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Category: Category A (Game Review)

Game Title: Silent Hill: Downpour

Number of Words: 610 words

Game genre: Survival Horror, Action Adventure

Publisher: Developed by Vatra Games, published by Konami Digital Entertainment

Release date: 13 March 2012

Platform: PlayStation 3, Xbox 360

Rating: 4/5

Revenge is like skipping class. It may seem like a good idea initially, but you don't realize that the cons heavily outweigh the pros until it's too late. The game Silent Hill: Downpour, the eighth and final instalment in the Silent Hill series, takes this idea and makes it the entire theme of the game.

The game starts with the imprisoned protagonist, Murphy Pendleton, viciously taking revenge on the man who sexually abused and drowned his son. Later he finds himself being transferred in a prison bus under the supervision of an officer named Anne Cunningham – a character who feels very hostile toward Murphy. After the prison bus crashes near the town of Silent Hill, Murphy makes a run for it and is drawn to this strange and eerie town. Murphy meets some interesting characters in town, including Howard, the mysterious postman and DJ Bobby Ricks.

DJ Bobby explains his idea to escape Silent Hill to Murphy, but the plan is ruined when Anne

confronts them, and they are all attacked by monsters. After the attack, Murphy finds himself at a monastery where he encounters the Bogeyman, a hulking monster who murders a child in front of him. After spotting the keys to Bobby's boat around the Bogeyman's neck, Murphy kills him only to discover it was he who was playing the Bogeyman all along. When Murphy finds Bobby's boat, he is confronted again by Anne. She explains that she hates Murphy because he had a confrontation with her father.

The characters in this game are fascinating and multi-faceted. They face inner struggles and need to make difficult choices. Murphy gets his revenge, but in the end, he regrets what he did. He has an inner struggle about whether murdering the man who abused his child was justified or not. The fact that he killed the man in revenge makes him a killer and, in turn, similar to the man who killed his child. Officer Anne is also going down the same path as she wants revenge for her father. This continues the unnecessary revenge cycle, leading to death and violence. The main characters are genuinely interesting, and the parallel between Murphy and Anne really makes you think.

My favourite character is the Bogeyman. His appearance is cool and menacing at the same time. He wears a black robe with black gloves, has a gas mask strapped to his head and wields a giant sledgehammer. While his appearance isn't as scary as some former monsters like Pyramid Head, he is just as menacing as them. The plot twist about who he actually is as a character is also really interesting.

The game has six possible endings. In one of the six endings called "Truth and Justice", Anne forgives Murphy as he wasn't the one who crippled her father. She then confronts the person responsible, another officer, and it is insinuated that she kills him. While I enjoyed all the endings, my favourite ending was the joke ending, "Surprise!" This ending pays homage to previous Silent Hill games and characters, with Murphy enjoying cake at a festive party with past and present

characters. It makes it all the more bittersweet when you realize that Silent Hill: Downpour is the last ever game of the series.

Overall, I enjoyed the game and the lessons I learned from it. While many reviewers hated the game and said it was terrible, I felt it was a good game and a perfect way to end the series.