

GAME REVIEW

by Sedeer El-Showk

Will Love Tear Us Apart

Production:

Mighty Box

Platform:

Windows, Mac

(web-based, no Chrome support)

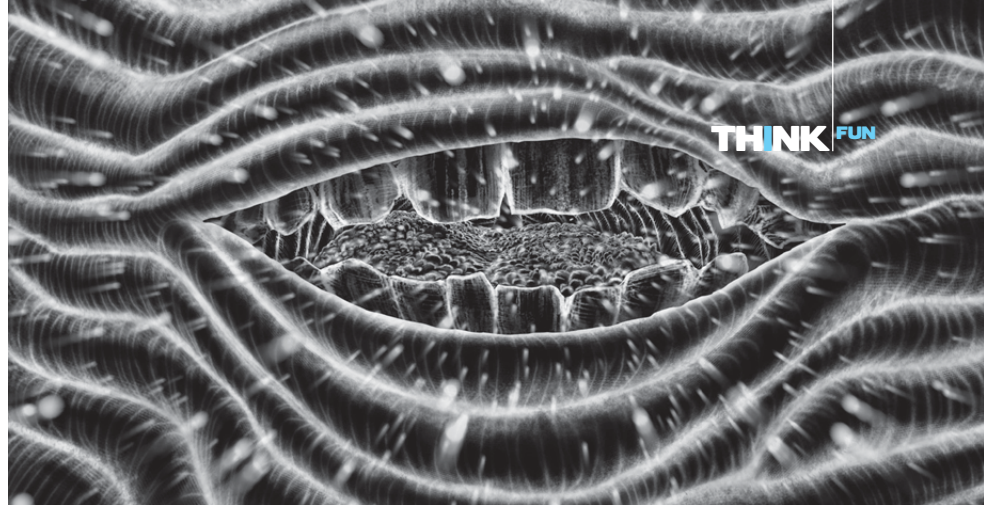


DON'T BE FOOLED by its brevity or the fact that it's a free, browser-based game: *Will Love Tear Us Apart* is anything but a 'casual' game. Based on Joy Division's cult hit *Love Will Tear Us Apart*, the game consists of three sparse but beautifully portrayed levels that guide the player through the emotional journey of a relationship on the brink of collapse.

Developed by Mighty Box Games with support from the Malta Arts Fund, *Will Love Tear Us Apart* is a unique game. Game designer Gordon Calleja (featured pg. 51) eschews conventions, using the game's mechanics in the service of the emotional and thematic content. In general, it works remarkably well, creating a rich and rewarding (if mildly depressing) experience. Breaks while the next level loads can be an unfortunate disruption, but the excellent second level more than makes up for it.

It's incredible that a relatively short and simple game manages to provoke such a strong emotional response. If you allow yourself to be absorbed by it (use headphones!), you'll probably find yourself reflecting on the experience as it lingers in your mind. In fact, playing *Will Love Tear Us Apart* even taught me something about myself — now that's a gaming first! ●

<http://willlovetearusapart.com>



FACT or FICTION?

Send your questions to think@um.edu.mt and we'll find out if it's the truth or just a fib!

Does ALCOHOL kill brain cells?

«» This myth is HUGE! Urban legend says that drinking kills cells, some even say: 'three beers kill 10,000 brain cells.' Thankfully, they are wrong.

In microbiology labs, a 70% alcohol 30% water mix is used to clean surfaces pretty efficiently. It seems our neurons are made of sturdier stuff.

Alcohol does affect brain cells. Everyone knows that and it isn't pretty. Alcohol can damage dendrites, which are delicate neural extensions that usually convey signals to other neurons. Damaging them prevents information travelling from one neuron to another — a problem. Luckily, the damage isn't permanent.

Have there been any studies to modify the domestic refrigerator into part fridge and part air conditioning unit? Asked by Tony Bugeja



«» Not sure if it has been studied. What we're pretty certain about is that it probably won't work.

Refrigerators work by transferring heat from the inside of the fridge to the outside. As thermodynamics dictate, if you left the fridge door open this would basically end up making your room hotter unless you stayed right in front of the fridge.

The idea might work if the fridge transferred the heat outside the room. The problem is that food has to be kept at around 4–5°C, rooms at a nice 22–25°C, it would be a tough engineering challenge to maintain both temperatures.