

Once upon a time, there was a world full of life. Presided over by guardian spirits, humankind lived in peace and harmony there, eking out their lives as humans do. Yet all things, even worlds, must come to an end - and it is at the end that we begin.

At long last, the spirit of death, Zack, has returned to this world. His job - to reap the souls of every living thing, spirit and mortal alike, in preparation for the end of time. It's a job that brings him little joy, but it's a job that must be done. It is a job that takes eons - the last city, Midgar, is the first to fall beneath his sword. The spirit of Animals watches from the cliffs above its crumbling ruin, the spirit of Water watches his spring with a sense of foreboding, and Zack turns to the next part of his duty... yet another spirit is soon to wake.

She is Yuna. Once, at the beginning, she was given the name of Life, yet she has held close to her heart another, secret name. In his journey across the world, Zack stumbles into her temple, and there he learns her purpose. At the end of all things, she will gather the souls reaped by Death, and build them into a new world. She is the Last Spirit, Hope, and through her all things will be reborn.

The last seasons pass, Spring and Summer having already gone to their eternal sleep, and Winter sends Autumn to his rest as well. Zack passes like a ghost in the night, and, their purposes fulfilled, the last mortal lives, Cloud and Tifa, are laid to rest in a bed of spectral flowers. The Spirit of the Earth, Mother Aerith, mourns the last of the children she loved, but Yuna reminds her not to grieve - a new world will be born, with new life, new children. She begins her ritual dance, the dance to gather the souls of the world, and draws Aerith's life, and the lives of all the mortals who once lived, into the tip of her staff.

The last night falls - Noctis, the spirit of Night, mourns the passing of his lover, the Day. With Day and Night laid to rest, the final pieces begin to fall into place. Serah, the spirit of Time, expires as her last days are spent. Zack takes a quiet moment to grieve with Time's guardian, Noel, the spirit of History, but movement in the sky draws his attention - Yuna is flying beyond the world, filled with her burden of souls. As the world comes to an end, Yuna begins to dance once more.

Souls explode outward, and at last Hope is fulfilled. A new world awaits in the sky, a world ready to be filled with Life once more.

Hope is restored at last.