

vol.50 #08
OTPs

KÔNSEN KUCHU



Nezumi and Shion

No. 6

art by Kate Bushmareva



POKER PAIR (MERMAID AU)

D. Gray-Man

Art by Sharrel Narsico



IT'S THE STRUGGLE

 **SHARREL JAN NARSICO**
2ND YEAR, UNDECLARED

STAFF ARTIST

I apologize to all the editors.

Why read fanfiction when one can simply watch the anime, read the manga, and enjoy the movie? Simple—it is thirst, my friends! It is thirst for all the things that could have happened, that could happen—and won't happen.

And one of the biggest things that won't happen are OTPs (One True Pair) that were officially killed either by putting your favorite couple potentials in different pairings, or by simply offing one or more characters. Ah, just the thought of it brings me pain! I'm looking at you, Portgas D. Ace.

And you, Ichigo and Hiro from *Darling in the Franxx*. And  who never even got a ship to begin with. AND **ESPECIALLY SASUKE AND NARUTO**.

As someone who lives in a world where my Allen Walker and Tyki Mykk Poker Pair and where my Draco Malfoy and Harry Potter ship will never become canon, stumbling into the fanfiction world by accident at the tender age of twelve-nearly-thirteen was a blessing. Or a curse, if you ask my mother.

Fanfiction sites became my bread and water. They were the calm seas that rescued our dying ships and gave them shelter and time to rebuild themselves.

One of my current personal favorite dead ships to read is BakuDeku. Bakugou Katsuki is a well known throughout the internet as a brute and horrible bully. Sweet, adorable Midoriya Izuku (nicknamed Deku, means useless) who used to be childhood friends with Katsuki, was a frequent target of Bakugou Katsuki's attacks. Phrased that way, it's hard to imagine why I ship BakuDeku. In a quick glance, as many have shared with me, it's an abusive relationship waiting to fall apart.

Which is a very fair assumption to make. For some people, that could be their cup of tea. But it's not mine. BakuDeku appealed to me so much more than any other pairings in BNHA (except for Inko and Yagi, and my OT3 TodoBakuDeku)

because of the struggles both characters have to go through to mend their broken friendship. I could just let it go, join an OTP that has a decent chance of becoming canon, and one that's much healthier from the get-go, too.

But I've always preferred pairings where one or both characters heavily dislike the other. I relish in the difficulty of finding a stable relationship in such a mess because to me, there's a fine line between love and hate. Personally, it's better to start off hating someone and learning to love them despite all the flaws you can see, than to start off loving someone and then growing to hate them in the end. And it's a difficult uphill battle to get Bakugou and Deku together. If their friendship mends, and they develop feelings, they first have to come to terms with their past. They can't go into this willy nilly. They come together realizing the hardships they've faced and survived and accepting that there *will* be more ahead.

It's like climbing Mount Everest. It's a long tortuous journey where you can't count on how pretty your surroundings are to keep you wanting to climb up and reach the top. It's all snow, and wind, and the freezing cold. You're going to be tired, you're going to be pushed till you're at your worst. You're going to want to give up.

But.

You have to keep going up the mountain yourself, to see for *yourself* why it is that you're climbing this accursed raised piece of dirt and ice. And when you finally get to the zenith, when you finally see the giant clouds rolling on beautiful snow-coated mountain ranges, and the sun bright on a wide blue sky—it's that "Oh" moment when you finally realize—it was *worth it*. It's when you can look down at how far you and your partner had come to get there that everything you've been through ultimately pays off. And walking down that mountain together? It's two champions who have seen the worst of themselves and each other and still made it through.

That's why I love BakuDeku and will keep shipping the two of them together even if they can only exist in fan fiction. Because the most rewarding fanfictions are the ones where you suffer with the characters and get to share their victory in the end.

WHY MY HERO ACADEMIA SHIPPING IS THE BEST



NEIL FRYDENTAL

1ST YEAR, INTENDED COMPUTER SCIENCE

I would let Himiko suck my blood tbh.

STAFF WRITER

Warning: *My Hero Academia* ship spoilers

While I always participate civilly, I've never been one to shy away from the chaos that can be anime and manga's waifu wars, but I'm normally the person who only supports canon or potentially canon ships, not deconfirmed or crack ships. Take *Re:Zero* for example: irrespective of who best girl is (it's Emilia jfr), best ship is Subaru x Emilia imo, due in no small part to the fact that it's canon. When it comes to harem series or other series with multiple ships, then there's more choice on my part, but I'm still consistent with this standard for pretty much everything I watch/read. And yet, the second I read a Kacchaco comic, I was suddenly one of its supporters. I don't know exactly how to explain it, but it just works! If you still hate Katsuki (which is fair), you probably don't like this ship, but as someone who's warmed up to him, the idea of him NTR-ing Izuku is just infinitely hilarious to me.



That one scene

Also, as someone who became a Tsuzuku shipper after that one scene in the Jump Festa 2016 OVA, Kacchaco's also great because then Izuku is free to romance Tsuyu. Now look, obviously neither of these ships is ever going to actually

happen because it's shonen and Ochaco clearly likes Izuku and Izuku will probably come to like her back if he doesn't already, but there's just something so great about them that other series' non-canonical ships lack. Initially, I couldn't put my finger on it, but after seeing a single Iida x Camie fanart and immediately being on board, I realized what it was: every *MHA* girl is best girl. What I mean is, usually a series only has one or two fan-anointed best girls, but with *My Hero Academia*, pretty much every female character (from Camie to Himiko to Mt. Lady) has her own, not-insignificantly-sized fan base that believes her to be it. In part, this is due to *MHA*'s massive mainstream popularity and therefore its bigger audience pool, but to discount Horikoshi's hand in this would be ridiculous: his female characters are beautifully designed (this is my academic way of saying, "they hot") and well-written, making them extremely compelling, so it's no wonder so many of them are so popular. Now, this matters to shipping because said female characters compose half of most ships—canon or otherwise—so crack ships seem more plausible because the characters involved are so great already.

Okay, now that I've explained why *MHA* crack ships work, lemme breakdown all of the actual canon ships: Yo x Tatami. Boom, done! Yeah, other than all the parent couples, this is only 100% confirmed ship, and it's between two side characters we've seen only once! That being said, I think Yotami is great! The two are super cute together, and it also works because ... well, let's just say that both Yo and Tatami have quirks that could be used pretty creatively in certain *heh* situations. Okay, moving on! Looking at likely ships, if we're being honest, we've got IzuOcha, TodoMomo, GentleBrava, and that's it, and yet, were you expecting more? Many people (including me) also ship KamiJirou and KiriMina, despite the pairs only ever acting like close friends, so why do we ship them? Well, on one hand, we're being realistic, as *MHA* is a shonen, and with non-rom shonen, the likely ship is usually the canon one, but on the other, it's because we're ship-hungry heathens of course! It only takes one look at a crack ship list to know that! Anyway, my point is simply this: *MHA* has shown me the fun that can be non-canonical shipping, so I wish all of you non-canonical shippers the best. Just try to be considerate and not shove your fanon ship into people's faces too excessively. Oh, and also, Himiko best girl! *mic drop*

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BACCANO! OTPS



RACHEL MIN

1ST YEAR, INTENDED COMPUTER SCIENCE

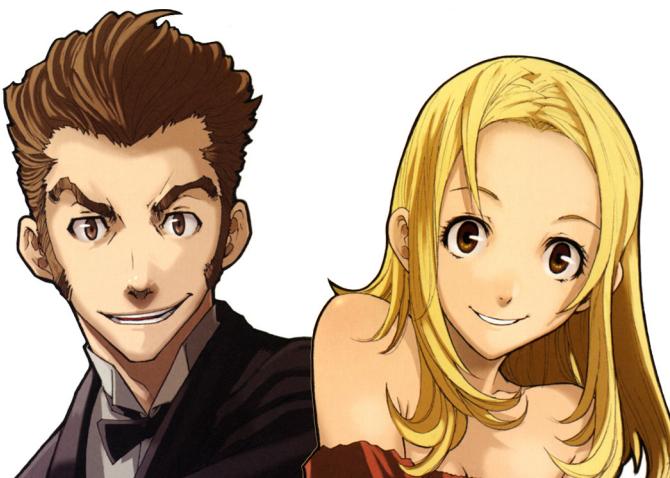
tbh Claire and Firo make a cute couple too

STAFF WRITER

Spoilers!

With *Baccano*'s extensive cast of characters, it's no surprise that there are plenty of pairings to be made. So the dilemma begins; which pairing is the true OTP?

One popular duo is Isaac and Miria, and it's no wonder they're so loved. They're like two peas in a pod, flaunting their various eccentricities to the world. In fact, in 2009, the Anime News Network named them the "Duo of the Year." They're oddly innocent, dramatic, and enthusiastic personality is one of a kind. You would think such a bizarre personality would exist in a singularity, but Isaac and Miria would prove you wrong. They cook up the weirdest plans ranging from relatively harmless petty theft to mining for gold in California to stealing the doors off museums. Their perfect, outlandish banter and desire to bring joy to the world make Isaac and Miria an endearing couple and one that could be an OTP.



Another equally unique couple is Claire and Chané. Everything from their first encounter to the way they interact is only possible because they are Claire and Chané. The two assassins first meet on top of a running train where Claire is covered in blood and Chané is fighting off a murderous madman. After throwing the madman off the train, he gives an impromptu marriage proposal to Chané. Whereas any

normal person would reject him, Chané accepts his proposal. From there on, they have plenty of perfect couple moments together. One of the cutest points is how Claire understands everything Chané means to say even though she's mute. On the other hand, Chané's capacity to love Claire despite his personality is on a level of its own. Claire is a solipsist, so he believes that only he exists and that everything else is a figment of his imagination. Some characters are put off by his personality, others humor him, but Chané understands his ideals and loves him despite, or perhaps even more, for his philosophy. Later in the series, you learn that their love perseveres the test of time. Even when they're in their nineties, Claire is off in the Caribbean, scavenging sunken ships for treasure to give to Chané. The mutual understanding between this couple is what makes it a perfect candidate for an OTP.

Then there's Firo and Ennis. Firo has a cute, sort of love-at-first-sight moment when he first meets Ennis. Throughout the story, he goes around New York, searching for Ennis with the excuse that he wants to return a button that she dropped. Once he meets her, he helps her realize her self-worth, which she lacked due to her being a synthetic human being. Together, they make up an awkward but nevertheless cute couple that you can't help but root for. It takes an exceptionally long time for Firo to confess to Ennis. Since they're immortal, time isn't much of an issue, but it takes Firo about 70 years to confess to Ennis—a whole lifetime. Their shy awkwardness might frustrate a lot of people, but seeing them get together in the end is heart-warming enough to elevate them to OTP status.

Baccano has so many cute couples, even beyond the ones mentioned here, and that's only accounting for canon couples. With so many perfect candidates for an OTP, how could you choose?





WHAT MAKES THEM KOKOROS DOKI DOKI?

 **SHAMIN CHOWDHURY**
4TH YEAR, PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS

STAFF WRITER

So, you wanna know what makes them kokoros doki doki? Well, I'm about to take an approach unlike any you've ever seen before. You see, I'm sure you've heard analyses that examine how your OTPs develop as a consequence of plot and development. Well, that's great and all, but hmm, maybe it's not too clear specifically how those feelings develop or even what those feelings are. So how about we tackle the problem...with some physics!

Now, I'd love to give pages upon pages of discussion about this, but we'll stick to a couple simple examples and get some basic conclusions! Let's first ask ourselves what it means for a kokoro to go doki doki. Well, you have a kokoro which is basically a 10cm diameter balloon that deflates and inflates every time it goes doki doki. By how much does it deflate? Maybe by 2cm every time, so

$$V_{heart} \approx \frac{4}{3}\pi r_{heart}^3$$

$$\Delta V_{heart} = \frac{4}{3}\pi(5^3 - 4^3) \approx 81\text{cm}^3$$

After looking it up, apparently the kokoro puts out something around 100mmHg of blood pressure, which is about 13kPa. Putting these together, every time the kokoro contracts or expands the work is of order

$$W = P\Delta V \approx (13000)(0.0001) = 1.3\text{J}$$

which is about how much energy it takes to toss an apple up a little more than a meter.

Now, this is how much it takes to get the kokoro pumping one time. If the kokoro pumps like it usually does for a **good say** five minutes, well, it pumps maybe 80 beats per minute, so for five minutes it pumps 400 times, which means it already needs around 500J for five minutes, which it gets from daily intake of food easily.

BUT what about when it's going doki doki for...the OTP?! Well, let's say that kokoro gets to 130bpm, about what it gets after exercise for someone in high school. Then that's an extra 250 pumps, which means about an extra 325J. Where do the kokoros get that extra???

Well, I'd like to bring up a canon OTP Ryuiji x Taiga. In the series

Toradora, Ryuiji seems to suffer lots of pain from Taiga being such a tsundere, but that's not all there is to it. Let's say we talk about a kick from Taiga that sends Ryuiji flying about a meter away. We want to know how much energy Ryuiji got from this kick. Well, it'll be something like

$$E = \frac{1}{2}mv^2$$

where m will be about 60kg, but now we have to figure out v, the speed at which he flew.

Well, assuming she sent him flying at an angle of about 30 degrees, we know

$$y = (v \sin 30)t - \frac{1}{2}gt^2$$

$$x = (v \cos 30)t$$

where x is how far away he is horizontally and y is how high is at time t.

With some algebra, we can get

$$y = x \tan 30 - \frac{1}{2}g \frac{x^2}{v^2 \cos^2 30}$$

Now, we'll put in the fact that he's on the ground at a meter away and solve

$$0 = (1)\frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} - \frac{1}{2}(10)\frac{(1)^2}{v^2(3/4)}$$

$$\implies v^2 \approx 10 \frac{\text{m}^2}{\text{s}^2}$$

Now, we can estimate the energy from that kick to be

$$E \approx \frac{1}{2}(60)(10) = 300\text{J}$$

Unfortunately, most of this energy goes into heat once Ryuiji lands on the ground, but hope is not lost! It's not unreasonable to think some of this 300J is taken by the kokoro since taking 5% or even 1% of the energy wouldn't change how far Ryuiji gets kicked away significantly. Over enough time, say maybe an hour or two of the show running, we'd find a kokoro going doki doki with that extra energy!

STAFF PICKS: FAVORITE OTPS



Killua x Gon
Hunter x Hunter



Shao-Lon Yeh

Killua and Gon are made for each other and if you don't agree, I'm going to yeet you into the void.



Dimitri x Byleth
Fire Emblem: Three Houses



Marc Castillo

Receiving the title of "Most S-ranked character" and "Favorite Character" overall in the recent Nintendo survey, our resident feral prince' heart-wrenching chemistry with professor seems to be universally agreed upon. I mean, how can you not, not ship Dimitri with Byleth when Dimitri drops "You're mesmerizing" to our smiling professor's face.



Alibaba x Morgiana
Magi



Neil Frydental

Hakuryuu who? Also, they cute af together.



Chrom x Robin
Fire Emblem: Awakening



Lea Nakatsukasa

Whether you play as male or female Robin, Chrom instantly trusts and cares for Robin as soon as they meet. Also, if one of them dies, the other screams for them to stay alive. Also, they are dorks. Sorry Sumia.



Sandalphon x Lucifer
Granblue Fantasy



Marc Castillo

Well I know this is a ghost ship but it's fine, I have my stock of fix-it AUs to make this work ok! Also, my 13 year-old self ships them so hard because of their angel aesthetic + their mutual pinning that takes like 2000 years before becoming canon.



Commander Saturn x Factory Head Thorton
Pokemon Platinum



Jamie You

Do they interact in canon? No. Will I die on this hill? Absolutely. Look, maybe once Sinnoh remakes come out, I'll be vindicated. Until then, I'll just be drawing ship art of these two zany nerds.

VOLUME L, ISSUE 8 — NOVEMBER 21, 2019

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