

I won't pretend to know what it would be like to have a family member sacrifice themselves to develop a cure for a global pandemic that almost collapses all of society, and I don't think anybody does. Certainly, I would want my family member to be able to make that decision for themselves, which of course doesn't happen in TLOU, which makes the decision even more difficult. While it would be a very difficult situation, While I still don't like the ending or agree with the decision, I can sympathize and understand Joel's perspective a lot more than when I beat the game the first time.

I think if anything, it's more disappointing that there isn't any real weight or gravitas added to this moment to really make it more than just another point in the story. This kind of scenario requires near perfect writing to convey effectively, and in my opinion it misses the mark hard. Joel just jumps right into shooting up the whole hospital to save Ellie and doesn't miss a beat to stop and think "hey, is this really the right thing to do?" This is a game that is ultimately filled with tons of people trying to survive, and obviously Joel is only interested in looking out for himself and his own, which does stay true throughout the entire story. But the same survival motivation thing could be applied to the surgeons trying to develop a cure, which in fact stands as the ultimate form of survival because they could cure the disease outright and not just save their families but countless others. So what's the right course of action in this situation?

That's the kind of conversation that I had with my wife after finishing the game, but I was really hoping it would happen in the game. Unfortunately, TLOU has a problem of you making a morality judgment call over the course of the story that feels very hypocritical based on your previous actions, and the second game suffers with the same problem. At least in this game, all the brutal violence and murder that you commit was justified because you were carrying the most precious cargo known to man (unlike TLOU2). For it to come to a screeching halt with no introspection about the ramifications of Joel's actions felt disappointing at best, and very frustrating at worst.