



GREY ALIEN GAMES

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British couple create Regency-era computer game

January 26, 2015, Dorset, UK:- A Bridport, Dorset-based husband and wife team are generating a buzz with their popular new Solitaire game for PC/Mac set in the Regency era.

Regency Solitaire is the 10th game made by Jake Birkett, who started his own games company www.greyalien.com in 2005. Since then Jake has developed 10 games for the PC/Mac, and was head-hunted to work for Big Fish Games in Canada in 2008, before returning to the UK in 2012. Over the past decade, Jake has been involved in developing games that have sold over a million copies; co-founded the Full Indie networking groups both in Canada and the UK; and is a well-known figure in the game industry.

Jake's wife Helen Carmichael is an experienced science writer, who has joined Jake as researcher and collaborator on *Regency Solitaire*. Helen has added extensive historical research, along with a romantic Regency storyline and character design to Jake's well-honed game design and programming abilities.

The solitaire game theme came to Helen while watching *Downton Abbey*. The couple had recently moved back to Bridport from Canada. "We were keen to revisit our favourite historical locations in the UK," Helen says. *Regency Solitaire* was born as the couple set out to conduct in-depth research into England's fascinating Regency history. Jake and Helen toured museums, historic cities and stately homes in the course of their research. Stourhead House in Wiltshire, the Roman Baths and museums in Bath, and the Victoria and Albert museum in London all served as inspiration.

"As a researcher and writer I have done my best to go to the original sources and locations to make every detail historically-accurate," says Helen. "My hope is that players really will feel they have spent a few hours in England of 1812."

The gameplay is based on a solitaire variant called Golf Patience. "Card games were hugely popular in the Regency era," Helen explains, "and since gambling was also a common pastime, many families' fortunes were often lost and won at the card tables or the gentlemen's clubs known as 'gaming hells'."

In *Regency Solitaire*, you play as charming high-society girl Bella, who must win back her family's wealth after her foolish brother, Edward, has gambled it all away. To avoid an arranged marriage with the odious Mr. Bleakley, Bella takes charge of her own destiny. Meanwhile the player enjoys a tour of sumptuous locations, like Brighton, London and Bath, and upgrades Bella's ballroom and costume.

After Jake and Helen had designed the game, they employed professional artists and a musician to convert their ideas into beautiful renditions of the past. Research uncovered various interesting historical details – for instance, a pier pictured in the Brighton game scene is no longer there today; and our heroine visits Netley Abbey, which was a popular contemporary haunt of Jane Austen and her family.

Although she's an Austen fan, Helen says that the characters of *Regency Solitaire*, "might be more at home in a Georgette Heyer novel. They are light and funny Regency romances written in the 1930s-70s with great attention to period detail, plenty of plot twists, and slightly larger-than-life characters."

The couple are now planning their next game...

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Go to www.regencysolitaire.com

Key Game Features:

- Smooth, satisfying solitaire gameplay.
- Makeover Bella's ballroom and costume.
- Sumptuous art and romantic storyline.
- 180 unique levels spread over 20 chapters.
- Purchase 31 exciting gameplay upgrades.
- Normal and Hard modes.
- Specially-composed, classical music.
- Can set backgrounds as Desktop Wallpaper (PC only.)
- This game is DRM-free!
- Price: £6.99 / €7.99 / \$9.99

Youtube Trailer: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_W2GM1ECbwU

Full Marketing Package: <http://www.greycaliengames.pjio.com/RegencySolitaireMarketingPackage.zip>

Publicity Photos: <http://www.greycaliengames.pjio.com/RegencySolitairePublicityPhotoshoot2015.zip>

About Grey Alien Games:

Grey Alien Games is an indie game studio founded in 2005 specializing in casual games. It has developed ten download games for PC/Mac including the popular Fairway Solitaire title for Big Fish Games. The studio's most recent game was Spooky Bonus, released in 2013 for PC/Mac.

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Creative England GamesLab South West is a programme of investment and support, designed to aid and sustain the growth of the region's burgeoning games' industry through the development of innovative games and IP. Working with emerging and established companies, Creative England GamesLab South West aims to create the conditions necessary for the most innovative and commercially astute games companies from around the region to flourish. Working with employers, students and individuals, Creative England GamesLab South West also delivers initiatives to create jobs and ensure the retention of established and emerging talent within the region to sustain the growth it aims to deliver during its two-year lifespan. Creative England GamesLab South West is funded by the European Regional Development Fund, supported by the Government's Regional Growth Fund and led by Creative England. <http://gameslab.creativeengland.co.uk/gameslab/south-west/>



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