

# Corruption ensues with Prime game

BY MARK COUCH  
Reviewer

When Nintendo released *Metroid Prime* on the GameCube in 2002, it revolutionized the classic two-dimensional series into an extensive first-person adventure/shooter, arguably one of the best games to grace the system. *Metroid Prime 3: Corruption* for the Nintendo Wii builds upon this proven model with many new enhancements that create a thrilling gaming experience.

As in all *Metroid* games, the player takes on the role of Samus Aran, a space-faring bounty hunter. Her right arm – a blaster for dispatching enemies – fires charged shots and missiles. She can transform into a rolling ball, which in many parts of the game is useful for fitting through tight spaces or traveling through tunnels and mazes. Samus can obtain health and missile expansions throughout the game along with new items and abilities.

The Wii remote and Nunchuk controller are perfect for this game. Instead of using analog sticks, aiming and shooting is controlled by turning and tilting the Wii remote, which intuitively responds to the movements of players' hands. Players run and strafe using an analog stick on the Nunchuk attachment. The responsive controls are similar to a mouse and keyboard setup.

The new controls are strange at first but easy to grasp, and before long players won't want to go back to using analog controls. The Wii remote is better than analog aiming, as targeting is faster and more precise. Some of the early shooter games for the Wii have awkward motion controls, but Nintendo has set a new standard with this game in simple and precise controls, eliminating the bugs and imperfections found in earlier titles such as *Red Steel*.

Because of the Wii's creative and intuitive controls, *Metroid Prime 3* offers one of the best gaming experiences so far on Nintendo's newest system. This game feels more shooter-focused than the previous installments, but that's not to say the game has lost its core elements of exploration and puzzle solving. Overall, it seems easier and more accessible than the original, but *Metroid Prime 3* still is a challenging adventure.

Creative and well-thought-out level design is present throughout every stage, and the boss fights are truly epic. *Corruption* offers a diverse selection of worlds and environments to explore as players travel to and revisit areas in order to solve puzzles, complete objectives and acquire new upgrades.

*Corruption* takes advantage of motion gestures for some actions, and Nintendo has done a great job implementing them correctly.

Unlike some Wii games in which motion gestures feel gimmicky or just don't work, the motion gesturing in *Metroid Prime 3* is simple and functional.

For example, players can use a grapple beam to pull levers and panels from walls or rip shields off enemies. This is done by locking onto a target, throwing the Nunchuk out and flicking it back. Motions like these are used moderately in the game, so they don't become a burden.

*Metroid Prime 3: Corruption* looks as great as it plays. Although the Nintendo Wii is not as powerful as the Xbox 360 or PlayStation 3, *Corruption's* graphics are surprisingly crisp and definitely the best of any Wii game so far. Stunning artwork and visuals are not new to the series, but *Corruption's* graphical facelift is a noticeable improvement over the GameCube versions. *Corruption* still feels very much like the original GameCube version but is a thoroughly improved version that easily stands out as the best game in the series.

Featuring some of the best graphics and gameplay on the Wii, *Corruption* is an astounding achievement for Nintendo that certainly has established the standard for first-person shooters on the console. Hands down, *Metroid Prime 3* is a solid effort that will not let fans down.



Photo courtesy of Nintendo

## "Metroid Prime 3: Corruption"

Platform: Nintendo Wii  
Publisher: Nintendo  
Developer: Retro Studios  
Released: August 27, 2007

Overall Rating  
★★★★★

Gameplay: 5/5  
Graphics: 5/5  
Sound: 5/5  
Value: 5/5  
Originality: 4/5

## What's on your iPod?

**Freshman**  
**Connie Huynh**  
"Greensleeves"  
Jeff Beck

**Sophomore**  
**Collin Koenig**  
"Snowflakes"  
Kaddisfly

**Freshman**  
**Enoch Peck**  
"Spitting Venom"  
Modest Mouse

Design by Andrea Bailey/Index

# Dashboard impresses again

BY LAURA PRATHER  
Features Editor

Dashboard Confessional's fifth album celebrates the characteristic sound that made the group popular and attracted fans.

"The Shade of Poison Trees" is reminiscent of the band's first few albums, "Swiss Army Romance" and "The Places You've Come To Fear the Most." This is a nice change after the release of "Dusk and Summer," which was more mainstream and showed a more solemn side of the band. In the new album, Chris Carrabba and crew delve back into their acoustic-laden, upbeat sound.

I first started listening to Dashboard because the music caught my attention. In fact, it took a long time before I actually learned the lyrics. Since then I have come to appreciate Dashboard's music even more because of its lyrics. The chopped-up phrases, immense vocabulary and ambiguous meanings pull me in. People who don't care for Dashboard critique them by saying every song is the same. But even though some of them have the same sound – such as "These Bones," in which the first few guitar strokes sound vaguely familiar to the ever-so-popular "Screaming Infidelities" – the lyrics, syncopations and melodies make each track different from the one before.

It is not unusual for artists to have a similar message or sound on an album. For

## Music Review

### "The Shade of Poison Trees"



Dashboard Confessional  
Vagrant Records  
Released: Oct. 2

Rating

★★★★★

example, several tracks on the album, such as "Little Bombs," offer messages related to escape. "Little Bombs" confronts someone who has done something wrong and gotten away with it while questioning how he or she will escape without punishment on judgement day. Similarly, "I Light My Own Fires Now" is about people escaping from lives that are holding them back.

The great thing about each song on this album is that the meanings are open-ended and ambiguous. This allows listeners to connect to each track in a one-of-a-kind way. The opening track "Where There's Gold" makes me think of a prostitute who is used to living a life of easy money and one-night escapades that never lead to stable relationships. But what I envisioned might not be the exact meaning that Dashboard intended, and it very well could differ from the next person's interpretation.

Although the majority of the tracks revive Dashboard's early sound, "Clean Breaks" and "The Shade of Poison Trees" still are more attune to those of "Dusk and Summer." Between the gripping melodies and the mysterious lyrics, the title track is almost enchanting. "Clean Breaks" stands out from the other 11 tracks because of its innovative time changes. Very few artists have the talent to pull off the seamless changes that Dashboard executes, except for maybe Dave Matthews Band, Further Seems Forever and The Early November.

In all of its brevity – total playing time is only about 33 minutes – the album's revisiting of Dashboard's original sound with a few newer tracks mixed in made me realize how much I like both styles. Although I once thought of both sounds as distinct, "The Shade of Poison Trees" attests that Dashboard is capable of producing both in one harmonious album.



## Salome's Stars

**ARIES (March 21 to April 19)**  
You're eager to Ram headfirst into that new project. But before you do, find out why some of your colleagues might not appear to be as gung-ho about it as you are.

**TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)**  
All that dedicated hard work you've been putting in pays off better than you expected. So go ahead, reward yourself with something befitting a beauty-loving Bovine.

**GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)**  
It's a good time to take on that new challenge. And if your self-confidence is sagging, instead of telling yourself why you can't do it, list all

the reasons why you can.

### CANCER (June 21 to July 22)

This is one time when you might want to put some distance between you and the job at hand. It will give you a better perspective on what you've done and still need to do.

### LEO (July 23 to August 22)

Resist that occasional lapse into Leonine laziness that sometimes overtakes the Big Cat. Don't cut corners. Do the job right at this time, or you might have to redo it later.

### VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)

You know how you like to do things. And that's fine. But watch that you don't impose your methods on others. A current financial crunch soon eases.

### LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)

Someone might try to take

advantage of your generosity. But

before your sensitivity toward others overwhelms your good sense, check his or her story out carefully.

### SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)

Your strong Scorpian sense of fairness lets you see all sides of a dispute. Continue to remain impartial as you help each person work through his or her particular grievance.

### SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)

Trust your keen Sagittarian insight to help you see through an offer that might not be all it claims. A closer look could reveal disturbing elements.

### CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)

With the Goat exhibiting a more dominant aspect these days, you could find it easier

to make your case in front of even

the most skeptical audience.

### AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)

Aspects favor relationships, whether platonic, professional or personal. On another note: Be a mite more thrifty. You might need some extra money very soon.

### PISCES (February 19 to March 20)

Recent news from someone you trust could help you make an important decision. Also, be prepared to confront an upcoming change in a personal situation.

### BORN THIS WEEK:

You can be firm in your own views, but also flexible enough to welcome the views of others.

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