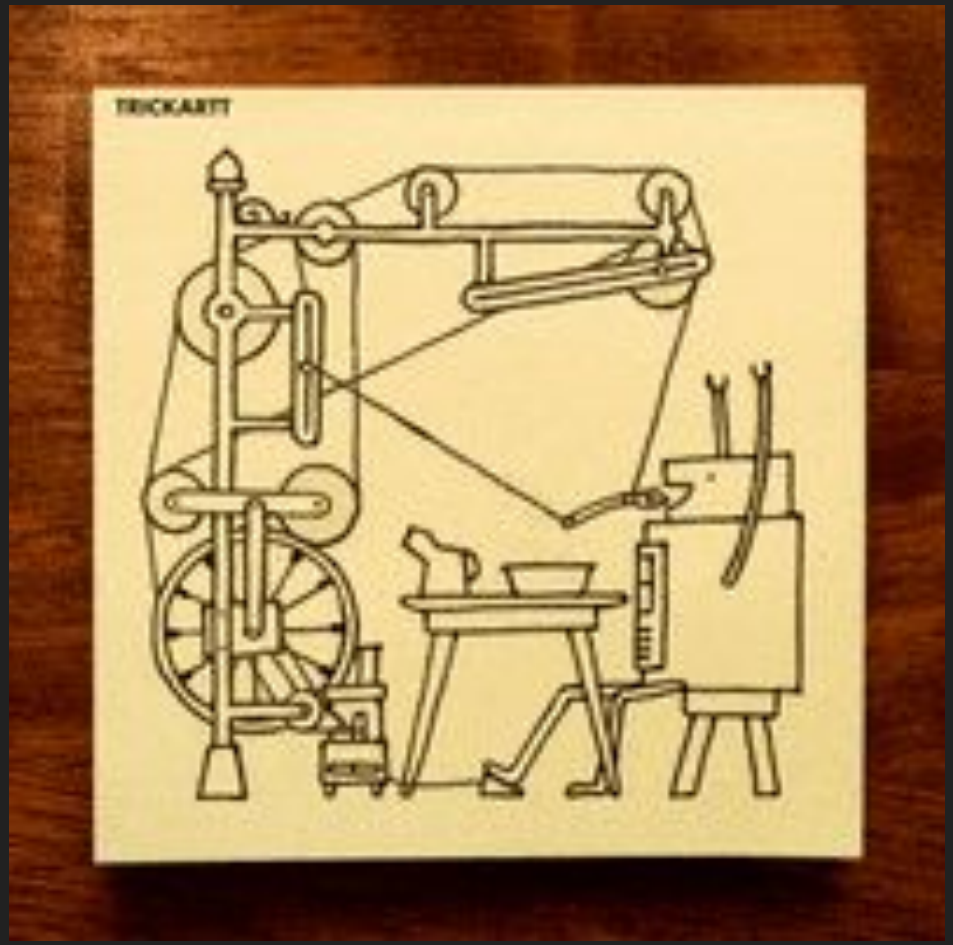
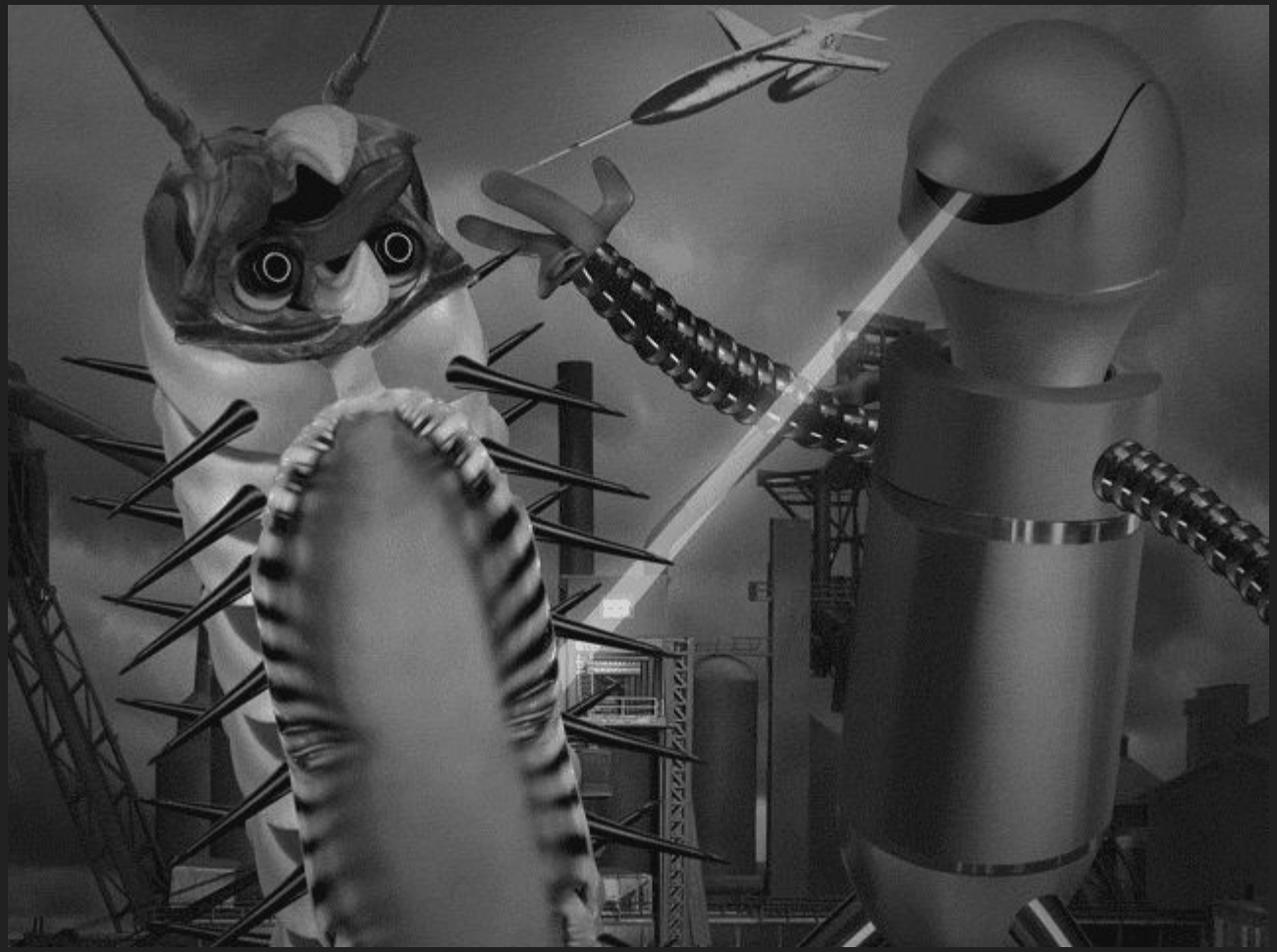
Game Design for Inclusion Beyond Representation

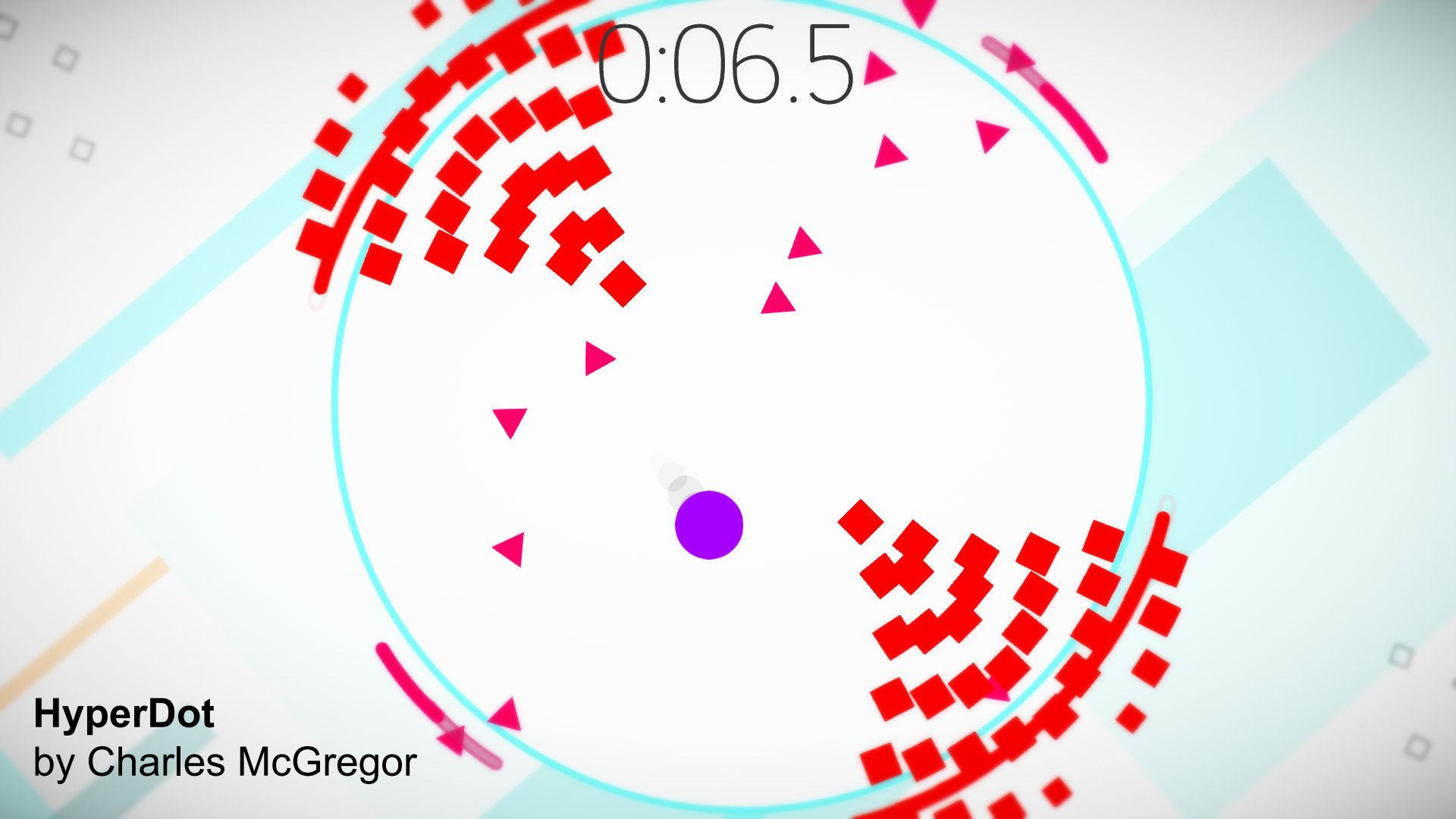
GDC 2023

Boyfriend Dungeon
by Kitfox Games



wip



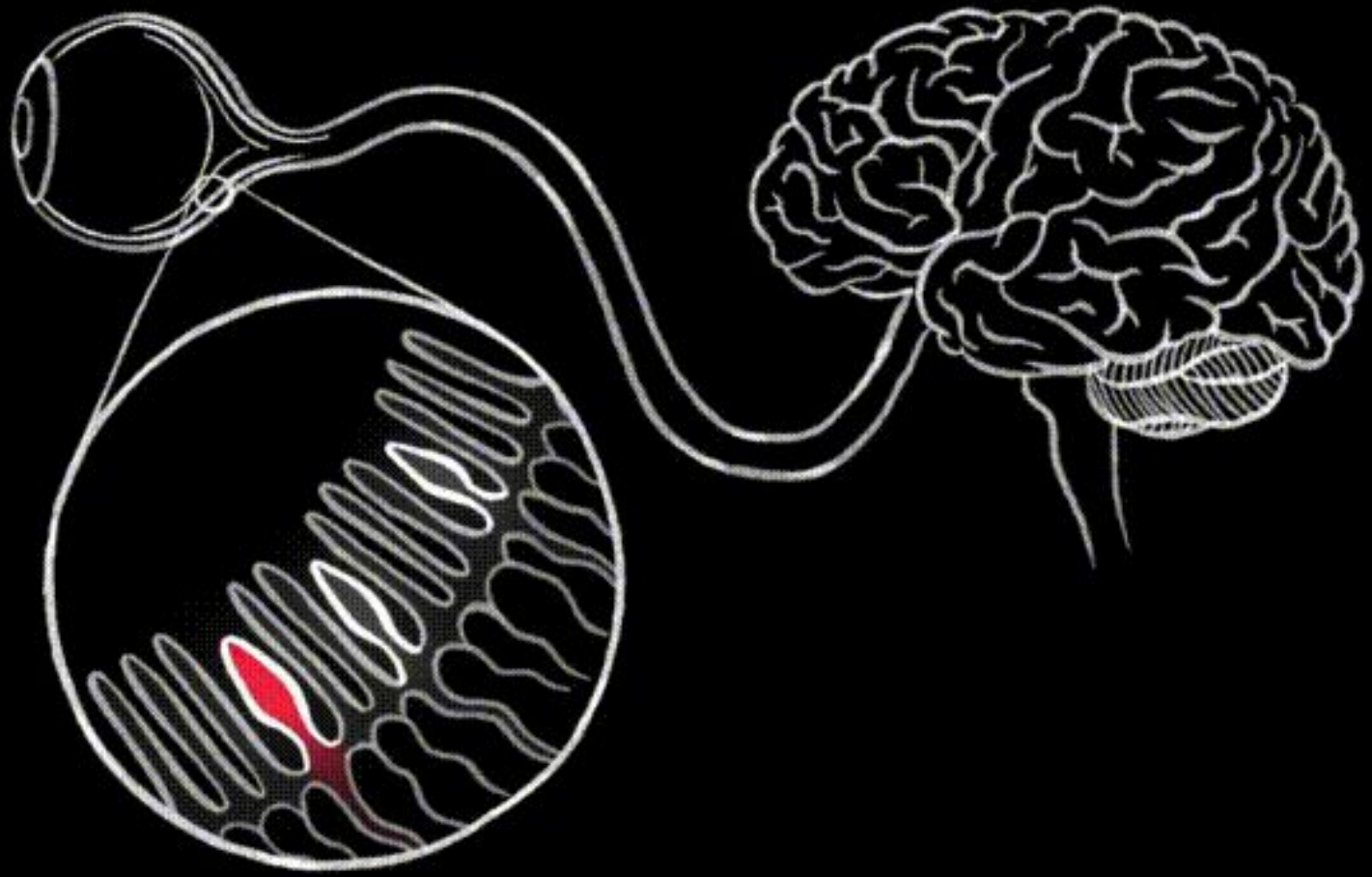

0:06.5
HyperDot
by Charles McGregor

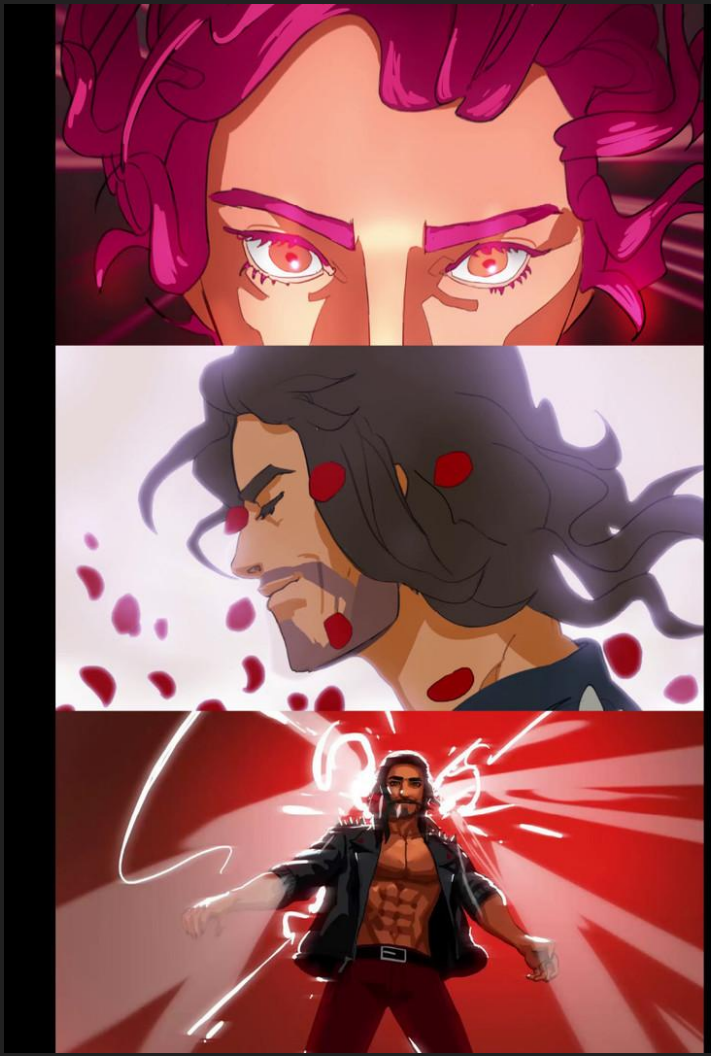
Lv
17
32
F
G
30
30
30
30
30
CRITICAL
37
30

Hello?
(Pick up the dagger.)
Then you notice a metallic gleam on a bench nearby.

Lv
1
10
F
Q
Light Attack :
Heavy Attack :
Dodge :
Zine :
Q
M
Verona Mall, Floor 2
Tab
???
Could you not just, like, grab me without warning?

Boyfriend
DUNGEON
Continue
New Game
Load Game
Options
Credits
Options
Master Volume:
Music:
Ambience:
Voice:
SFX:
Goddess Shield:
OFF
Vibration:
ON
Screen Shake:
ON
Beverage:
Apply
A
Reset to Default
Cancel





Stills from Sunder's transformation

Boyfriend
DUNGEON
SWORD
SMOOCHER

Jon Remedios

Jill Murray

Réjon Taylor-Foster

Emily Short

Being Gentle

a silly boy’s attempt at making video games a little more inviting

jon remedios | jon@actualhumans.com | @jonremedios

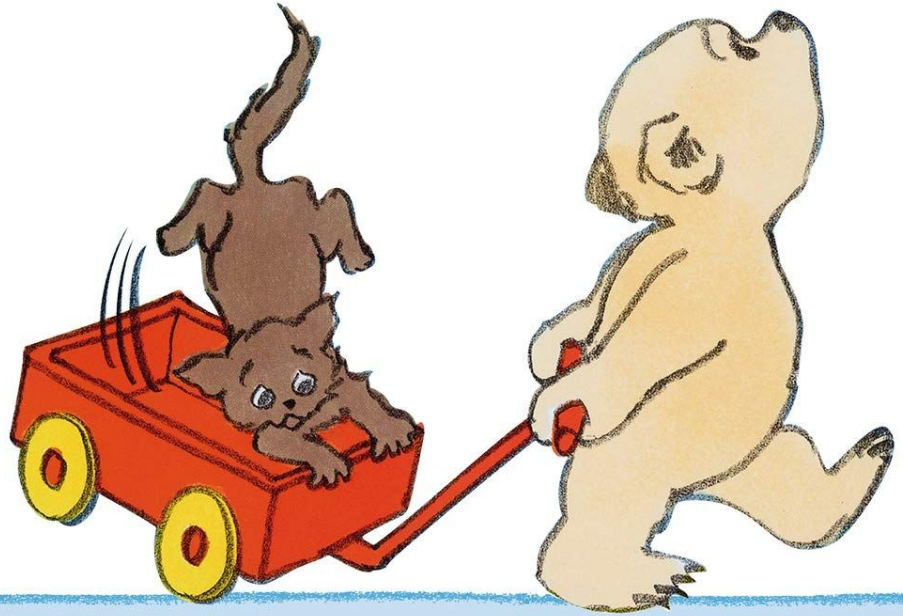
actual humans

1UP
180920
HIGH SCORE
180920
2UP
00
13

NOPE!

BE GENTLE!

A STORY ABOUT PLAYING NICELY



Virginia Miller

PHILCO

Five all-star friends. One mysterious adventure.
The only way out is together.
CELEBRITY
ESCAPE ROOM
ADAM SCOTT
COURTENEY COX
JACK BLACK
LISA KUDROW
BEN STILLER
THUR 5/21
NBC
A RED NOSE DAY EVENT

Less Gentle

More Gentle

nes Rm 201
=y
=?

select a name

◀ **sophistitron** ▶

select a name

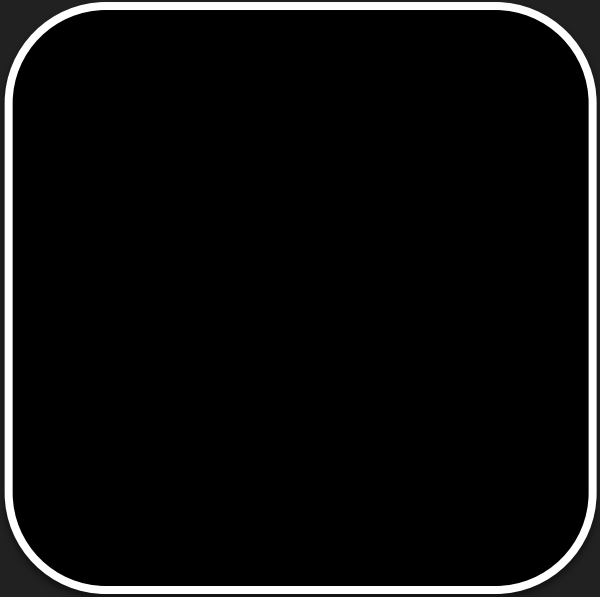
◀ **kimmy the knife** ▶

select a name

◀ **dicky** ▶

select a name

◀ **cousin jess** ▶



BOOMBOX
ASSISTANT
CART

CART

BOOMBOX

CHASTISED

ASSISTANT

CART

BOOMBOX

CART

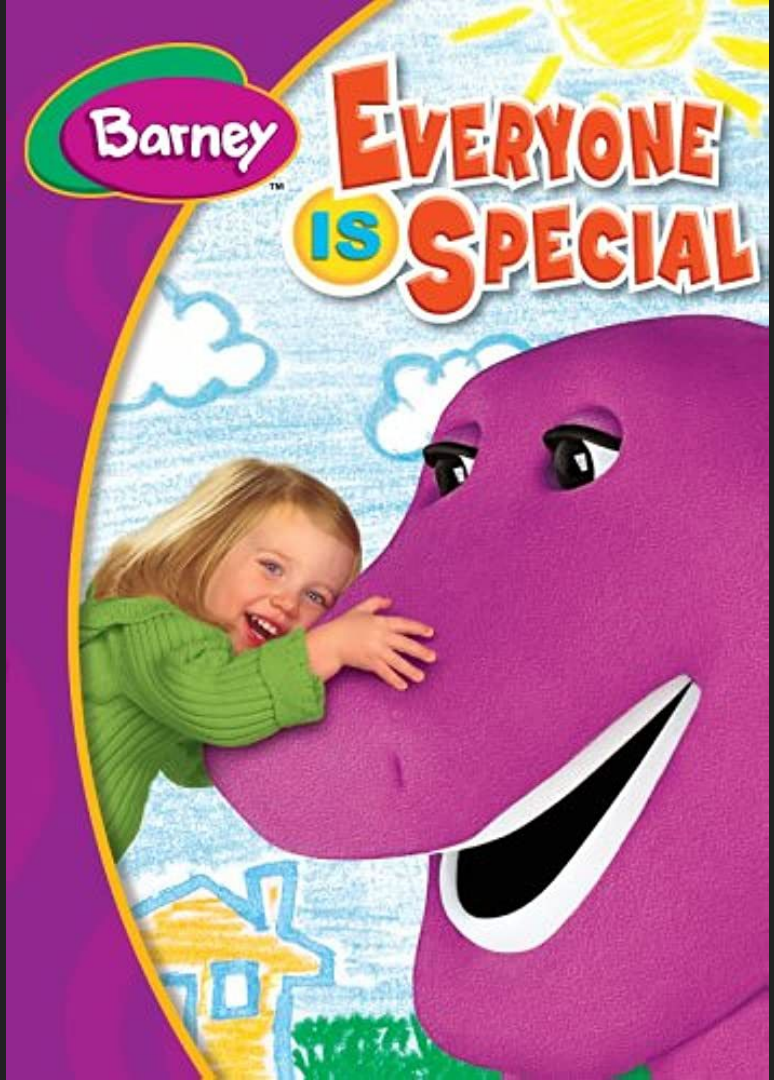
ASSISTANT

CART

BOOMBOX

ASSISTANT

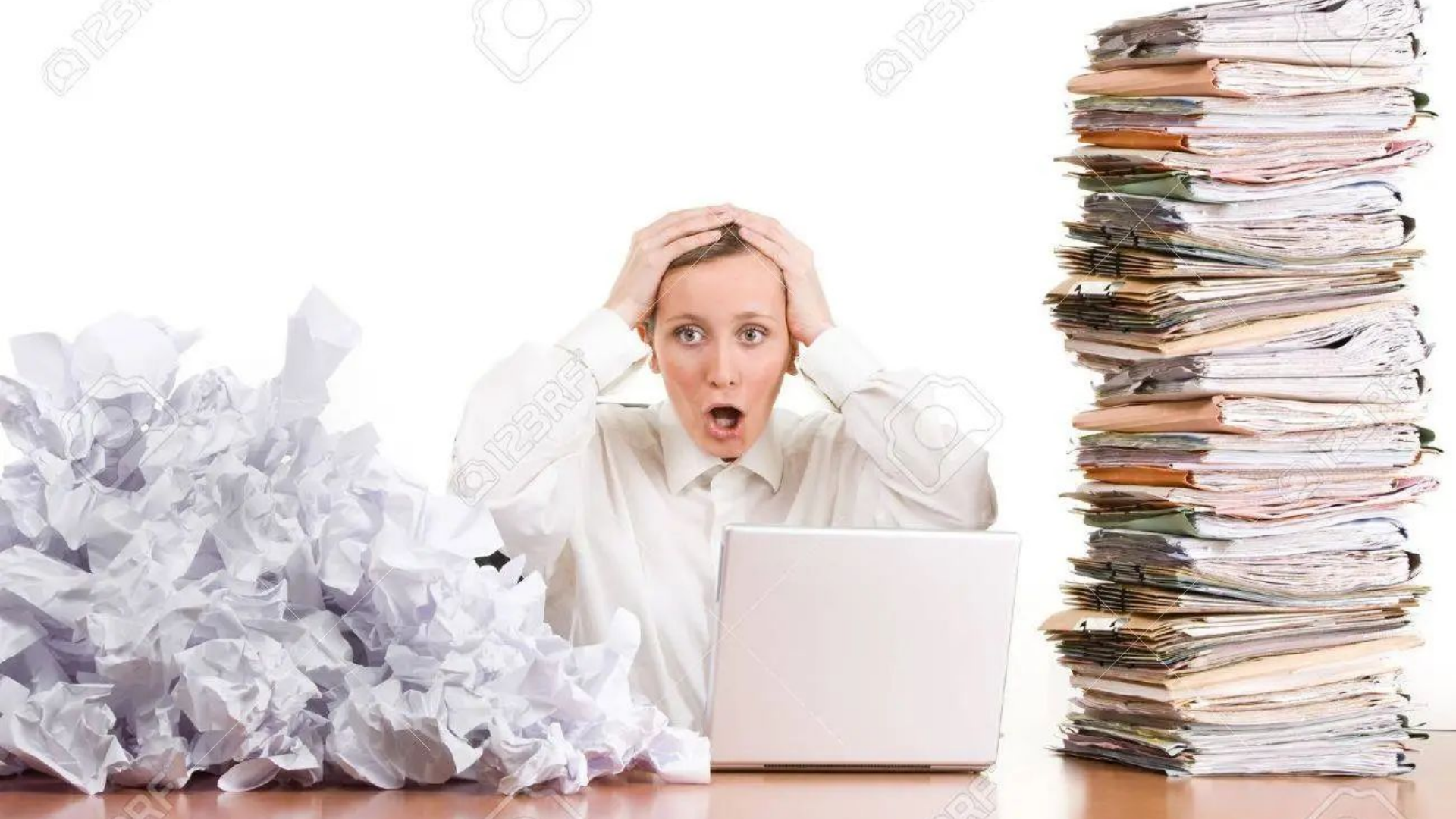
CART


Barney™
EVERYONE IS SPECIAL

Where are there barriers?

Do players have what they need?

Can help be hidden?



THANK YOU!

jon remedios | jon@actualhumans | @jonremedios

Designing for One Player

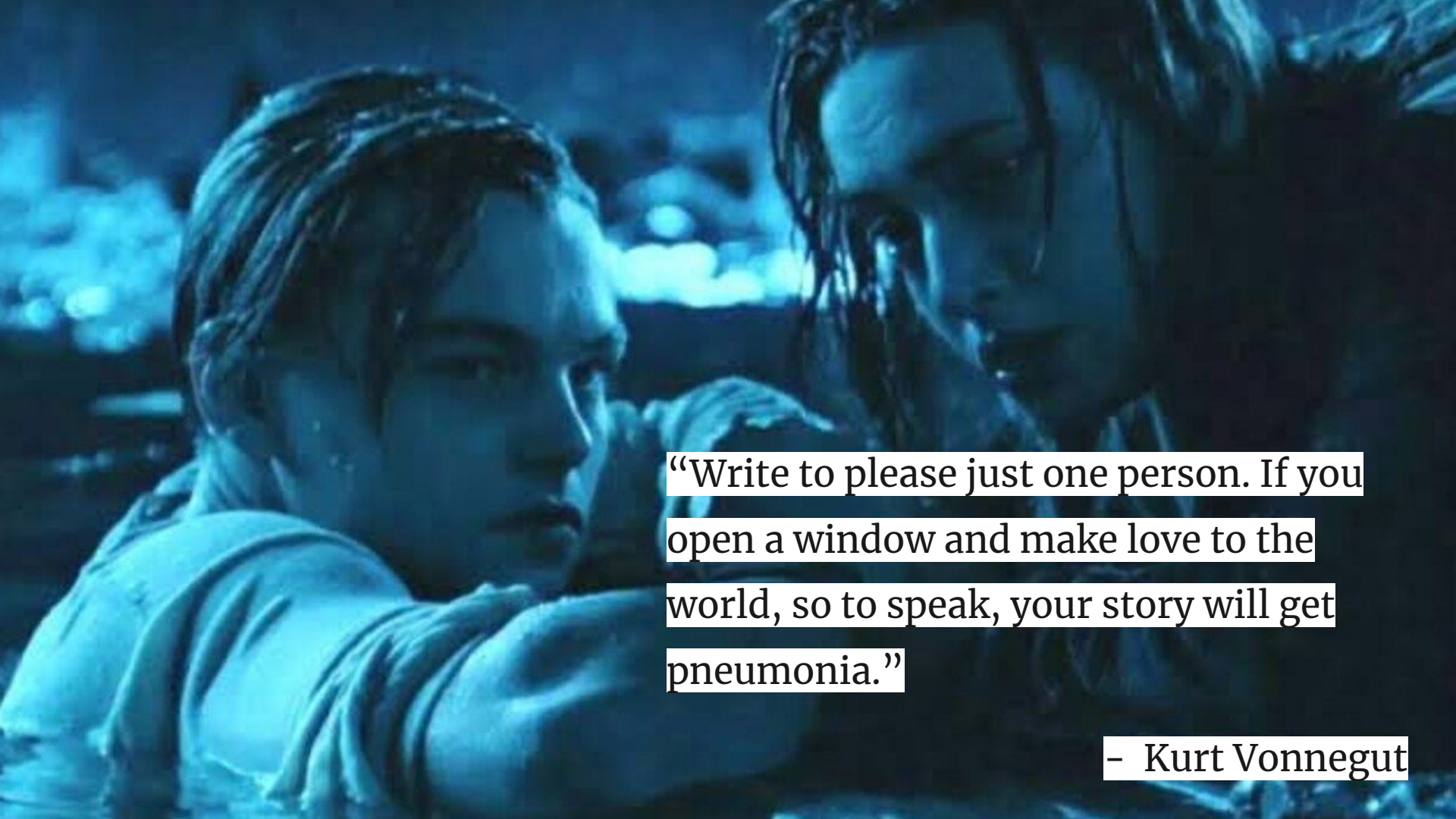
Jill Murray - @discojill

The Spirit

HEALTH
OFFICER
UEUE HERE FO
INSPECTION
PRIOR
TO BOARDING

ANYONE....
ANYONE, ANYONE?

“...every successful creative person creates with an audience of one in mind. That’s the secret of artistic unity. Anybody can achieve it, if he or she will make something with only one person in mind.”
- Kurt Vonnegut


“Write to please just one person. If you open a window and make love to the world, so to speak, your story will get pneumonia.”
- Kurt Vonnegut

Gluten Free
Dare
Breton
HERB AND GARLIC
Dare made better.
CRACKERS 135 g

© Thatgirlcookshealthy

Gluten Free
Dare
Breton
HERB AND GARLIC
Dare made better.
CRACKERS 135 g

© Thatgirlcookshealthy

Gluten Free
Dare
Breton
made better
HERB AND GARLIC
CRACKERS 135 g

© Thatgirlcookshealthy

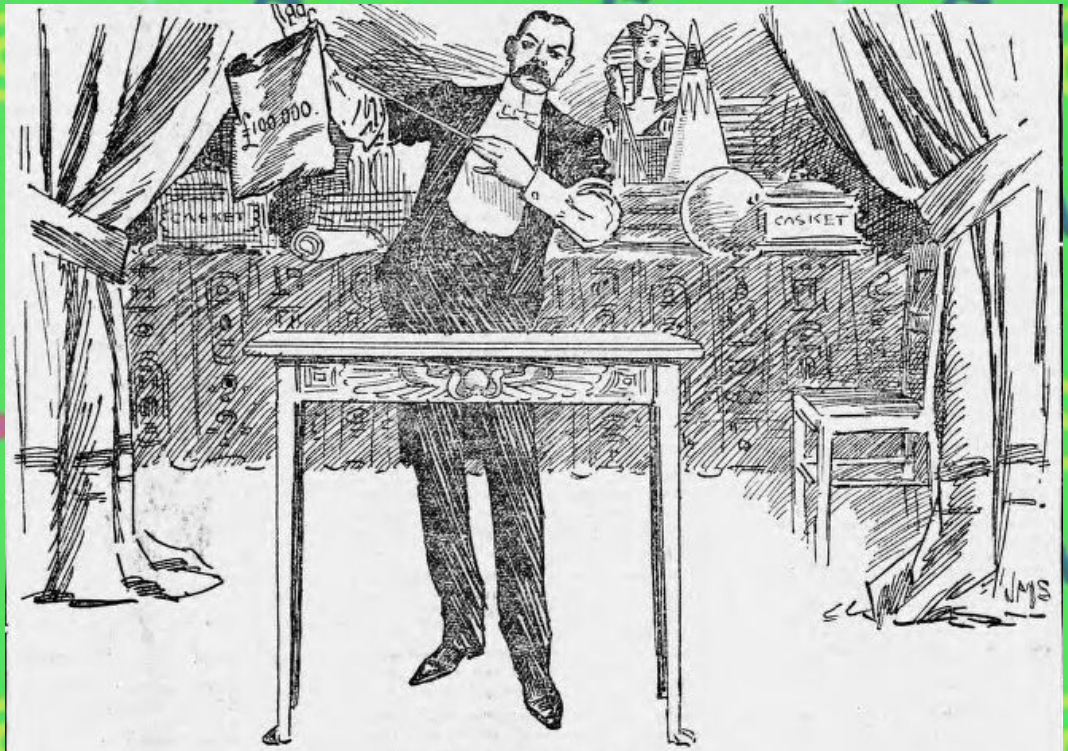
THE BIG CON

MIGHTY YELL

Dionne Davenport

- American, teenager
- Smart, creative
- Loves plaid
- Likes dressing up
- Social, but more competitive than empathetic
- Loves gossip
- Strategic thinker
- Competitive– doesn't "identify" as a gamer but plays games– probably crush you at Mario Kart if you had it at your house
- Gets bored easily and will just leave when she's bored
- Loyal to her friends / can be cliquey

BLOSSOMS
A
LINDA'S
VIDEO STO
REWIND FOR HUMANKIND!
NOTES



A CONFIDENCE TRICK.

PROFESSOR KITCHENER: "Ladies and Gentlemen, I have here an empty bag, capable of containing £100,000. As I am wanting that amount, I merely place the bag upon the table, whisper the magic words 'Gordon,' 'Khartoum,' when, hep presto! we shall find the bag is full."

Costum
Cave
A
Costumes are like... an extension of my soul.
HAIR CLIPS
SCRUNCHIES
SNA

PLAID TO BONE

$10
L1
NOTES
R1
LAWS

GDC 2023

“Inclusive Nostalgia”

How we remember things together

Rejon Taylor-Foster

Lead UI/UX & Audio

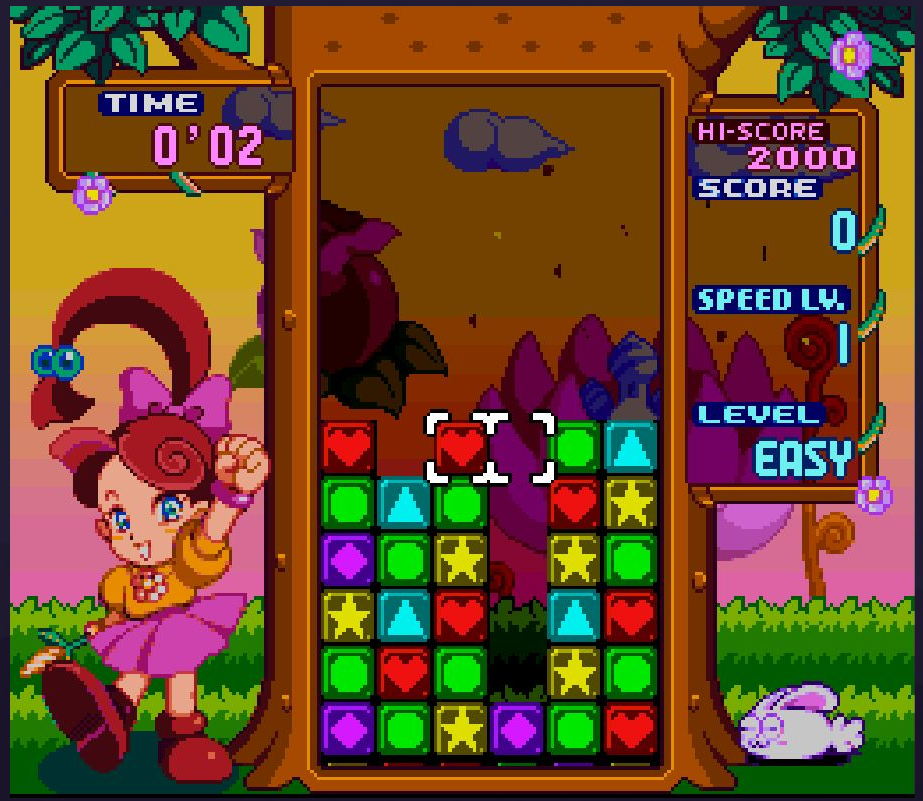
soft not weak

SPIRIT SWAP

LOFI BEATS
to MATCH-3 TO

Bejeweled 2 (2004)
PopCap Games

Candy Crush Saga (2012)
King



Panel De Pon (1995)

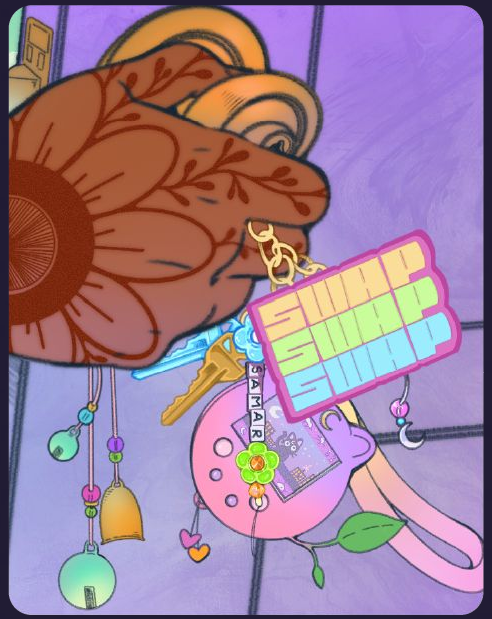
SNES

Developed by:
Intelligent Systems

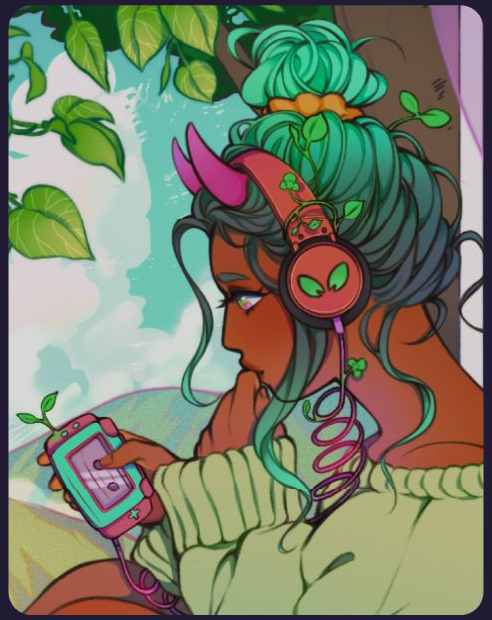
Published by:
Nintendo

“What does the future look like with everyone you love in it?”

Our [Match-3] Pillars of Comfort



The Home
we Carry



The “Lofi” in
Lofi Hip Hop

Magical Girls
& Match-3’s

Breaking Bad (circa 2008-2013)

Breaking Bad (circa 2008-2013)

The Home We Carry

Photos of Lebanon by: Rami Rizk

The Home We Carry

The Home We Carry

Douglas! (circa 2009)

The “Lofi” in Lofi Hip Hop

“What color are our memories?”

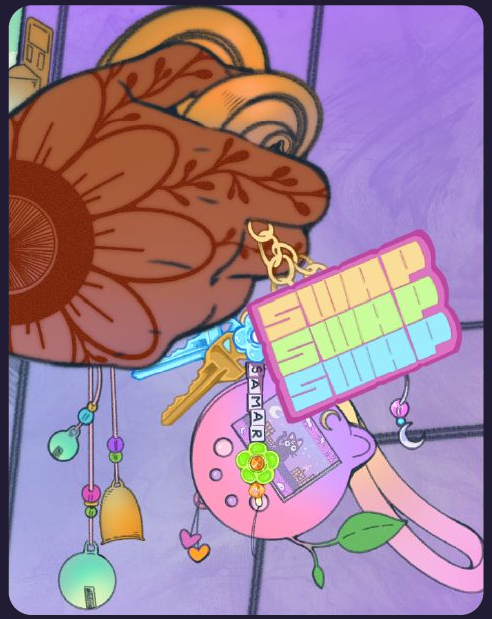
✖ Avoid ✖

Recreating what it was

☑ Seek ☑

Recreating what it felt like

The “Lofi” in Lofi Hip Hop



Warm pastels & Familiar details

Interfaces inspired by LCD nuiances

OST by Meltycanon

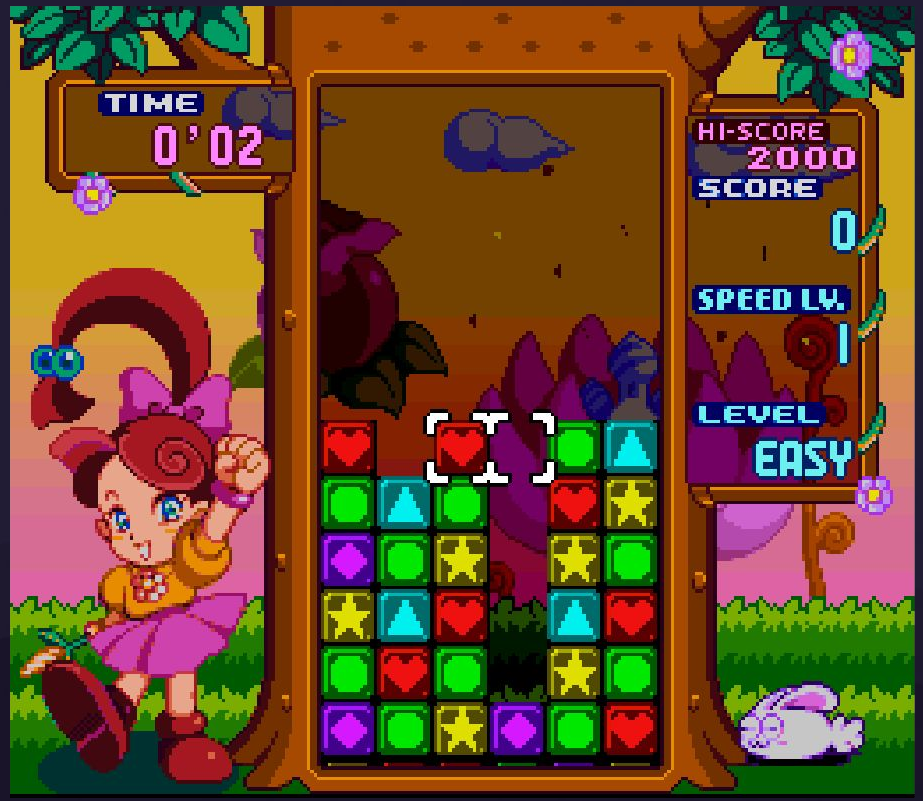
LCD Photo by PosyMusic (Youtube)

Bejeweled 2 (2004)
PopCap Games

Candy Crush Saga (2012)
King

“How much does what we consume shape what we’re fond of?”

henriksent/flickr



Panel De Pon (1995)

SNES

Developed by:
Intelligent Systems

Published by:
Nintendo

Sailor Moon Drops (2015)

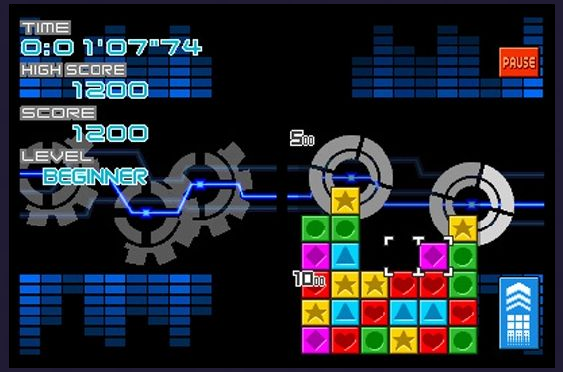
iOS

Developed by:
Beeline Interactive

Published by:
Bandai Namco Entertainment

Tetris Attack (1995)

Pokemon Puzzle League (2000)



Planet Puzzle League (2007)

Animal Crossing: New Leaf (2012)

SPIRIT SWAP

LOFI BEATS
to MATCH-3 TO

1
Score
999,999,999
Speed 1
OHJEEZ!
Ready!

“If predatory design systems are what
our youth will be nostalgic for,
what does that say for our future?”

Thanks for listening

Wishlist Spirit Swap on Steam!

Hit my line, any time
rejontaylor.com
@Maximum_Crash
@SoftNotWeak

soft not weak

Featuring art by:
Sam Tesi, Kait “Dice” Peavler, Jennifer Mori, Priscilla Bampoh & midnxiiights

Seeing the Player

Game Design for Inclusion Beyond Representation

Emily Short
Creative Director at Failbetter Games

MASK OF THE ROSE

May we ask whether you're a lady or a gentleman?

- A lady
- A gentleman
- My dear sir, there are individuals roaming the streets of Fallen London at this very moment with the faces of squid! Squid! Do you ask them their gender? And yet you waste our time asking me trifling and impertinent questions about mine? It is my own business, sir, and I bid you good day.

the Inhabited Districts of
LONDON
In the terrible aftermath of "The Fall". As prepared by the Unexpurgated London Gazette in the year of our Lord 1862, according to the best information available to our surviving correspondents. Thoroughfare locations are subject to change.
Brass Consulate
Landau Residence
Horatio's Boarding House
Stalagmites
SPITE
St Albans Protomartyrs
alley only appears when approached from North
LADYBONES ROAD
sometimes disappears
Tentergrounds Synagogue
Tenpenny (Many Rats)
Do not look at any symbols painted on walls!
VEILGARDEN
disappeared?
Ferrets Shop
SHUTTERED PALACE
Hogalain Market
WOLFSTACK DOCKS
Good views of river (Big Ben)
THE BAZAAR
Ministry Offices
Drowned Parliament
HMS Ungulate (Prison Ship)
Mushrooms
WATCHMAKER'S HILL
Tunnel?!
Ruins
Strange odour
CONTRABAND

The Core Fantasy: Being Seen

The Core Fantasy:
Being Seen
By the People Closest to You

Evening
0
0
That's me. "Deirdre" to my friends, "Professor" to strangers.
That's how I was addressed even before London fell
I'm a different person down here than I was above
Down here, I'm finally able to use the name that always fit me

The Past

Who were you?

A dockworker's child

My father worked the docks, unloading ships. My uncle was a sailor. We were on the right side of the law, but the same couldn't always be said for our friends.

The Docks are allied with the working class and with criminals.

THAT'S ME! R

WARDROBE

HAT

FACE

LAPEL

TORSO

Outfit Notes

A constable will take one look at the jacket and think I've escaped from prison. The Ministry badge says someone trusted me with power anyhow.

RETURN

Fellow Lodger

Unreliable Friend
Delicious Comrade
On-and-Off Antagonist

Grumpy Informant

Enigmatic Fling

Evening
3
0
Present an account in which Virginia accidentally undermined the Revolution
On second thought, some other time

Strategies

- Attention to our player base

Strategies

- Attention to our player base
- Juicy responses to choice *combinations*

Strategies

- Attention to our player base
- Juicy responses to choice *combinations*
- Rich relationship state

Strategies

- Attention to our player base
- Juicy responses to choice *combinations*
- Rich relationship state
- Choice of intentions as well as acts

Strategies

- Attention to our player base
- Juicy responses to choice *combinations*
- Rich relationship state
- Choice of intentions as well as acts
- Easy core progression + lots of variance

Strategies

- Attention to our player base
- Juicy responses to choice *combinations*
- Rich relationship state
- Choice of intentions as well as acts
- Easy core progression + lots of variance
- Story focus on connection

ALES & STOUT

How do we (collectively) live through the end of the world?

Designing for Inclusion Beyond Representation

GDC 2023

Jon Remedios

Jill Murray

Tanya X. Short

Réjon Taylor-Foster

Emily Short