

THE CULINARY ISSUE

CAL ANIMAGE ALPHA presents

# Konshuu

Volume XLVI, Issue VII

Shokugeki  
no Soma  
食戟のソーマ

MEGUMI TADOKORO

田所 恵

OCT  
19

2017

Art by Deborah Lim



# THIS WEEK'S FEATURED SERIES

## ANIME RECOMMENDATION **TORIKO**

Spring 2011 | Toei Animation | Directed by Akifumi Zako

Humans populate only 30% of the world of *Toriko*; the rest is populated by large beasts that make for exquisite, hard-to-obtain food. Gourmet Hunters are specialists who hunt for rare culinary ingredients, and the titular protagonist, Toriko, aims to create the ultimate full-course meal by defeating only the rarest beasts. His superhuman strength and hunting prowess are only a means to reaching his ultimate goal of creating a culinary masterpiece.



## ANIME RECOMMENDATION **TAMAKO LOVE STORY**

Spring 2014 | Kyoto Animation | Directed by Naoko Yamada

Tamako Kitashirakawa is in her final year of high school. Her friends have big plans for the future, while she intends to continue working in her parents' shop. She feels stuck between two places: a comfortable world where her biggest concern is her performance in the Usagiyama School Festival, and the reality that time is running out. It does not help that her best friend and neighbor, Mochizou Ooji, plans to leave for a university in Tokyo, but not before confessing his love to Tamako.

# homemade fun: THE GENRE OF COOKING SLICE-OF-LIFE SHOWS



by BOGEUN CHOI  
3rd year, Applied Math  
Slowly recovering from the 3  
midterms I had last week.

*Non Non Biyori. Barakamon. Flying Witch.* What do these shows have in common? The most obvious similarity is that they fall under the slice-of-life genre. These are the types of shows I watch—for a good reason. After a long day of lectures featuring subrings and Poisson distributions, I need something in my life that doesn't require thinking. Enter slice-of-life shows.

putting  $X$  equal to 0, then it factors. It can be stated more precisely as follows.

**HENSEL'S LEMMA.** Let  $k$  be a field, and let

$$F(X, Y) = Y^n + a_1(X)Y^{n-1} + \cdots + a_n(X) \in k[[X]][Y]$$

be a monic polynomial of degree  $n > 0$  in  $Y$  with coefficients  $a_1(X), \dots, a_n(X)$  in  $k[[X]]$ . Assume that  $F(0, Y) = \bar{G}(Y)\bar{H}(Y)$  where

$$\bar{G}(Y) = Y^r + \bar{b}_1Y^{r-1} + \cdots + \bar{b}_r \in k[Y] \quad \text{and}$$

$$\bar{H}(Y) = Y^s + \bar{c}_1Y^{s-1} + \cdots + \bar{c}_s \in k[Y]$$

are monic polynomials of degrees  $r > 0$  and  $s > 0$  in  $Y$  with coefficients  $\bar{b}_1, \dots, \bar{b}_r$  and  $\bar{c}_1, \dots, \bar{c}_s$  in  $k$  such that  $\text{GCD}(\bar{G}(Y), \bar{H}(Y)) = 1$ . (That

Screw math, who needs it anyway... means they have no nonconstant unique monic polynomials.)

Something about watching the life of fictional characters is enjoyable, even if the plot isn't well-developed. I mean, what kind of anime has a "substantial plot" that only involves eating cake and tea? The nice thing about slice-of-life is how broad the genre can be. From a show about band life to a show about twintails, anything is fair game. But there is one subgenre of slice-of-life with unfortunately very few shows that I personally enjoy—cooking slice-of-life.

Cooking slice-of-life (or cooking SoL) is rather self-explanatory: a slice-of-life show with cooking as its main focus. I know what you're thinking, "So something like *Shokugeki no Soma*?" That's WRONG... for the most part. True, *Shokugeki no Soma* has slice-of-life elements, but at its core it is a shōnen anime about cooking. Close, but no cigar.

So what shows are examples of a cooking SoL? Well, as mentioned before, cooking SoLs are far and few in between, to the extent that I came up with the name. One recent example of the genre is *Amaama to Inazuma* (*Sweetness and Lightning*). The show features a young girl named Tsumugi and her single father Kouhei. Kouhei is a busy school teacher. Kouhei has such a busy schedule that he doesn't cook; instead, he opts for instant meals. One day, he accepts an offer from his student Kotori to eat at her mother's restaurant. However, when he visits, he finds that Kotori's mother is usually absent. So instead, Kotori offers to help teach Kouhei to cook so he can make home-cooked meals for Tsumugi.

The first half of each episode is usually dedicated to whatever shenanigans Tsumugi gets involved in, ranging from thinking about her role in the school play to going out on an adventure (only to be scolded later by Kouhei for going into the town alone). The second half of each episode focuses on the cooking aspect with Kotori and Kouhei making the dish of the week with occasional help from Tsumugi.



The food in the show does not look *Shokugeki*-levels of amazing, but that's not the point. The food is not the end goal—in *Amaama to Inazuma* it is the means to the end. The idea of the show is that cooking with others is fun! After cooking, the characters have home-cooked food to enjoy together. This leads to the best scenes in the show: the characters enjoying the food they just made. I share the joy that the characters do when they eat, and then I cry when I see the sad meal I made for myself...

So if you're hungry for some good anime, why not try a cooking SoL?

# I'LL HAVE WHAT SHE'S HAVING ORGASMIC FOOD IN SHOKUGEKI



by KATRINA LUQUE

4th year, English

Get Shwifty.

Food is more than sustenance in Japan; it is a cultural experience. This commitment to the preparation, sharing, and enjoyment of food is evident in the anime series *Shokugeki no Soma*. This series is strictly devoted to food obsession and highlights the value of skilled and innovative chefs who create fantastic dishes. For those unfamiliar with the series, *Shokugeki no Soma* follows the journey of Soma Yukihira to become the top chef at his cooking academy where the motto is "Cooking is Everything." Soma grew up challenging his father to create the best-tasting dishes in their diner until his father closed the diner to travel and sent his son off to Totsuki Culinary Academy to improve his cooking skills. Even though Soma was not happy about leaving the diner, his ultimate goal is to eventually defeat his father in a cooking challenge. This motivation fuels his ambition to succeed at the academy.



Meat juices!

Totsuki Culinary Academy is highly competitive, where only 1% of the students graduate, but Soma is a force to be reckoned with and introduces his own style of competitiveness by challenging anyone who stands in his way to food battles. Although this concept is not unique, the sensory experience that unfolds is special. The combination of a relatable character, a fast-paced and funny plot, and appetizing food is key to the show's appeal. The art is absolutely gorgeous and depicts food that looks realistic with beautiful colors, details, and lighting to deliver the concept that food is great and drool-worthy. The characters' reactions and appreciation of the food are enlivened by their verbal commentary on the intense flavors and aromas, explaining why they find the food so delicious and why we should be enthralled as well. Not only do the characters describe the taste sensations in detail verbally, their physical reactions are especially surprising, otherwise known as "foodgasms".

It's impossible to discuss *Shokugeki no Soma* without addressing the fanservice. No character samples the food created during a battle without having their clothes explode off their bodies and ending up naked to accentuate how delicious the food tastes. It is an extreme reaction, but that is the purpose—to depict how mind-blowingly orgasmic the carefully prepared and crafted food makes someone feel. It's funny and outrageous at the same time, delivering a visual illustration to a sensory taste experience that is beyond the norm. The show aims to depict food as the star of the show and how the students and judges react enhances the plot and drives the chefs to further develop their cooking skills.



The commitment to having the food be as authentic and realistic as possible is the result of the research and services of a professional chef, Yuki Morisaki, who has tested the recipes that appear in the show. The care that is given to the choice of ingredients, specifics of the recipes, and cooking techniques is a tribute to the cultural importance of food. Instructions on how to recreate the recipes in your own kitchen are not provided in the series, but if you are a culinary expert, a kitchen hack, or just like to eat, you can experiment and make your own delectable meals from the ingredients and techniques that are described by the characters. The appealing characters elevate the storytelling and make a cooking show quality entertainment.

Soma is compelling due to his charm and perseverance. He is someone who pushes himself to be the best and yields results from his efforts. When it comes to food, Soma is focused and fierce but is also filled with joy when creating culinary art. At the

academy, he makes friends with young and timid Megumi Tadokoro, as well as rivals like the daughter of the academy's head, prideful Erina Nakiri. Megumi and Erina are the two main heroines who are very different from one another. This diverse range of personalities creates a colorful cast and makes the show entertaining. Megumi is Soma's prominent cooking partner and friend. She is inspired by Soma's fierce disposition and becomes more confident in her own cooking abilities as the series progresses. Erina is originally the main antagonist of Soma and is known for her sensitive palate, nicknamed the "God Tongue" because she can identify the ingredients and flavors of any food.

In the dorms, Soma finds that each of his fellow housemates are as unique as he is. Soma is known to most of the elite students because of his bold introduction at the entrance ceremony where Erina's arrogance and professional experience are tested by Soma's amazing dish. Along the way, Soma faces numerous challenges and setbacks in his endeavor for personal and professional growth. He entertains us with his best attempt at success even in the face of defeat. Soma is a favorite character of mine because he embodies admirable traits. Many people aspire to be as skilled and determined as Soma. It is wonderful that anime provides idealistic role models which the fan base can use as sources of inspiration.

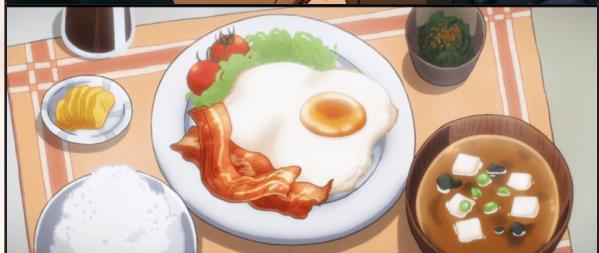


As an anime, *Shokugeki no Soma* is a delight with entertaining characters, food porn, a fast-paced plot, fan service, and humor. After viewing this series, you may be tipping the scales ordering take-out or creating your own foodgasms, so plan visits to the gym to work off the potency of *Shokugeki no Soma*!

# Konshuu Café

## Staff Picks: Weekly Specials

### Breakfast



#### 1. Egg on Toast

(Ziana, *Castle in the Sky*)

A fried egg atop warm toast. Choose from white, whole wheat, sourdough, or gluten-free bread.

#### 2. Kayo's Breakfast

(Edward, *Boku dake ga Inai Machi*)

Steamed white rice with bacon, a fried egg, tomatoes, and lettuce. Served with pickled daikon, seaweed salad, miso soup, and a mother's love.

#### 3. Jelly Donuts

(Andres, *Pokémon*)

The freshest of jelly-filled donuts from the USA. Yup, no doubt about it, these are definitely jelly donuts.

### Snacks

#### 4. Cup Noodle

(Josh R., *Final Fantasy XV*)

Everyone's favorite brand of instant ramen. A staple food for the dying college student.



#### 5. Prismatic Hardtack

(Jamie, *Danganronpa*)

A tough, long-lasting cracker used mainly as an emergency ration. Each piece contains a full seven different flavors.



#### 6. Senzu Beans

(Joseph, *Dragon Ball*)

A legume of the magic variety. Instantaneously revitalizes the body. Ethically sourced from Korin Tower.



# Entrées



## 7. Dragon Tail

(Borah, *Kobayashi-san Chi no Maid Dragon*)

A juicy slice of meat cooked with love and spices.



## 8. Fish Pie

(Katrina, *Kiki's Delivery Service*)

Also known as Fisherman's Pie. A traditional British baked dish heavy on the cheese and cream.



## 9. Humans

(Andrew, *Shingeki no Kyojin*)

High in nutrients, carbs, and fats. Crunchy, yet chewy. May contain trace amounts of bone and hair.



## 10. Jack Rocket's Hamburger

(Rika, *Kekkai Sensen*)

Burgers aren't supposed to make you cry. So why... am I... \*uncontrollable sobbing\*



## 11. Space Ramen

(Josh S., *Space Dandy*)

The best damn ramen in the entire multiverse.

# Drinks



## 12. MAX Coffee

(Bogeun, *OreGairu*)

The perfect companion for those lazy mornings or late nights.



# Desserts



## 13. Apple

(David, *Death Note*)

A certain Shinigami's favorite fruit. Also keeps the doctor away.



## 14. Vanilluxe

(Jacky, *Pokémon*)

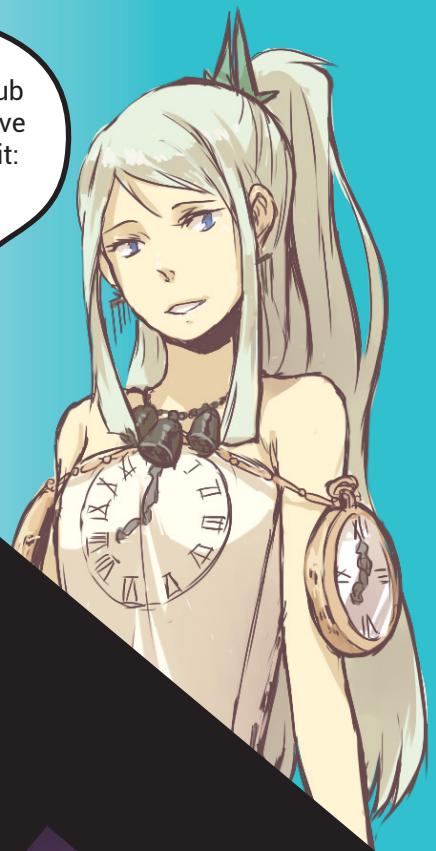
Is it a living creature? Is it ice cream? It's delicious either way.

# Volume XLVI, Issue VII – October 19, 2017

## STAFF

## SOCIAL MEDIA

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

**Weekly Social:** Thurs, 5:30pm - 6:30pm, Barrows 170  
**Game Night:** Thurs, 8pm - 10pm, Barrows 126  
**Next Showing:** Sun, Oct 29, 2pm - 6pm, Barrows 166



Instant Fusion (Yu-Gi-Oh!)  
Art by Jacky Zhao