

konshuu

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Volume XLIV, Issue III

09.19.16



THIS WEEK'S SERIES

► ANIME SHOWING **MACROSS DELTA**

As the latest in the long running “Macross” franchise, Macross Delta plays out like a modern love-letter that harkens to the older days of the Sci-Fi/Mecha genre. The premise to Macross Delta is pretty simple; by harnessing the power of music, the idol group Walküre fights against the mysterious Var Syndrome, which, once contracted, turns ordinary people in lunatics. But, the draw of Macross Delta is not the passable plot, but the top-notch animation, and the amazing, consistent quality of the musical numbers. In recent years, clones such as Symphogear and AKB0048 have attempted to attain the same success as the Macross franchise, but none have come even close, and Macross Delta is a healthy reminder as to why, when you think music, idols and mechas, you think Macross.



Studio: Satelight

Director: Shoji Kawamori

MANGA RECOMMENDATION ◀ **FORGET ME NOT**

(Soredemo Boku wa Kimi ga Suki)

If someone that you deeply hurt in the past made a second appearance in your life, would you take a chance to make amends? Would they even remember what you did, or care if you apologized? Such is the dilemma that faces Serizawa, an assistant working at a law firm who is saved from a motorbike accident by an uncannily familiar woman. But Serizawa doesn't remember who, exactly; only that she is someone who was likely precious to him in the past. Unfortunately for Serizawa, his past is only filled with stories of failed romances and heartbreak; only with people that he hurt.



Publisher: Kodansha

Story by: Yu Ting Xu

Art by: Nao Emoto

STAFF PICKS: FAVORITE MEGA EVOLUTION

MEGA MAWILE (Andrew)

Why Mega Mawile, of all Pokemon? I chose Mawile because it is a generally underappreciated pokemon due to its mediocrity in the Hoenn region. That was the main reason I used Mega Mawile on my team in Pokemon X/Y. Its original design is pretty strange, and can be summarized by a very simple adage: do not judge a book by its cover! Although its short, bipedal stature may seem very innocuous and welcoming, Mawile can control her giant jaw at the back of her head at will, frightening any adversaries in its path. In its mega-evolved form, Mega Mawile gets a visual upgrade by gaining a second pair of spikier jaws, gaining longer ears, and a magenta skirt. However, the pair of jaws is ultimately her most defining feature, and it definitely emphasizes her overwhelming power and defense. In competitive play, Mega Mawile has the highest Attack stat in the game: her ability, Huge Power doubles Attack, resulting in a gargantuan 210 Attack stat! However, Mawile isn't necessarily broken with that, because she's crippled with 50 Speed, meaning that she will usually take her turns later than her opponents. In my opinion, this actually adds depth to her gameplay, because her moveset revolves around predicting whether her opponent will go on the offensive through Sucker Punch, a move that punishes opponents' attacks with a powerful priority attack. I do concede that 1 on 1 Pokemon matches innately revolve around prediction, but it feels very rewarding to use Mega Mawile specifically because I love the feeling of outsmarting the opponent and reading his or her mind through Sucker Punch and Play Rough, the two trademark moves of Mega Mawile.



MEGA LUCARIO (Andy)

I am a simple man, I don't really care about all this EV or IV or whatever stats these Pokemon usually chosen by. I go with looks or have some other sentimental value to the Pokemon rather than letting the numbers justifying these choices. Lucario has to be one of the coolest Pokemon ever in my opinion. The Lucario and Mew movie is one of the last Pokemon movies I watched and I even read the manga version of the movie from Corocoro Comics way back when. I always liked Lucario's design since it was first revealed before Diamond and Pearl even came out. Even though my personal interest in Pokemon probably peaked in the Gameboy Advance games (I do not play competitive Pokemon), Lucario's reveal did get me hyped up years back. I always liked the humanoid Pokemon, so Lucario's design earns my interest naturally. Now the Mega Evolution of Lucario just made him more badass, especially the ragged cape looking thing which makes him look more heroic. Considering what happens in the Pokemon movie, the Mega design just captured my heart. While I did not really play too much into the XY series, I did use Lucario a lot when Diamond and Pearl came out. So really, I chose Mega Lucario as my favorite Pokemon based on my past interests. Nothing more and nothing less.



MEGA GARDEVOIR (Edward)

My pick for best Mega is Gardevoir AKA Mega Waifu, Google Me at your Own Risk, and Better Sylveon. With a whopping 165 Special Attack, the deadly combination of Pixilate and Hyper Voice, and a diverse support move pool, Mega Gardevoir can sweep through teams that lack Poison- or Steel-type Pokémon. Though its Speed leaves something to be desired, Choice Scarfed regular Gardevoir can be a nasty surprise to Dragons that think they are faster. On the aesthetic side, Mega Gardevoir's wedding dress, smooth bobcut, and gentle innocence captivate PokéFans everywhere, regardless of its gender. Mega Gardevoir also has one of the coolest Shiny palettes around: luscious turquoise hair, glistening orange eyes, and a fabulous black dress.

However, these generic strong points are not why I love "Mega Garde". In 2015, I actually got Top 32 at a Pokémon Video Game Championships Regionals Tournament using - you guessed it - Mega Gardevoir!

She (my Gardevoir was female) Hyper Voiced the life out of countless enemies, survived attacks like a champ, and even helped our UC Berkeley Pokémon VGC team reach the semi-finals of the International Collegiate Pokémon League. Needless to say, Gardevoir has earned a special place in my heart. She will remain my favorite Mega for a long time - at least, until Mega Flygon is revealed.



MEGA ALTARIA (Austin)

Adorable, cuddly, and yet somehow menacing, Altaria has always been one of my favorite Pokemon in the franchise. Unfortunately, its meager stats left it shunned from competitive play, which I specialized in. This all changed after the release of Omega Ruby and Alpha Sapphire, where it obtained a shiny new Mega form, Mega Altaria.

Take a decent stat spread, a solid ability in Pixilate, an absolutely amazing, unique typing in Dragon/Fairy, and you get one hell of a Mega Evolution. These ingredients concoct a beast that's armed with something that I deeply desire in a Pokemon: versatility. Although its stat spread is mediocre compared to other Mega evolutions, its typing and ability grant it with both an offensive and defensive presence which will leave your opponent guessing.

Altaria can be built with a full-on offensive style that comes in two flavours; wallbreaker and setup sweeper. Do you enjoy punching holes in the opposition's tanks with high-powered special attacks such as Draco Meteor and Pixilate-boosted Hyper Voice? Or do you prefer setting up with Dragon Dance, brushing off status effects thanks to Heal Bell before sweeping an unsuspecting opponent's team?

My personal favorite style of Mega Altaria channels its defensive potential and support movepool. Both Dragon and Fairy have a ton of resistances and immunities, and their weaknesses are, generally speaking, uncommon as attacking types. Dragon type resists common offensive typings in Fire, Water and Grass, while Fairy typing effectively makes Mega Altaria a dragon-slaying dragon (just be wary of Dragalge!) Mega Altaria also comes equipped with a variety of support moves such as Heal Bell and Perish Song, a sizable offensive presence with Pixilate boosted Returns, and a solid recovery option in Roost, which can stall your opponent for days and leave them scrambling for answers to your unbreakable wall.



MEGA TYRANITAR (Rika)

First, I would say part of my decision to choose Mega Tyranitar over all the other fantastic megas was heavily influenced by my obsession over "Shin-Godzilla" this summer. (By the way, fun fact: the original name from Tyranitar comes from a creature in godzilla!) Also, my first Pokemon was Pokemon Silver, and Tyranitar was my dream pokemon, since it was the 600s of the second generation! Personally, I like strong and buff tank Pokemon, over cute offense or defense pokemons (except for Chansey). I also love Steel, Ground and Rock type Pokemon. With that being said, I am a big fan of Mega Tyranitar, in terms of its design and battle abilities. The design of Mega Tyranitar is definitely one of the coolest, which only enhances the demonic and handsome features of the original Tyranitar. Unlike his original form, he has vivid red eyes and inner armor. The combination of green, black, and red is so fascinating since it parallels the coloring of Larvitar.

Although I do not intensely competitive battle anymore, I used to own a Ground, Steel and Rock type-oriented team. For this team, Tyranitar's Sand Stream is an effective ability, which enhances the mobility of the team, while annoying the other team. While supporting the team with its ability, Mega Tyranitar is also a top-tier powerful tank with amazing stats, which can be further strengthened by Dragon Dance. With so many possibilities in its movesets (Special Attack, Defense, OR attack-oriented), and held items (scarves, berries, or Life Orb), having one Tyranitar is usually very menacing. I will be waiting for a "Mega-Tyranitar X" and "Mega-Tyranitar Y" for Pokemon Sun and Moon!



MEGA GALLADE (Josh)

I would call myself a casual in terms of Pokemon, and that is mostly because I do not enjoy competitive play. I cannot give my favorite Mega many comments regarding battle. Its ability (Inner Focus) is disappointing, it has high physical power and bragging rights for making Psycho Cut relevant, and it has a health bar that can only be completely full or completely empty. Competitive-wise, I am not sure of the actual value of Mega Gallade, just that I have never seen anyone else use it. Mega Gallade is my favorite Mega Evolution purely based on looks, and Mega Gallade is quite the gentleman figure. A cape that splits down the middle! An elegant white-and-red design to suggest royalty! And of course, being paired with Pokemon's own celebrity, Gardevoir, definitely does not hurt the image. In the series of animations meant to show off new Mega Evolutions, Mega Gallade's TWO blade-like hands glow as it shows off speed and acrobatics in battle against a Mega Charizard X. Like a knight slaying a dragon. Or with Gardevoir, the dashing prince to the princess. The point is, Mega Gallade's combat ability is completely outclassed by its noble design. In terms of design, Mega Gallade is the underrepresented king. Don't even get me started on the shiny.



WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE?



Warning: Mild spoilers ahead.

Last week, I had the privilege of watching *Kizumonogatari Part II: Nekketsu-hen* in Japan. As a long-time Monogatari Series fan, I was ecstatic to fulfill a dream five years in the making. The gorgeous animation, perfect voice cast, brilliant comedic timing, and poignant soundtrack answered my prayers for the *Kizumonogatari* movie trilogy to be just as exceptional as its source material. I cannot recommend this series enough.

“Kizu” is the latest entry into the long-running anime adaptation of the *Monogatari* light novel series. Originally announced as a full-length animated film in 2012, complications sent *Kizu* into production hell for four years and split it into three parts: *Tekketsu-hen* premiered in January 2016, *Nekketsu-hen* premiered in August 2016, and *Reiketsu-hen* is scheduled to premiere in January 2017.



To those who have read the light novel: good news, *Nekketsu-hen* is largely faithful to Nisio Isin’s original work! While some details have been exaggerated, as per tradition of the anime, many scenes depict an emotional depth not present in the text. Watching the fight scenes play out on the big screen was especially satisfying; SHAFT has truly done *Kizumonogatari* justice.

To those who have not yet seen *Kizumonogatari Part I: Tekketsu-hen*: I suggest you watch it immediately, even if you’ve never indulged in the 21-book/90-episode masterpiece that is *Monogatari*. *Kizu* is an artistic tour de force even as a standalone film trilogy. As a prequel, it depicts the “hellish Spring Break” that traumatized *Monogatari* protagonist Araragi Koyomi. Here’s the basic premise: Araragi is walking home one night when he encounters Kiss-shot, a beautiful vampire who has had all four of her limbs torn off. As she bleeds to death, she begs Araragi to let her suck his entire blood supply.



Out of pity and self-fulfillment, Araragi agrees. But instead of taking his life, Kiss-shot turns Araragi into a fellow vampire. She then presents him with an ultimatum: if he can reclaim her limbs from the three vampire hunters that stole them, she will turn him back into a human.

While *Tekketsu-hen* served as an introduction to the plot, *Nekketsu-hen* throws us right into the heat of Araragi’s battles versus the vampire hunters. He squares off against Dramaturgy, a muscular vampire who dual-wields flamberges, Episode, a half-vampire half-human who carries a giant silver cross, and Guillotine Cutter, a human rumored to be the most monstrous of the three. Throughout the film, Araragi learns about his newfound powers as well as the burden of having friends. He also

continues to ask all the right questions – the ones that have surely begun to haunt the viewers.



Kizumonogatari, at its core, is a masterfully woven tale of friendship and humanity. *Tekketsu-hen* introduced audiences to two fan-favorite characters of the Monogatari Series: Hanekawa Tsubasa and Oshino Meme (pronounced “meh-may”). Both characters play a central role in Araragi’s quest for Kiss-shot’s limbs. Moreover, they serve to highlight the themes of Kizumonogatari in different ways.

Hanekawa is a well-endowed classmate who tries to befriend Araragi because she knows there’s a nice guy under all that angst. While their playful banter in *Nekketsu-hen* is an absolute joy to watch, a sense of unease permeates their moments together. For some reason, Hanekawa is never home when she should be. And when she goes through great lengths to preserve her relationship with Araragi, her kindness comes across as frightening. It is these nuanced moods that have made Kizu – and the rest of the Monogatari Series – so beloved by anime fans from all over the world.



Meanwhile, Oshino is a mysterious vagabond who offers his support to Araragi and Kiss-shot at a steep price. As a self-proclaimed “balancer”, Oshino’s job is to create an even playing field between humans and supernatural beings. He agrees to negotiate with the vampire hunters to schedule fights between them and Araragi, and is responsible for selecting locations for the individual duels. In *Nekketsu-hen*, Oshino also gives

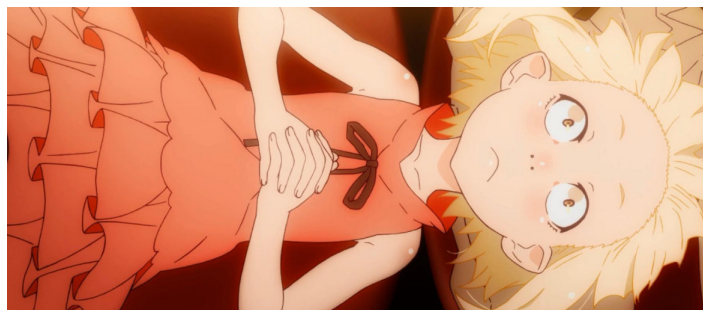
Araragi advice that contains hidden messages. When watching the film, pay close attention to the phrases “use your head” and “give up on being human.” You’ll be rewarded with an appreciation for Monogatari creator Nisio Isin’s trademark wordplay and philosophy.



I have some criticism for *Tekketsu-hen*. The shortening of certain scenes but lengthening of others led to awkward pacing and confusion over characters’ motives. Part I failed to adapt some novel excerpts that I thought were indispensable to the film. However, I have very few complaints about *Nekketsu-hen*. If anything, I wish certain frames of the fights were animated differently. Maybe Kiss-shot could’ve had more screen time. But that’s about it. Part II was everything I wanted this adaptation to be: fast-paced, action-oriented, and entertaining from start to finish.



Kizumonogatari Part II: Nekketsu-hen is currently airing in theaters across Japan. Subtitled showings will premiere across the United States starting on October 15. Be sure to sit through the credits for an eyebrow-raising preview of *Part III: Reiketsu-hen*!





THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITY

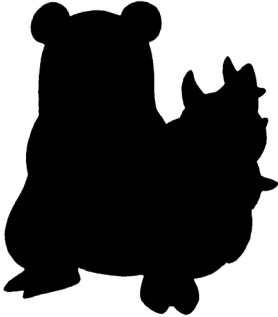





Are you a true Pokémon expert?
Then try identifying these Pokémon silhouettes!

Difficulty:

Easy

Medium

Hard

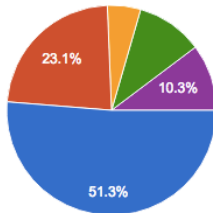
		
		

Answers: (Easy) Slowbro, Dratini; (Medium) Croconaw, Tyrantrum; (Hard) Iggybuff, Jolteon

LAST WEEK'S POLL

So sweet and tasty they'll make your heart melt! Which of these is your favorite Japanese sweet?

RESULTS



- Mochi
- Taiyaki
- Anmitsu (White Agar Jellies)
- Yōkan (Red-Bean Jellies)
- Dango

THIS WEEK'S POLL

The strategy and complexity behind creating decks...Which of these is your favorite card game?

Vote now at: [BIT.LY/KONPOLL4403](https://bit.ly/konpoll4403)

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content featured, please submit to:

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REGULAR WEEKLY EVENTS

Anime Showings and Socials

Location TBA

Mondays, 7:00 - 10:00pm

Manga Socials

GBC Patio

Thursdays, 5:30 - 6:30pm

Game Nights

Location TBA

Thursdays, 7:30 - 10:00pm

WEEKLY SHOWINGS

91 Days

Love Live! Sunshine!!

NEXT WEEK'S SHOWING: RELIFE

