



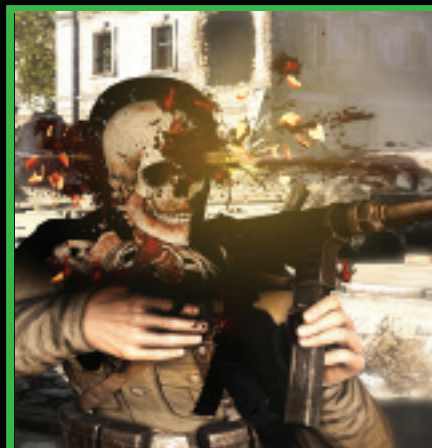
BLOOD ON THE JOYSTICK

A GORE-SPLATTERED PEEK AT SOME RECENT VIOLENT VIDEO GAMES

Video gaming was a relatively tame form of electronic entertainment until the mid-1980s. That's when the groundbreaking games *Doom* and *Quake* introduced a controversial new element: violence.

As the technology evolved, it wasn't just the games' graphics that became more realistic, so did the level of violence. This allowed gamers to

channel their aggressions in a way they never could in real life. A kill-or-be-killed storyline became the norm for all first-person shooters. Gore and blood are the big stars of today's hottest gaming titles, and they fuel a fantasy world that has become a billion-dollar industry. Here are a handful of games that are perfect Halloween treats.



Sniper Elite V2 (505 Games)

Smack dab in the middle of World War II, you're a highly trained killing machine sent to assassinate a group of evil German scientists. Along the way, you get to kill as many Nazis as possible. This ultrarealistic first-person sniper game is a blood-and-bullets bonanza. The best feature is the detailed "Kill Cam," which lets you see your bullet (and the damage it inflicts) just as it strikes a target's body.



Saints Row: The Third (THQ)

The *Saints Row* series took the concept of open-world gaming to new levels of ultraviolence. Nothing (or no one) is safe from your wrath. Destroy cars. Punch old ladies in the face. Go ahead! It's part of the game. In *Saints Row: The Third*, you are a rock star criminal surrounded by a seedy mix of hookers, junkies and thugs, all ready to fall victim to your destructive tendencies. Start the killing using the arsenal of weapons at your disposal. Our favorite is a giant purple dildo bat.



Resident Evil: Operation Raccoon City (Capcom)

A deadly virus has turned the residents of Raccoon City into a rotting army of the undead. Hack and slash your way through their decaying flesh to survive. But also beware: A sinister government militia (which may have unleashed the virus) is hunting you down as well. This is one place where knowing how to quickly decapitate someone will come in real handy.



Alice: Madness Returns (EA)

This bloody-good game takes the classic fairy tale and flips it on its mentally deranged ass. Play as Alice, a psychotic girl trying to escape Wonderland, killing as she goes. Remember that Cheshire Cat blood doesn't wash off so easily.



Batman: Arkham City (Warner Bros.)

In *Arkham Asylum*, the previous Batman game, the lunatics had taken over the asylum. In this sequel, they run the whole damn city of Arkham, which has been transformed into a giant prison camp. There, as Bruce Wayne, you'll find all your favorite Batman villains commanding mobs of bat-wielding maniacs. You can hear the heads crack open and watch the skin melt away (in an acid tank) as you try to escape from a man-made hellhole. Did we mention there's serious Catwoman cleavage too?



Dead Island (Deep Silver)

What could be better than a nice vacation on a tropical island off the coast of Papua New Guinea? It has palm trees, warm breezes, bikini-clad babes and a big surprise: infected zombies. Zombies?! Man, they're really gonna fuck up your getaway. Use whatever you can to kill the undead horde as you and some hot chicks fight for your lives.

Remember, violent video games are just that: games. They do not inspire the kind of heinous acts in the real world that would land the player on death row. If anything, they keep aficionados from murdering their bitchy wives and asshole bosses. ☹️