

THE TRAGEDY ISSUE

konshuu

Volume XLIX, Issue III



ATOM AND GESICHT

Pluto

Art by Angela Xu



THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

KIMI NO SUIZOU WO TABETAI

While in a hospital waiting room, our nameless protagonist discovers a book with a handwritten title: "Living with Dying". The book belongs to Sakura Yamauchi, his cheerful and popular classmate who reveals to him that she is suffering from a pancreatic disease and only has a limited time to live. As MC is dragged along Sakura's adventures, he gets closer to her and slowly learns the value of friendship. A feel-good and bittersweet story.



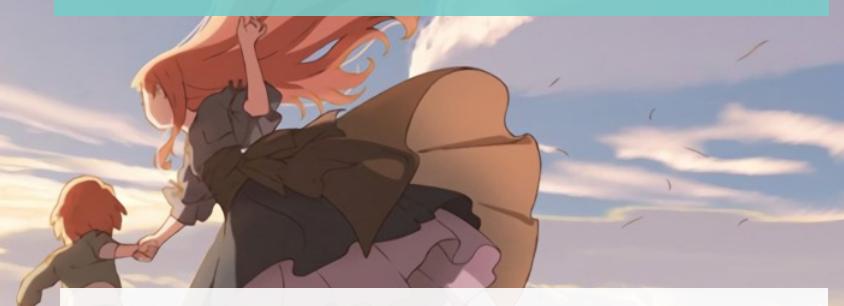
Summer 2018, VOLN
by Shinichirou Ushijima

ANIME RECOMMENDATION

MAQUIA: WHEN THE PROMISED FLOWER BLOOMS



Winter 2018, Wit Studio
Directed by Ayumu Watanabe



In a faraway land live the lorph, a tribe of people who lives for centuries. They live a peaceful life until one day, they are attacked by the Mezarte. One of the lorph, Maquia, escapes but loses her friends and home in the process. She discovers an orphaned baby and decides to take him in, raising him even knowing she will outlive him. A tragic tale of what it means to love somebody.

CODE GEASS: A TRAGEDY

ZIANA DEEN
3RD YEAR, ARCHITECTURE

STAFF WRITER

My seventh grade english teacher caught me crying to "Stories" and I have never lived it down.

Warning: Serious spoilers for *Code Geass*

Everyone has that one anime that changed everything for them. An anime that so thoroughly rocked their world that they can define a life Before and a life After. For me, that anime is *Code Geass*.

12-year old me had no business being affected by *Code Geass* the way I was. Since I had no internet at home, my siblings and I would pirate anime by the season and watch them in the couple hours after school before my parents got home. This meant I could watch two episodes a day, three if I was lucky. This inability to watch *Code Geass*, a highly engrossing anime, made me itch for it everyday. *Code Geass* consumed my life for two months.

For those of you unfortunate to not yet have watched it, this anime is about an alternative Earth governed by three powers, and the young man hellbent on destroying it. The main character, Lelouch, is a seemingly normal high school student who cares deeply for his friends and younger sister, Nunnally. Under the surface, however, he bears intense hatred for the powers that have made him and Nunnally suffer, patiently waiting for an opportunity to lay ruin to the world. His moment arises when he meets the witch C.C. (pronounced Cee Two), who grants him the ability to command anyone to do whatever he wants. With this new power in hand, Lelouch becomes Zero, a conniving and manipulative leader of a rebellion and later, a war.

Now knowing all this, why would this anime be the anime that changed my life? Lelouch is an anti-hero whose death brings upon worldwide peace. After abandoning his rebellion, he makes himself king, abandons his friends and followers, tortures his sister, and pretty much makes the world hate him. He drives his best friend to assassinate him. He is, to everyone whose life he's touched, a monster. And yet, as he is dramatically stabbed, slides down a dramatic slope, and therefore staining the carpet beneath him, the only one who mourns him is his sister, Nunnally. As she cries over his dying body, he tells her, "I destroy the world and create it anew".



This scene all but blew my mind. Lelouch moved time and space to destroy an unjust world, actively started wars, lost many great people, just for his sister. An anti-hero, Lelouch's intentions are selfless and true. His methods of going about it are just highly questionable, and I thought that was beautifully morbid. Also his death was just like, really sad.

And thus, the life After *Code Geass* began. I would watch episodes obsessively everyday, analyzing each scene for further understanding. I couldn't even listen to Hitomi Kuroishi's "Stories" without crying. My sister would come back home from high school and find me sobbing over various death scenes. She asked her weeb classmates how they coped with *Code Geass*, hoping someone could give an answer that would get me out of my funk. No one could because nothing could, and that was, I eventually learned, completely okay.

Code Geass taught me just how important anime was to my livelihood. It is probably what jump started my career as a writer for Konshuu. My experience with *Code Geass* is something all anime lovers eventually go through because for some reason, anime, unlike any other form of visual media, can make us feel things we never expected to feel.

Don't worry though. *Code Geass* isn't wholly a tragedy. There's mecha fights (that lead to dissolution of friendships), love drama (that causes characters to kill each other), and some awesome characters (that die horrible, bitter deaths).

I take it back. *Code Geass* is fucking depressing. But honestly, so is life. So I warn you: watch it at your own risk.

It's totally worth it.

A TRAGEDY OF IDENTITY: THE STORY OF MECHAZAWA



ETHAN CARTER

3RD YEAR, DATA SCIENCE AND APPLIED MATH

STAFF WRITER

I cried no less than thrice while writing this article

Surely everyone remembers their high school days. An epochal moment in everyone's lives, rife with the passions and emotions of youth. Some spent these times joyfully, frolicking and merrymaking their way through their days. For others, however, these times were not so joyful. With this, I bring you the tragic story of a normal, everyday high school boy, Mechazawa.



The subject of our story. A poor boy cursed to suffer

Mechazawa is a student of Cromartie High School, a school notorious for being filled with delinquents. Despite his gruff outer appearance, Mechazawa possesses a heart of pure gold. Always willing to offer advice to those who come to him, and never backing down when it comes to protecting his friends, you'd never find a kinder human being. Despite this, Mechazawa's high school days were not filled with joy. Those around him constantly misunderstand him and make prejudiced judgments about him due to his appearance. The main character, within seconds of meeting Mechazawa, assumes that he's a robot purely because he was born with a bigger face than normal. Not only this, but, at one point in the story, Mechazawa gets captured by students of a rival school seeking revenge for an earlier struggle. The main character and his friend both are aware of this. However, rather than saving Mechazawa, they allow him to be attacked, hoping the attackers would confirm their horrible accusation of Mechazawa's robotic-ness. As a result of their harshly insensitive and unfair judgments, Mechazawa's life is threatened when one of the attackers snaps. In one of the most emotional scenes in the anime, Mechazawa is stabbed with a knife, sending viewers into fits of shock and tears!



The tragic scene of Mechazawa's stabbing. (He eventually recovers)

Mechazawa's story is made even more tragic when his family is brought into the show. Mechazawa has a younger brother, Beta, whom he loves dearly and is very protective of. Unfortunately, Beta was born smaller than most other people, rendering him not much bigger than a soda can. Despite Mechazawa's valiant efforts to keep his little brother from harm, the cruel world has other plans. In yet another tragic scene, Beta gets stepped on by a gorilla, causing immense anguish to Mechazawa!



A brother's pain. Beta crushed by Gorilla. (He too recovered)

Though already a tragic life, these events are not the end of Mechazawa's suffering. Because of his odd stature, he is constantly mistaken for various machines, like pachinko machines or motorcycles. This poor boy, who only wishes to live a normal high school life, is constantly faced with such adversity and suffering, with no relief in sight for him.

戰 開

FATE/APOCRYPHA IS BAD

JONATHAN QIAN

3RD YEAR, ARCHITECTURE

The fact that this was made is the biggest tragedy

STAFF WRITER

Warning: Spoilers for *Fate/Apocrypha*

The *Fate/Apocrypha* anime is one of the worst entries in the entire *Fate* franchise. A combination of lackluster production and horrible writing, the *Fate/Apocrypha* anime is A-1's adaptation of the *Fate/Apocrypha* light novel. While there are some good things about the show, the negatives heavily outweigh the positives, and make the overall experience poor.

Let's start with the worst part of *Fate/Apocrypha*: the writing. In this alternate universe, the Holy Grail War now involves two factions, red and black, of servants and masters fighting for possession of the Greater Grail. The story attempts to get you attached to the participants and invested the Holy Grail War by showing the tragic backstories of both sides and characterizing each servant, but the story suddenly shifts its focus to a bystander that gets pulled into the war, Sieg. It throws out characterizing servants/masters and exploring the war in favor of focusing on Sieg, our bland self-insert protagonist. Over half of the participants then die independently of Sieg and his actions, and all of a sudden the focus of the story becomes developing the relationship between Sieg and the servant who is supposed to arbitrate the war, Jeanne. Sieg decides to help Jeanne and protect her while she arbitrates, leading him into many confrontations with servants of both factions. Sieg is saved from death by plot armor repeatedly, all while managing to win Jeanne's heart.

After all of that, the true conflict is finally revealed. The arbitrator of the previous Holy Grail War, Amakusa, becomes the antagonist of the show. After surviving the previous Grail War and witnessing the horrors of battle, Amakusa takes the Greater Grail and tries to activate it so that he can turn humanity in a sea of souls to prevent any more physical suffering. Of course, Amakusa is ultimately foiled by Sieg and Jeanne, who both defeat him and the Great Grail by sacrificing themselves. Generic, self-sacrificial endings like this are only enjoyable if the characters are likable, and it was not hard to say goodbye to Jeanne and Sieg. Overall, the plot was far too messy and plot armor-y for it to be enjoyable, and the interesting characters were all killed off unsatisfyingly, which left me disappointed.



So please, stay with me.

No one's favorite couple, Jeanne and Sieg.

Moving onto the production, there were many issues here that detracted from the overall enjoyment of the show. The sound design was fairly poor for fights: instead of normal explosion sounds, A-1 decided to use distorted bass tones that made the more intense fights sound like an EDM drop. The inconsistencies in art were distracting and ruined immersion. Background and character detail decreased dramatically during action scenes, and the fast, jerky panning during fight scenes made them harder to follow. As a result of these production hiccups, what should have been the most enjoyable part of the anime, the fights, were ruined, along with what little enjoyment I had left for this show.

If I had to compare *Fate/Apocrypha* to another well-known anime, then *Fate/Apocrypha* would be the equivalent of *Darling in the FranXX* within the *Fate* universe. They are both anime with somewhat interesting setups that go completely off the rails and make no sense by the end. Much like *FranXX*, I would only recommend watching this show if you find train wrecks entertaining.





VON MEANS HOPE

ANDREW WING

4TH YEAR, MEDIA STUDIES

"Remember us. Remember... that we lived." - Nine

STAFF WRITER



Warning: Spoilers for *Zankyou no Terror*

I had to dig deep to find something to write about for this article; I haven't seen many tragedies. Nevertheless, here I am. I'm going to write about *Zankyou no Terror*, one of my favorites that has a soft spot in my heart as it's one of the first anime I watched. Let's get into it.

From the outside, you wouldn't classify *Zankyou no Terror* as a tragedy. At first glance, it looks like a show about terrorism and crime. The show even opens with the main characters stealing a bomb and graffitiing the word "Von" at the crime scene. Nonetheless, because of the way the story is presented, *Zankyou no Terror* is a truly tragic show. The show centers around three characters: Nine, Twelve, and Lisa, the first two being part of the terrorist organization Sphinx that wants to shake up Japan, and Lisa being along for the ride. There's also Shibasaki, a detective who's trying to catch Sphinx, and Five, who, if the name suggests, has a shared past with Nine and Twelve. It's a psychological thriller involving motorcycle rides, ferris wheel bombs, and airport chess games.

There's a tragic backstory behind the main characters of *Zankyou no Terror*. As I've mentioned before, Nine, Twelve, and Five have a shared past, one that produced their numbers for names. When they were young, Nine, Twelve, and Five were part of the top-secret "Athena Project", whose goal was to artificially educate children. The children were orphans, and were subject to inhumane experiments, before the project ultimately failed, leading to the deaths of every participant save for Nine, Twelve, and Five. The three of them had quite a messed up youth, and this is what led Nine and Twelve to create Sphinx: they wanted to shed light on the misdoings of Athena Project through terrorism and their mantra: "Von".

Another element that makes *Zankyou no Terror* sad is the music. The soundtrack is masterfully composed by Yoko Kanno, and perfectly complements the show to create an emotional atmosphere. "Lolol" is a driving song that builds tension, "Von" is an emotional track that soothes the soul, "fugl" is a flowing piece,

and "walt" is a poignant melody that shines hope. The soundtrack in conjunction to the scenes from the anime evict a stirring aura that truly takes the show to the next level, like in the ferris wheel scene and the motorcycle scene.

Now, for the truly tragic parts of the show (heavy spoilers ahead). First is Five's death. Five, who has been interfering with Sphinx this whole time, is at the end of her rope. The effects of the Athena Project are catching up to her, and, knowing that she is dying, begs Nine to live for them both, and gives him a brief kiss before committing suicide. This is sad, despite her being a dislikeable villain, because you never get to know what she was going through and see her feelings eternally unrequited. Fast forward to the ending, and Nine and Twelve performed their final terrorism act and are at large. This whole time, they haven't killed a single person, and left behind cryptic hints towards the Athena Project, which only Shibasaki has picked up on. Nine, Twelve, and Lisa return to the Establishment where the Athena Project took place and set up graves for all the children who died, including Five. Things are looking up, they play soccer, and even Shibasaki shows up, saying that if they turn themselves in, the world will learn about the Athena Project. Yet there is no justice in this world, as the government shows up in helicopters and shoots down Nine while Twelve simultaneously dies from a headache, a lingering byproduct of the Athena Project. This snuffs out all hope in the show, when things were finally looking up. Sphinx never reaches their ultimate goal, and no living proof of the Athena Project remains. It's a bitter ending, and as Nine dies, he tells Shibasaki to never forget them, and Twelve confesses to Lisa the meaning of "Von".

Remember us. Remember... that we lived. Von means hope.



STAFF PLAYLIST

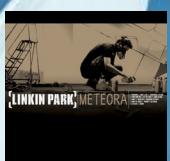
SAD MUSIC



**Prayer X-King Gnu
Shao-Lon Yeh**



**Flume-Bon Iver
Jonathan Qian**



**In the End-Linkin Park
Ethan Carter**



**Stories-Hitomi Kuroishi
Ziana Deen**



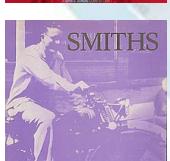
**Bring me to Life-Evanescence
Andrew Wing**



**Memories of You-Shoji Meguro
Athena Chen**



**Song on the Beach-Arcade Fire
Deborah Lim**



**Bigmouth Strikes Again-The Smiths
Andy Lo**



**Hello Alone Yui Balade-Yui Yuigahama
Bogeun Choi**



**Boulevard of Broken Dreams-Green Day
Syed Saquib**



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**ALLEN WALKER
D.GRAY-MAN**

Art by Sharrel Narsico

