



# Editor's Desk

#### **MERRY CHRISTMAS**

How has your year been? We continue to transform and grow here at Family Friendly Gaming. Comic books became a big part of what we do here at Family Friendly Gaming. I honestly could have never predicted that when we started reviewing comic books. It makes a lot of sense since there are so many interesting comic books for families. On top of that there are some interesting covers, characters, stories and more. Certain video game franchises go into the comic book realm as well.

I am so thankful for your support in a plethora of ways that helps us continue to exist. Your donations, clicks, views, word of mouth and more really help us keep on keeping on. We take it one day at a time. There are plenty of cool and fun products in this Christmas Buying Guide. Some old, and some new. We do not discriminate against a product based on its age. It always confused me that so many Christmas Buying Guides from so many places only show the latest products. Many of the times these other media outlets did not even review them. Someone in PR sends them a listing and they just copy and paste. Why actually put forth any effort right? People only want to buy the latest thing being released right? I disagree with those viewpoints. I believe in the exact opposite.

We had numerous people in PR and Marketing send over some blurb and pictures of their products. I sent them the YouTube video we did years ago explaining the entrance into this periodical. We must receive a copy, review it, and it score high enough. Too much effort for many of those people in PR and Marketing. They want easy wins. They do not want to make much of an effort to get featured. That is fine. They lose out on reaching the millions upon millions within Family Friendly Gaming Universe. We are not going to endorse something that is bad for families. We are the gate keepers. We decide who gets to enter. Lazy people in PR and Marketing only hurt the image of their entire industry.

I love this time of year. I love focusing on the birth of Jesus Christ. I love getting to take time off. I love relaxing with

family while we watch movies and television shows together. I love getting and stay warm in bed. I love the music. I love the food. By the way did you know I have been working on losing weight. Over thirty-five pounds thus far in the last year. I am feeling better and better. The one problem is some of my clothing is not fitting as well anymore. I will need to purchase some smaller clothing when I finish losing weight. I am down a belt buckle size and two sizes on my waist. Hopefully Thanksgiving and Christmas do not impact those losses. I will be working on it. Are you?

God bless, Paul Bury



#### Mission Statement

Family Friendly Gaming (FFG) was cre-

ated in March of the year of our Lord 2005 as the first ever Christian video game magazine. The goal of Family Friendly Gaming is to report on video games from the family view point. Family Friendly Gaming takes a fair and balanced approach to all news, previews, reviews, interviews, features, and other articles found within. The secular video game media reports mainly on the most morally bankrupt games and call those games good. The major secular media reports on the bad side of video games mainly. Most other Christian media outlets claim video games turn the player into a zombie, or they completely worship video games. Family Friendly Gaming reports the good, and bad side effects to video games. It is the belief of the owners that readers are smart enough to come to their conclusions without those in the media handing opinions to them. Those of us at Family Friendly Gaming believe by giving you the facts, you can decide for yourself. There are plenty of really good video games on the market that teach wonderful lessons. Both inside the Christian video game market, and from non-Christian video game developers. Family Friendly Gaming seeks out these video games to bring them to your attention. Since it is unknown before playing a game how family friendly it is; it is possible that this magazine will preview a game, and then the review will expose problems previously unknown. Family Friendly Gaming promises to always ask the question: "how God feels about certain video games." God's opinion on the matter is more important than any mere mortal. Which is why the rest of the industry does not influence FFG.

#### Christmas Story

Luke 1:26-38 In the sixth month of Elizabeth's pregnancy, God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, 27 to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. 28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you." 29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. 30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God. 31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end." 34 "How will this be," Mary asked the angel, "since I am a virgin?" 35 The angel answered, "The Holy Spirit will come on you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you. So the holy one to be born will be called the Son of God. 36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." 38 "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled." Then the angel left her.

Matthew 1:18-25 This is how the birth of Jesus the Messiah came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be pregnant through the Holy Spirit. 19 Because Joseph her husband was faithful to the law, and yet did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. 20 But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. 21 She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." 22 All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: 23 "The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel" (which means "God with us"). 24 When Joseph woke up, he did what the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took Mary home as his wife. 25 But he did not consummate their marriage until she gave birth to a son. And he gave him the name Jesus.

Luke 2:1-20 In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2 (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyone went to their own town to register. 4 So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6 While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7 and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no guest room available for them. 8 And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. 9 An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10 But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. 11 Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord. 12 This will be a sign to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." 13 Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 14 "Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests." 15 When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." 16 So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the manger. 17 When they had seen him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, 18 and all who heard it were amazed at what the shepherds said to them. 19 But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her heart. 20 The shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Matthew 2:1-12 After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem 2 and asked, "Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." 3 When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. 4 When he had called together all the people's chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. 5 "In Bethlehem in Judea," they replied, "for this is what the prophet has written: 6 "But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel." 7 Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. 8 He sent them to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him." 9 After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10 When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. 11 On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. 12 And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country

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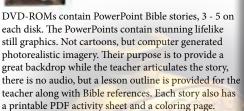


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# OLDER Games



#### Old Towers

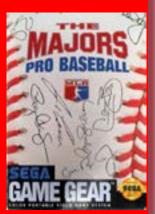
Every so often I get to review a product that echoes what we have been writing about for decades. Old Towers is one of those video games. I played Old Towers on the Mega Cat Studios Collection 1 on the Evercade cartridge. Old Towers can also be purchased on the original Genesis. Mega Cat Studios made cartridges on the 16-bit system for Old Towers. How cool is that? There are just over forty levels of this puzzle video game.

The music in Old Towers is pretty catchy. I enjoyed listening to the music in this newly made retro video game quite a bit. Old Towers is one of those games where it shows there are

still ideas that can and will work on retro video game consoles. It should also be less expensive for developers and publishers to make retro video games on the older systems. I know plenty of retro gamers that enjoy video games done in the older style.

#### The Maiors Pro Baseball

The coolest thing about playing retro video games is you never know when you will find the next gem. Take The Majors Pro Baseball for example. I have played plenty of sports games on the Game Gear that have not impressed me. I took The Majors Pro Baseball out of the pile knowing nothing about it. I honestly thought here comes another horrible hand held sports video game. That was my expectation based on prior experiences. The Majors Pro Baseball impressed me immediately. I was shocked this is a hand held video game. The Majors Pro Baseball would be a great game on an Evercade cartridge compilation.





#### Snood

I was shocked and impressed that there are some neat little animated movies within Snood. The music in Snood is fantastic. I also liked being able to change the background in Snood by pressing the 'B' button. The big graphics on lower difficulty settings impressed me was well. Snood is one of those really fun games where I would match three and watch those icons and whatever was connected to them fall down. Levels can be completed. We get into danger on the right hand side of the screen when the liquid fills to the top. Then the game drops the top one level down.

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# Comic Books



#### My Little Pony #4

The artwork is fantastic in My Little Pony #4. There are some neat things done with the frames while the story is being told. Pip consults her friends on whether she should do this kind of a post or not. She gets feedback that touches on quite a few different angles of the issue. She is being brave. This is against her brand. She is being real. Her audience will not like it. There are plenty of reasons to do something or not to do something. In the end Pip decides to go with it and makes the post.

My Little Pony #4 continues that being real theme when Pip is about to delete the post because it did not get enough views and likes. Then she gets an email from one of her fans that appreciated the post. This fan lied about who she was to her friends. They got mad at her when they found out the truth. She faced up to her mistake and is thankful that Pip showed another side to herself.

#### My Little Pony #9

The ponies are off to Basaltic Caves. They realize that the lava in those caves could melt the gem that gives all of the ponies their magic. Off they go to try and stop Discord. The book is being read as they are traversing this area with quite a deep chasm. They cross a rickety old wooden bridge. Thanks to the telekinetic power a pony is saved from a horrible fate. T



#### Sonic The Hedgehog #51

Dr Eggman is no fool and immediately realizes what Sonic is up to in Sonic The Hedgehog #51. So he sends Metal Sonic to find the others. The Badnik horde can deal with Sonic the Hedgehog. The heroes plan within Sonic The Hedgehog #51 goes exactly the way they expect it.

# Comic Books



#### My Little Pony #7

Hitch helps out so many other ponies so much in My Little Pony #7 that he winds up getting sick behind a bush. There are twenty pages of content, next months cover, alternate covers, and then some advertisements within My Little Pony #7. There is no recap on the main storyline in My Little Pony #7. I enjoyed the art and conversation within My Little Pony #7. I like how My Little Pony #7 teaches us to think of ourselves once in awhile.

#### My Little Pony #10

The first order of business for the ponies is to come up with a plan. They could wait for Discord to come back after he destroys the power of their magic. They could try to escape. They decide to work together to try and escape the cage in My Little Pony #10. They get out and survive the fall thanks to what little magic they have left. From there they need to come up with a plan to stop Discord. The bunnies help the ponies in My Little Pony #10. The bunnies eat through the rope and show them a cave to get out of there. They are also shown places that shoot out air so the ponies can get higher.



# LOOMEY TUNES

#### Looney Tunes #268

Daffy Duck plays the part of Duck Tracy in Looney Tunes #268. He must find and save Tweety Bird. Tweety has multiple appearances in different stories within Looney Tunes #268. Daffy is so abused in Looney Tunes #268. Thankfully he saves the day as well. Looney Tunes #268 teaches kids that swearing is bad. It is so nice to see such an important life lesson being taught in a comic book. I tip my hat to Looney Tunes #268 for that. Looney Tunes #268 is \$2.99 with twenty-three pages of content for families.

#### Sonic The Hedgehog #52

Sonic The Hedgehog #52 starts with the heroes in dire straits. Sonic The Hedgehog #52 ends with an interesting fight coming up next. There will be spoilers in this review of Sonic The Hedgehog #52. Sonic, Belle, Tails, and Kit are trying to get away from Metal Sonic. They are also trying to get out of Eggman's City. They do eventually make it outside only to have Metal Sonic follow them. Then there is an explosion and Metal Sonic goes back to see if Dr Eggman is alright. Surge found the Dynamo Cage and is about to attack Dr Eggman. What will happen in the next issue?

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### FOR KIDS

# Evercade



#### Peppa Pig World Adventures

It takes around 10-15 minutes to experience each of the areas. There are a few mini games to do here and there. There is also the home area that can be explored. There are also some fun little games to do there as well. Peppa Pig World Adventures is definitely more for the younger members of the family. The Queen of England jumping in the puddles is a good example. I thought it was a nice a tribute to her in Peppa Pig World Adventures. The graphics are distinctive in Peppa Pig World Adventures. From the research I performed the Peppa Pig World Adventures video game looks a lot like the cartoon. Players help a variety of characters as they travel freely around the world. The boat captain is happy to take the pig family where they are going. You do go with your own family to Los Angeles.

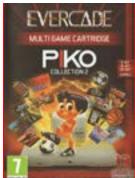
#### Cocomelon Play with II

I need to provide full disclosure here. I am not familiar with the Cocomelon television show. I now know about it thanks to this Nintendo Switch video game. We take a toddler around a house in Cocomelon Play with JJ. We can interact with different things, play mini games, and color in Cocomelon Play with JJ. There are songs that kids can sing along with. I actually sang a little bit when I live streamed this video game. Kids can collect stickers in Cocomelon Play with JJ. We get stickers for interacting with certain objects multiple times and for completing certain mini games. There are plenty of good lessons within Cocomelon Play with JJ like eat your vegetables, brush your teeth, and more. The toddler we play in Cocomelon Play with JJ will celebrate when we do things like find the rubber duckies.



Have some product you want Family Friendly Gaming to Unbox in a video?

Email: ffgnews@familyfriendlygaming.com



#### Piko Interactive Collection 2

There are thirteen games included on this cartridge. The games are 8-bit, 16-bit, and 32-bit. Which is a nice range of retro video games. It is also cool to see the 32-bit video games on the Evercade. The super majority of the games on this cartridge are family friendly. The games on the Piko Interactive Collection 2 cartridge are Beast Ball, Eliminator Boat Duel, Football Madness, Full Throttle All-American Racing, Hoops Shut up and Jam, Hoops Shut up and Jam 2, Power Football, Racing Fever, Soccer Kid, Summer Challenge, Top Racer 2, Winter Challenge, and World Trophy Soccer. One platformer in Soccer Kid, four racing games, and the rest are sports video games.

#### Atari Arcade 1

The Evercade continue to impress with their fourth arcade cartridge - Atari Arcade 1. There are some great classic arcade video games on the Atari Arcade 1 cartridge. The thirteen games on the Atari Arcade 1 cartridge are Asteroids Deluxe, Canyon Bomber, Centipede, Crystal Castle, Liberator, Lunar Lander, Millipede, Missile Command, Night Driver, Pong, Skydiver, Super Breakout and Warlords. Families can get all kinds of fun out of the Atari Arcade 1 cartridge. It has been decades since I played some of these video games.



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#### ■ Ialeco Collection 1

There are a wide array of different games within Jaleco Collection 1. I really like the sports games in Jaleco Collection 1. The Ignition Factor is a really neat video game idea. The same goes for City Connection. City Connection is one of those really cool retro video game. Bases Loaded can be challenging until players learn all of the nuances of the game. I liked Super Goal 2 a little bit better. Plus that soccer game looks much better as well. Half of the video games on the Jaleco Collection 1 are definitely good games for families.



There is quite the retro collection on Intellivision Collection 1. If you did not know this system competed against the Atari 2600. That is how old the Intellivision actually is. The graphics and audio are very retro within Intellivision Collection 1. There is certainly some historical interest to the games within Intellivision Collection 1. There are some shooters, sports, action, and more within Intellivision Collection 1.



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# Streaming



#### Puss in Boots The Last Wish

The solution Puss in Boots comes to in this movie is to move in with a cat lady. He buries his clothes, and grows a beard. He is not really happy in this house with all these cats. A little dog Perrito befriends Puss in Boots. They find out about a map that will take you to a wishing star that will grant one person one wish. Puss in Boots realizes he can wish for his lives back. Puss in Boots goes off on a quest and meets up with Kitty Southpaws. As Puss

in Boots The Last Wish we learn about the history Kitty Southpaws and Puss in Boots had. Puss in Boots left her at the altar of a church. He ran away. Puss in Boots runs away a lot in Puss in Boots The Last Wish. This hero has lost his nerve multiple times. At least until the very end where he fights off the wolf and decides to not make the wish but live out his last life the best he can. Kitty Southpaws and Perrito both have no interest in making a wish.

#### Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures Season One

All of the yellow characters are gone in Pac-World. Pac-Man is the last one. Pac-Man is also unclear what happened to his parents. Pac-Man goes to school and lives in the dorms. Ghosts are considered something that do not exist. Pac-Man accidently opens the door to the Netherworld in Pac-Man and the Ghostly Adventures Season One. All of these ghosts get out and attack Pac-World. Pac-Man eats power pellets to get powers.



#### Sonic Prime Season One

The Chaos Council is the group of all the different Eggman characters in Sonic Prime Season One. They learn about being able to travel to different worlds and they use that power to start to conquer the other worlds. All thanks to Nine Tails. Allegiances are not what you think they are in Sonic Prime Season One. Shadow even attacks Sonic the Hedgehog at the end of Sonic Prime Season One. Shadow blames him for this mess. To be fair Sonic did do this. Still an interesting television show based on Sonic.



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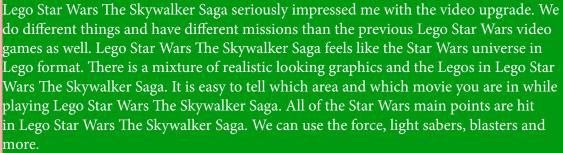
Youtube channel - https://www.youtube.com/c/FamilyFriendlyGaming
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# Nintendo Switch



Jigsaw Puzzle Belgium Through The Lens includes thirty-four different categories of pictures. Each category contains ten images. That brings the pictures to three hundred and forty. The replay ability of Jigsaw Puzzle Belgium Through The Lens does not end there though. There are a ton of different piece choices that families will face. The piece choices in Jigsaw Puzzle Belgium Through The Lens range from four to six hundred and twenty-five. Families can also decide if they

want to allow the pieces to be rotated or not.







The graphics in Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition look nice. I love all of the different things to collect and find in Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition. The garden is neat and very helpful in providing materials needed for dishes at the cafe. We can make clothing, furniture, and more in Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition. We can fish, mine, purchase better gear, and complete all kinds of quests in Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition.

I love doing the favors for the characters. All in all I enjoyed my time with Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition. There is a lot to see and do. We collect stickers by doing certain things. Those stickers will unlock more things to do in Disney Magical World 2 Enchanted Edition. The dreams are a bit strange.



#### Big Brain Academy Brain vs. Brain

Brain games eventually died out and we did all kinds of research and testing. I am no longer convinced those brain games were the cat's meow. As I played Big Brain Academy Brain vs. Brain I was much more skeptical about the "good" this game actually does. In fact as I played Big Brain Academy Brain vs. Brain I noticed it was only about how fast things can be done. We are given points on how quickly we perform each recognition test. Intelligence is more than speed though.

#### Chocobo GP

Chocobo GP is a cute racer where luck seems more prevalent than skill. I could get juggled by multiple computer controlled characters within Chocobo GP and go from first to last. If that happened in the last lap before getting to the finish line then I had a really bad race. If you can get out in front ahead of the fray you have better chances of winning. Things like getting frozen and death can be real problems within Chocobo GP. The Final Fantasy theme runs deep in Chocobo GP. Chocobo GP looks decent and there are some nice animations. There are plenty of unlockable characters within Chocobo GP.



#### Super Kiwi 64

We collect gears, and go through rings in Super Kiwi 64. There are also targets to smash in Super Kiwi 64. I had to figure out the moves in Super Kiwi 64. The spin dash will allow you to stick that bird's beak into many of the walls. Then jump and do it again to climb up the walls of many of the structures within Super Kiwi 64. Once I learned that skill I was off to the races in climbing buildings. The eight levels in Super Kiwi 64 have different themes. The music is fun to listen to in Super Kiwi 64.

We collect coins and star bits. the star bits level up the sparks. The coins allow us to purchase items. There are other collectibles like memories and planet keys. These are earned from chests, and side missions. There are plenty of side missions that can be performed aft the game has been beaten. When I played Mario + Rabbids Sparks of Hope there are five planets that can be explored. I read there was a sixth one that was only available for a limited time.



#### Pokemon Scarlet Pokemon Violet



Pokemon Scarlet is an open world where we can see the Pokemon. It can take around thirty hours to get through Pokemon Scarlet. If you want to catch all of the Pokemon you will spend a lot more time with this game. You will need to grind in Pokemon Scarlet frequently. Type advantage continues in Pokemon Scarlet. The map is handy and helpful in Pokemon Scarlet. Trainers are littered around the areas to battle. If you beat so many trainers in an area you can then

get a gift from a guy near the Pokemon Center.

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# Playstation 4



#### My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant

I describe My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant as a casual time management game. There are no gauges to provide the service in a timely manner. People will wait to be seated, have their order taken, and having the food delivered. Only one family member can enjoy My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant at a time. I think it would have been cool to have two players working at the same time and helping out multiple patrons. That would have been pretty neat. Maybe it will happen in a sequel.

There is nice music in My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant. As we make the food we level up the cooking and learn new recipes. We also level up the restaurant which opens more areas. My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant lets players pick their character and we can run around the restaurant. The cooks have some interesting personalities that I got quite a kick out of. I had

fun playing My Universe Cooking Star Restaurant on the PS4.

#### Atari Flashback Classics Volume 2

The Atari 2600 video games on the Atari Flashback Classics Volume 2 disc are A Game of Concentration, Adventure, Asteroids, Atari Video Cube, Basic Math, Brain Games, Breakout, Casino, Championship Soccer, Checkers, Chess, Code Breaker, Crystal Castles, Demons to Diamonds, Double Dunk, Flag Capture, Golf, Gravitar, Hangman, Haunted House, Maze Craze, Missile Command, Night Driver, Off the Wall, Outlaw, Race, Realsports Baseball, Realsports Basketball, Realsports Tennis, Return to Haunted House, Secret Quest, Sentinel, Sky Diver, Spacewar, Starship, Stellar Track, Street Racer, Sub Commander, Super Breakout, Surround, and Video Pinball.





#### My Universe Green Adventure Farmer Friends

There are concepts within My Universe Green Adventure Farmer Friends that I can totally get behind. For example certain insects are used to keep other bad for plant insects away. The alternative would be pesticides. I grew up in the country and using one species to keep another away is part of how we lived life. We never saw it as going green or anything. It just made more sense and it cost less. If you really want

people to go green (especially poor people) then make it cost less.

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#### Rabbids Party of Legends

There are some other fun mini games in Rabbids Party of Legends. There are also some that are really confusing. I lost my character more than once in the soccer game. The river boat mini game was obnoxious. Players would paddle and the AI would steer us into rocks. Four family members is probably the best way to play Rabbids Party of Legends. We only had two humans so we were able to experience some of the issues. Parts of Rabbids Party of Legends feel really random like being in orbs trying to knock off other players.

#### My Singing Monsters Playground

As we compete in tournaments we earn a special coin that will allow us to get some different costumes for the characters in My Singing Monsters Playground. Every time I played My Singing Monsters Playground I won so I do not know if that is a condition or not. President Trump is completely wrong - I never get tired of winning. Four monsters will compete within My Singing Monsters Playground. We can practice mini games that we have previously unlocked.



#### Ryan's Rescue Squad

Ryan's Rescue Squad is a 2D side scrolling platformer that is generally designed for kids. I was able to beat Ryan's Rescue Squad in around three hours. I did miss a few hidden items here and there. Generally I collected all of the eggs and R coins that were in the levels. I also unlocked most of the little mini games in Ryan's Rescue Squad. Those mini games are on the simple side but something for kids to replay if they are into them. I do feel that Ryan's Rescue Squad reaches the target audience quite well.

#### NBA 2K23

The presentation feels more real within NBA 2K23. The halftime still has Shaq and he still does not look quite right. A Papa John's commercial within NBA 2K23 would have felt pretty real in my opinion. The courts and players look good within NBA 2K23. The fans get excited if the home team is starting to pull away near the end of the game. The biggest things I noticed concerning NBA 2K23 is the increased realism. The Jordan challenges are interesting and cool within NBA 2K23. I like how NBA 2K23 swapped between real video and the art from the video game.





#### Nexomon Extinction

I know what many of ya'll will say when you see the cover and screenshots of Nexomon Extinction. This is yet another Pokemon clone. Yes Nexomon Extinction is a Pokemon clone. Thing is it is so much more. The fantasy world with tyrants, trainers, the guild and more is what makes Nexomon Extinction so interesting. Yes we have all kinds of different Nexomon that are different types. Yes there are type advantages and disadvantages. Yes we have squat looking little characters that go into shaking grass to fight wild Nexomon. We also have a little cat companion that does a lot of the talking for us in Nexomon Extinction. This game stuck in my mind way after I stopped playing it.

# XBOX ONE



#### Lego 2K Drive

Lego 2K Drive looks good and it sounds good. There is a fun storyline to go through in Lego 2K Drive. Players start to Bricklandia, then get to explore Turbo Acres, Big Butte County, Prospecto Valley, and Hauntsborough. A veteran driver teaches you the ropes and encourages you during your races. We also have a little robot that helps us find races on the map, and more. The goal of the player is to get to the Sky Cup Grand Prix and win that trophy.

The cool thing about Lego 2K Drive is it is open world. We can drive where ever we want in this video game. We can find different things to do. There are plenty of achievements to earn in Lego 2K Drive as well. In fact viewers of the live streams have seen plenty pop up as I have been going through the story mode. There are more modes families can enjoy. There are online and offline multiplayer versions of Lego 2K Drive.

#### Jrban Flow

If we make traffic in one area wait too long in Urban Flow they will just go. It is like the drivers decide the light is broken and they go right into traffic. Other areas require perfect timing in the merging. We do earn power ups as play Urban Flow. We can slow traffic, use hearts to fix accidents, and more in Urban Flow. We can play Urban Flow in Endless, Chill, Party, and more. Families can have some fun keeping traffic flowing and safe in Urban Flow. The music in Urban Flow is jamming. I really got into the music when I performed a video recording of Urban Flow. If you fail a level you can just retry. I did notice the vehicles could behave differently when I played it the next time.



#### Train Sim World 3

I like the improved controls in Train Sim World 3. It is very easy to increase speed, and decrease speed in Train Sim World 3. It is also pretty simple to get a train going in Train Sim World 3. We now hit a couple of buttons versus having to do all this stuff in first person mode. You can get up out of your seat and walk around if you are bored while driving the train. I learned to pay attention to the speed while I played Train Sim World 3. It can be easy to get going too fast down those declines. I also lost speed on the inclines



#### Forza Horizon 5 Rally Adventure

I had some fun live streaming Forza Horizon 5 Rally Adventure from start to finish. I wish Forza Horizon 5 Rally Adventure had more content. I was able to breeze through Forza Horizon 5 Rally Adventure faster than I did Forza Horizon 5 Hot Wheels. I generally liked the Hot Wheels DLC better too. The whole rally concept works well in Forza Horizon 5 Rally Adventure. We are told medium left followed by water and then medium right. This can really help the

player plan for what is coming up next.

#### Gigantosaurus Dino Kart

Gigantosaurus Dino Kart looks nice and it sounds nice. There is some voice acting with some of the characters from this franchise. Generally they were excited to be on the tracks and racing. Certain characters would have conversations in Gigantosaurus Dino Kart. It was not always the character the player was using though. There are plenty of achievements to earn from Gigantosaurus Dino Kart Many of the alternate paths are shown on the screen.



#### Sonic Frontier



We find these little guys and can turn them in to get more rings or more speed. We also find seeds that increase our power and defense. There are puzzles to solve, and enemies to defeat. The gears are used to open 2D side scrolling levels that are in Cyber space. There are items to get to help a character like Amy, Tails, and Knuckles. We can open parts of the map thanks to the simple little puzzles. There are five islands in Sonic Frontiers. The story telling really caught my attention in Sonic Frontiers. That is one of the reasons I kept playing this game. We can leave markers on the map to find certain areas we want to get to in Sonic Frontiers.

#### Garfield Lasagna Party

Four family members can enjoy Garfield Lasagna Party at the same time. Family members can choose from Garfield, Odie, Nermal, and Arlene. Depending on the mode you pick you will either be on the board game or just playing the mini games. When on the board game the mini games are played at the end of each round. If you do not have four family members to play then the computer will take over for the other players.



#### Dreamworks Dragons Legends of the Nine Realm



Different dragons in Dreamworks Dragons Legends of the Nine Realms can destroy different rocks. I had to swap quite frequently to get as many of the gems as possible. The music and voice acting is good in Dreamworks Dragons Legends of the Nine Realms. I enjoyed the little visual clues on what to do in certain areas of Dreamworks Dragons Legends of the Nine Realms. Fans of the Dreamworks Dragons franchise should enjoy this game.

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# Personal Computer



#### My Fantastic Ranch

My Fantastic Ranch has the blocky look and feel to it that is a little better looking that Minecraft. Kids come into My Fantastic Ranch and can learn lessons like riding on a unicorn or flying on a dragon. There is a definite fantasy feel to My Fantastic Ranch. Younger players must build a stable, and then adopt a fantasy creature. Then they need to hire staff and make an area for the training. Everything in My Fantastic Ranch is very logical and

thought out. There are also goals on the screen so a reading ability is needed to play My Fantastic Ranch.

If you happen to be impatient waiting for something to finish you can just fast forward the time in
My Fantastic Ranch. I used this when lessons were going on and I needed them to be complete to achieve the
goal that was on the screen. As players progress through My Fantastic Ranch they earn different resources like
gems. Those resources are also used in purchasing and upgrading aspects of the ranch.

#### Family Adventure

We collect different animals in Family Adventure. I found it funny when we collected the bears in Family Adventure. After beating the initial intro quest, we go on a major quest with three family members. From there we can fly all over the world in our airship and complete ten more quests. Each quest we complete opens up an upgrade at the players house. New characters will appear in the area and more.

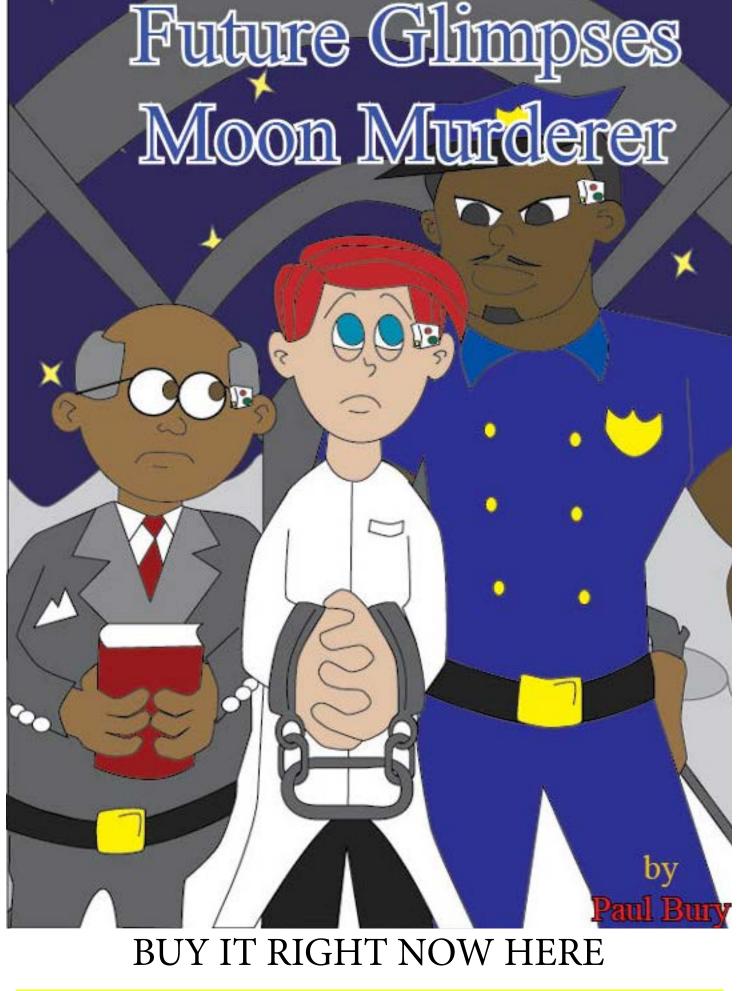




#### Swoon! Earth Escape

In each level we can only take one hit. We have multiple hearts but those are for continues. This makes Swoon! Earth Escape a very challenging game with plenty of advanced parkour. An example would be to jump from one platform to another while the enemy that jumps up and down is up in the air. I would then have to quickly jump to the next platform before that enemy came back down and squished me. It all came down to finding the right timing

to initiate the jumps.



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# BLU-RAY

### DVD

#### BLU-RAY" + DVD + DIGITAL CODE

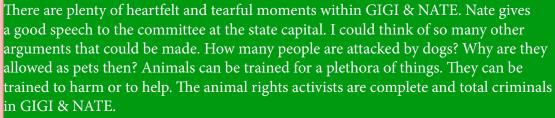
# SUPER

The Super Mario Bros. Movio

The Super Mario Bros. Movie looks great. The different kingdoms look fantastic in The Super Mario Bros. Movie. The animations are wonderful and the characters look how they should. There is some cartoon violence as poor Mario is abused in The Super Mario Bros. Movie. Luigi is captured and threatened by Bowser. The music in The Super Mario Bros. Movie is fabulous. A lot of great music was included in some key parts of this movie.

The Super Mario Bros. Movie does a few things that do not happen in the games. For example Rainbow Road gets blown up and there are gaping holes in it. The Mario Kart element in The Super Mario Bros. Movie is pretty cool. We almost get Luigi's Mansion in The Super Mario Bros. Movie. It would have been neat to see. There are tons of Easter Eggs in The Super Mario Bros. Movie. The hole in the wall from when they tried to save Brooklyn was interesting.

#### GIGI & NATE





#### American Underdog

American Underdog is all about Kurt Warner and his wife Brenda. We learn that Kurt is all about football. The woman that becomes his wife is divorced with two kids trying to make it. She caught her husband cheating on her and that was what ended their marriage. We also learn about Brenda's son Zack. Zack is legally blind thanks to events that happened when he was very young. He is always listening to the radio. Kurt is in college playing football when he meets Brenda. He does not get drafted even though he has an agent. He does get picked up by the Green Bay Packers for a tryout.



Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups

The episodes on the Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups DVD are Pups Stop a Flood, Pups Save the Bridge, Pups Save a Sliding Chalet, Pups Save a Really Big Dish, Pups Save the Swiped Speakers, Pups Save the Big Big Pipes, Pups Save the Tooth Fairy, Pups Solve the Mystery of the Missing Art, Pups Save the Hatchlings, and Pups Save a Wrongway Farmhand. There are ten episodes in all on the Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups DVD.

You can probably surmise the theme of most of the episodes on the Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups DVD are big trucks. We are talking semi trucks in Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups. Kids can learn some trucker speak thanks to Paw Patrol Big Truck Pups. Please do not freak out because it is not bad trucker speak either. I am talking about stuff like 10-4, and copy that. Pretty tame and safe things.



#### Paw Patrol All Paws On Deck

Another lesson on the Paw Patrol All Paws On Deck disc is stealing is bad. Multiple characters attempt to steal in Paw Patrol All Paws On Deck and it does not go well for them. Lady Bird is a really good example of this. She goes after shiny objects. I think the mayor may have regretted getting her car all shiny. I still find it strange the mayor has a chicken in her purse. Liberty has a great comment on that.



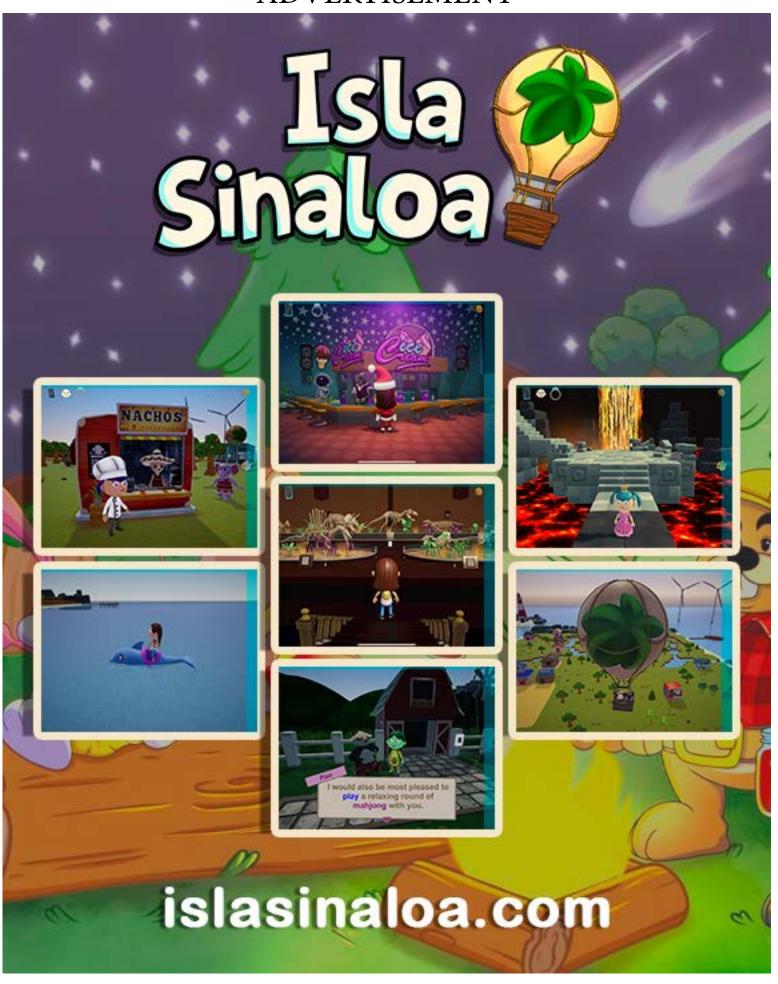


Ron's Gone Wrong explores the concept of friendship. What is a friend? Barney winds up getting a broken B-Bot that cannot connect to the servers and does not have safety protocols turned on. Barney reaches this B-Bot named Ron how to be a friend. Ron does things to help Barney - truly help him. The company wants to destroy Ron since he is defective. Ron's Gone Wrong shows the lack of morals and ethics from Big Tech. Maybe that is why Ron's Gone Wrong went so far under the radar.

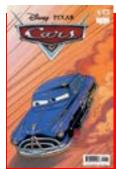
#### Sing 2



Buster Moon gets his crew to the audition and winds up impressing Mr. Crystal. Jimmy Crystal is a wolf and he cares mainly about his own image. He does not care what you do as long as you do not make him look bad. Buster Moon makes a major blunder here. He lies to Mr. Crystal about being able to get Clay Calloway. After Calloway's wife died he has been a recluse for fifteen years.



# EDITOR's PICKS



#### Cars #!

This comic books comes from a time when Boom Studios had a booming Boom Kids! sector. This is exactly what Cars #1 falls under. I was not sure what to expect from Cars #1. I had no clue where in the timeline this comic would be either. Cars #1 is right after the movie. In fact parts of Cars #1 remind me of those THQ Cars video games. So the content is obviously cannon. Lightning has invited racers to come to Radiator Springs and race at the Radiator Springs Raceway.

#### Forza Motorspor

First and foremost Forza Motorsport looks nice. We get a racing line and other assists to help us get around the tracks. I was able to get the difficulty setting just right in Forza Motorsport. I learned to brake at certain points and make it through these tracks. There are numerous cars that can be purchased within Forza Motorsport. You will need to do some grinding or increase the difficulty to earn the money for those cars.



# EVERCADE

#### Codemasters Collection 1

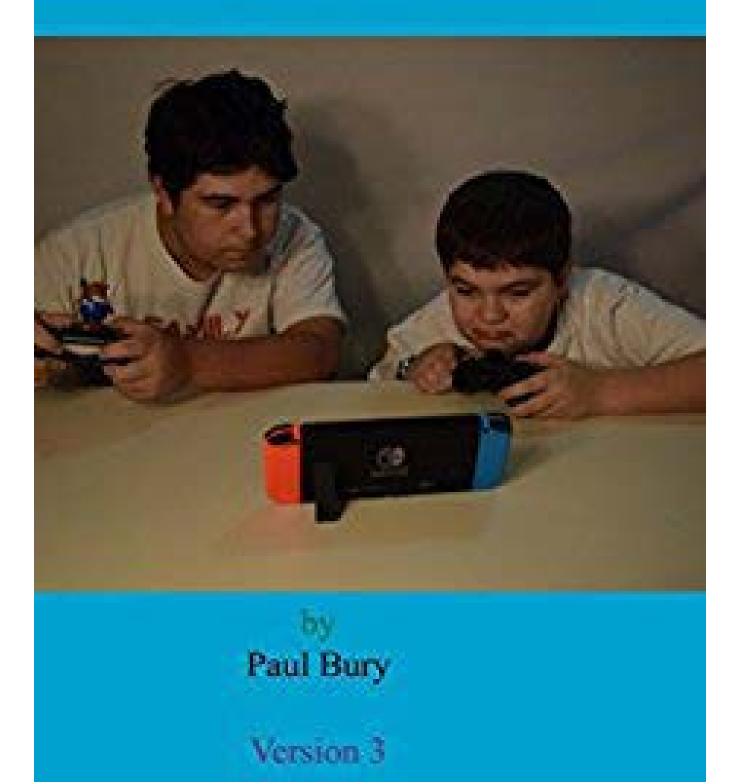
This is the nineteenth cartridge in the main line of their retro and indie game compilation cartridges. There are seventeen games on Codemasters Collection 1. The games on this cartridge are Bee 52, Big Nose Freaks Out, Big Nose the Caveman, Boomerang Kid, CJ's Elephant Antics, Cannon Fodder, Cosmic Spacehead, F-16 Renegade, Linus Spacehead, Mega-Lo-Mania, MiG 29 Soviet Fighter, Psycho Pinball, Sensible Soccer, Stunt Buggies, Super Skidmarks, Tennis All Stars, and The Ultimate Stuntman.

#### Paw Patrol Aqua Pups

Most of the episodes on this disc take place underwater. There are a few parts here and there that take place on dry land. In fact only two episodes on Paw Patrol Aqua Pups are mainly on the land. Moby is an interesting new bad character in Paw Patrol Aqua Pups. Moby does not like all of the singing and dancing. Moby is more reserved and quiet. In fact Moby just wants to be alone. At one point he tries to take the entire Puplantis city with him. My personal opinion is there are a lot of people in our culture that could use the lessons found on the Paw Patrol Aqua Pups disc.



# VIDEO GAME LIES



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# HARDWARE



E-WIN Flash XL Size Series Ergonomic Computer Gaming Office Chair with Pillows

The E-WIN Flash XL Size Series Ergonomic Computer Gaming Office Chair with Pillows is extremely sturdy. The weight to the different pieces is what impressed me. E-WIN Flash XL Size Series Ergonomic Computer Gaming Office Chair with Pillows is recommended for people between five foot seven inches and seven feet. The maximum weight is five hundred and fifty points. My two hundred and twenty-five pounds puts me way below the weight limit. The width of this chair really impressed me.

USB-C 7-in 1 Multifunction Adapter

Let me tell you what you get with the USB-C 7-in 1 Multifunction Adapter. There is a nice docking section that holds the Steam Deck. There is a plugin from the back right of the USB-C 7-in 1 Multifunction Adapter to the Steam Deck. USB-C 7-in 1 Multifunction Adapter includes an ethernet connection on the left side. In the back is an USB-C PD, DP, HDMI, and then three USB 3.2 ports. Theoretically quite a few families could replace a Gaming PC with the USB-C 7-in 1 Multifunction Adapter and Steam Deck.



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# SPORTS



#### Madden NFL 23

The big promotion surrounding Madden NFL 23 is Fieldsense. Honestly Madden NFL 23 did not feel much different to me than other recent Madden video games. It is very difficult to get through your blocker when you are on defense now. I did shove my blocker into the quarterback a few times to disrupt the plays. Quarterbacks in Madden NFL 23 sometimes throw nowhere and miss an open receiver. This can be frustrating if this happens on a third down and you would have easily gotten the first down. Running with the quarterback is still pretty easy - even for twenty to thirty yards. Two family members can compete against one another in Madden NFL 23. There are numerous NFL teams to play against.

#### MLB The Show 22

There are on screen displays to help players in fielding. With some experimentation we were able to figure out how to steal bases in MLB The Show 22. Hopefully MLB The Show 22 will keep my interest longer than MLB The Show 21 did last year. Errors seemed really random in MLB The Show 22. I am not clear why they happened at certain times. I like how MLB The Show 22 lets you know that a pitcher is getting tired. I have played enough baseball video games to know when to start to warm up a pitcher in the bullpen. MLB The Show 22 keeps a lot of things from previous years the same. I had some fun playing MLB The Show 22.



# © FIFA 28

#### Fifa 23

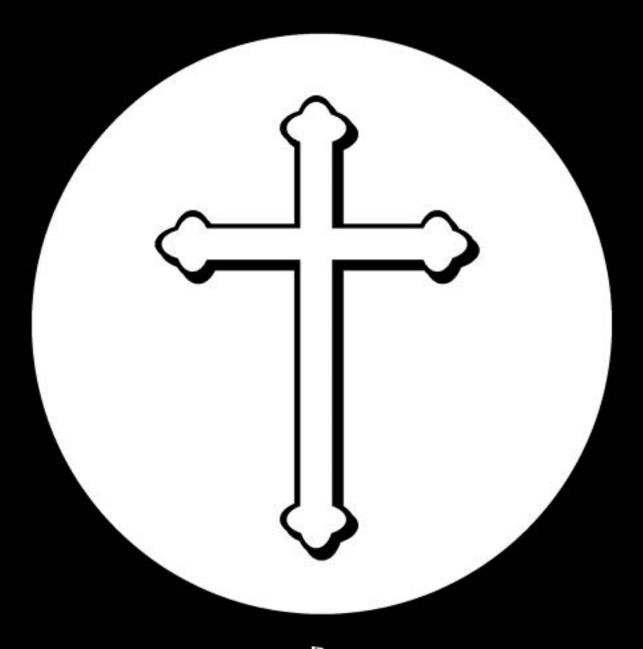
Fifa 23 impressed me. Peter felt like it was the same game. I noticed improvements in the dribbling in Fifa 23. It felt a little weird but usually went in my favor. It was neat to pull up, and change directions so much easier in Fifa 23. This is an area that eFootball had dominated Fifa for so long. eFootball shot themselves in the foot a few years ago and has been on the decline. Thankfully Fifa 23 is on the rise and is actually some fun to play.

#### PGA Tour 2K23

The best way PGA Tour 2K23 has improved from PGA Tour 2K21 is to add a three button control scheme when hitting the ball. I like this much better than moving a joystick back and forward and hope to get it lined up just right with the appropriate amount of power. This is a major control improvement that helps make PGA Tour 2K23 much more playable.



# FUTURE GLIMPSES FREE AT LAST



BY PAUL BURY

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# Playstation 5



#### Farming Simulator 22

I am very thankful we had the money to purchase a copy of Farming Simulator 22 on the PS5. Farming Simulator 22 can also be played on the PC, PS4, Stadia, Xbox One, and Xbox Series X. Did you catch any of the live streams I did of Farming Simulator 22? If you missed them then you can always check out the videos in the videos section of the Family Friendly Gaming website. We will be uploading videos to other video sites for viewers to enjoy there as well.

I really like the three major areas we can farm in Farming Simulator 22. There are all kinds of amazing vehicles available for purchase within Farming Simulator 22. One of my favorite things to do in Farming Simulator 22 is to help out other farmers and farm their fields for them. I have been playing Farming Simulator video games for many years now. I skipped the tutorial

because I know how to play these games.

#### Grid Legends

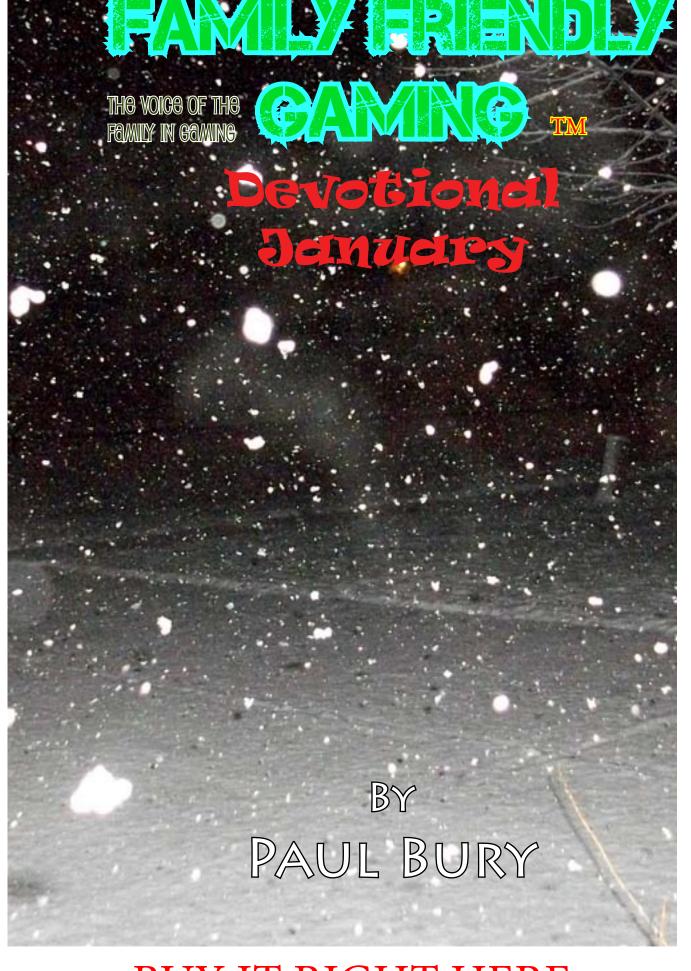
Grid Legends did not interest me much at first. When we did a poll on our You-Tube community page our viewers wanted more of the game. It took me four to five hours to complete the story more. I actually got into Grid Legends during those hours. There are also plenty of other modes in Grid Legends that families can race in. There are online and offline modes in Grid Legends. Players can race with different teams, and go into career mode. All in all I actually enjoyed Grid Legends.





#### Riders Republic

Riders Republic looks really good. Which is amazing considering how many different styles of racing we can do in this game. We can run around on our own, ski, snowboard, ride a bike, and glide in one of those wing suits. It took me some time to figure out the controls in the wing suit while playing Riders Republic. Everything else controls generally well in Riders Republic. There is a graphical glitch done on purpose (I think) after the player crashes into something. There are all kinds of different gear to unlock and earn within Riders Republic. This is one of the things that will bring players back again and again.



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# Xbox Series X



#### Disney Dreamlight Valley

This is an interesting life simulator video game. We start in a valley that has been overrun with night thorns. The thorns made the Disney characters forget things. We must clear out the thorns, bring back the Disney characters, and complete all of these different quests. There are tons of things we can do in Disney Dreamlight Valley. We can farm, craft, cook, fish, dig, mine, and more.

There are some interesting Disney characters within Disney Dreamlight Valley. Wall-E is one of

my current favorites. We start with Merlin and get Scrooge, Mickey, Goofy and more. We earn a plethora of different currencies within Disney Dreamlight Valley that are used for different things. The Moonstones can unlock new areas for the player to explore. The Star Coins are used to upgrade things like buildings and purchase items. Generally items spawn pretty quickly within Disney Dreamlight Valley.

#### Hot Wheels Unleashed

We earn HW Coins and Parts in Hot Wheels Unleashed. We can also return duplicate cars for the HW Coins or the Parts. Parts are used to upgrade the vehicles one time. The coins in Hot Wheels Unleashed are used to purchase blind boxes. The blind boxes contain vehicles. You might get new vehicles or duplicates. There are two kinds of races in Hot Wheels Unleashed. They are racing against other vehicles for podium and first place, and time trial races.

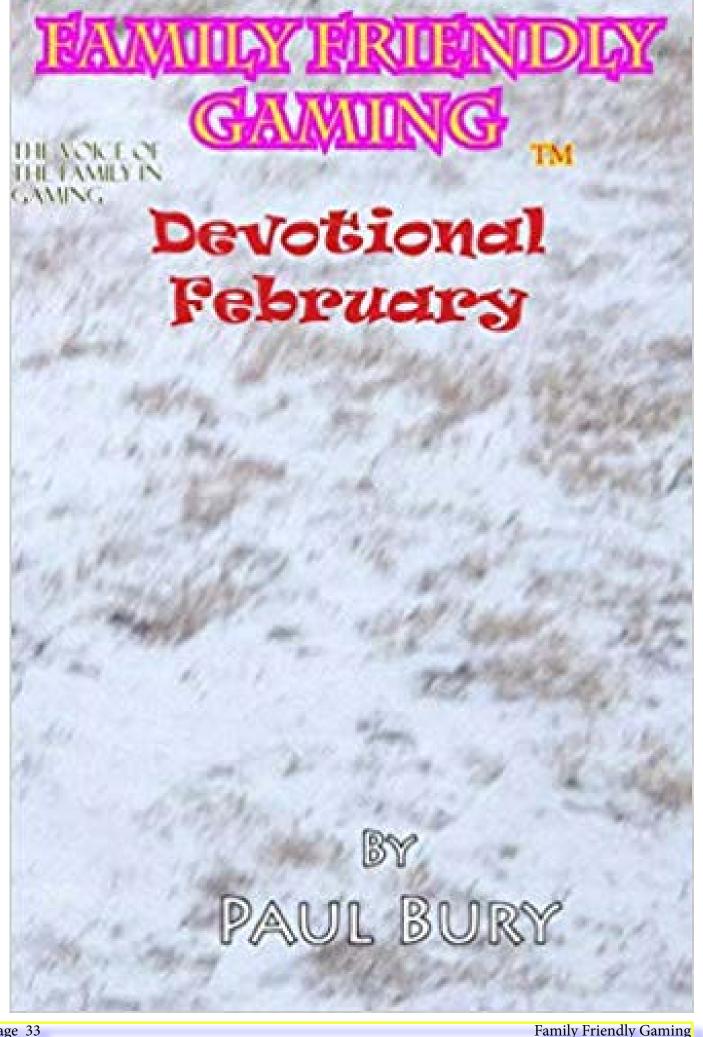




#### Slime Rancher 2

The slimes seem a lot more different and animated in Slime Rancher 2. The speed of being able to move around is decent in Slime Rancher 2. We can easily find and grow food for our slimes. We can also easily build up the ranch while we are playing Slime Rancher 2. Remember to keep certain slimes away from other slimes. You would not put an anaconda in a cage with a rodent would you? The outcome is pretty predictable. The same goes for

Slime Rancher 2. This game can teach families to be careful what animals they put together.



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# LAST MINUTE



#### Cars #2

Anyone into the Cars franchise should really get into Cars #2. I like this period way better than what was in the second or third Cars movies. It is also one of the reasons I liked those THQ Cars video games so much. We get to live out the events right after the first Cars movie. We get to win multiple Piston Cups with Lightning McQueen. I hope that happens in this comic book series in the future.

#### Sonic The Hedgehog #53

Sonic and Tails arrive on the scene near the end of Sonic The Hedgehog #53. Kit does not want to lose anyone else so he disregards Belle's advice and decides to go help Sonic and Tails. He even hurts Belle in the process. What will happen when Kit and Surge reunite? Where will Kit's allegiances go in future issues? Sonic The Hedgehog #53 poses some interesting questions on which direction a character will take. Kit will obviously be shocked to see Surge alive. Sonic was surprised to see she is still alive.

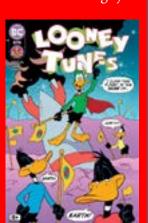


#### My Little Pony #6

There is some humor in this comic book. There is also some sarcasm. I found some of the sarcasm to be funny personally. Especially when a pony is live streaming the sneaking around and following Reginald. The loud river drowns out a lot of the recording which really irritates Pipp quite a bit. Why was Pipp recording and live streaming a secret stealth mission in the first place? That makes zero sense to me. But then plenty of people in our world do things just as dumb.

#### ?Looney Tunes #272

I was getting a bit bored with this comic book until Looney Tunes #272. This is one of the funniest Looney Tunes comic books I have read in awhile. I also like the whole theme across this comic book with three different stories. First we have eight pages of Duck Dodgers and the Return to the 24 1/2th Century. Then we have eight pages of What's [Space] Opera, Doc? Finally we have eight pages of Duck Dodgers and the Reboot of the 24 1/2th Century.



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