

THE GAMER'S DISEASE

by

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## The Gamer's Disease

BLACK SCREEN

Title sequence.

A long list of rambling words scroll indicating a discussion about a new disease affecting Today's youth.

FORWARD:

"The motion picture you are about to witness will startle you. Today's Modern era has seen many modern miracles in the field of modern science. However, a tragic curse continues to spread throughout modern homes and into our modern youth. Something so horrible the modern mind can only refer to it as...*"The Gamer's Disease"*.

- A ravenous addiction -

Its first effect is uncontrollable Swearing, but as the disease ravages the body, further evils are experienced: excessive caffeine drinking and potato chips, unexplained humming of character themes, Time speeds away, reckless spending for strategy guides, the loss of all power to resist playing phone apps, leading finally to acts of incurable insanity.

The following story is of one such modern unfortunate who has contracted the disease and how the excesses of youth and thinking outside governed societal norms ruined her life. Let's call her...*"Tiffany"*."

FADE IN:

INT. DOCTOR AKULA'S OFFICE - DAY

PRESENT

Non threatening, white washed environment.

DOCTOR AKULA, 30s, agoraphobic, conceited speaker, types away on his computer.

KNOCK (o.s.).

TIFFANY, 20s, timid, sheltered introvert, peeks inside. She speaks as a ham soap opera actress throughout.

TIFFANY

Is this Doctor Akula's office?

DOCTOR AKULA

Yes. Please come in Tiffany.

Tiffany shuffles, head down, over to chair Doctor Akula gestures.

TIFFANY

I am sorry for being so late, Doctor.  
It is just that my learning to say  
contractions ran over by several  
minutes.

DOCTOR AKULA

It's all right, Billy. I've been  
running your tests over again. I'm  
afraid you've contracted...a Gamer's  
Disease.

Tiffany gasps. Her eyes widen.

TIFFANY

Then my worst fears are true.

Tiffany collapses and bawls twice.

Doctor Akula moves desk items near Tiffany away.

He lightly pats Tiffany's head.

DOCTOR AKULA

There, there Billy.

Arm stretched away from him, Doctor Akula rips off his rubber  
glove. He flings it into the trash.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

There's no shame in what has happened.  
You are unclean,  
(to the audience)  
but there may be hope.

Doctor Akula rubs globs of sanitizer on his exposed hand.  
Satisfied that it is sterile, Doctor Akula slips on another  
rubber glove.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

How did a nice Southern Belle like  
yourself become afflicted with such  
a vile disease?

Tiffany wipes her face with tissue. She crumples and leaves  
them on Doctor Akula's desk.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

Tell me what led you astray.

TIFFANY

It all started after Sunday service.  
I went to meet up with my friends at  
an...urban bagel shop.

GASP. Doctor Akula holds his chest in pain as he backs away from Tiffany.

CUT TO:

EXT. WALKWAY - DAY

YEARS AGO

Concrete bridge connected to a brick building

Tiffany skips around in her Sunday finest.

TIFFANY (V.O.)

I told my parents we were going to recite what we learned at Bible school. Little did I know I would be dealing with the Devil.

WHISTLE (o.s.).

A SHADY MERCHANT waves at Tiffany.

SHADY MERCHANT

Hey there, kid. Care to try sweets from a sweet?

Tiffany shakes her head.

SHADY MERCHANT (CONT'D)

Come now. It's all good clean wholesome fun here.

Tiffany approaches Shady Merchant.

Through slight of hand magic, Shady Merchant reveals an Atari cartridge to Tiffany. During close up, the cartridge changes to the box for cartridge.

SHADY MERCHANT (CONT'D)

Ever play "Chase the Dragon"?

Shady Merchant giggles.

Awestruck, Tiffany takes cartridge.

CUT TO:

INT. TIFFANY'S BEDROOM - DAY

Bland and unassuming, various toys and dolls litter the furniture.

Tiffany installs console and cartridge to her TV.

ON TV

A frog navigates from the road to a lily pad while avoiding obstacles.

BACK TO TIFFANY

Tiffany, mesmerized, plays for hours on end.

DISSOLVE TO:

DRUG INDUCED DREAM

POP. Soda flows into Tiffany's mouth.

Tiffany is engulfed in a psychedelic, hallucinogenic light show. Console controllers dangle and fly around her head.

Glow sticks wave around her as she sucks on a pacifier.

Various screenshots of video games flash as Tiffany dances and laughs. Colorful curse words fall from the sky.

Shady Merchant's laugh echoes as Tiffany's dancing becomes more erratic.

TIFFANY (V.O.)

It was so humiliating, yet I never  
felt so aroused in my life.

Tiffany drools. She collapses.

CUT TO:

INT. TIFFANY'S HOUSE - KITCHEN - DAY

Fancy adornments with various pictures of dogs.

SIMON, 40s, weird eccentric with strong accent, walks by the counter. He cradles a fluffy Bichon near his chest.

SIMON

Tiffany, time for school.  
(to dog)  
Hi, doggy.

Simon kisses and rubs Bichon.

Faint game music (o.s.).

Curious, Simon walks to...

HALLWAY

Dimly lit, very dark toward Tiffany's room.

SIMON

Tiffany?

Game music gets louder.

Bichon WHIMPERS.

Hand outstretched, Simon wanders toward Tiffany's door.

CREAK. Door opens.

Simon peeks inside.

DOCTOR AKULA (V.O.)

What happened when your father  
discovered your condition?

Simon's eyes widen. He turns away while shielding Bichon's eyes.

He SHRIEKS.

He runs to...

BATHROOM

Simon collapses in front of toilet. He screams and bawls in an incoherent rage.

He cradles the Bichon close to his chest.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR AKULA'S OFFICE - DAY

PRESENT

Tiffany cries. She grabs handfuls of tissue.

TIFFANY

My poor Father. He locked himself  
in the bathroom for a week with only  
his fur baby for comfort. Oh the  
shame.

Doctor Akula shakes his head.

DOCTOR AKULA

When it was discovered your body was  
rendered impure what did you and  
your family do, Billy?

TIFFANY

My Father took me to a special faith  
and learning center to help me fight  
the disease.

CUT TO:

INT. RE-EDUCATION CENTER - DAY

YEARS AGO

Medieval, archaic prison of despair.

CRACKS and SCREAMS. A Hooded being inflicts torture on  
hapless victims.

CUT TO:

EXT. WALKWAY - DAY

Tiffany skips around in her Sunday finest.

WHISTLE (o.s.).

Shady Merchant waves Tiffany. He shows her a new game using  
the same slight of hand technique from earlier.

TIFFANY (V.O.)

They told me I was cured, but I felt  
myself drawn more and more to each  
new console.

Tiffany, filled with lust and desire, snatches the game.  
She cradles it to her chest.

CUT TO:

INT. DOCTOR AKULA'S OFFICE - DAY

PRESENT

Tiffany leans in her chair. Her legs spread open. Her hands  
caress her body with ecstatic glee.

TIFFANY

Eight bit. Sixteen, thirty-two,  
(aroused)  
Sixty-four.

SLAP. Doctor Akula smacks a ruler against his desk.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)

Why do I feel such desire to "Chase  
the Dragon"?

Doctor Akula points at dry board.

DOCTOR AKULA

Well, Billy.

## ANIMATION - HEALTHY HANK AND DOPAMINE

A diagram of the healthy Human Body performing tasks and being rewarded with "DOPAMINE" to the brain.

DOCTOR AKULA (V.O.)

The brain of the traditional Human animal is hard wired to be rewarded with Dopamine for performing tasks such as working out or studying for class.

Diagram changes to a cute picture of a Dopamine hormone.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

Dopamine is that warm, fuzzy feeling you get when you perform an accomplished task set out by a parent, your Boss, or the government.

BACK TO DOCTOR AKULA

Doctor Akula sits back at his desk.

INT. GAMER'S ROOM

Disheveled and filthy, covered in empty bottles and toys.

GAMER, 30s, unkept and unclean, blankly stares at the TV screen while fondling his controller.

Game music PLAYS.

DOCTOR AKULA (V.O.)

However, a body ravaged by Gamer's Disease chase their high to extreme levels.

Gamer ROARS at TV.

He scarfs down chips and drinks.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

It first starts with swearing and binging.

Gamer reads through a strategy guide on his lap.

He whips out his phone and plays games.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

Followed by excessive spending on guide books and phone apps.

Gamer guffaws. Drool spittles from Gamer's mouth.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)  
 until finally the brain is a scrambled  
 mass.

Gamer passes out.

His body twitches and spasms.

CUT TO:

EXT. DINER - DAY

WEEKS AGO

Tiffany sits and enjoys her meal.

DOCTOR AKULA (V.O.)  
 I was told others were made aware of  
 your sickness, Billy.

TIFFANY (V.O.)  
 I made a stupid mistake. I went  
 steady with my high school sweetheart,  
 Donald.

DONALD, 20s, proud, stereotyped "Perfect American", hands  
 Tiffany her drink.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)  
 I thought his rugged manliness would  
 protect him from the potency of the  
 disease.

DONALD  
 Here you go, Tiff.

Donald puts on his jacket and walks toward the entrance.

THUD. Donald bumps into a wall.

TIFFANY  
 Donald, what is wrong?

DONALD  
 My head feels weird. I should drink  
 some coffee.

Donald walks over to the manicured grass.

He bends down at a sprinkler with his mouth open.

GASP. Tiffany hides her shame.

INT. DONALD'S JOB

Donald, in a daze, rubs his eyes with an eraser. He throws  
 boxes at a coworker.

SCREAMS (o.s.).

DONALD  
Jenkins? I thought you were the  
shelf.

TIFFANY (V.O.)  
Did I infect poor Donald with my  
hidden shame?

Donald wrenches away. He continues to rub his eyes with an eraser.

INT. DOCTOR AKULA'S OFFICE

Tiffany anxiously twirls her fingers.

TIFFANY  
His eyesight was only the beginning.  
He started gaining weight. His skin  
became leathery and orange.

Tiffany SOBS. She grabs more tissue.

TIFFANY (CONT'D)  
Just yesterday, his scrotem fell  
into the toilet. He cannot get it  
back because he flushed it.

Doctor Akula shakes his head.

DOCTOR AKULA  
Oh, today's reckless youth with your  
microwave pizza and seat warmers. A  
pox on you all.

Doctor Akula types on his computer.

He motions Tiffany to the screen.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)  
I want to show you something for  
your own good, Billy. Take a look  
at the germs that have ravaged your  
body.

Tiffany gazes.

ON SCREEN

1930s cartoon of sled dogs fighting a rabbit in the North Pole while the sled owners watch.

BACK TO TIFFANY

Tiffany wrenches away. She almost vomits.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)  
Now come with me to the clinic.

INT. DUNGEON HALLWAY - LATER

Dark and dreary.

Fake rats wobble near the walls while a fake bat flops about.

DING. Doctor Akula and Tiffany step out from elevator door.

Tiffany wanders around awestruck. Doctor Akula follows close with a flashlight.

DOCTOR AKULA  
What you're about to see is horrific.

TIFFANY  
Goodness. I never thought we had  
such advanced clinics here in the  
South.

DOCTOR AKULA  
When the march for Science demands  
progress nothing can stand in its  
way.

Doctor Akula leads Tiffany through numerous twists and turns.  
They stop in front of a numbered keypad.

He punches some random buttons.

Door opens.

Deep GROAN (o.s.).

Tiffany turns away in disgust.

TIFFANY  
I cannot look.

DOCTOR AKULA  
You must.

Doctor Akula forces Tiffany to look inside.

INT. CELL

A mutant POTATO snarls and growls as it waves its tendrils.  
A name tag marked "LITTLE BRUCE" lies under it.

INT. DUNGEON HALLWAY

Tiffany shields her eyes.

TIFFANY

What is that horrible creature?

DOCTOR AKULA

Lets call this miserable slob Little Bruce. Bruce's problems started with playing Tic Tac Toe and Fifty Card pickup. Weren't they.

Fake rat falls on Doctor Akula's head.

A snakelike appendage grabs Doctor Akula.

LITTLE BRUCE

Pixels.

Doctor Akula slaps appendage.

DOCTOR AKULA

Get back! Nobody likes Pixels.

Doctor Akula comforts Tiffany.

DOCTOR AKULA (CONT'D)

Sad, isn't it.

Tiffany, fearful, breaks away.

TIFFANY

I have seen enough, Doctor.

DOCTOR AKULA

You may have Billy --

(to audience)

But have you? Resist the Dragon, or you will suffer the same fate as Simon, Tiffany, Little Bruce, and Donald.

MONTAGE

Simon sits on the bathroom floor crying into his Bichon.

Tiffany dances in psychedelic light show to video game music.

Little Bruce snarls and growls.

Donald, aged and ugly, has become president of the United States.

END MONTAGE.

Credits.

FADE OUT:

The End