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FEATURE

SCI-FI SPECIAL



ALIEN RESURRECTION

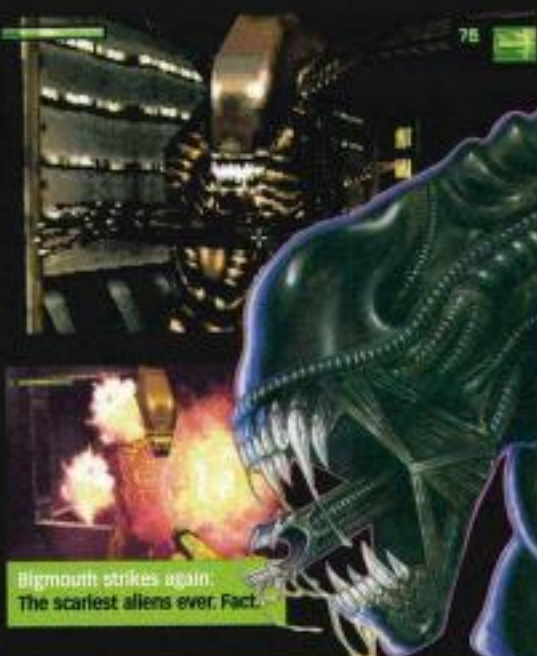
Now these are proper aliens. This is what happens when you want to make the scariest sci-fi film ever and employ the talents of bonkers Swiss artist H.R. Giger to design it. He's not one to do things by halves, is old H.R. Well into his biomechanical nuttiness, he not only came up with an alien to scare the crap out of anyone who came face to face with it, he also gave it a really horrid twist in the form of their whole lifecycle. Basically, face-hugger emerges from egg, finds a host, clamps itself onto the host's face, then pokes a long tube down its throat to lay some kind of baby alien. Alien grows down among the snugly warm internal organs, then tears its way out of the still-living host. Eeeewwww or what, eh? And then it grows up into a big, strong, ugly killing machine with acid for blood and a bad attitude. We'd recommend running away, except *Alien Resurrection* doesn't really give you that choice. Better get tooled up instead then.



ET

Awww! Undoubtedly the ugliest, cutest alien ever! Apparently, the world is full of people who will never, ever admit that they cried when ET died. We certainly didn't. Absolutely not. Well, Curley did, but only because the woman sitting next to him at the cinema was so upset that she knocked a hot cup of coffee into his lap.

ET is a bumbling, slightly psychic alien thingy who looks more like something you'd flush down the toilet than a sentient being you'd hide in your toy cupboard. And it's impossible to make a good game out of it. Legends speak of vast quantities of Atari ET games



Bigmouth strikes again. The scariest aliens ever. Fact.



Phone-y alien: ET's a dull, telephonically-challenged turd.

buried in the Mojave desert. Ubisoft had a go on the PSone and their effort really wasn't worth anyone's attention. ET go home, as we say round here.

STAR TREK INVASION

Star Trek's great for aliens. Admittedly most of them look like humans with bad skin, funny ears or Cornish pasties glued to their foreheads, but who's to say that real aliens don't look like that? Perhaps the Cornish pasty was actually inspired by Klingons visiting Cornwall in the distant past! Stranger things have happened. *Star Trek: The Next Generation* at least brought us the Borg, one of the best alien races ever. Another batch of biomech half-breeds, their hive mind structure and ability to adapt to almost everything makes them a pretty scary breed to go up against. And, naturally, in *Star Trek: Invasion* you get to go up against the Borg and smack 'em down! Just don't forget to keep randomly adjusting your shield wavelength. Or something.



Grey day: Aliens fighting a giant robot is a genius idea...

TERRACON

Ha! Finally those alien Greys get a taste of their own medicine! For far too long they've been creeping into our bedrooms in the middle of the night and spining us away into space to give us anal probes. Come on, how much can you learn from an anal probe? You might be able to work out if someone had sweetcorn for dinner the night before, but that's about it. There's no actual anal probing for Xed, the Grey hero of *Terracon*, but then his people have been wiped out by a giant robot they created. That'll serve 'em right for meddling, won't it? Naturally, you have to stop it in a rather spiffy platformer.

THEY LIVE!

Other aliens that we have known and loved. Or liked. Or, quite possibly, hated with a passion...

Tribbles

As seen in the original series of *Star Trek*, and also in *Deep Space 9* when a few characters went back in time and appeared in exactly the same episode for some reason, Tribbles are fluffy and cute. They're sweet, ickie balls of fur that make soothing noises and have a reproductive cycle of 12 hours. The poor old Enterprise took one aboard and then ended up swamped in the furry little critters. Luckily they'd all been eating poisoned grain and most of them ended up dead. Tribbles were the, ahem, 'inspiration' for the Trumbles - sweet, ickie balls of fast-reproducing fur - in some versions of the classic old-skool game *Elite*, where you had to stop them filling your ship by flying far too close to the sun and cooking them. Ick.



Jar-Jar Binks

Enough has been said of Jar-Jar Binks. He redeemed himself slightly in Episode 2 by inadvertently handing over power to Palpatine, but still. We'll only be happy if he's the one in Episode 3 who clumsily knocks Anakin into the molten lava and then falls in after him. And doesn't come out again.



Genestealers

Ugly, nasty, vicious brutes - that's the Genestealers for you. They're so tough and horrible that the only bunch hard enough to take them on are burly Space Marines in enormous, bulky battle armour. Sadly, if you're into your blasting, *Space Hulk* may be a bit too challenging for you. It is, after all, based on one of those oh-so-complicated role-playing thingies. On the other hand, if you relish the thought of brain-powered combat against some truly hideous foes, try to hunt down a copy.

Kang - Simpsons Wrestling

Yay for Kang! He's the monocular, drooling, tentacled alien who keeps turning up in all those *Simpsons* Halloween specials. And hey, let's not forget his near-identical chum, Kodos. They're your proper flying saucer-inhabiting alien freaks, with more fiendish plans for taking over the planet than they know what to do with. They're brilliant! Of course, we were delighted to see Kang turn up as a special boss opponent in *Simpsons Wrestling*. It's a shame the actual game wasn't too great, but Kang himself really looked rather good in it.



Star Trekkin' Blast the Borg!