

CZ420: CUTTHROAT COMMANDER CARDS

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- 1) INTRO DJ & JIMMY
@jumbocommander - **@jfwong** - **@commandcast**

We just did an episode about how to make commander more fun. I think we need some balance today. I want to talk about some cutthroat cards.

****CARD KINGDOM - ULTRAPRO CALL-OUT #1** **PATREON CALL-OUT – KELVIN AVERY****

2) **MAIN TOPIC:**

Let's talk about some CUTTHROAT CARDS let's get into some of my favorites right now

- Whisper, Blood Liturgist
- Hostage Taker (Specifically the online Promo)
- Sygg, River Cutthroat
- Zulaport Cutthroat

Alright, ha-ha, we get it! Let's get to the real topic:

What is a "cutthroat" card?

People who are cutthroat are ruthless and unmerciful in competition. So a cutthroat card ups the competitiveness without consideration for others.

Jimmy, what do you consider to be cutthroat when it comes to Commander?

- Cards that, when played, can't be classified as "casual" even with a great argument behind it. Expropriate, Vorinclex, Armageddon - there's no justifying these as "casual" or "just for fun"
- 0-Mana counterspells (Force of Will, Pact of Negation, Fierce Guardianship)
- Recurrable "lockdown" effects - Crucible of Will + Strip Mine
- High prioritization of fast mana - Mox Opal, Mana Crypt, Grim Monolith

Let's discuss the competitiveness angle of being cutthroat - One of the best ways to raise your competitiveness is with fast mana and aggressive ramp.

Cutthroat Competitive Mana

- Mox Diamond
- Mana Crypt
- Jeweled Lotus
- Carpet of Flowers

- What goes into a competitive mana base?
- Can your mana requirements even be considered cutthroat?
 - It feels like you need to target another person, there needs to be a throat to cut right?
 - Or is the “playstyle” considered cutthroat? “I’m trying to win before everyone else” and “fast mana gets me there” do go hand in hand.

Cutthroat Interaction

- Free Counterspells
 - Force of Will - Force of Negation - Fierce Guardianship - Pact of Negation
- One mana is sometimes good enough
 - Pyroblast - Red Elemental Blast - Swan Song
- Cyclonic Rift - This card is powerful and people hate it but it’s everywhere.
 - Do cutthroat cards need to be a little bit unique or special? Do they need to be a little shocking and unexpected to be as impactful as they need to be?

Cutthroat Disruption

- Opposition Agent - Aven Mind Censor
- Collector Ouphe
- Linvala, Keeper of Silence
- The Tabernacle at Pendrell Vale
- Gaddock Teeg
- Keep in mind that recently banned was Iona, Shield of Emeria which is classic “you cannot play the game” card

Cutthroat Mana Denial / Stax

- Winter Orb
- Strip Mine
- Contamination
- Hall of Gemstones

Singled Out - Is it cutthroat to just go after one person, to single them out

These cards are not as competitive but they put one player so far behind I consider them to be cutthroat. What do you think?

- Fractured Identity
- Headgames
- Plow Under
- Mind Twist
- Mindslaver

Do these fit our definition?

Do cutthroat cards always come with a high price tag?

What are the pros of adding cutthroat cards to your repertoire?

What could some downsides be of these cards?

- Political Ramifications
- What play experience do you want? What does your playgroup want?
- Is it *personal*?
- Do all your decks need to start having this same level of competitiveness?
 - That's expensive and homogenizes your decks (removes diversity as your choices narrow down into the most powerful card for each slot).
- Power Creep in a playgroup
 - The banlist on the Commander RC page says "These cards are not legal without prior agreement from the other players in the game, and may steer your playgroup to avoid other, similar cards."
 - Cutthroat might beget cutthroat!

3) TO THE LISTENERS:

What are some of your favorite cutthroat cards? Tell us in the comments below.

****CARD KINGDOM CALL-OUT #2****

****ULTRA PRO #2****

4) THE END STEP

I'll bring one in.

5) CLEAN-UP STEP

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