

26 September 2008

By: Andrei Dumitrescu, Games Editor



[Strong Bad's Cool Game for Attractive People](#)

Meet a humorous anti hero

If you've played Day of the Tentacle, then you surely miss a good adventure game to unwind now and then. I began my adventuring career with the first Broken Sword game and the last good adventure I played is the first Syberia game. For some reason, I never got around trying to play the new adventures of Sam & Max, as presented by Telltale Games, although I keep hearing that the games are solid. So, I have been little interested in adventure titles for a long time, with none really getting my attention.

Fortunately, I recently received the first two episodes of Strong Bad's Cool Game for Attractive People, another game that is aimed at the fans of adventure games. The games are available for the Wiiware digital download service, the Nintendo Wii and the PC. I wasn't expecting too much from them, as I was unfamiliar with the Homestar Runner universe on which they are based. Still, I thought I could give them a spin.

I reviewed the PC version of the first two episodes in the Strong Bad series and the developers say that the only differences between the two versions are the control schemes and the fact that in the Wii variant, you can use the Lappy computer that Strong Bad uses to send images and messages to friends. You'll have to take their word for it.

;

;

;

;

The idea behind the new episodic adventure games, like the Strong Bad series and the Sam & Max franchise, is to deliver bite sized, interesting and funny adventures on a regular schedule. The Freelance Police managed to power two seasons of episodes that were generally positively received, with the third season being expected in 2009. Telltale took the Internet phenomenon that is Homestar Runner and used the Strong Bad character to power a new series which released the first episode in August and the second in September, delivering on the promise of new content every month. A third episode is subtitled Baddest Of The Bands and should arrive, if all goes smoothly, sometime in October.

In my opinion, the biggest critique regarding the series is that you kinda have to know the characters a bit to totally enjoy the game. Otherwise, Homestar can strike you as too stupid even by videogame parody standards while Marzipan can look like a very unlikely love interest until you find out that she is the only female character of the show. Once you play the game for a little while, do a few prank calls and enjoy Strong Bad's attempts to ruin everyone's day, it all begins to make sense. The second episode, in which Strong Bad decides to secede and depose the King of Town is better, with a cooler premise and nice puns on real world politics and society. The first episode seems a bit rushed and the whole premise of winning against Homestar Runner is not that appealing, even if the episode picks up some pace as it unfolds.

Strong Bad, as the name implies, is out to annoy people. Some of his favorite ways are to respond to e-mails in an offensive way and to try and "pummel" his buddy Homestar Runner, who is not too sharp but very athletic. The first game begins with a race (trust me, after playing the game you will not want to mention its name again) and with a party Marzipan throws, while the second starts off with an e-mail tax which leads Strong Bad to declare the independence of his own part of the town while preparing to take over and oppress all the other sections, each run by one member of the cast. The second game is, based on my playtime, much more engaging than the first, with more over the top humor,

adventure game, try out Strong Bad's Cool Game for Attractive People. It will make you laugh and think fondly of the long gone days of truly great adventure games.

