

Project Giana

An RYG Analysis

Platform: PC (Windows only)
DRM: DRM Free
Digital Distributor: Good Old Games (GOG)

Developer: Black Forest Games
Publisher: Black Forest Games

RYG's VERDICT

80% **SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL**
Between 65% and 84%

1. Product Info

See Also: Demo can be found through project-giana.com/download/

Looking at how much information is provided on Project Giana (or Giana Sisters: Twisted Dreams) on its website and through a distributor prior and on release.

- ✓ Project Giana (*Giana Sisters: Twisted Dreams*) released globally on 23.10.2012
- ✓ Base game and day-one DLCs sold as one package
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided by **Good Old Games**
- ✓ Demo provided
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 30.07.2012 via. Kickstarter
- ✓ All game-related information can be found on project-giana.com

- ✗ Available only on Windows
- ✗ No Manual and/or Readme provided prior to purchase
- ✗ EULA only found within the game

2. Digital Download

Note: Games sold via. GOG are all priced in USD

Note: Email and Password is the minimum required to set up a GOG account.

See Also: [Refund Policy](#) found within [Good Old Games's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

Looking at Good Old Games (GOG) as a digital distributing service for PC games.

- ✓ Project Giana sold at one, global price.
- ✓ Available worldwide through Good Old Games (GOG)
- ✓ Download / Client Manager is optional; not required for gameplay
- ✓ Minimum and recommended specs provided by **Good Old Games**
- ✓ Advised DRM Free on 23.10.2012 via. Good Old Games
- ✓ User account creation is optional; minimal details required (email, password)
- ✓ Free and unlimited access and downloads after purchase
- ✓ Can backup purchased games "offline" (e.g. external or optical drives)
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered for pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Can access personal data
- ✓ Can terminate account or request to terminate account
- ✓ Can review and question changes made to GOG's Terms of Service (TOS)

- ✗ Warranties waived in respect to GOG's service
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service

See Also: Disclaimer of Warranties; Liability Limitations and Indemnity within [GOG's Terms of Service \(TOS\)](#)

3. EULA / TOS

Note: 2,654 Words found within Project Giana's EULA and Good Old Game's TOS

See Also: Good Old Games's Terms of Service, Refund Policy (as covered by RYG under Section 2. Digital Download)

Note: Limited warranties, waivers of liability and indemnity are commonly found within many software EULAs and TOSs

4. Setup / Install

Note: Won't install to /Program Files (x86)/ folder if requested. (This is a GOG installation issue)

5. Updates / Patching

See Also: [GOG's Support Page](#) for Project Giana for further details

- ✗ Account termination voids past purchases and licenses to play games
- ✗ Consumers prevented from disputing and validating any TOS breaches
- ✗ Past purchases voided after refusing to accept GOG's TOS

Looking at Project Giana's End User License Agreement in conjunction with Good Old Games's Terms of Service.

- ✓ EULA / TOS covers Project Giana and Good Old Games (GOG)
- ✓ Can review and query changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✓ Refunds and/or exchanges offered in respect to pre-order purchases only
- ✓ Terms and conditions for Project Giana's DRM-Free aspects are clearly defined
- ✓ Can back-up copies of Project Giana
- ✓ Won't blacklist specific background services or software
- ✓ Users can criticise or provide criticism about the game without reprisals

- ✗ EULA / TOS is only found within Project Giana during installation
- ✗ Difficult to read, understand and is inconsistently worded
- ✗ Drafted to only abide by the laws of USA in the state of California
- ✗ Users not visibly notified of any changes made to the EULA / TOS
- ✗ License to play the game only provided
- ✗ Project Giana's source code isn't to be modified or reverse-engineered
- ✗ Warranties waived
- ✗ Cover waived against any unforeseeable damages, disruptions of service
- ✗ Termination process dictated by Good Old Games

Looking at how Project Giana is installed on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Custom installation options are provided
- ✓ All files are installed within folders designated by users
- ✓ No DRM files or registry keys installed
- ✓ Currently-executing background services won't interfere with installation
- ✓ Error-free installation
- ✓ Installation completed within 30 minutes (Average time 5 minutes and less)

- ✗ No installation logs of files and registry keys provided after installation

Looking at how Project Giana is patched prior and after gameplay.

- ✓ Can play the game without patch (Project Giana is packaged as version 1.01)

6. DRM & Activation

Looking at the DRM-Free nature of Project Giana and its effects on Windows PCs only.

- ✓ Firewall and AV settings aren't modified
- ✓ User account not required
- ✓ Can play single-player game offline (Internet connection not required)
- ✓ No hardware activations
- ✓ Unlimited installations

7. Gameplay Experience

Looking at the gameplay aspects of Project Giana and how it interacts with PC Windows.

Note: Option to play Project Giana in DX9 or DX10-11 Mode, Windowed Mode. Settings include VSync, In-game Anti-Alias, shadows, particles and shaders

- ✓ Can play on minimum specs
- ✓ Can play a backup copy of the game
- ✓ Suitable options to modify video settings
- ✓ Can customise controls
- ✓ Can play with console controller (Xbox360 Controller tested)
- ✓ Can play in windowed mode
- ✓ Can play offline
- ✓ Can access DLC offline (Provided after purchase through GOG)
- ✓ Won't "phone home"
- ✓ Can play error-free for more than 5hrs
- ✓ Won't interfere with services and background software
- ✓ Will resume at the last checkpoint
- ✓ Can play on more than one PC simultaneously
- ✓ Can modify savegame and/or ini file
- ✓ No DRM or monitoring services running in the background

Note: Savegame found at /UserFolder/Giana Sisters - Twisted Dreams/

8. PC Checkup

Looking at whether Project Giana will modify certain PC settings without users permission / consent.

- ✓ PC clean after scanning for viruses
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for malware and spyware
- ✓ PC clean after scanning for rootkits
- ✓ HOSTS wasn't modified
- ✓ Played Project Giana without major errors
- ✓ Start-up settings remain unaltered
- ✓ No DRM / monitoring services running in the background after shutting down
- ✓ System configuration files remain unaltered

9. Removal Uninstall

Looking at how clean, efficient and effective the removal process is for Project Giana (How much legacy material is there after the removal of Project Giana?)

Note: Savegame found at /UserFolder/Giana Sisters - Twisted Dreams/

- ✓ Direct uninstallation shortcut provided
- ✓ Backup savegames prompt provided / Savegames retained
- ✓ Clean uninstallation

10. Customer Support

See Also: FAQ on Project Giana can be found through [GOG's main support page](#).

Note: Email support is tailored to the initial email query. They are friendly and personable.

Looking at the customer support side of Project Giana through Good Old Games (GOG)

- ✓ Customer service / support found in one place at secure.gog.com/en/forum
 - ✓ Their support is easy to use and navigate (known issues are highlighted)
 - ✓ Searching on GOG's website is direct and quick
 - ✓ Info is easy to read and understand
 - ✓ Customer service will resolve issues within 72 Hours
 - ✓ Tone and language used is warm, inviting and personable
 - ✓ Focused on understanding problems and providing an effective solution
 - ✓ Options provided for giving feedback on the quality of customer support
- ✗ Customer service via. Email takes more than 24 hours to respond

RYG's VERDICT

80%

WORTH SUPPORTING

85% and above

SHOWS PROMISE & POTENTIAL

Between 65% and 84%

BARGAIN BIN MATERIAL

64% and below

A few niggles here and there, mostly contained to Project Giana's EULA and GOG's Terms of Service (TOS). Other than that, Project Giana is safe to play and won't adversely impact your PC (Windows). The same can be said for GOG as a DRM-Free digital distribution service. Both are worth supporting if only to push them to deliver outstanding service and quality.



Colophon

This analysis of Project Giana was compiled by Lisa and Martin Pham. Typeface used is ITC Stone Sans. RYG thanks Anna Henriksson, [Josh Bush](#), [Ethan Lee](#), [Adam Ames](#) and [David Hatch](#) for their insights and suggestions in the design of this analysis. Project Giana was bought with RYG funds through Good Old Games (GOG)

Disclaimer

These analyses are only a guide and represent RYG's perspective into Project Giana as a product. We believe everyone should perform their own research and reach their own conclusions. This is one view of many, we hope. Again, we thank you for taking the time to read our analysis of Project Giana and hope you continue to support our work.

RYG is a user research and design studio for video game developers and publishers. Our focus is planning and designing games with a gamers'-first mentality through user and product research. RYG is led by a husband-and-wife team of Lisa and Martin Pham. RYG is operated in the heart of Sydney.

RYG Analysis: Project Giana
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