

# what is the best ps5 games

The PlayStation 5 is a powerhouse of next-generation gaming, and with its launch, a flood of incredible titles has emerged, constantly redefining what players expect from their consoles. Navigating the vast landscape of available games can be a daunting task, but understanding which titles truly stand out is key to unlocking the full potential of your PS5. This article delves deep into the question of what is the best ps5 games, exploring a curated selection of the most critically acclaimed, fan-favorite, and technically impressive experiences. We will cover a spectrum of genres, from breathtaking open-world adventures and intense action titles to immersive role-playing games and innovative indie gems, all designed to showcase the PS5's advanced capabilities like its lightning-fast SSD, haptic feedback, and 3D audio. Prepare to discover the definitive gaming experiences that make the PlayStation 5 a must-have console.

## Table of Contents

- Defining "Best" in PS5 Gaming
- Must-Play AAA Titles on PS5
- The Horizon Forbidden West Experience
- God of War Ragnarök: A Sagas' Climax
- Marvel's Spider-Man 2: Web-Slinging Mastery
- Elden Ring: A Challenging Open World
- Cyberpunk 2077: A Revitalized Vision
- Critically Acclaimed RPGs for the PS5
- Baldur's Gate 3: Deep Role-Playing Mechanics
- Final Fantasy XVI: A Dramatic Shift
- Indie Darlings and Hidden Gems
- Stray: A Unique Feline Adventure
- Returnal: A Roguelike Masterpiece
- Showcasing PS5's Technological Prowess
- Astro's Playroom: A Built-in Delight
- Demon's Souls: A Visual Showcase
- The Evolving Landscape of PS5 Games

## Defining "Best" in PS5 Gaming

Determining "the best" PS5 games is a subjective endeavor, as individual preferences for genre, narrative, and gameplay mechanics vary wildly. However, several objective criteria contribute to a game's standing. Technical performance, including frame rates, resolution, and loading times, plays a significant role, especially on a console designed for speed. Innovative use of the DualSense controller's haptic feedback and adaptive triggers can also elevate an experience from good to exceptional. Furthermore, compelling storytelling, engaging character development, and polished gameplay loops are universally appreciated qualities that contribute to a game's lasting impact. This article aims to identify titles that excel across these metrics, offering a comprehensive overview of the top-tier gaming experiences available for the PlayStation 5.

The sheer processing power of the PS5 allows developers to create more visually stunning and complex worlds than ever before. Ray tracing, 4K resolution, and high refresh rates are becoming standard, pushing the boundaries of graphical fidelity. Beyond the visual spectacle, the console's solid-state drive (SSD) revolutionizes how games are designed, virtually eliminating loading screens and enabling seamless transitions between environments. This technological leap not only enhances immersion but also opens up new possibilities for gameplay mechanics and world design, influencing what is considered a truly next-gen experience.

## **Must-Play AAA Titles on PS5**

The AAA gaming space on PlayStation 5 is where many of the console's most ambitious and graphically impressive titles reside. These games often feature massive budgets, extensive development teams, and a strong focus on delivering high-fidelity experiences that leverage the full capabilities of the hardware. From sprawling open worlds to tightly crafted narrative adventures, these blockbusters are frequently the benchmark for what the PS5 can achieve. Exploring these titles is essential for anyone seeking the most polished and impactful gaming moments on the platform.

### **The Horizon Forbidden West Experience**

*Horizon Forbidden West* builds upon the foundation of its predecessor, *Horizon Zero Dawn*, offering an even more expansive and visually breathtaking world to explore. Players once again step into the shoes of Aloy, venturing into the dangerous, machine-infested lands of post-apocalyptic America. The game boasts stunning graphical detail, from lush jungles and arid deserts to underwater environments teeming with life. Its combat system is refined, allowing for strategic takedowns of colossal robotic creatures with a diverse arsenal of weapons and traps. The narrative continues to be a strong point, delving deeper into the mysteries of the Old World and the complex political landscape of the tribes.

The PS5 version of *Horizon Forbidden West* truly shines with its performance options. Players can choose between a fidelity mode, which prioritizes resolution and visual effects for a stunning 4K experience, or a performance mode that offers a smoother frame rate for more responsive gameplay. The DualSense controller's haptic feedback adds another layer of immersion, allowing players to feel the impact of every arrow fired and every machine's footsteps. The world is packed with side quests, collectibles, and activities, ensuring dozens of hours of engaging content.

### **God of War Ragnarök: A Sagas' Climax**

*God of War Ragnarök* serves as the epic conclusion to the Norse saga of Kratos and his son Atreus. This action-adventure masterpiece is lauded for its emotional storytelling, brutal and satisfying combat, and vast, explorable realms. The narrative picks up a few

years after the events of the previous game, with the looming threat of Ragnarök forcing father and son to confront new gods and ancient prophecies. The character development, particularly the evolving relationship between Kratos and Atreus, is exceptionally well-handled, offering some of the most poignant moments in modern gaming.

Visually, *God of War Ragnarök* is a tour de force on the PS5. The environments are detailed and diverse, from snow-capped mountains to vibrant mystical forests, each rendered with incredible fidelity. The combat is fluid and impactful, with Kratos's Leviathan Axe and Blades of Chaos feeling weighty and devastating in the player's hands. The game expertly utilizes the DualSense controller to convey the force of every blow and the tension of each draw of the bow. Its accessibility options are also commendable, ensuring a wide range of players can enjoy its rich narrative and challenging gameplay.

## **Marvel's Spider-Man 2: Web-Slinging Mastery**

Insomniac Games has once again delivered a phenomenal superhero experience with *Marvel's Spider-Man 2*. This sequel allows players to seamlessly switch between playing as Peter Parker and Miles Morales, each with their own unique traversal abilities and combat styles. The game expands the open world of New York City, introducing new districts to explore and a plethora of iconic villains from the Spider-Man rogues' gallery, including Venom and Kraven the Hunter. The narrative is engaging, exploring themes of responsibility, identity, and the sacrifices made by these beloved heroes.

The core gameplay loop of swinging through the city and engaging in fluid combat is more exhilarating than ever. The PS5's SSD allows for near-instantaneous fast travel across the massive map, making exploration a joy. The visual presentation is stunning, with detailed character models and environments that capture the essence of the Marvel universe. The game's embrace of the DualSense controller, particularly its adaptive triggers for web-slinging and the nuanced haptic feedback during combat, makes it one of the most immersive experiences available. The inclusion of both Spider-Men offers a dynamic and varied gameplay experience.

## **Elden Ring: A Challenging Open World**

FromSoftware's *Elden Ring* is a monumental achievement in open-world design and challenging action RPG gameplay. Collaborating with George R.R. Martin for its lore, the game presents a vast, interconnected world known as The Lands Between, filled with secrets, formidable enemies, and intricate lore. Players create their own Tarnished warrior and embark on a quest to become the Elden Lord, facing off against demigods and monstrous beasts in a world that feels both hauntingly beautiful and oppressively dangerous. The freedom of exploration and the sheer number of optional bosses and hidden areas contribute to its immense replayability.

While not a traditional PS5 exclusive, *Elden Ring* runs exceptionally well on the console, offering improved load times and the ability to play at higher resolutions and frame rates.

compared to previous platforms. The combat is deep and rewarding, emphasizing player skill, strategic build customization, and the mastering of attack patterns. The sense of discovery is unparalleled, with players constantly stumbling upon new locations, items, and lore that piece together the fragmented history of The Lands Between. Its difficulty is a hallmark, but the sense of accomplishment after overcoming a particularly tough challenge is immense.

## **Cyberpunk 2077: A Revitalized Vision**

Following a rocky launch, CD Projekt Red has significantly redeemed *Cyberpunk 2077*, especially with its dedicated PS5 version and subsequent major updates. The game immerses players in the neon-drenched, dystopian metropolis of Night City, a sprawling urban environment filled with towering skyscrapers, gritty alleyways, and a multitude of characters and factions. Players take on the role of V, a mercenary outlaw, navigating a complex web of corporate intrigue, street gangs, and personal ambition. The narrative is mature and thought-provoking, with branching storylines and meaningful player choices that impact the world.

The PS5 version of *Cyberpunk 2077* offers a substantial visual and performance upgrade, featuring ray tracing for realistic lighting and reflections, higher resolution textures, and improved frame rates. The city feels more alive and detailed, and the improved performance makes engaging in firefights and exploring the dense urban landscape a much smoother experience. The gameplay has also been significantly refined, with enhancements to AI, combat mechanics, and character progression systems, making it a compelling open-world RPG that finally lives up to its immense potential. The recent Phantom Liberty expansion adds even more depth and content.

## **Critically Acclaimed RPGs for the PS5**

Role-playing games have always been a cornerstone of console gaming, and the PS5 has become a haven for both massive, story-driven epics and deeply intricate systems-driven adventures. These games often demand significant time investment but reward players with rich narratives, complex character progression, and expansive worlds to explore. The power of the PS5 allows these RPGs to achieve new heights in visual fidelity and world-building, making them truly immersive experiences.

## **Baldur's Gate 3: Deep Role-Playing Mechanics**

Larian Studios' *Baldur's Gate 3* has taken the gaming world by storm, offering an unparalleled depth of role-playing and freedom of choice. Based on the Dungeons & Dragons 5th Edition ruleset, the game presents a sprawling narrative set in the Forgotten Realms, where players are infected with mind flayer tadpoles and must find a cure before transforming. The sheer amount of player agency is staggering, allowing for diverse

character builds, branching questlines, and emergent gameplay scenarios that can lead to wildly different outcomes. Combat is turn-based and highly tactical, rewarding strategic thinking and creative use of abilities.

The PS5 version of *Baldur's Gate 3* delivers a faithful adaptation of the PC experience, with impressive visuals and a smooth frame rate, especially considering the complexity of the game. The character models are detailed, and the environments are rich with atmospheric detail. The game masterfully balances complex RPG systems with accessible controls, making it a rewarding experience for both seasoned players and newcomers to the genre. The companion characters are well-written and have their own compelling storylines, adding significant emotional weight to the journey.

## **Final Fantasy XVI: A Dramatic Shift**

*Final Fantasy XVI* represents a bold new direction for the iconic series, leaning heavily into action-oriented combat and a mature, dark fantasy narrative. Set in the land of Valisthea, a realm divided by warring nations and fueled by the power of Mothercrystals, players control Clive Rosfield, a young man seeking vengeance for a tragic event. The game features a hybrid combat system that blends real-time action with strategic ability usage, making encounters feel both visceral and engaging. The Eikon battles, colossal summon clashes, are particularly spectacular, showcasing the PS5's graphical power with their immense scale and visual spectacle.

Visually, *Final Fantasy XVI* is one of the most stunning games on the PS5, with breathtaking character designs, detailed environments, and incredibly fluid animations. The narrative is cinematic and mature, exploring themes of war, prejudice, and the burden of power. The implementation of the DualSense controller enhances the impact of combat, providing satisfying feedback for every sword swing and every magical blast. The game's focus on a single protagonist and a more focused narrative allows for a highly polished and emotionally resonant experience, making it a standout title for fans of action RPGs and the Final Fantasy franchise.

## **Indie Darlings and Hidden Gems**

Beyond the blockbuster AAA titles, the PlayStation 5 is home to a vibrant ecosystem of independent games that often push creative boundaries and offer unique, memorable experiences. These indie darlings frequently innovate with gameplay mechanics, artistic styles, and narrative approaches, proving that compelling experiences don't always require the largest budgets. Discovering these gems can lead to some of the most rewarding and unexpected gaming moments.

## **Stray: A Unique Feline Adventure**

*Stray* captured the hearts of many players with its simple yet profound premise: you play as a stray cat navigating a decaying cyberpunk city populated by robots. This third-person adventure game focuses on exploration, puzzle-solving, and atmospheric storytelling. As the unnamed feline protagonist, players must use their agility, cunning, and unique cat-like abilities to traverse the environment, interact with the robot inhabitants, and uncover the mysteries of this forgotten world. The game's perspective is incredibly immersive, allowing players to see the world through the eyes of a cat.

The visual design of *Stray* is a standout feature, with its detailed, atmospheric environments and charming robot character designs. While not a graphically demanding title in the same vein as AAA games, its art direction is superb and creates a palpable sense of place. The use of the DualSense controller, though perhaps more subtle than in other titles, adds a layer of tactility, such as the rumble when purring or the feel of jumping. *Stray* offers a refreshing and emotionally resonant experience that proves great games come in all shapes and sizes.

## **Returnal: A Roguelike Masterpiece**

*Returnal* is a third-person shooter roguelike that plunges players into a hostile alien planet as Selene, an astronaut trapped in a deadly time loop. Each death resets the cycle, but with persistent upgrades and a deepening understanding of the planet's mysteries, players gradually progress. The game excels in its fast-paced, bullet-hell-inspired combat, requiring quick reflexes and strategic use of a diverse arsenal of alien weaponry. The narrative unfolds through cryptic audio logs and environmental storytelling, creating an atmosphere of isolation and dread.

*Returnal* is a technical marvel on the PS5, showcasing stunning visuals with intricate alien flora and fauna, dynamic lighting, and particle effects. The PS5's SSD is crucial here, enabling seamless transitions between combat arenas and ensuring that death does not result in lengthy loading screens. The DualSense controller is arguably at its best in *Returnal*, with adaptive triggers allowing for alternate firing modes and precise haptic feedback that conveys the impact of enemy attacks and the feel of different weapons. It's a challenging but immensely rewarding experience for those who enjoy high-stakes action and intriguing narratives.

## **Showcasing PS5's Technological Prowess**

The PlayStation 5 was designed from the ground up to be a technological leap forward, and certain titles were developed specifically to highlight these advancements. These games often serve as benchmarks for what the console is capable of, demonstrating the impact of features like the ultra-high-speed SSD, 3D audio, and the innovative DualSense controller. Experiencing these titles is essential for understanding the core of the PS5's next-generation capabilities.

## Astro's Playroom: A Built-in Delight

Pre-installed on every PlayStation 5 console, *Astro's Playroom* is more than just a tech demo; it's a joyous celebration of PlayStation history and an exceptional showcase for the DualSense controller. Players guide Astro, a small robot, through a series of imaginative levels inspired by past PlayStation consoles and iconic games. Each world cleverly incorporates different functionalities of the DualSense, from the feel of jumping on trampolines to the resistance of climbing icy surfaces, making it an incredibly tactile and engaging experience.

The game is visually vibrant and charming, with a lighthearted tone that makes it accessible to all ages. Beyond its DualSense demonstrations, *Astro's Playroom* offers genuinely fun platforming challenges and a nostalgic trip for long-time PlayStation fans. Its quick loading times and smooth performance are testaments to the PS5's underlying architecture. It's the perfect introductory title that immediately immerses players in the unique capabilities of their new console.

## Demon's Souls: A Visual Showcase

Bluepoint Games' remake of *Demon's Souls* is a graphical tour de force and one of the most visually stunning games available on the PS5. This action RPG is a remake of the game that started the Souls-like genre, presenting a brutal and challenging experience in the dark fantasy kingdom of Boletaria. The remake boasts incredible attention to detail, with incredibly realistic textures, lifelike character models, and stunning environmental effects that leverage the PS5's rendering capabilities to their fullest. The lighting and atmospheric effects are particularly noteworthy, creating a truly oppressive and immersive world.

The game offers multiple graphical modes, allowing players to prioritize either high frame rates for smoother combat or higher visual fidelity. The ultra-high-speed SSD ensures that even the notoriously long loading screens of the original are drastically reduced, making the punishment of death far less of a deterrent. The DualSense controller contributes to the immersion through subtle haptic feedback that enhances the weight of combat and the impact of spells. *Demon's Souls* remains a benchmark for visual fidelity and a testament to what dedicated developers can achieve when pushing the boundaries of new hardware.

## The Evolving Landscape of PS5 Games

The PlayStation 5 library is a constantly expanding universe, with new titles releasing regularly and existing ones receiving significant updates and expansions. Developers are continually learning how to best utilize the console's unique hardware, leading to increasingly ambitious and innovative games. The future promises even more breathtaking experiences, from the continuation of beloved franchises to the emergence of entirely new genres and gameplay paradigms that will further define what it means to play games on a

next-generation console.

As new technologies and design philosophies mature, we can expect to see even greater integration of the DualSense controller's capabilities, more seamless open worlds thanks to the SSD, and richer, more detailed audio experiences through 3D audio. The PS5 is not just a console for today's games; it's a platform for the future of interactive entertainment, and the journey of discovering its best titles is an ongoing and exciting one. The diversity of genres and experiences available ensures that there is something for every player, from the casual enthusiast to the dedicated gamer.









## **Q: What makes a PS5 game truly "next-gen"?**

A: A truly "next-gen" PS5 game typically features significant advancements in graphical fidelity (e.g., 4K resolution, ray tracing, high frame rates), drastically reduced loading times enabled by the ultra-high-speed SSD, innovative use of the DualSense controller's haptic feedback and adaptive triggers, and immersive 3D audio. It also often introduces new gameplay mechanics or world designs that wouldn't be possible on previous console generations.

## **Q: Are there good exclusive games for PS5 that I can't play on other platforms?**

A: Yes, the PS5 has a strong lineup of exclusive titles that showcase its capabilities. These include games like *Marvel's Spider-Man 2*, *Demon's Souls* (remake), *Returnal*, *God of War Ragnarök* (console exclusive for PlayStation), and *Horizon Forbidden West* (console exclusive for PlayStation).

## **Q: Is it worth buying games that were also released on PS4 for the PS5 version?**

A: In many cases, yes. PS5 versions of cross-generation games often offer significant improvements, such as enhanced graphics, faster loading times, higher frame rates, and better utilization of the DualSense controller. These upgrades can significantly enhance the overall gaming experience.

## **Q: How does the DualSense controller impact gameplay in the best PS5 games?**

A: The DualSense controller's haptic feedback and adaptive triggers can profoundly impact gameplay by providing nuanced sensations that enhance immersion. This can range from feeling the tension of a bowstring being drawn to the distinct textures of different in-game surfaces, or the impact of combat. Games like *Astro's Playroom* and *Returnal* are excellent examples of this.

## **Q: What kind of games best showcase the PS5's SSD speed?**

A: Games with massive open worlds or that require frequent travel between large areas are the best showcases for the PS5's SSD speed. Titles like *Marvel's Spider-Man 2*, *Cyberpunk 2077*, and *Elden Ring* benefit immensely, with near-instantaneous fast travel and seamless transitions that minimize or eliminate traditional loading screens.

## **Q: Are there any highly-rated RPGs on PS5 that are not action-heavy?**

A: Absolutely. *Baldur's Gate 3* is a prime example of a critically acclaimed RPG on PS5 that focuses on deep turn-based tactical combat and extensive player choice, rather than real-time action. It offers a rich narrative and complex character progression.

## **Q: How important is 3D audio for the best PS5 gaming experiences?**

A: 3D audio is a significant factor in enhancing immersion. It allows for a more realistic and directional soundscape, making it easier to pinpoint the location of enemies, environmental cues, and other crucial audio information, which can be particularly beneficial in action and horror games.

## **Q: What are some upcoming PS5 games that are highly anticipated?**

A: While specific release dates can shift, highly anticipated upcoming PS5 games often include new installments in major franchises, original IPs from established studios, and games pushing technological boundaries. Players often look forward to titles like potential sequels to popular exclusives, new entries in RPG series, and ambitious open-world adventures.

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**what is the best ps5 games: The New Play Station 5 Gaming Guide** Dr Patrick Jeff, 2021-01-06 PlayStation 5 (PS5) is a home video game console developed by Sony Interactive Entertainment. Announced in 2019 as the successor to the PlayStation 4, the PS5 was released on November 12, 2020 in Australia, Japan, New Zealand, North America, Singapore, and South Korea, and November 19, 2020 onwards in other major markets except China and India. The platform was launched in two variants: a base model with an Ultra HD Blu-ray-compatible optical disc drive, and a Digital Edition lacking this drive, serving as a lower-cost model for those who prefer to buy games through digital download. The PlayStation 5's main features include a solid-state drive customized for high-speed data streaming to enable significant improvements in storage performance, an AMD GPU capable of 4K resolution display at up to 120 frames per second, hardware-accelerated ray tracing for realistic lighting and reflections, the Tempest Engine allowing for 3D audio effects, and backward compatibility with most PlayStation 4 and PlayStation VR games.

**what is the best ps5 games: VGC: The 2025 Guide to Video Games** 1981 Media Ltd, 2025-05-30 Relive 2024's gaming highs, lows, and industry upheavals with this expertly curated year-in-review. There's no such thing as a quiet year in video games, and 2024 has been no different. For players, a steady stream of high-profile game releases has meant there's always been something new to play regardless of what console, handheld, PC or mobile device they were using. Meanwhile, behind the scenes 2024 has been one of the most turbulent years in the history of the games industry, with widespread job losses, studio cuts, acquisitions and other controversies. Video Games Chronicle, the expert source for video game news, has covered 2024's goings-on every step of the way, and this book summarises the entire year in one handy volume. Designed like an old-school games magazine, this book presents the VGC website's best coverage of 2024 in a more traditional format. Our News section takes you through all the major stories that took place throughout the year, allowing you to relive every moment (for better or worse). Our Reviews section contains every notable VGC game review from 2024, 'remastered' and presented to you in physical form (we're big on preservation, you see). Our Features section offers some of our best long-form articles from the past year. Finally, our Previews section takes a look at some of the games coming in 2025. The world of online games media is a fast-moving one, and news and reviews usually arrive at breakneck speed then disappear from our consciousness to be replaced with the latest stories. With this book, we hope to provide a more permanent summary of the year, while also harking back to the days of the games magazines we loved so much.

**what is the best ps5 games: PlayStation 5 Gaming Guide** Chris Stead, 2020-10-25 The PlayStation 5 has arrived! This next-generation console has hardware power, futuristic accessories and blockbuster games that will blow your mind. And you'll learn all about it in this PS5 guide by award-winning games journalist Chris Stead. Hands-on analysis of Sony's console and its features Full overview of hardware, peripherals, accessories and PlayStation Plus 24 launch games reviewed and many more examined PS5 vs Xbox Series X compared Chris Stead is a multiple award-winning, 25-year veteran games journalist PlayStation 5 Gaming Guide: Overview of the best PS5 video games, hardware and accessories. Are you unsure which PS5 games are right for you? Do you need help deciding which PS5 accessories you need and why? Are you trying to decide whether to buy a PlayStation or Xbox? Do you need help understanding what the new technology in the PS5 does? Are you a parent sick of buying the wrong games for your kids? Do you want to find the best multiplayer games on PS5? Chris Stead's PS5 Gaming Guide is as comprehensive an overview of the new video games console as you will find. This is the most powerful Sony gaming systems yet, offering the power required to play games at 8K resolution, at up 120fps, and with the latest technology such as ray-tracing, HDR, virtual reality and 3D Audio. Some of the biggest game series of all time are coming to PlayStation 5. Marvel's Spider-Man, God of War, Ratchet & Clank, Call of Duty, Assassin's Creed, Grand Theft Auto, Watch Dogs, Fortnite, FIFA, NBA 2K, Horizon, Dirt and Gran Turismo just to name a few. As well as detailing the experience offered by over 24 Sony video games, focusing on PS5 exclusives, Chris Stead dives into each of the core accessories, the PlayStation Plus online service, and the pros and cons of the PlayStation gaming system itself. Stead started his career

working on the Official PlayStation magazine in the mid-90s, and has since run such notable brands as GamePro, Game Informer, Fortnite magazine and Gameplayer, as well as working for sites like IGN, Gamespot, Kotaku, Rooster Teeth and MCV. Grab your copy of the PlayStation 5 Gaming Guide and learn: The best PS5 games for kids, teens and adults. Which PlayStation 5 games you can play online or co-op with friends. Where to buy a PS5 and PS5 video games at the cheapest price. How to decide on which PlayStation accessories and peripherals you need. Full list of included games Assassin's Creed: Valhalla Astro's Playroom Bugsnax COD Black Ops: Cold War Cyberpunk 2077 Demon's Souls Remake Destruction AllStars Dirt 5 FIFA 21 Fortnite Godfall Immortals Fenyx Rising Madden NFL 21 Maneater Marvel's Spider-Man: Miles Morales Mortal Kombat 11 Ultimate MXGP 2020 NBA 2K21 Observer: System Redux Pathless, The Planet Coaster: Console Edition Sackboy: A Big Adventure Watch Dogs: Legion Worms Rumble DON'T WAIT!! Hit the ground running with the best of Amazon's PlayStation 5 gaming books. This is the ultimate PS5 guide.

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reading a book. Playing video games is thus often seen at best as a waste of time, and at worst a source of violent tragedy. Why It's OK to Be a Gamer takes on the pervasive assumption that playing video games is a childish and time-wasting hobby, and a potentially addictive and dangerous one at that. It argues instead that there are many ways in which gaming can help us flourish, for example by: developing genuine friendships and other meaningful relationships with others, helping us cultivate a virtuous personal character, giving us a unique aesthetic experience, providing us with psychological benefits, and just plain helping us relax and enjoy ourselves. Video games are not just for those with no life; on the contrary, they can help contribute to a rich and meaningful life. Key Features Introduces the philosophy of video games in a humorous and lively way with lots of engaging examples Defends gaming through a virtue theoretic approach Discusses contemporary psychology and neuroscience literature on gaming Includes discussion of gamers, video games, and common experiences of gaming

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