

THE COOKING ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

konshuu

Volume XLVIII, Issue XIII



NAKED SNAKE
Metal Gear Solid 3: Snake Eater
Art by Jamie You

THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

SHOKUGEKI NO SOMA

Soma Yukihira wants to be a full-time chef at his father's family restaurant. Unfortunately, his father has other plans: he closes the shop! Instead, Soma enrolls at the illustrious Totsuki Saryo Culinary Institute, a Tokyo culinary school. In this school it's cook or die. The worst cooks will be expelled from the school, while the greatest will go on to become Japan's most famous chefs.

Spring 2015 , JC Staff
Directed by Yoshitomo Yonetani

MANGA RECOMMENDATION

YAKITATE!! JAPAN



2002 - 2007
Written by Takashi Hashiguchi

Kazuma Azuma has one mission: to create Ja-pan, the most legendary national bread. Azuma also has a special ability: Solar Hands. This is a unique ability that lets him ferment dough faster, because his hands are warmer than normal. Chefs in this series cook bread using their complete emotion and passion. Apathetic bread-makers are talentless in this series, and the strongest bread-makers will go on to change the entire world.

3-GATSU NO LION, FOOD, AND COOKING

JONATHAN QIAN
2ND YEAR, CHEMICAL ENGINEERING

I just wanted a reason to write about and recommend *3-Gatsu no Lion*.

STAFF WRITER



3-Gatsu no Lion is my all time favorite anime, and I wanted to dive a little deeper into one of its aspects that is easily overlooked: cooking. *3-Gatsu* uses cooking as a way to characterize the main cast and sends a beautiful message about the power of cooking.

The main character, Rei, starts off living on his own, as a professional shogi player in high school. He is depressed and alone with no real family, and often eats cup noodles and snacks rather than cooking actual meals for himself. The show makes it very clear that his mental health has lead to poor physical health with no signs of improvement until he meets the Kawamoto family. The eldest sister, Akari, takes Rei in after finding him passed out on the street, and nurses him back to health. Despite the Kawamotos' financial struggles, Akari offers him a spot at their dinner table, and even forces him to come eat dinner with them sometimes.



Akari getting ready to make dinner with discounted meat

Akari's cooking is the embodiment of the idea that the cooking itself is more important than the ingredients. Many of the ingredients Akari uses are bought on sale from supermarkets to save money, but her cooking skill is more than enough to make up for lower quality ingredients. Every meal Akari cooks is delicious and often a laborious process. Rei is able to sense the genuine love and care that goes into Akari's food and Rei finds

himself feeling full, both physically and emotionally after every meal. While Akari never directly tells Rei how much she and the rest of her family care about him, the time and effort Akari pours into her meals makes it clear to Rei that he will always be welcome in their house.

While Akari is often the one cooking in the Kawamoto household, the middle sister, Hina, also uses cooking as a way to express her feelings to Rei and the boy she likes, Takahashi. When Rei first wakes up in the Kawamoto house, Hina makes him a huge onigiri to take to school for lunch even though she is already late for school. Rei is reminded again that he is welcome in their home, and it's clear that Akari's constant warmth and care have helped Hina develop into a caring, energetic teenager who sees the value of cooking and food.



Hina struggling to make bento for Takahashi

When Hina develops a crush on a guy at her school, her first instinct is to make a fancy bento lunch box for him to eat after baseball practice. She wakes up early to make the bento box for him and is even late to school as a result of her efforts. In the end, Hina is unable to give the boy her bento box, and feels like her cooking and feelings have gone to waste. Rei and Akari manage to cheer her up by eating the bento at home, and despite Hina's mediocre cooking skills, they scarf down the meal and praise her efforts, encouraging her to try again another time.

It's easy to forget that cooking is much more than creating sustenance. Cooking and sharing meals brings people together in ways that often transcend boundaries, and *3-Gatsu no Lion* embodies that concept in full.

From the New World

DYSTOPIAN DISORDER

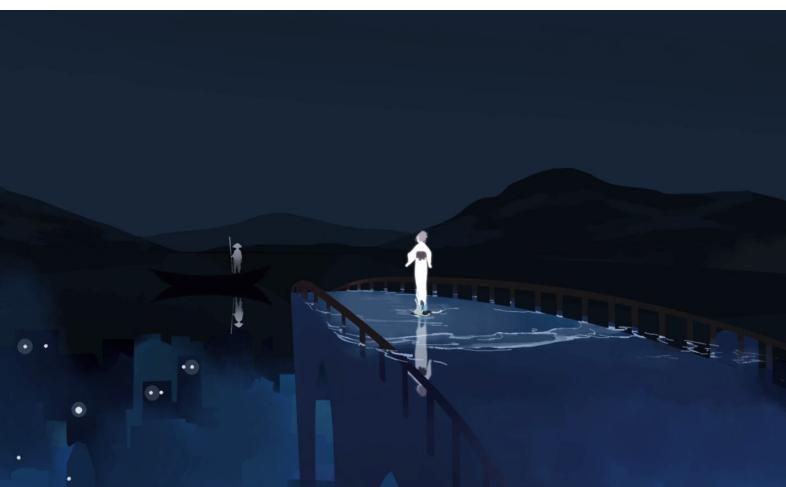
ANDREW OEUNG

4TH YEAR, EECS

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

My final (40th?) article. Not related to cooking!

What is your ideal world? Does it involve justice and order? Chaos and corruption? Peace and quiet? One person's utopia could be another person's dystopia. Every individual has different desires and aspirations. The world of *Shin Sekai Yori* maintains stringent order and secrecy to prevent potential chaos and war.



Thousands of years after the present day, every human in *Shin Sekai Yori* possesses powerful psychic abilities like telekinesis and memory erasure. Due to past world wars that wiped out a large portion of humanity, the dystopian era of Japan seeks to prevent all possible conflict. Violent and/or uncontrollable



individuals are murdered by various monsters under the care of the government. Their existence is permanently forgotten in the post-apocalyptic villages of Japan. Society determines the capable individuals, while the incapable are erased. People are forbidden from learning the true history of their society. If they do learn, they are potentially erased, whether it was intentional or unintentional. These stringent laws maintain order. And yet, these austere practices eventually prove to be the society's undoing.

Shin Sekai Yori is unique. The show is not for everyone. In fact, I have never recommended it to anyone. It is a novel disguised as an anime. In a world where people drop shows after one or two episodes, *Shin Sekai Yori* could never last, because it takes at least ten episodes to create tension. There are no catchy openings (there is no opening), there are no cool fight scenes, and there are no tense cliffhangers. Most of the characters do not hold significant importance, with the exception of Saki, our main character. We watch her grow from childhood to adulthood as she discovers the truth about her town called Kamisu 66.

However, *Shin Sekai Yori* shines where other anime do not. Instead of worrying about character drama and flashy action, the bulk of the show is spent on world-building. We learn how the society functions by watching a group of children grow up in this dystopian world. Some die. Others fall prey to corruption. After all, they are not infallible. The show reveals the world's history bit by bit, only making the details known when they are relevant to the situation. The show is

not a distracting harem or bloody action eyecandy; it actually focuses on strategic thinking more than overt fighting. After all, the characters can easily kill each other, and so ethics and strategy are far more important to the show.

How do you view discrimination? What about punishment, secrecy, and surveillance? Who deserves to be punished? Who must be surveyed? The answers to these questions are definitely not easy or trivial. Luckily, the show does not overtly champion a particular point of view regarding these characteristics for the show's society. Instead, it foreshadows the rippling effect incurred from governmental action, shows the aftermath, and then offers you to create your own opinions. The show creates clear themes, which is uncharacteristic of typical anime that revolve around common clichés and tropes.



I love how practically every moment in the show has meaning. There are no one-off scenes: most scenes influence the final part of the show in some shape or form. The show also has a very appropriate ending, and does not overstay its welcome at all. It seeks to tell a story, although it has to remove some of the dense novel-like details that would contribute to world-building, and then ends with a shocking revelation.

Shin Sekai Yori is meant for the science-fiction audience. The show is an introspective look at our own society: the thought-provoking themes, coherent world-building, and strong animation strengthen this presentation. In that sense, it would be a masterpiece. But for the typical anime audience, the show has little to offer. I would not necessarily say that these two audiences strongly overlap, after all.

Personally, I worry that I will never watch something

as mentally stimulating as *Shin Sekai Yori* ever again. The last ten episodes were one of the most intense experiences I've ever had as a viewer. My jaw dropped at the ending, which gave me goosebumps for the entire day. Even the music parallels my reaction! During tense life-or-death scenes, the show typically plays choir-like music. I frequently think about the enormity of its meaning in regards to how it accurately questions contemporary societal practices. I would compare it more to the likes of *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley and *1984* by George Orwell than something like *Steins;Gate*.



Hopefully, this gives you a better understanding about my favorite show of all time, *Shin Sekai Yori*. It is certainly not for everyone, but it will always have a special place in my heart. I tried my hardest to explain the nature of this show without spoiling its contents in this article.



WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY, WATCH ANIME



ABEER HOSSAIN

2ND YEAR, MECHANICAL ENGINEERING AND ASTROPHYSICS

My first semester in CAA comes to a close with my favorite thing, food

STAFF WRITER

If there are two things anime can illustrate better than real life, they're landscapes and food. Shows that may have characters with disproportionate necks, arms, and legs will often still have a scene or two with a snapshot of a dish that could have been imparted onto humanity by some god of sustenance. But why? If production values of a show are going to be in the gutter throughout its run, why spend just that much more on a scene of food that most likely doesn't contribute anything to the story or towards character development? Well, the answer is simple.

Food is precious.



Here is the most precious thing... well, person... I can think of, Shouko Nishimiya from *A Silent Voice*. (This is unrelated to food)

Whether it's a small snack, a few pieces of cut fruit your mom spontaneously placed on your table, or a bona fide *Shokugeki no Souma* meal, food of all kinds represent the best in people, and of course this is reflected all across anime. One recent example of this is (this is where you should hold on to anything near you, because the show I'm going to use as an example will shock you to your very core as I've never talked about it before)

in the most recent *One Piece* episode (haha, you thought.) This isn't an example of the food looking exceptional, as nothing in the *One Piece* anime adaptation looks especially exceptional, to my dismay. The Straw Hats' cook, Sanji, is tasked with creating a cake to subdue the hunger pangs of the monstrous Big Mom, who will gladly level a continent for a wedding cake at this point in the story. When others attempt to add poison to the cake knowing Big Mom is sure to eat it, Sanji violently knocks the barrel of poison off the boat. Of course Sanji wants to take down Big Mom and poisoning her with the food she so desperately craves would be a great way to do so (if it would even work), but, again, food is precious. This is especially true for Sanji who found his salvation from his extremely abusive family in cooking.



Food is not meant to harm, ail, or impair. Food serves to heal, to nourish, to represent the love and care those who prepared the meal imparted onto them. All across anime, the same love and care is given to food. Important conversations, much-needed breaks in action and drama, and amazingly heartfelt moments occur over food. While the food itself may not be the main focus in the moment, the presence of food is the driving force of many of those scenes and the attention paid to the dishes in the scene is glaringly apparent. From generic shounens to slow slice of life shows, simple scenes with food are everywhere. The food itself doesn't create major plot points or big revelations, but they allow for conversation and reflection by the characters that would otherwise seem unnatural as these slow moments are also present in real life. Food represents a lot more than just calories and tasty goodness (though we can't forget about just how good scarfing down a ton of food is) and of course, anime as another form of expression, reflects that quite well.

Dear Konshuu-sensei

Got a question about school? Need some advice?

Don't worry, Konshuu-sensei is here for you! This advice column features answers to questions that our readers posted last week.

Anonymous asked: *Is there a place near campus where I can purchase anime merch?*

Besides my secret stash of goods I'm willing to sell to you for a price, there's Japantown on Telegraph. It's a very good starter place and has lots of anime merch, such as bags, mouse pads, and even, last I checked... body pillows. If I see you leave there with a body pillow, I will happily deny your existence.

Anonymous asked: *If you had to give one thing up for the rest of your life, what would it be: rice or potatoes?*

This question has actually led to my possible disownment. As the child of two parents who consume rice for every meal, it is a complete taboo that I, the wonderful Konshuu-sensei, have given up rice for the past four years. Initially a way for me to remove unnecessary carbs from my diet, it has led to general disinterest in any form of rice. Additionally, who in their godforsaken mind would ever give up potatoes? That would require to give up all forms of potatoes: fries, baked, mashed, hash browns – simply ludicrous an idea. I'd give up rice, anyday, all day.

Ask a question at tinyurl.com/konshuusensei and it might be answered by Konshuu-sensei in the next issue!

Disclaimer: Konshuu-sensei is not responsible for any consequences that result from following their advice.



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SOCIAL MEDIA

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Bi-Weekly Showings: See you next semester!
Game Nights: Thursday 8-10 pm, 222 Wheeler

CLUB EVENTS



SHIROU EMIYA AND SABER

Fate Series

Art by Elliot Lu