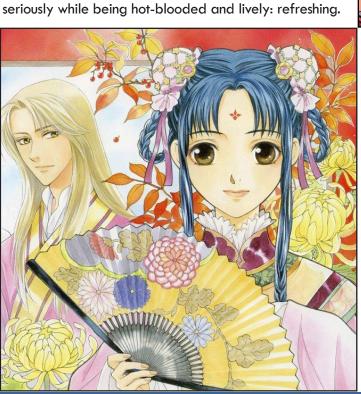
konshuu

presented by: cal animage alpha



Ingredients for Shokugeki no Soma: delicious images of food, delicious images of anime characters reacting to that food, and a good sense of humor. Yukihira Souma is a chef who wants to overtake his father's cooking skill; this means attending an elite culinary school that his father has challenged him to succeed in. Only 10% of the students ever make it to graduation day. The students can be rather competitive when it comes to cooking, but Souma, being the hard-headed but ambitious character that he is, will challenge anyone to prove his culinary talent. The cooking itself: scrumptious; the characters being launched into pure ecstasy after eating said food: exquisite; the feeling of an anime not taking itself too seriously while being hot-blooded and lively: refreshing.





MARGA SOCIAL: SAIUNKOKU MONOGATTARI

Inside of the oriental empire of Saiunkoku, eight provinces vie for power and control over the state. A member of one such province, Shurei of the Hong clan, is a descendant of the Hong noble family. Yet despite her status and nobility, she spends her life living between paychecks because of unfortunate circumstances. Furthermore, due to her female gender, she is forbidden from pursuing her one true passion: politics. But this soon changes as the new Emperor, Ryuuki Shi, ascends the throne. Emperor Ryuuki is a do-(no-)gooder who rarely attends council meetings and is rumoured to be gay. In order to set him straight, Shurei is soon appointed as both Ryuuki's consort and advisor. Having finally attained a well-paying salary and a respectable position in the imperial court through Ryuuki, Shurei begins to enact her will on the country, and slowly the gears begin to turn.

Reading: Chapters 1-12.5



simply being a genre with only "cute girls and boys doing cute things." While this is true for some slice-of- But beneath the upbeat exterior of the first few episodes life works, and many great works have been made is a slow-acting poison of emotional distress for Mayuko. following this formula, more contemplative works in the For one, Niea is notably the only real excitement in slice-of-life genre have been made. These works choose Mayuko's life. The only times that we see Mayuko act in to crawl a little deeper into our daily mundane lives, an eccentric or bizarre manner are during her interactions picking out the intricacies, eccentricities, and absurdities with Niea; when Niea is not involved, Mayuko's daily that are so commonplace, we never even notice them. life is almost too bland and somber for even a slice-of-

and produced by the now defunct Triangle Staff at the means boring or one dimensional, are all very measured turn of the millennium, Niea_7 was and is a relatively and elderly. Even the bathhouse's manager, Konomi, unknown masterpiece of this specific, contemplative slice-mentions to Mayuko that she'll "grow boring" if she of-life genre. Much of the staff that worked on Niea_7 keeps living with old people. This is the sad reality of had previously worked on another of ABe's works, the Mayuko's life situation. By spending all her time working much more famous and celebrated cult classic "Serial multiple jobs just to fund her studies, she never has the Experiments Lain." Released in 1999, Serial Experiments time or money to act freely, like other people of her age. Lain was itself a very unique, avant-garde anime that tried to ask some important philosophical questions Mayuko realizes her own dull nature all too well,

of-life today would: with comedic scenes and jokes. decides at the last minute to decline Chiaki's invitation. Niea is usually the instigator of any comedic moments, with Mayuko begrudgingly adding to the joke as the

"No one really cared anymore, when we all realised "straight man" and being the victim in many of Niea's that this once strange thing had become ordinary." misadventures. In between these comedic bursts are quieter, more relaxing scenes; the general tone of The slice-of-life genre is often grossly undervalued as the start of the anime is very lighthearted and fluffy.

life work. This is in part because the other characters Created originally as a doujinshi by Yoshitoshi ABe that Mayuko interacts with in the bathhouse, while by no

(namely, about the reality of the "wired" network of which is why in the later episodes of the anime, she disembodied ideas and data that we all live in and take makes strides towards becoming more sociable and for granted today). So, when it was announced that the extroverted. As an example, Mayuko is invited to a same staff would work on a more lighthearted slice-of- drinking party with a few college boys by one of her life in Niea 7, not many people knew what to expect. few friends at cram school, Chiaki. Normally reluctant to go to social outings, Mayuko pushes herself to The story follows Chigasaki Mayuko, an extremely attend. However, Mayuko soon grows anxious about poor cram-school student who lives inside of an old the party. She becomes self-conscious of her meager traditional bathhouse, and the titular character Niea, a image; her unkempt hair and plain, unfashionable quirky, happy-go-lucky "under-seven" alien from outer clothes slowly chip away at her self-confidence, and space. The anime starts off just as your average slice- without the money to participate in the first place, she

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