



The Earth is on Fire

Join Commander Shepard in his quest to unify the races against the Reaper hordes in Part 3 of the sci-fi franchise

Mass Effect 3 is the latest in a series that puts Commander Shepard and entire races in a battle against the Reapers to save the universe. ME3 is very plot-heavy, building on a story that carries a lot of emotional weight, balancing character, conflict and resolution in each of the three major acts, with each act ending in Reaper madness.

The use of a complex interaction matrix makes the game very rewarding, regardless of whether you are a hack and slash player or more of a storyline player. The skill trees are more advanced. The interactions among different players are both complex and ever-evolving. On a PC, the storyline is accompanied by spectacular graphics from the underground ruins to Mordin. The game still has some bugs, though, so do look for the next patch that is

likely to be out soon. Multiplayer is interesting in that it allows you to choose one of six classes, earning special ammo and weapons mods. One of the key effects unique to ME3 is that it builds off your Mass Effect 1 and 2 interactions. These decisions have over 1,000 variables to impact the overall gameplay of ME3. In the end, the improved graphics and gameplay are spectacular and well worth the price but the grand finale is a letdown, with several holes in the plot, which, in turn, lead to a disappointing storyline for the trilogy as a whole. However, Bioware co-founder Ray Muzyka has blogged that more content that will address the lacklustre ending, will be made available in the near future. —Wyly Wade

Mass Effect 3: Overall rating: 7/10; Price: ₹1,299 (PC); Available on: PC, PS3, Xbox 360

GAMES GALORE

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Two classic fighting games come together in this offering from Capcom that pits iconic characters from the two franchises in battle against one another. Fast-paced and fun.

☆☆☆☆☆	GRAPHICS
☆☆☆☆☆	GAMEPLAY
☆☆☆☆☆	AUDIO
☆☆☆☆☆	OVERALL



Available on PC, Xbox 360
Capcom
(₹2,999)

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The latest addition to the Angry Birds series topped 10 million downloads just three days after release. With more puzzle elements and a new gravity course, it is time-pass at its best.

☆☆☆☆☆	GRAPHICS
☆☆☆☆☆	GAMEPLAY
☆☆☆☆☆	AUDIO
☆☆☆☆☆	OVERALL



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Striking the Perfect Balance

Melissa Johnson tells the gripping tale of a young Asian-American woman—her roots, her sport and her sexuality

If we were to say Asian-American basketball player these days, Jeremy Lin would come to mind first. This documentary is not about him, but an unassuming friend of his at Harvard, Emily “Eтай” Tay—the “queen of the no-look pass” or “ninja” as her friends and teammates sometimes



No Look Pass
Directed by
Melissa Johnson

called her. Melissa Johnson tells us the coming-out tale of Tay, her relationship with her conservative Burmese parents and the sorry state of women’s basketball and explores the mix of gender, culture and sexuality in America. The movie begins with Tay making the moves as senior point guard for the women’s basketball team at Har-

vard University and follows her life till she ends up in the German town of Viernheim, playing professional basketball. The journey involves Tay’s relationship with her best friend, her parents, who want an arranged marriage for her, and a US soldier—a woman who risks everything by being in the film. The film is in equal part a study of human character, emotions and relationships, and a gripping sports documentary. Johnson has found a truly incredible story and, by telling it in a very real voice, has given us one of the best gay documentaries we have seen in recent years. —Nishath Nizar