

A QTE-LADEN CRIME THRILLER

GAME REVIEW



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Developer: Quantic Dream

Publisher: Sony Computer Entertainment

Platforms: PlayStation 3, PlayStation 4

Release Date: February 18, 2010 (PS3);
March 1, 2016 (PS4)

Heavy Rain was a technological masterpiece when it was released on the PS3 six years back, mainly due to its then ground-breaking visuals and facial animations. Recently, the game has been remastered for the PS4 and while its

initial selling factors are no longer effective, there is still enough reason to play this game.

Heavy Rain tells the story of four protagonists – architect and loving father Ethan Mars, private detective Scott Shelby, FBI Agent Norman Jayden, and journalist Madison Paige whose stories are tied together by the mystery of the Origami Killer. The story mainly revolves around Ethan Mars going through five painful trials given by the Origami Killer in order to rescue his son, Shaun.

Heavy Rain draws inspiration from the film noir genre of movies. The noir elements have been excellently executed and that is what

makes the game so special. I was completely immersed in the mystery of the Origami Killer and it kept bothering me even when I was doing something entirely different, far away from the console. The plot is not free from holes and ambiguities but the developers have done such a great job of storytelling that I did not even notice them until after having finished the game. To me personally, the highlight of the game was the plot twists it had to offer. When telling a detective story, there always remains the risk of giving away the solution much before the actual revelation. Fortunately, that was not the case with this game and the developers deserve full marks for that. The campaign is only ten hours in length but since there are lots of choices and endings, the game ultimately has great replay value.

The graphics of the game can feel dated but since it is not a current-gen title, it is excusable. However, for a game that takes pride in its actors, the facial expressions and voice acting feel sub-par mainly due to how far facial animation technology has progressed in recent years.

Heavy Rain is a game that tries to be a movie and maybe tries a little too hard. The gameplay is mostly walking around by holding the R2 button and performing tedious and repetitive quick time events during intense sequences. Having to hold the same button for longer periods of time can prove to be tiresome and the fixed camera does not help either.

The gripping storyline and mind-blowing plot twists are what save *Heavy Rain* from being a forgettable game. If the plot of the game was accompanied by a detailed gameplay with proper combat mechanics, the game could have been much more than it already is.

Nony Khondaker is an introvert with immense passion for tech and music. Feel free to send your constructive feedback at nonykhondaker@live.com or follow him on twitter.com/NonyKhondaker



GAMES TO PLAY DURING PARTIES

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Arranging parties for your gamer friends can be hectic. Hence, this list of the best games for parties exists to make your life easier.

1. Rock Band

Rock Band helps you to live out the dream of being in a rock band with your friends. Vocals, drums, guitar, bass and the occasional keyboards, *Rock Band* can be the life of the party. Rock out with your friends to your favorite songs and show off your skills.

2. Just Dance

Oh yes! *Just Dance* is a sensational video game. You can dance to the coolest grooves and showcase your skills to your friends. *Just Dance* is by far one of the superior party games and you can have a blast with your peeps even if you're not the best dancer.

3. FIFA

The ultimate game for earning bragging rights; *FIFA* is the game where emotions run wild and it creates some extremely memorable moments for you and your friends.

4. Kinect Adventures

Xbox 360 really showcased something unique with the Kinect feature. *Kinect Adventures* is definitely one of those games that can help you to have a really good time in a party. And teamwork is an essential key to this game, so expect to have a blast.

5. Virtua Tennis

Similar to *FIFA*, *Virtua Tennis* gives you an alternative sport to battle it out in. Be it singles or doubles, *Virtua Tennis* is bound to give you an amazing time.

6. Street Fighter

Whether you're a Chun-Li master or a Ryu spammer, *Street Fighter* equals fun. *Street Fighter*

always provides you with a sense of satisfaction after you outplay your opponent, even if you did it by random button mashing. The newest installment is an absolute blast. So, feel free to give it a try in your next party.

7. Halo

The ultimate party game amongst them all, *Halo* is a definitive team shooter. *Halo* can get you in the game for hours and hours with its addictive gameplay. And nothing can come close to *Halo's* team-play, as you shout instructions to your friends while chasing your path to glory. There ain't no party like a *Halo* party.

Fardeen Zareef is in a war with carbohydrates but his love of Doritos overwhelms him. He also does not know how to use Twitter and loves to game. Message him your love/hate at <https://www.facebook.com/fardeen.zareef>