

Carnal Cartoon Craze

- Dr. Yvonne K. Fulbright

The Japanese-originated bishojo “pretty girl” and hentai “pervert” games have been creating a buzz in recent years as more and more consumers discover the kicks of “pursuing” an animated hottie through Penthouse Forum-like sexual plots. In being more sexually explicit and uncensored, U.S. versions of such games are regarded as much racier than the Japanese ones, which use mosaic blur-out over unmentionables.

Virtual sex slave appeal (users can make her do anything and can never lose) is one of the many reasons why young men, in particular, are drawn to this form of entertainment. As many societies try to digest this newest technological twist, many are labeling bishojo/hentai enthusiasts as perverts.

In Japan, there has been concern over teen boys becoming “addicted” to such games – to the point that it affects their social skill development. I don’t like to use the word “addiction” when it comes to sex matters. But I can see the interactive seductions, enticements, and consummations involved monopolizing one’s time if they have certain issues, e.g., a socially awkward introvert wanting to spend more time playing bishojo games than meeting or hanging out with others.

Along those lines, if somebody does become obsessive with these games, to the point that they prefer animated women over real ones, then it is a good indication that they are fearful of rejection in real relationships, and that they are unable to cope with a sexual relationship (much like in fetish behaviors). I’d speculate that part of the appeal for some in seeing animated characters naked and covered in body fluids is that it may not seem as dirty or wrong as society deems other forms of pornography.

As far as how these games can affect a relationship... men need to recognize that the animated characters are simply fantasy women and should not compare the women in their lives to animated female ideals, e.g., super-sized breasts, and huge and pleading eyes. Likewise, while a couple can get some fun ideas to put into practice, e.g., role-playing picking up the bunny waitress, men shouldn’t expect their partners to be up for game scenarios and character capabilities.

Lastly, if this game trend continues, many couples may find themselves grappling with the question of cheating. Is he still being faithful if he’s having sex with an animated character? On the flip, can playing these games help couples to stay monogamous? After all, fantasizing about others has been reported as a means to loving for the long-term. Characters simply add to that mix.

Yvonne K. Fulbright, Ph.D., M.S.Ed. - Originally from Iceland, sexologist, sex educator, and relationship expert Dr. Yvonne K. Fulbright is the author of several books, including *Touch Me There! A Hands-On Guide to Your Orgasmic Hot Spots* and *The*

Better Sex Guide to Extraordinary Lovemaking. Regularly featured in media outlets worldwide, Dr. Yvonne is the “sexpert” columnist and sex expert for Foxnews.com, a regular contributor to disaboom.com, and a professor of human sexuality at Argosy University. She founded Sexuality Source, Inc., a communications and consulting organization specializing in the topics of sex, sexual health, sensuality, and relationships in 2004. For more information on Dr. Yvonne, her projects, and services, visit www.sexualitysource.com.