

NINTENDO
POWER
250th
ISSUE!



REASONS TO LOVE NINTENDO

How should our magazine celebrate its 250th issue? The obvious answer is to look back at old covers and section redesigns, or to reminisce about the days before desktop publishing. But... where's the fun in that? Nintendo Power has always focused on the *games*—the characters, worlds, stories, and experiences that have left us with so many magnificent memories. This is supposed to be a celebration, so let's get the party started. With our eyes on 25 years of gaming history and our hearts full of nostalgic love, we present 250 reasons why we absolutely adore the wonderful world of Nintendo.

START ›

OUR FAVORITE VILLIANS

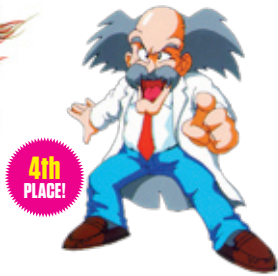
It's hard to have an amazing hero without a proportionately vile villain, and the following bad guys do a great job of making our champions look good. Whether their aim is to dominate the world, to bully woodland creatures, or to get a girlfriend, these nefarious ne'er-do-wells do whatever it takes to reach their goal...and then fail spectacularly.



3rd PLACE!

Kefka Palazzo

An insane, remorseless clown with godlike powers who wants to destroy everyone and everything (and comes frighteningly close to achieving his goal), Kefka is downright evil.



4th PLACE!

Dr. Wily

Dr. Wily is a naughty, jealous man, but you've got to admire his persistence and mad genius. It seems like the guy can make maniacal robots based on anything (Centaur Man? Seriously?), and his crazy contraptions don't go down easily.



7th PLACE!

Dr. Robotnik

Anyone who turns adorable woodland creatures into murderous robots is grade-A villain material—though you can hardly blame Robotnik when so-called heroes make fun of his body shape by calling him “Eggman.”



8th PLACE!

Donkey Kong

If he isn't wearing a tie, do not approach Donkey Kong. He's a hero now, but back in the old days he was an ornery ape with a rap sheet that included kidnapping and wanton barrel destruction.



5th PLACE!

Fawful

The Mario bros. may be the bread that makes the sandwich of the Mario & Luigi series, but Fawful is the delicious mustard on that bread.



9th PLACE!

Albert Wesker

If you're going to be a first-rate heel, you may as well look good doing it. Resident Evil's leading antagonist is definitely the most stylin' person on this list. And that's despite the fact that he's technically undead!



6th PLACE!

Ridley

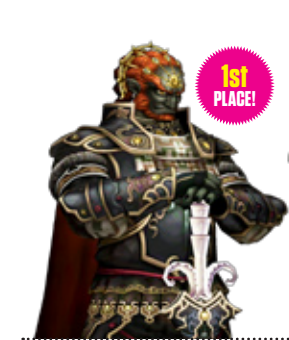
Not only is Ridley responsible for the deaths of Samus's parents, but the dragonlike Space Pirate also keeps coming back no matter how many times Samus defeats him.



10th PLACE!

Dracula

You can't go wrong with a classic like the blood-sucking, shape-shifting prince of darkness, Count Dracula. The citizens of Transylvania might not like the fact that he keeps coming back to life, but gamers wouldn't want it any other way.



1st PLACE!

Ganon

Gaming's most legendary villain has taken many forms over the years, but he's always a powerful, intimidating presence (even when he transforms into a giant pig). When you go into battle against Ganon, you know you're in for something truly epic.

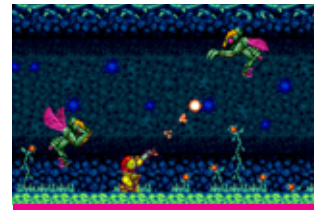


2nd PLACE!

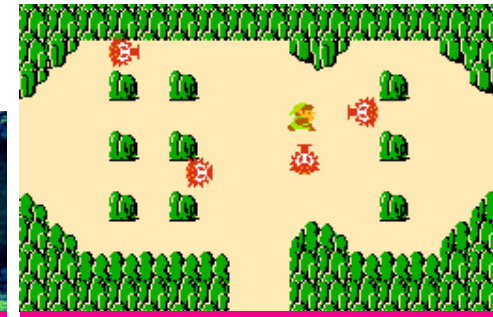
Bowser

We've got a soft spot for the Koopa King, but let's be honest: he stinks at being a bad guy. Not only is he regularly pummeled by plumbers, but these days he spends half his time helping them out!

KEFKA PALAZZO ILLUSTRATION: © 1994 YOSHITAKA AMANO



PLANET ZEBES



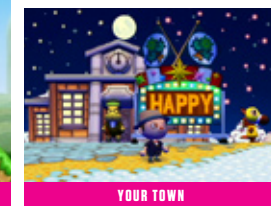
HYRULE



THE MUSHROOM KINGDOM



METRO CITY



YOUR TOWN

WONDERFUL WORLDS

THE MUSHROOM KINGDOM (MARIO SERIES) It may have a pesky turtle infestation and government officials may get kidnapped on a regular basis, but the Mushroom Kingdom is still an amazing place. With landscapes as varied as grassy plains, deserts, oceans, arctic regions, and more, there's an environment to suit all tastes. And hey, touching some of the local plant life gives you super powers. How cool is that?

HYRULE (THE LEGEND OF ZELDA SERIES) The land of Hyrule is vast and occasionally dangerous, but there are always new places to explore and new wonders to discover. Who can forget their first adventure through the Lost Woods or Death Mountain? When visiting, bring plenty of rupees, and be sure to check out one of its many labyrinthine dungeons.

PLANET ZEBES (METROID SERIES) Even though Zebes was destroyed in Super Metroid, we remember

the planet for its dark and brooding atmosphere. Only an intergalactic bounty hunter could feel comfortable in a world full of treacherous terrain and hostile alien inhabitants. It may be a scary place, but we love spending time there.

YOUR TOWN (ANIMAL CROSSING SERIES) There are very few video game worlds in which we would actually want to live. Even the nicer locales are usually full of things that want to kill you. Not in Animal Crossing, though. Here, the only things you need to worry about are chatty neighbors and a raccoon loan shark.

METRO CITY (FINAL FIGHT SERIES) Fed up with your local government? Is your city run by ineffective politicians who are afraid to make any real changes? Then maybe it's time to move to Metro City. Sure, the crime rate is high, but Mayor Mike Haggart isn't afraid to remove his shirt, take to the streets, and bust up gangs with his bare hands.



ROBOTIC OPERATING BUDDY

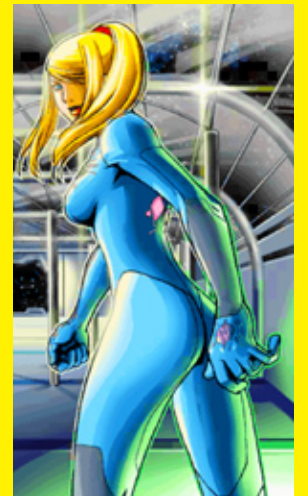
(and neither was very good). But our Robotic Operating Buddy helped save video games. When Nintendo was preparing to introduce the NES in 1985, the market had just crashed and most retailers were refusing to devote shelf space to video games. So the company made the brilliant decision to package R.O.B. with every console and pitch the NES as a toy. The strategy worked and the rest is history. Thanks R.O.B.!

Judged strictly on its merits as a peripheral, R.O.B. is hardly worth celebrating. The thing was noisy, slow, and difficult to assemble, plus only two games ever took advantage of it

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Future Fashion

Samus may call her underarmor outfit the *Zero Suit*, but we give it a 10. Maybe the name comes from the fact that it leaves zero to the imagination?



THREE METROID ESCAPE MINUTES



Because blowing up a base after you've left it is for wimps.

CLASSIC QUOTES

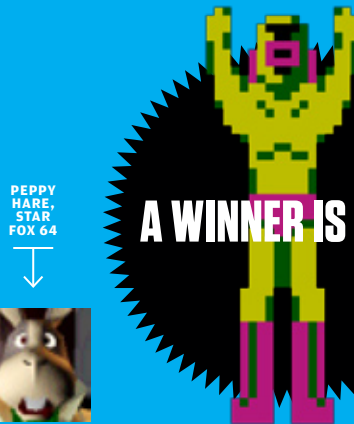
Many of gaming's most memorable lines of dialogue accompany amazing moments of gameplay, but in a world where today's typo can become tomorrow's next big internet sensation, quotes can also become legendary due to outright silliness. Our list of favorites includes both.

Do a barrel roll!

PEPPY HARE, STAR FOX 64



A WINNER IS YOU.



PRO WRESTLING

Uh-oh! The truck have started to move.

Snake, Metal Gear



I feel asleep!!

Guard, Metal Gear



Thank you Mario! But our Princess is in another castle!

ERROR, ZELDA II: THE ADVENTURE OF LINK



I am Error.

FIGHT, MEGA MAN! FOR EVERLASTING PEACE!

MEGA MAN



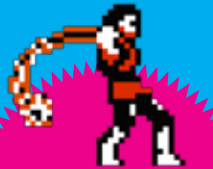
DOC LOUIS, PUNCH-OUT!!

Join the Nintendo Fun Club today! Mac.



WHAT A HORRIBLE NIGHT TO HAVE A CURSE.

CASTLEVANIA II: SIMON'S QUEST



TOAD, SUPER MARIO BROS.



CONGRATURATION THIS STORY IS HAPPY END



Good morning, Crono!

CRONO'S MOM, CHRONO TRIGGER



GHOSTS 'N GOBLINS

It's a secret to everybody.

MOBLIN, THE LEGEND OF ZELDA



A SLIME DRAWS NEAR!



DRAGON WARRIOR

Barf!



RANDOM THUG, RIVER CITY RANSOM

BAD DUDES



Are you a bad enough dude to rescue the president?

It's dangerous to go alone! Take this.

I have fury!

FAWFUL, MARIO & LUIGI SERIES



Dodongo dislikes smoke.

OLD MAN, THE LEGEND OF ZELDA

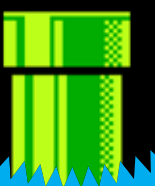


FINISH HIM!

MORTAL KOMBAT SERIES



WELCOME TO WARP ZONE!



SUPER MARIO BROS.

It's time for revenge.

TAKE A KEY FOR COMING IN!

SUPER GHOULS 'N GHOSTS



Just a girl. Get out of here!

RYU HAYABUSA, NINJA GAIDEN



You spoony bard!

TELLAH, FINAL FANTASY IV



Let's attack aggressively!

BILL RIZER / LANGE BEAN, CONTRA III: THE ALIEN WARS



YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS ARE DEAD. GAME OVER.

FRIDAY THE 13TH

