

vol.50 #10
Winter
Holidays

KÖNIGS KÜCHE



Colonel Sanders

I Love You, Colonel Sanders!

A Finger Lickin' Good Dating Simulator

art by Tammy Lee

RanGers



LANDSCAPE



JET SITU

STAFF WRITER

1ST YEAR, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING AND COMPUTER SCIENCE

~Romance is so difficult to write I dunno how people do it.~

7:30 pm, snowing. He puts his phone back into his pocket, staring through the door. It's warm inside the store, with rows of bourbon, whisky, and wine on wood shelves behind him. He's leaving now, with a bottle inside his coat, and his hands in his pockets. Pushing the door, he braces against a gust of wind, stepping outside into the cold, snowflakes peppering him. And though it's freezing, his body's warm with excitement.

He pushes on through the snowfall, Christmas lights shining down on this street of memories. To his left, the school where he and his girlfriend went to, the gate frosted over. To his right, the cafe where they had their first date, lights off, closed for the night. In the distance, he sees house lights turning on, a shimmering green tower, and up above, the full moon. Trudging forward, he marches toward the nearest station.

The station's in chaos – the snow's destroyed the timetable. Policemen guide passengers toward cars and away from the snowfall, while the announcements drone over an increasingly long list of delays. While many grumble about making it home late for Christmas Eve, he pushes on, tapping his card through the gate, heading straight to his line. Stepping into the train, he leaves Asakusa Station, heading northbound.

7:30 pm, snowing. She reaches into her coat pocket and puts back her phone, looking outside through the sliding door. It's warm inside – a fresh smell emanating from the pastries on display – a cornucopia of red bean, pineapple filling, taro, chocolate, French vanilla, and mochi. It tempts her to turn back, to drop another 3000 yen on the counter, to indulge a bit more. But instead, she waves goodbye. As the door slides open, a gust of wind pours into the bakery, sending a shiver through her body. An arctic wind howls through the deserted street, snowflakes applying a coat of

white across the landscape.

She's quick to cross the frosted street, a golden-brown box in her hand. Though the snow freezes her exposed hands and the box is covered in a snowy layer of icing, she presses on, Christmas lights illuminating the night. In the distance, she sees festivities begin, a shimmering green tower, and the full moon. But she quickly loses sight of these as she descends a set of stairs heading underground from the street, leading into a mall.

The mall is muted today, as shops close down for the night. She blushes as she sees the lingerie shop she once dragged her boyfriend in to (much to his embarrassment). Her eyes wander as she walks through the mall, her hand instinctively reaching out before she reminds herself: she's not here to shop today. She's boarding the Oshiage Line, the station just down the hall. She taps her card past the gates, and she steps into the northbound train.

He arrives at Tokyo Skytree Station. She arrives at Oshiage Station. Fewer than 50 meters divides them. A set of stairs faces him, a mall faces her. He walks up the stairs, multicolored lights glowing from the walls, trees glowing with fluorescent leaves. She walks up stairs inside the golden-brown mall, where clothes, gifts, and stationary adorn the shelves of the stores. But she passes it all, heading to the 4th floor, where some rose-colored tables lies next to a set of doors leading outside.

He's ascended the stairs, staring at a winter wonderland – with a massive Christmas tree sitting in the center of Skytree Town, its lights peering through snow-covered tips. She's finally reached the 4th floor, heading straight for a set of doors that automatically open, a wave of warm air pushing her out into the cold.

It's 8pm, and the snowfall has stopped. He's arrived at the tower next to the tree, looking eastward. She's stepped out, looking westward. He sees her, she sees him. He moves toward her, she moves toward him, the snow melting away under the lights, their feet closing the gap between them, eyes locked. She rushes forward, dodging the crowd,

her breath misting in the air, her heart racing. He rushes forward, his arms outstretched, a goofy grin on his face, and his ears a blush red.

At the Christmas tree, they collide, their bodies pressing against one another, her cheek on his chest, her ears picking up the sound of his heartbeat. Her face looks up, his face looks down, and they lean in, forgetting about the chill around them, warming each other up. Her hands wrap around and caress his back, his hands gently grab her arms as their lips touch. As their hands loosen their embrace and their lips part, they stare up at the sky. The Skytree towers above them, the pole-like structure bathed in a green hue, and the tip in a light-blue hue, piercing the wintry sky like a star atop the Christmas tree.



The Skytree During Christmas

It's 8:15pm as they walk inside the Skytree. A simple scan of their phone screens and they're ushered into the elevator, set to go to Floor 340. The elevator rapidly ascends, an arc of gold shooting upwards into the night sky, and in less than a minute, they arrive. As the elevator doors part, an attendant guides them to the restaurant. With their booking confirmed, their waiter leads them to their seat – a bar facing the window, a view of Tokyo from over a thousand feet in the sky.

And though both the view and sushi are of the highest grade, their eyes are on each other. As the main meal comes to a close, they each set down what they've brought this Christmas Eve. He pulls out a bottle of seasonal champagne from his coat, while she opens the box, revealing a Christmas cake adorned with white frosting, strawberries, and chocolate decorations. The waiter comes by, pouring the champagne into two wine glasses, and cuts a slice out of the cake for them to share together.

It's 9pm. As the two set down their wine glasses, put down their forks on the table next to half-eaten cake, and

turn toward one another, the skies clear on this stormy Christmas Eve. And as they both lean in to share a kiss, the landscape opens up – Tokyo a sea of lights, Mt. Fuji visible in the distance, and the full moon shining brightly in the sky.

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Christmas Eve is a major romantic holiday in Japan, even rivaling Valentine's Day. In Japan, Christmas is less of a religious occasion and more of a holiday time to spend with your loved ones. There's several traditions explored here – Christmas Eve is incredibly busy, and without reservations, it's near impossible to get a seat at any restaurant; the Skytree (and Skytree Town) lights up to celebrate the holidays; distilleries typically produce Christmas beer/wine; and a dessert to have is Christmas cake, a white-frosted shortcake adorned with strawberries.



*Christmas Cake (omg I really want some rn)*

Much of the inspiration for this was taken from *Tada-kun wa Koi wo Shinai*, *Wotakoi*, and *New Game!* (manga), though my own trip to Japan a while back help me ensure that the setting and the Skytree was as accurate as possible (yes I did go up). And even though this story's a fantasy, the sentiment of being with your loved ones is wholly achievable. Happy holidays, and I wish you all a lovely Christmastime.



*Tada-kun's take on Skytree - note where they're standing, and note that Tada is deathly afraid of heights.*



# A RANMA 1/2 CHRISTMAS



RACHEL MIN

1ST YEAR, INTENDED COMPUTER SCIENCE

tl;dr Watch "The Tendo Family Christmas Scramble"  
Ranma 1/2 OVA ep. 2

STAFF WRITER

## Spoiler Warning

Many romcoms love to have that holiday special. In Japan, Christmas is not only a holiday to spread happiness, but also a romantic holiday. Naturally, every romcom is more than eager to jump on that holiday special train and make easy money. The episode practically writes itself: the two main characters struggle to give each other presents, and when they finally do exchange presents, they develop a closer relationship. As a cherry on top, you can add that extra message of "the true present is not the materialistic value of the present that was given, but the feelings within it," which is contradictory because the studios are probably making big bucks off this special and don't care about feelings.

But I digress.

If you're looking for a short and sweet Christmas special this year, you might want to look back at a classic--*Ranma 1/2*. The episode, appropriately named "The Tendo Family Christmas Scramble," follows the main protagonists, Ranma and Akane, as they escape their admirers and try to exchange Christmas gifts in private.

For those who don't know the premise of *Ranma 1/2*, it's about a young martial artist, Ranma, who has an arranged marriage with a girl named Akane. Like most stories with arranged marriages, they reject the notion of marrying the other party. Like most romcoms, they secretly like each other.

*Ranma 1/2* is also well-known for Ranma, who turns into a girl when splashed with cold water. It is also considered one of the first harem anime as both Ranma and Akane have their fair share of admirers.

The special starts off with Akane's sister Kasumi, who has a dream that tells her to have a Christmas party where people can exchange gifts with each other. Akane and Ranma prepare gifts for each other, but as the party guests arrive, they soon realize that their admirers have come with presents of their own, intent on delivering them to the person they like. Needless to say, the situation devolves at breakneck speeds, putting the "scramble" in "The Tendo Family Christmas Scramble."

Unfortunately, the next paragraph is a spoiler, so you are welcome to skip to the next paragraph.

The resolution is predictable, but cute. While being chased by Ranma's admirers, Ranma and Akane fall through the roof and into their attic, where they finally have a chance at being alone. They have a bashful exchange, and gift their respective presents. Akane gives Ranma a handknit scarf that, albeit poorly made, shows a lot of care, and in return, Ranma gives her a photo of them with their friends in a nice picture frame. He claims that, like Akane, he can't do arts and crafts to save his life, and they share a heartfelt moment. Of course, as per romcom laws, their romantic bit doesn't last longer than a minute, and they immediately fall through the attic floor and into the middle of the bustling Christmas party.

For people who have never seen *Ranma 1/2*, the Christmas special could be a great taste of what *Ranma 1/2* is like, and for those who have watched *Ranma 1/2* before, this Christmas special is a perfect throwback, jam-packed with all of your favorite characters. If you're looking for a relatively short Christmas special during the holidays, give *Ranma 1/2* a try.



Kasumi dreams up a Christmas present



A Ranma Ornament

# NEUES JAHR, NEUE ÄRA



NICK WONOSAPUTRA

1ST YEAR, INTENDED MCB NEUROBIOLOGY

STAFF WRITER

Mahler: Symphony No. 3

The largest contributor to the *Legend of the Galactic Heroes*' timelessness is its undying commitment to presenting the epic, galaxy-spanning narrative in the style of a pseudo historical documentary. There are a variety of different elements that help elevate the show's tonal consistency, which includes the documentary-esque narration, classical music, and realistic character designs. However, I would like to focus on a certain annual event that both the real world and the world within the *Legend* share: the new year's celebration.

At the beginning of every major battle or event, the narrator ensures that the audience is aware of the exact month, day, and year on which the event is taking place. What serves as a method of creating immersion and solidifying the worldbuilding (the two nations use separate calendar years so both are listed when possible), also serves as a way of creating a sense of progress within the narrative, reminding the audience that a lot has happened within the span of just a few years.

This emphasis on the progression of time makes every new year's celebration in the show feel extremely gratifying and deserved, as if the audience, in watching the struggles and triumphs of the characters during that time, had played a role in giving the characters a reason to celebrate the new year, and to look forward

to what is to come.

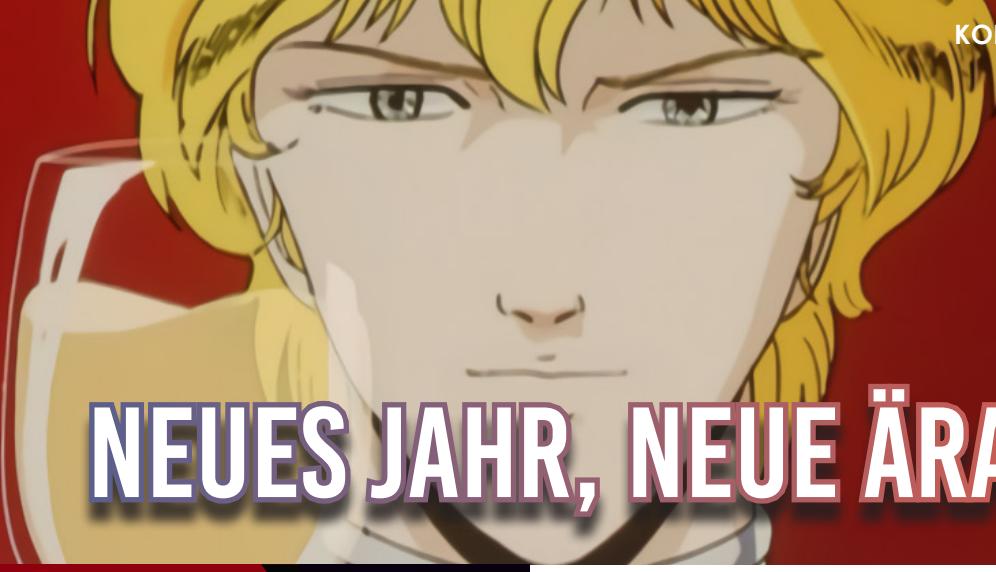
But this also comes with the ingenious caveat in that the rejection, or even ruin, of a new year's celebration will result in a very jarring experience, as if the audience is slapped in the face. This often occurs when characters are in dire peril, or their plans go horribly wrong. This reality check helps reinforce the peril as something that precedes the acknowledgement of progress, and is as though the show is trying to tell the audience: "stay on the edge of your seat, the celebration will have to wait." Thus, the audience is fully invested in the situation, and when the situation is resolved and the characters are elated in surviving to see the new year, the audience is swept up in that elation, and will vividly remember that conflict and resolution.

This aspect of the new year's celebration also applies to tragic, irreversible events like character death. When the new year arrives while the characters are grieving for the fallen, the characters are reminded of the flow of time, and that, no matter what they do, they could never bring back the dead. But the new year also reminds them that they must move on, if not for the sake of the fallen, then for the sake of the future, because, as far as they are concerned, their mission isn't done yet. Thus, the characters put on faint smiles and do their best to raise a glass to the dead, and look towards the future with renewed resolve.



*"In the long flow of time, living things know nothing of their ancestors, except for the genes they've inherited. Only mankind has history. Having a history differentiates mankind from all other living species. That's why I wanted to be a historian."*

-Yang Wenli (Episode 35)



Prost!

# A CHRISTMAS MIRACLE?



**SHAMIN CHOWDHURY**

STAFF WRITER

4TH YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

Rain is like medicine. I don't want it, but I need it.

**HEAVY spoilers for Toradora!**

Many are familiar with the Christmas party episode in *Toradora*. This was a huge point in character development, in particular for Taiga, Ryuiji, and Minori. What makes me wonder about these episodes though is just how important the turn of events contributed to the outcome. What if Minori hadn't seen Taiga crying outside her apartment complex? What if Ryuiji hadn't heard from Ami that Taiga left the party? Is the love for Ryuiji that Taiga realized in that episode really different from how she'd felt about Ryuiji going up to that point? Did everything just fall into place like a Christmas miracle?

First, what I'd like to imagine is what if Ami didn't tell Ryuiji that Taiga left. Well, it's possible Ryuiji would have been caught up in helping out at the party until the end, so Ryuiji wouldn't have left to go see Taiga wearing the Santa bear outfit. Taiga then would have spent another Christmas Eve waiting for Santa without him coming, and Minori might have then gone to the party and accepted Takasu's confession (or maybe left him hanging since she didn't want to get between him and Taiga). However, by this point, Taiga's like family to Ryuiji, so I think it would've made more sense that he'd eventually realize during the party even if Ami didn't tell him. The rest might've then proceeded more or less as it did in the show.



Ryuiji finds out that Taiga left

But what about Taiga? Throughout the series, Taiga was helping Ryuiji get closer to Minori and build up the courage to confess to her, so if Ryuiji didn't come, would Taiga have just kept trying to get closer to Yuusaku? In this episode, as Taiga thinks to herself about how Ryuiji would confess to Minori and how the two of them have feelings for each other and would become a couple, Taiga starts crying without noticing at first, and she then rushes out of her apartment crying out for Ryuiji. When I watched this series the first time, I was caught off guard thinking that Taiga suddenly developed feelings for Ryuiji at this point in the series, but that's not true. If we go back to the episode when she had a swimming competition against Ami, Ryuiji casually mentions to Taiga multiple times about how he thinks she's trying to prevent Yuusaku from having to go to the beach house with Ami, but Ryuiji doesn't listen and doesn't understand as Taiga tries to insist otherwise. By that point, Taiga was at least jealous of Ryuiji being with others but not with her. Even in the second episode, Taiga is happy when Ryuiji calls her by her first name. So even though Taiga wasn't honest with her feelings at first (bc she's a tsundere LOL), she'd already loved Ryuiji going up to that point. I think that even if Ryuiji didn't visit her that night, even if Ryuiji and Minori somehow confessed to each other, she still would've realized her feelings eventually and acted the way she did in the later episodes of the show.



Taiga cries out for Ryuiji

The presentation of events in this Christmas episode were definitely dramatic, almost miraculous even. But the seeds that led to those events were planted long before. The conclusion? There are no Christmas miracles :P

# STAFF PICKS: FAVORITE HOLIDAY EPISODE

## "Troupe Dragon, On Stage" - Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid



Tammy Lee

With the holidays right around the corner, the local senior home is in need of Christmas joy, and who better to call Tohru and Co. The dragons put on a wonderful performance of "The Little Match Girl," full of tragedy, hope, friendship, the dark arts, Ronin 47... it's better if you watch the episode.

## "For Whom the Bell Tolls" - Moto To Love Ru



Neil Fryndal

Because Rito's parents are both workaholics, Christmas has always just been him and Mikan by themselves, but this year, Lala pulled out all the stops and got the whole Yuuki family together! Yami and Haruna both came too! It's a wholesome episode that demonstrates the strong bonds between the show's main characters and also offers some laughs and holiday cheer.

## "The Prodigal Sons Come Home" - Legend of the Galactic Heroes



Nick Wonosaputra

All military campaigns for both the Free Planets Alliance and the New Galactic Empire are put on hold to celebrate the new year, which is especially significant as it is the turn of the century to 800 UC, and marks the first year of the Neue Reich. The episode also showcases the long-awaited recapture of Iserlohn Fortress by Yang's Irregulars.

## Snow Halation - Love Live!



Marc Castillo

The "All I want for Christmas is You" for us weebz. The song is so iconically Christmas-y, with sleigh bells and snow on the PV, that you sometimes forget that the song is not even about Christmas in the first place!

## Saiki Kusuo



Abeer Hossain

Saiki Kusuo has four total New Years episodes. It's normal to expect these episodes to show four separate, consecutive years. However, this is Saiki Kusuo and the normal doesn't take place here. The antics that take place across these four episodes are peak Saiki and the explanation for its repetition (nothing like Endless Eight if you're worried) is as ridiculous and comical as the rest of the show.

## "It's Not Fair that Michiru Gets All the Love" - Comic Girls



Jet Situ

Even though the episode opens with Ruki's shenanigans over her lack of love in her life, it's all quickly fixed as this especially chaotic episode goes through all the winter holidays (+ Ruki's birthday!) in a single sitting. Not only do we see Tsubasa's home - a giant castle; in true Kaos fashion, we also see Kaos draw the worst luck possible at New Years.

# VOLUME L, ISSUE 10 — DECEMBER 5, 2019



Konshuu accepts guest submissions from club members! If you'd like to have content featured, please visit:  
**J.MP/KONSUB**

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## CLUB EVENTS

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Alternating Weekly Workshop/Showing: Wednesday, 7-8 pm 103 Moffit  
Game Nights: Thursday 8-10 pm, 166 Barrows



**SOLOMON**  
*Fate/Grand Order*  
Art by Theo Rai

