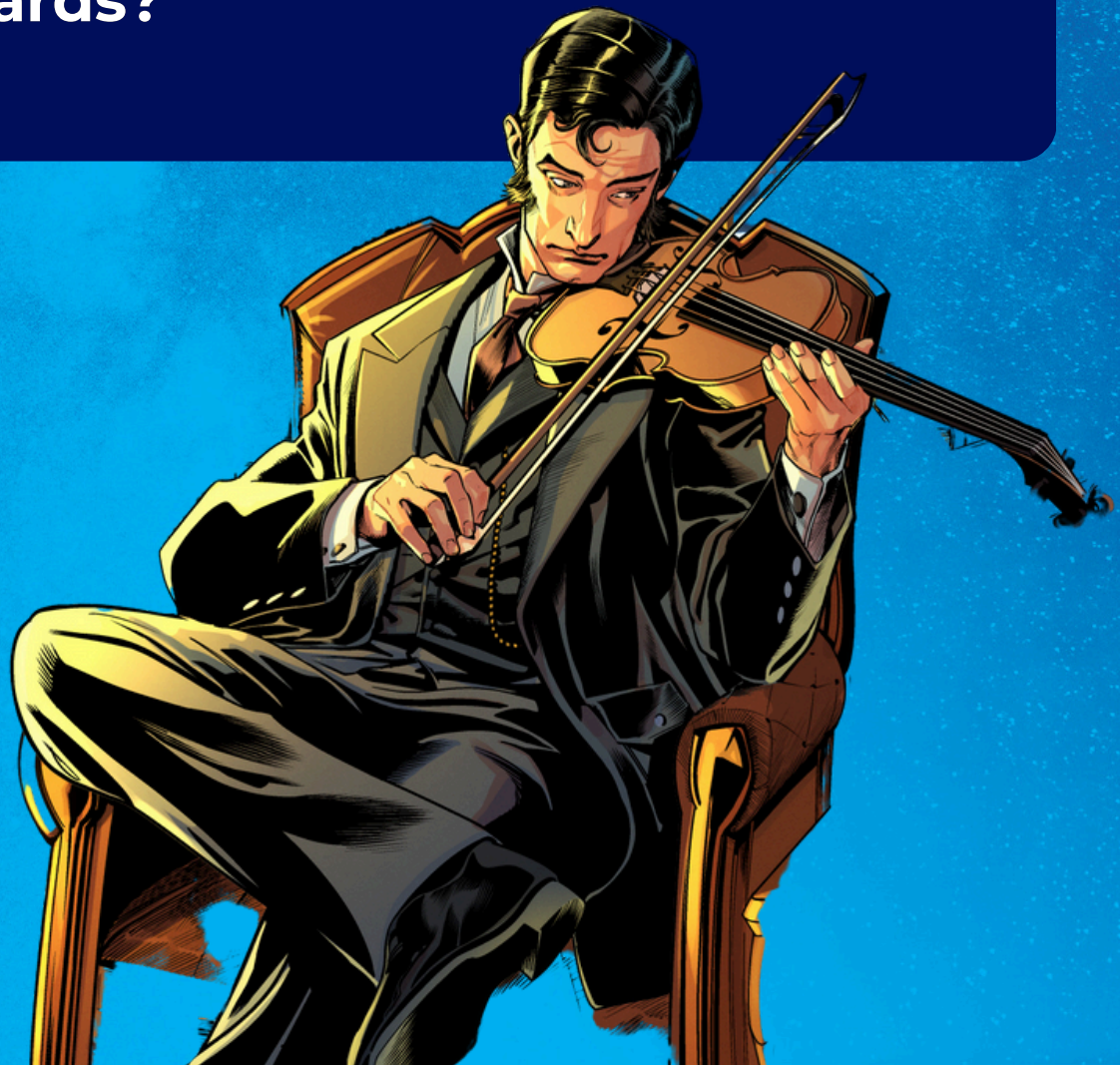


TRIVIA TIME

In honor of our new Edgar Rice Burroughs set getting to you, lets do a little **ERB OverPower Trivia**.

As always, we know trivia is easy to look up. This is on the honor system. Please head over to our Trivia Time section of the discord server and see if you can be the first person to answer correctly!

In the new set of ERB OverPower, which two characters have only 5 Special cards?



WHAT'S THE BUZZ?



Skybound's Walking Dead and Invincible join Lazarus Rising Games' OverPower

We're thrilled to announce that Lazarus Rising Games (LRG) has officially signed an exciting licensing agreement with Skybound Entertainment, marking a major expansion for OverPower!

Beginning in 2026, characters from Skybound Entertainment's impressive library will join the OverPower universe. Fans can look forward to seeing beloved characters from Skybound's hit series, including Invincible, Omni-Man, Atom Eve, and Battle Beast, alongside iconic figures from The Walking Dead such as Rick Grimes, Michonne, Negan, and Maggie.

This partnership with Skybound follows our recent licensing agreements with Top Cow Productions, Inc. and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc., introducing legendary characters such as Witchblade, Darkness, Cyberforce, Tarzan of the Apes®, and John Carter of Mars to upcoming editions of OverPower scheduled for 2025 and 2026.

Retailers will begin stocking new OverPower products featuring stunning original artwork by some of today's premier comic and illustration talents—including Jae Lee, Jim Cheung, Raymond Gay, Phillip Tan, and William Santos—in mid-April 2025. Fans in the U.S. can find OverPower through ACD Distribution and GTS Distribution, with Universal Distribution handling availability across Canada.

Additionally, we're excited to share that we've established an advisory board featuring industry veterans Ron Perazza, one of the original OverPower game developers, and Paul Bazakas, Vice President of Global Sales and Marketing for GTS Distribution.

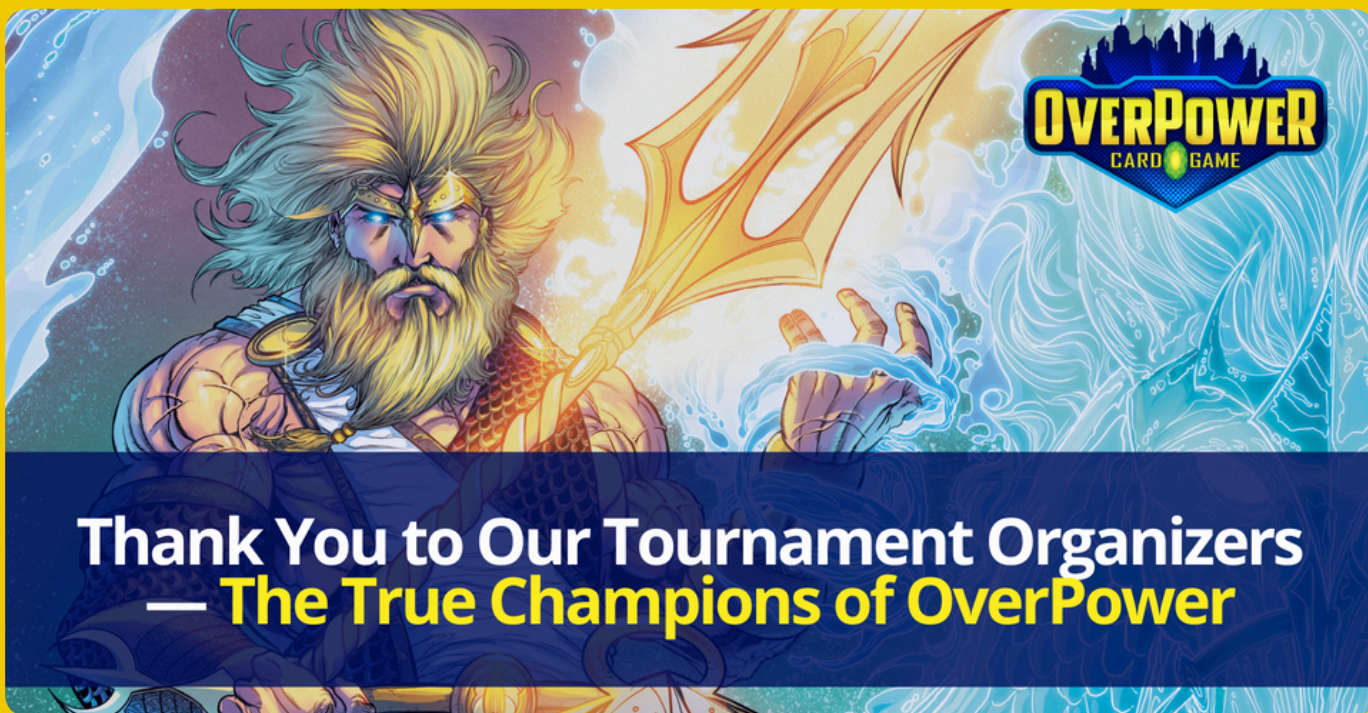
In partnership with Carde.io, we recently launched the official OverPower player portal at <https://overpower.play.carde.io/>. This platform includes an extensive card library for the upcoming Edgar Rice Burroughs set, a fully-featured Deck Builder, National Elo Rankings, an event finder, and a reward shop, offering players an immersive gaming experience.

We are also finalizing preparations for a series of major North American tournaments, boasting more than \$100,000 in prize pools alongside exclusive merchandise—stay tuned for announcements regarding these events!

Moreover, we continue to actively showcase OverPower at major conventions nationwide. Notably, we had an impressive interactive presence at the 2024 New York Comic Con, participated in engaging panels at WonderCon 2025 in Anaheim, and will maintain a significant presence at Origins Game Fair in June 2025, along with other prominent gaming and pop-culture events throughout the year. Our recent soft rollout of new OverPower sets has been met with phenomenal response, rapidly selling out two initial sets within months.

Stay tuned to our channels for more updates on OverPower's thrilling revival!





Thank You to Our Tournament Organizers — The True Champions of OverPower

Of all the articles we've planned for 2025, this is the one I've been most excited to write. It gives us, at Lazarus Rising Games, the opportunity to extend our deepest gratitude to a group of people whose contributions have been absolutely vital to the revival of the official OverPower card game: the tournament organizers.

Without these tireless champions—those who have hosted events over the past decade and beyond—Lazarus Rising Games wouldn't exist. Their passion, commitment, and persistence created the spaces that brought us back to the game as players. Without them, the community wouldn't have grown into what it is today. They've kept the fire alive, and we owe them everything.

Most of you are familiar with the North American OverPower League (NAOL), the tournament league that now anchors major events across the continent. But fewer may know that the NAOL began as something far more grassroots. Before it was a league, it was the North American Overpower Alliance (NAOA). And before that, it was just a scattering of events—fan-organized gatherings sparked by a shared love of the game. Every person involved along that journey deserves recognition.

Our first formal thank-you came in the form of the 30th Anniversary Mission promo set, distributed at the Champ of Champs event and currently available through The Orange King's OP website. That set was created specifically to honor many of the event organizers who've carried the torch over the years.

But we wanted to go further. This article is our formal, public appreciation—and a brief history of how Lazarus Rising Games and the NAOL came to be, all thanks to these incredible people.

For David and me, it all began on the old Palatinus forum, where we reconnected with OverPower through Jack Truong, who was running the Canadian tournament with Sean Ballantyne. David got involved a bit earlier than I did, starting at one of Phil and John Keffer's legendary K2 events. Keith discovered the scene around that same time, while Shawn Sawyer jumped in alongside me.

As the community grew, we developed four cornerstone events: Canada and Pennsylvania, Phil Miller's Ohio-run OP Cup, and the Philly events originally organized by Larry Van Etten. These tournaments rekindled our collective love for OverPower—but we knew it could become something even greater.

David was the first to recognize that in order to grow, we needed consistency. He pushed for the formation of a commissioner role and proposed an alliance that would standardize rules and cards, with major decisions made by organizers and voted on by the players. That idea became the foundation of the NAOL.

Around this time, Ed Kowalewski took over the Philly event and launched a fan-favorite: Peace Bridge. Ed invited players into his home for a weekend of BBQs, bonfires, and cards—creating not just an event, but a tradition and a family reunion. Tragically, we lost Ed to COVID-19—a devastating blow to our community. But thanks to Howard Bertrand, the Peace Bridge event lives on. Howard has not only continued hosting it in his home but has also been instrumental in evolving the Alliance into what is now the NAOL.

Under the NAOL banner, we've seen tremendous growth. Josh Alexander launched the OKC event, which will be held by Carl Caroffino now in Texas on May 9th, 2025. Doug Taylor introduced a Seattle event, and Larry Van Etten has taken his Valhalla event on the road, bringing OverPower to new players across the country.

Other key contributors deserve special recognition, too. Justin Sadie has jumped in with both feet, helping to run events and pitching in on various NAOL projects. Zach Venneri, our NAOL Chat Group moderator and historian, archives every tournament's decklists in a fantastic graphical presentation. Ricky Saucedo has consistently supported the community behind the scenes, including proofreading important documents just because he cares.

It's humbling to witness how much this community gives, expecting nothing in return but the joy of building something great together. New faces like John Beresford, who is taking over the Battle for Boston, and Doug Simms, who returned to the game a few years ago and is now one of its most visible advocates—hosting tournaments, running a podcast, and spearheading the Champ of Champs event—continue to carry the torch forward.

We at Lazarus Rising Games would not be here without the foundation built by these organizers and supporters. Many have donated their own time, money, and even cards from their personal collections to ensure events are special for players. Their generosity is the backbone of this entire community.

As a token of our appreciation, LRG will be giving every person mentioned by name in this article two foil rare uncut sheet from our exclusive OverPower foil sheets that are extremely rare. This will be one of the most rare uncut sheets in all of OverPower and you will be some of the only people who have them! There aren't enough words to thank this amazing OverPower community—the best community in gaming. But know this: Lazarus Rising Games will always strive to recognize and honor the people who make this game what it is.

From the bottom of our hearts,

Joseph, Shawn, David, Keith, Ty, Ronald, and Leti





Lazarus Rising Games at WonderCon 2025



WonderCon 2025, held in Anaheim, California, brought together fans, creators, and industry professionals for a weekend celebrating comics, games, pop culture, and entertainment. Organized annually by Comic-Con International, WonderCon is known for its engaging panels, exclusive reveals, and opportunities for fans to interact directly with their favorite creators and companies.

This year, Lazarus Rising Games (LRG) proudly took part in WonderCon, contributing significantly to the event with their participation in two panels. The first one, “You Got Comics in My Games! You Got Games in My Comics,” explored the exciting intersections between comic books and gaming, highlighting the innovative approaches LRG is taking to integrate iconic comic characters into their beloved collectible card games. This insightful discussion offered fans an exclusive peek at how characters are brought from page to playable cards, blending storytelling with strategic gameplay.

LRG CEO Joseph Gagnepain also joined Edgar Rice Burroughs Inc. in a special commemorative panel titled “Tarzan Creator Celebrates 150 Years.” Celebrating Edgar Rice Burroughs’ enduring legacy and influence on popular culture, this panel featured prominent industry leaders, including James Sullos (President, Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc.), Cathy Wilbanks (VP of Operations), and Christopher Paul Carey (VP of Publishing), alongside Wolf Larson—actor, writer, and producer known for his portrayal of Tarzan. The engaging discussion highlighted upcoming projects and emphasized LRG’s collaboration to incorporate Burroughs’ iconic creations, such as Tarzan and John Carter, into the new iterations of the OverPower collectible card game.

Musing on the Looming New Era of OverPower!

Written by Sean Ballantyne

Joseph Gagnepain, of Lazarus Rising Games, reached out to me and asked me to write this article about my predictions on the forthcoming meta. I'll confess a little secret, analyzing meta isn't really my forte, and I expect to be just as surprised as the next guy by what comes – but nonetheless here are my thoughts on the possible shift in the meta after the Edgar Rice Burroughs set release!

I have no doubt that we'll see draw decks featuring a combo of the Count of Monte Cristo, Deja Thoris, and/or Victory Harben. Drawing cards in and of itself has always been a powerful mechanic and these three each come loaded on top of that! Additionally, I imagine we'll see tons of Baker Street decks given the plethora of cards that interact with the Baker Street inherent, and, appropriately enough Sherlock Holmes has 2 cards that interact with Baker Street. I wouldn't be surprised if some big boy Brute Force decks with crunchy heavy attacks show up, especially since Hercules has an 8 AND comes with some global team defense as well. Oh, and don't count out Intelligence either. While think-tank intelligence decks are woefully underrepresented in the legacy format... some of the options here like Sherlock Holmes (the first and so far ONLY 8 stat character to receive a negate in the history of overpower, AND he gets 2 different kinds at that!), the aforementioned Count of Monte Cristo, and Victory Harben will likely be making several regular appearances on teams.

A major concern for all players regardless of deck will be the Grim Reaper, formerly known as the Power Leech. This one card will undoubtedly affect the meta, as it's a powerful tool that every deck will have access to. With the reduction of available negates, as well as defense in general, the Grim Reaper stands to hit more often than not, and it's almost always a devastating blow that can be hard to recover from.

Baseline Any-Hero options will give a maximum of 3 actual defensive solutions to the Grim Reaper (Freya, Merlin's Magic, and 1 of 2 possible defensive Cataclysm options – Heimdall or Fairy Protection). Consequently, it would not be unwise to build a team with a few extra cards that can keep the almighty Grim Reaper at bay. Captain Nemo, Carson of Venus, Deja Thoris, Dracula, Leonidas, Merlin, Mina Harker, Morgan Le Fay, Professor Moriarty, Sherlock Holmes, Sun Wu Kong, The Mummy, and Van Helsing are the only characters with some form of global defense that will protect the team against a Grim Reaper – so using any of these heroes together will hedge your bets. That's 1/3rd of the available options. Not too bad, but it does leave a whole 2/3rds of the field without a global Reaper defense.

As a possible tertiary option, it's also worth considering using Dracula's Armoury or The Spartan Training grounds to protect you against the Reaper by simply tanking the hit and discarding the cards placed to those homebases. The catch being that your opponent must call the icons on those cards. Losing some Basic Universe or Training cards is still better than losing more important cards placed to your team, or in your hand. Canny opponents will try to prevent this by calling the icons they don't see under your Homebase... but that of course will be situational.

In short, look to see the effects of the Grim Reaper as a major consideration in upcoming deck builds. All of that said, I am really looking forward to seeing the early, nebulous phase after the game is formally released. It's the wild west, a new frontier for the first time in over two decades... and that in itself will arguably be the new meta as anything goes. The diminished availability of negates will certainly factor into things. Meaning cards which directly affect the opponent, as opposed to cards targeting a character, are more likely to succeed and take effect. Likewise, heavy attacks are going to be incredibly strong, as defense is more limited. As David McMillan likes to put it – There will be some real 'Slobberknockers!'

So, what am I looking forward to trying? Having perused the cards and experimented with a few in mixed format games, I have a couple of things I can't wait to unleash, but here's my top pick:



Even before seeing an email from LRG asking play-testers to give it some extra attention, I wanted to try it – and I was not disappointed with it. In fact – it was probably a touch broken in its original iteration, and even with the nerfed update it is really strong. Worth every penny of that 3 pt threat cost! I employ a ‘Brawling’ playstyle. I often deliberately take hits in order to set up a devastating counterattack when my opponent has fewer chances to defend. The ability here to take a free shot as my opponent concedes lends well to a style I’ve been trying to perfect over almost 30 years of playing OverPower.

The 3 point threat cost isn’t super easy to work around, but there are a couple of options. Robin Hood and Billy the Kid being an inexpensive 18 and 17 respectively lets me cover that ground with space for two more 19s quite nicely. Or even a 20 and 18, or 21 and 17. (Hello Zorro and Deja Thoris or King Arthur and Lancelot! How about Leonidas and Korak?)

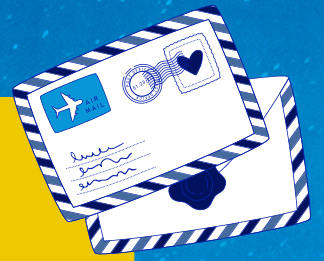
Mix the Land that Time Forgot with Legacy options and the sky’s the limit given the plethora of inexpensive and crunchy characters. I have a Zeus deck in a mixed format that hits hard, and has become a new favourite of mine.

Aside from that, I love the idea of the literary and mythological characters being added to the OverPower mix. Being a fan of Alan Moore’s League of Extraordinary Gentlemen series, adding these guys to Overpower is a real boon to me as it generates that feel of assembling my own League, which tickles an itch I didn’t even know I wanted to scratch.

A new era of Overpower looms... a new tournament circuit, new ideas, new players, new ideas by old players, and a whole new venture. Yeah, let’s get this thing rolling, and we’ll see you on the field of battle in the land that time will not forget!

Sean Ballantyne is a game enthusiast who has been playing OverPower since the 90s. His outbursts and streams of profanity when his decks crap out are well known among the community, and will likely continue to the foreseeable future, heh! Nevertheless, OverPower remains one of his favourite games, 2nd only to his lifelong love of D&D. If you’re a D&D fan, check out his YouTube channel – Mage’s Musings – wherein the Puppet Archmage Merlinstergandaldore talks shop and recaps games.

LETTERS FROM THE MULTIVERSE



We have willed it into existence from the many layers of the multiverse. Straight from the back pages of a comic book in Earth-1994, behold: the OverPower Letters Page! And who better to guide us through it than Grandpa Joe—the version of me from a corner of the multiverse where being old and sending real mail is still the height of cool.

I had the pleasure of reading two letters from die-hard OP fans, and I can't wait to respond. Let this be a clarion call to all you mighty OverPowerers out there: grab a sheet of paper, a pen or pencil, and send your thoughts, questions, or stories. If you write us, I'll write back, right here in the pages of this newsletter.

Without further ado (or “adue,” as my clone from Earth-GRAMMAR would say), let's open the first letter from the multiverse. This one arrives signed but we couldn't make out the writing—so if this is yours, please message us so we can thank you properly in the next issue for being the first ever published letter from the OP Letter's from the Multiverse page!

Joe,

I used to tell people that a real 'power move' was to pick up the phone, call somebody and actually TALK to them!

Texting has made conversations obsolete... and apparently the convenience of email isn't doing any wonders for the written letter, either.

I don't know if I'll be your first... but I do want to be at least one who says, "Thanks."

I've enjoyed your videos and content online, but no amount of gratitude can express how happy I am to see new OverPower products hitting shelves. It is no small miracle to resurrect the dead, and it has been a real treat to see all your work come to fruition. Most of all, I am so happy that the quality has been so top notch.

You will always have a friend in me Joe Gagnepain. Please do not hesitate to reach out if there is ever anything I can do for you.

Best,

S

Well S, you did it. You're officially our first-ever letter, and I can't thank you enough! The day your letter arrived, folks here at Lazarus Rising literally cheered out loud. You just made OverPower history.

Your kind words mean the world. This whole project is about the community, the fans, and the love for a game that refuses to die quietly. Thank you for still believing. We can't wait to see what you think of what's coming next.

Now, don't be shy—reveal your true identity so you can claim the bragging rights of being the inaugural voice from the multiverse. Venture well, S!

What's up true believers?

This is old-style paper for an old-style letters page. First, I want to say "Excelsior" to the team for bringing back the incredible game of OverPower!

My question is: for the new set of 545 cards, can you provide details of the rarity of the variants of each card number that will have variants? For each card with variants, how many variants will there be, and what is the rarity of each variant? Nuff Said!

P.S. Until Galactus eats the planet, make mine LRC OP!!!

– The Orange One

Thank you, Orange King! Your words hit with the force of a cosmic cube and the flair of a silver-haired sentinel of storytelling. Stan would be proud.

As for your question—here's the scoop, straight from the Lazarus vault:

- In the ERB set, each of the 43 characters has a rare version.
- There are 15 Ultra Rares—these are the characters that our artists were most excited about drawing, and they replace a rare in roughly 1 in every 10 packs.
- Prize Packs, which can be earned by playing in-person tournaments at brick and mortar stores or through the judge/ambassador program, contain 10 additional rares that show up in about 1 of every 3 prize packs.
- And yes, foil versions of each rare and ultra rare exist in the boosters—they're seeded about once per box!

Hope that helps, Orange One! Keep those questions coming—and keep fighting the good fight for OP.



TO THE REST OF YOU OP FANATICS:

The gauntlet has been thrown down. Two brave souls have carved their messages across time and space. Now it's your turn. Pen your thoughts, your stories, your burning questions—and let's make this letters page the beating heart of the OverPower multiverse.

Until next time, Grandpa Joe says, **VENTURE WELL!**

HOMEMADE HEROES

CLEOPATRA

19

Egyptian, Female, Royalty

1
5
6
7

"Cleopatra" by Al Spader



LRG MVP OF THE MONTH

Leticia Helena Prochnow (Leti)

Operational Team

A.K.A. Mystique on our Overpower Discord server!

Favorite Superhero

As a kid growing up in Brazil, superhero animated series were a huge hit, especially the 90s animated X-men (which was one of my favorites) and Teen Titans. I used to come home, turn on the TV and be a couch potato for the rest of the afternoon. Still, I think my favorite superhero is Static Shock, who used to be my go-to cartoon when I was with my playmates and it was my first Game Boy purchase at the time.

First Game Love

I'm a videogame nerd, and my first console was a polystation. Yep, the counterfeit version of Sony's Playstation 1. Either way, it paved the way for me to become a Playstation gamer, and I still play on Sony's console to this day, even though I now share my gaming time with my Nintendo Switch. My first game love in PS1 was Diablo, which I still play to this day, but now on PS5! During my PS2 era, that was Assassin's Creed, and on PS3 Skyrim, in which I logged way more hours than I should throughout the years.

Dice Bag Color

I have a purple dice bag! This year I acquired one of my most treasured dice: one that determines which PART OF THE BODY I get hit during a strike, lol! It's super fun.

Playing with Friends

My love for games will drive me broke someday. I'm a huge fan of new experiences in tabletop gaming. One of my favorites is Tormenta 20, a Brazilian RPG that truly rocks!

Join our community on Discord!
discord.gg/overpowerlives

