

From the Video Gamapalooza by Don Zolidis

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Narrator 1 is explaining the glory of old mall arcades when Narrator 2 interrupts him.

NARRATOR 1, male, 42 years old

NARRATOR 2, female, 16 years old.

NARRATOR 1

That little girl there? She used to be amazing at Dragon Quest and now what is she? Probably somebody's Mom. Sad.

NARRATOR 2 enters, with a microphone. She's much younger.

NARRATOR 2

Are you serious? This is literally the most pathetic thing I have ever seen.

NARRATOR 1

What are you doing here?

NARRATOR 2

I was trying to listen to your nostalgia circus without throwing up. And failing.

She looks offstage

Sorry about that, Brian.

She moves to the video games

These games were the worst. Totally mindless. You just move a joystick back and forth like a trained seal.

NARRATOR 1

Seals don't even have thumbs! Shows what you know.

NARRATOR 2

Not to mention the fact that these old arcades were total creepshows.

Approaches one of the frozen boys

Look at this guy. Oh man. He hasn't showered in like three days. Shouldn't he be in school or locked up in a cage or something?

NARRATOR 1

All right that's enough! We don't need your judgment! You just don't understand because you're a stupid Millennial. Go back in your future pod, okay? No one wants you here.

NARRATOR 2

I'm not a Millennial, the youngest Millennials are like 20 years old. I'm the generation after Millennials.

NARRATOR 1

That's even worse! My generation is the greatest generation -

NARRATOR 2

That's trademarked, dude.

NARRATOR 1

Public domain now. So I'm changing Generation X to Generation X-ceptional: The Greatest Generation Period. And you know why we were the Greatest Generation ever?

NARRATOR 2

Because you won World War 2?

NARRATOR 1

Because we won World War 2 in video games. You ever hear of Castle Wolfenstein? Genius. 1941? You controlled a little bomber over Pearl Harbor or something. Amazing.

NARRATOR 2

I think the army actually trains with Call of Duty now, so –

NARRATOR 1

Well if the army trained with Castle Wolfenstein and 1941 all the wars would be over... fast. And that's not the only game we had, there was -

NARRATOR 2

Farmville.

NARRATOR 1

That wasn't us! That was you people!

NARRATOR 2

We didn't do Farmville! That was the Millennials! But it was you guys who played it on Facebook!

NARRATOR 1

That's a stereotype! Nobody liked Farmville, all right! Our games were amazing: I'm talking Asteroids, Pac-Man, Donkey Kong, Super Mario Brothers, Super Mario Brothers 2, the other Super Mario Brothers... LEGEND OF ZELDA, Street Fighter, you can't even imagine how great Street Fighter was. Gone now. Ruined. By young people.

NARRATOR 2

Literally, you can get every game designed in the 80s for free on your phone - See watch.

NARRATOR 1

You're retroactively ruining my childhood.

NARRATOR 2

Your childhood can be downloaded in 12 seconds.

NARRATOR 1

My childhood was glorious! And you know what, we didn't have kindergarten graduation! We didn't have middle school graduation! We didn't have summer camps and activities! In the summer time we sat and stared dead-eyed at the television for fourteen hours a day that way God intended! And we liked it! We played sports and nobody got trophies! We kept score, and somebody always lost! Sometimes everybody lost! The referee would just end the game and declare that everyone was terrible, and everyone needed to go home and cry! We were used to crushing disappointment. Every day. Every single day. And our relatives said things like, "you're a total loser, Brian." And that was fine because that – didn't hurt – much – certainly not like a giant gaping black hole inside of you that swallows all goodness and light and leaves you a dying husk of nothingness... Sorry. Hold on. I'm in a dark place...

NARRATOR 1 is in dark place now.

NARRATOR 2

Look, I'm sure that it seemed like you had cool video games when you were growing up. You didn't know any better. None of the old people did.

NARRATOR 1

I'm not old! I'm 42. And a half.

NARRATOR 2

That was like the life expectancy for most of human history. You're on borrowed time.

NARRATOR 1

I still feel young!

NARRATOR 2

That's just the brain damage talking. Face it – you're 42 and a half, and you're clearly on a downward trajectory – just a long slow ride – it's hard to believe, but there might even be parents out there somewhere so who are older than 42, and I feel sorry for those sad people, day-by-day sliding into obsolescence, dreaming of when they used to be cool. Some parents out there might not even think this applies to them. But it does. It so does. Hey Mom I need a ride home after this by the way.

Stage whisper

It's not about you. It's about Dad.

To the rest of the audience

She's the worst.

To NARRATOR 1

I realize you can't help it. The deterioration in your brain. You don't remember things correctly.

NARRATOR 1

I'll show you. I'll show all of you! Mostly you though.

Shouting

THAT'S RIGHT IT'S TIME FOR THE VIDEO GAMAPALOOZA! – A tour through the video games throughout history!

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NARRATOR 2

Is this gonna be educational?

NARRATOR 1

YOU'RE DARN RIGHT IT'S GONNA BE EDUCATIONAL! I'm going to teach you the entire history of video games because your education is obviously awful! Did you know that the first arcade games were actually created in the nineteenth century?

NARRATOR 2

So you remember them?

NARRATOR 1

Oh very funny.

NARRATOR 2

Hey Vanilla Ice called. He's old now. Like you.

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