**Game Review # 2**

**CS1010**

**Name:** Jesus Otteson

**Game Title:** Stardew Valley  **Price:** $14.99

**Genre:** Farming Simulator  **ESRB**: Everyone

**Rating:** 87%  **Rating Source:** Metacritic

**Platform:** PC (STEAM)

Stardew Valley is a farming simulator, I have always found the premise of a game where you farm to be a boring one that I would never find interesting, however, even going into this game with that mentality I found myself in a very peculiar situation that I can only describe in one word, addiction.

**What story is the game trying to tell?**

This story is about you, the player, finding an escape from working your day to day office job at Joja Corporation (a clear parody off of amazon) by quitting your job and starting a farm that your grandfather had left you. It a story of building connections with the neighbors around you and exploring your farm and Stardew Valley as the seasons go on.

**Did you like playing the game? Why or why not?**

This game is an incredibly fun game, to me it is literally crack. The friendly 8 bit graphics and warm inviting town of Stardew draw me into an escape from my demanding job and the strain that calculus presents. I find myself urning to return to this game where I can focus on my simple goal of raising my animals and cultivating my crops. You don’t need a lot of ability to play this game, just a casual mood and a look to relax.

**Rate the artistic and creativity for the game? Justification?**

I have seen this type of aesthetic in many MANY games. This game is heavily influenced by Marvelous Studios Harvest Moon series. There is nothing new that this game provides besides a fresh town, new story and a couple game play mechanics. However, what this game does, it does it well. Creativity and Artistic imagination I will give it a 5/10.

**What would make this game better?**

This game is already a really fun and intuitive game. It has modding support, plenty of mechanics, and lots of things to do in this small world. There is little I would change that will make this game better. Much like some pieces of art, to add too much would simply tarnish a good base of paint.

**What games influenced this game or has been influenced by it?**

As referenced above, this game is heavily influenced by game like Harvest Moon and Story of Seasons. It does little to change these games besides a new town, a new story and a couple new mechanics.

**Describe the game controls (and review them):**

The Stardew Valley game controls are as follows:

W - Move Up

A - Move Left

S - Move Down

D - Move Right

Left Click, C - Use tool or place item

Right Click, X - Check/Do Action

F - Open Journal

M - Open Map window

Y - Open Emote Menu

Tab - Shift Toolbar

Left - Shift Run

?, T - Open Chat Box

1 - + - Inventory hotkeys

The controls for this game are very simple, there is really no need for more intuitive controls for this game as it is just a casual farming game. With the precision of a mouse I found it really easy to mark where I want to till my land, plant my seed, and water it.

**What makes the game fair?**

The game is already a causal game, the only mechanic that keeps it fair is the monetary financial mechanic that ensure the economy in the game is set so the items are not too expensive, but expensive enough to keep you selling items to ensure you need to work for your rewards.

**What makes this game different from others.**

This is a very casual game were you farm and make a life for your self. Unlike games like the sims where you create a character and try to survive, this game gives you clear goals to achieve and the only one stopping you form achieving these goals is yourself.

**In your opinion are there any societal effects that could occur from playing this game (good/bad)?**

Absolutely, I have to convince myself daily that college is worth it and dropping out to start a farm in a community in the mountains is going to be absolutely nothing like Stardew Valley. But in all seriousness, this game is a very relaxing game, I could see this game being recommended for those who have high anxiety or overall stress in their day to day lives.