

Death Note Review



GITAM ANIME AND MANGA CLUB

Death Note Review

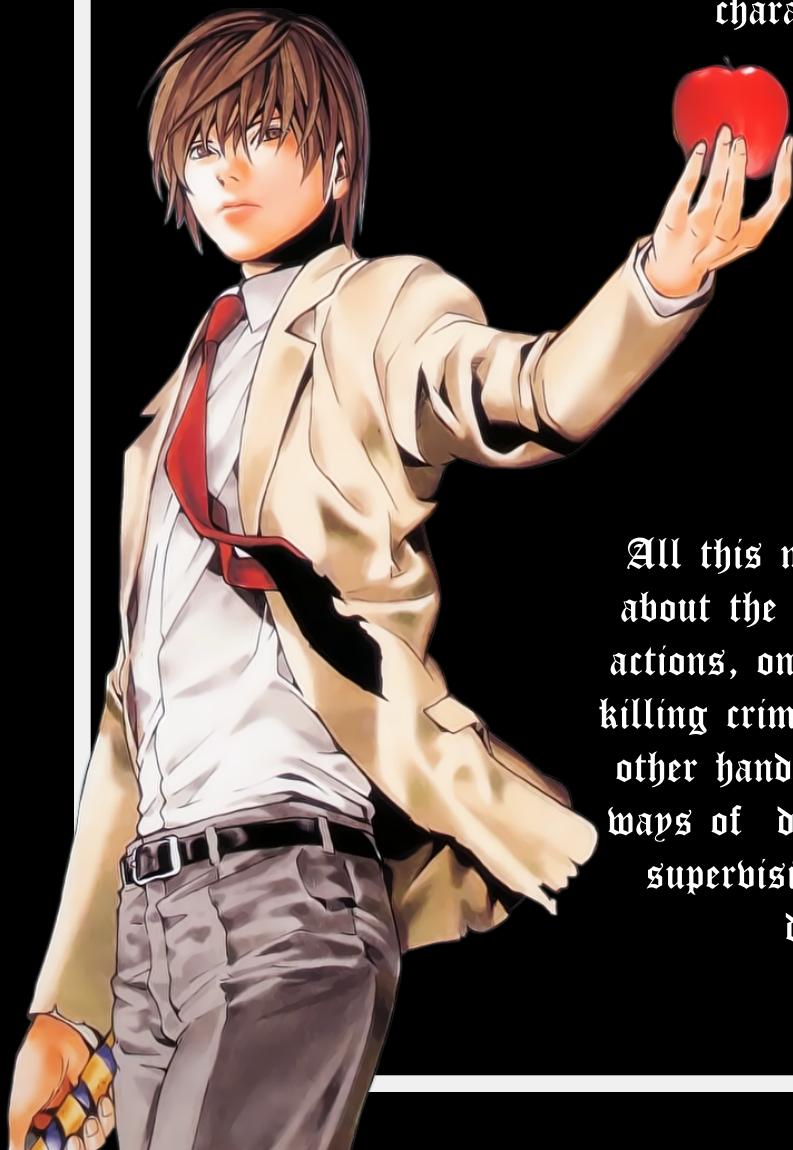
-Ulmilan Mukherjee

Death Note at this point is a cult classic and there's no denying that fact. It's one of the "OG" anime classics which is recommended to all the anime newcomers who are looking for a thriller/suspense themed show to watch. The reason for its popularity lies in the fact that the show has brilliant character development, lore and some of the most iconic and recognisable scenes in all of anime. The basic story of Death Note revolves around a high schooler named Light Yagami, who happened to pick up a "Death Note" dropped by a Shinigami. He soon discovers that anybody who's name is written in the Death Note is killed in any way the writer decides. This basic story structure coupled with the criminal-detective dynamic between the two main characters leads to the best game of mental tug of war in anime history.



The show focuses on the two main characters, Light (The Criminal/Kira) and L (The detective). Light and L have a very solid end goal setup in the beginning of the series itself. Another aspect of the show that makes it an interesting watch is that we as the audience gets to see both the criminal and detective side of the story and get to know their thought processes and actions as they do it, we are always left in suspense wondering who's gonna win the battle ultimately. It also allows the viewer to set realistic expectations for the both of them as they both keep one-upping each other in this intense cat and mouse game.

Light acts as a popular and intelligent student in public but secretly he actually has a very evident "God complex" as he believes he can bring true justice to the world by killing all who he deems unworthy. These characteristics stick with him throughout the series which keeps every scene with him within the bounds of our expectations, thus there wasn't a single scene where he acts out of character.



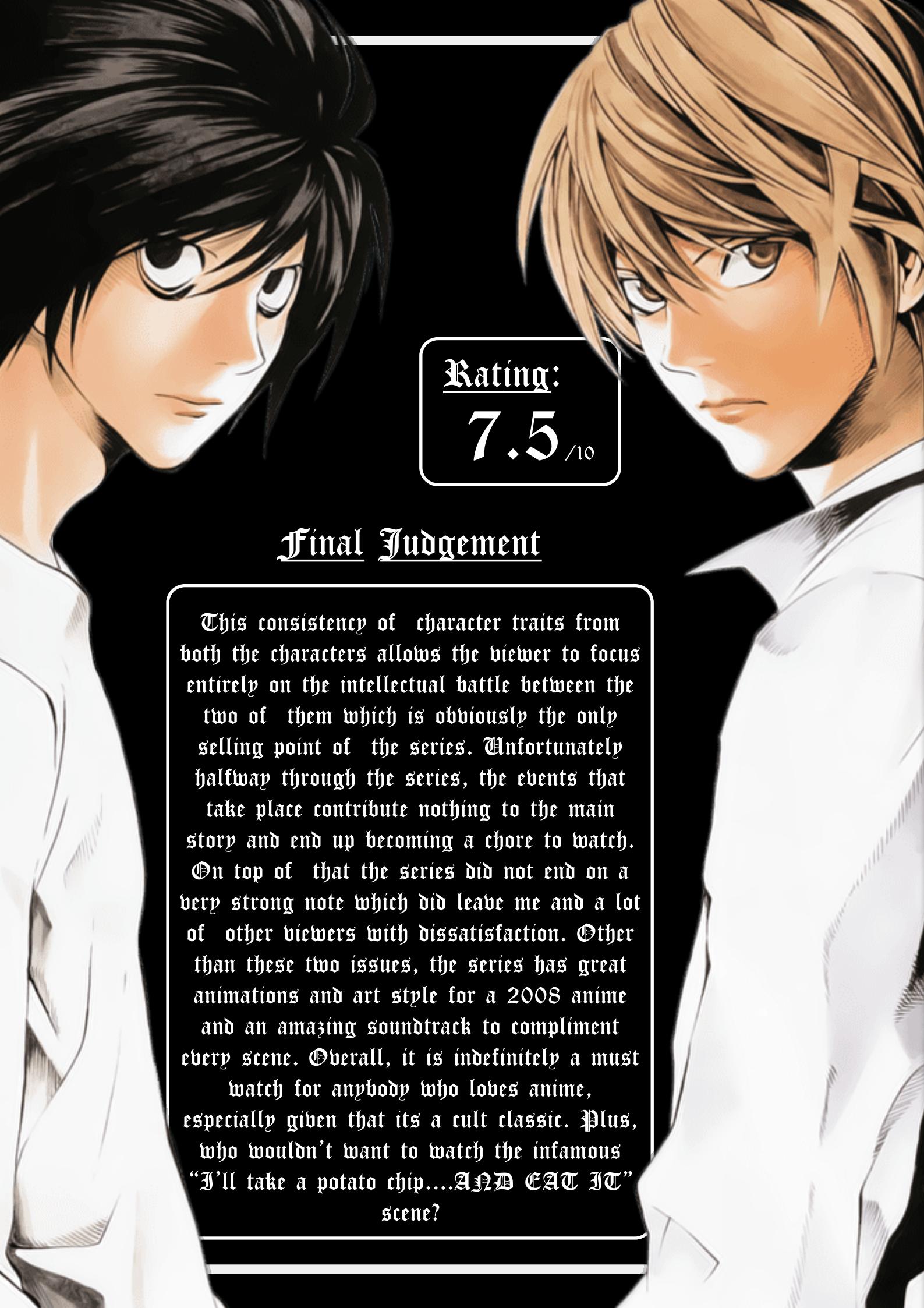
By making Light kill only criminals it sets up a moral dilemma for us as the audience.

All this makes us think about the morality of his actions, on one hand he is killing criminals but on the other hand his means and ways of doing so without supervision are up for debate



As for L, he is just as smart as Light but is on the side of the law that's trying to catch Light. He is reserved, quiet and awkward, which once again is consistent throughout the series. He acts as a rather straightforward detective we see in shows similar to this so the audience has it easy trying to take his side in the story because of it. Plus hey, he's got a killer theme song though, so that's something.





Rating:

7.5 /10

Final Judgement

This consistency of character traits from both the characters allows the viewer to focus entirely on the intellectual battle between the two of them which is obviously the only selling point of the series. Unfortunately halfway through the series, the events that take place contribute nothing to the main story and end up becoming a chore to watch. On top of that the series did not end on a very strong note which did leave me and a lot of other viewers with dissatisfaction. Other than these two issues, the series has great animations and art style for a 2008 anime and an amazing soundtrack to compliment every scene. Overall, it is indefinitely a must watch for anybody who loves anime, especially given that its a cult classic. Plus, who wouldn't want to watch the infamous "I'll take a potato chip....AND EAT IT" scene?