

= T?shir? Hitsugaya =

T?shir? Hitsugaya (Japanese : ??? ??? , Hepburn : Hitsugaya T?shir?) is a fictional character in the manga and anime series Bleach , created by Tite Kubo . In the series , Hitsugaya is a captain of the Gotei 13 , a group of Soul Reapers who govern the flow of souls and protect Soul Society , an afterlife realm . Hitsugaya makes appearances in all Bleach 's films , being the protagonist in The Diamond Dust Rebellion , as well as and in other media related to the franchise , including video games and original video animations .

Hitsugaya 's character has been well received among both readers and reviewers , becoming the series breakout character . Amongst the Bleach reader base , he has been highly popular , placing high in several popularity polls . Several pieces of merchandise have been released in Hitsugaya 's likeness , including action figures , plush toys and key chains . Anime and manga publications have provided acclaim and criticism of Hitsugaya 's character .

= = Appearances = =

= = In the Bleach manga and anime series = = =

Hitsugaya lived with his grandmother and with Momo Hinamori , whom he considers a very close friend . Hitsugaya excelled in the Soul Reaper academy , becoming the youngest captain in the history of Soul Society with command over Squad 10 . Introduced to the Gotei 13 , Hitsugaya suspected Squad 3 captain Gin Ichimaru of foul play as the circumstances surrounding the coming execution of Rukia Kuchiki become more complicated . When Hinamori is manipulated into thinking that Hitsugaya killed S?suke Aizen , Hitsugaya attacks Gin on the notion that he tricked her . The fight is interrupted when Hitsugaya dodges an attack that almost kills Hinamori , only to be intercepted by his lieutenant Rangiku Matsumoto . Seeing how destructive Rukia 's execution is becoming , Hitsugaya tries to stop it by appealing to the Chamber 46 , only to discover all members were murdered by Aizen , who faked his death . When Hitsugaya discovers Hinamori injured , Hitsugaya tries to kill Aizen but is defeated .

In a later arc , Hitsugaya leads a group of Soul Reapers assigned to defend Karakura Town against the Arrancar that Aizen has enlisted to his cause . He defeats Shawlong Qufang , and Luppi Antenor , and upon learning that Orihime Inoue has followed the Arrancars back to their home world , Hitsugaya returns to Soul Society to help in the preparation for the war against Aizen . At Karakura Town , he engages the Espada Tier Halibel before she is mortally wounded by Aizen . From there , Hitsugaya engages Aizen , and is tricked into stabs Momo in the chest with Aizen taking advantage of the youth 's rage of being tricked to cut his left limbs off . After Aizen 's defeat and healed , Hitsugaya resolves to train so that he can more freely use his bankai to protect Hinamori .

When Kugo Ginjo steals Ichigo Kurosaki 's Fullbring powers , Hitsugaya and several other high @-@ ranking Soul Reapers appear in the human world . To help Ichigo regain his Soul Reaper powers and combat Kugo , captain @-@ commander Genry?sai Shigekuni Yamamoto orders the Soul Reapers to give Ichigo some of their spirit energy . Hitsugaya then engages the Fullbringer Yukio Hans Vorarlberna in a cat @-@ and @-@ mouse game , ending with Hitsugaya encasing Yukio in ice , threatening to end his life if he does not release his Fullbring . During the Wandenreich invasion of Soul Society , Hitsugaya loses his bankai to the organization 's member Cang Du . But with the help of Kisuke Urahara , Hitsugaya retrieves his bankai from Cang Du and defeat him . However , the battle took its toll on Hitsugaya as he ends up a zombie under the Sternritter Giselle Gewelle . Hitsugaya appears along with a zomified Rangiku as they , Kensei , and Rose fight Mayuri Kurotsuchi 's group of revived Arrancars and Squad 11 's Ikkaku and Yumichika . Eventually , Mayuri manages to take control of the zombified Soul Reapers with Hitsugaya and Rangiku restored to normal and healed , although their lifespans were shortened . Hitsugaya later joins Byakuya and other soul reapers against the sternritter , Gerard . During this battle , the ice petals of Hitsugaya 's bankai dissolve . But instead of his bankai deactivating , revealing that the time limit was a sign that

it was fully developed prior to the fight , Daiguren Hy?rinmaru 's power reaches its full potential while Hitsugaya is transformed into a young adult to better utilize his improved weapon .

= = = In other media = = =

He appears in all of the four featured films in the series . He fights the Dark Ones with other Soul Reaper comrades in Bleach : Memories of Nobody . He is the main character in Bleach : The DiamondDust Rebellion , where he is accused of stealing the King 's Seal , an ancient artifact , and stumbles across a dark secret concerning a long @-@ dead Soul Reaper named S?jir? Kusaka , who was his close friend and rival when he was younger . A one @-@ shot manga chapter focusing on Hitsugaya 's past was released to promote the film , revealing how Hitsugaya learned of his powers . Apparently , Kusaka uses the King 's Seal to come back to life for revenge , but in the end is killed by Hitsugaya in a final rematch . He also appears in Bleach : Fade to Black , in which he loses his memories of Ichigo and Rukia , along with the other Soul Reapers . In Hell Verse , after losing his memories about Rukia 's disappearance and Ichigo , Hitsugaya along with other captains try to stop Ichigo from entering the Soul Society .

Hitsugaya is featured in the 30 minute original video animation , Sealed Sword Frenzy , in which he is part of the group of captains sent to the real world to seal away the escaped and notoriously dangerous shinigami criminal , Baishin . During their first encounter , he successfully fends off the criminal , though Baishin escapes . Hitsugaya is a common playable character in Bleach @-@ related video game , including the Blade Battlers series and the Nintendo home consoles series . Special versions of the character such his bankai form is featured in some games such Soul Resurrección , and Hitsugaya in a school costume are unlockable in other games such as Bleach : Shattered Blade . He is also a playable character in the Nintendo DS game , Jump Ultimate Stars . He also appears in two Bleach Beat Collection albums aside . The first one was a compilation album with Hinamori and Matsumoto . The second one was also a compilation album , this time with Ichigo . A Hitsugaya and Hy?rinmaru 's album was also released as part of Bleach Breathless Collection . He was initially portrayed by Takashi Nagayama in the Bleach rock musicals . Later , in Shinsei Rock Musical Bleach Reprise , Nagayama was replaced by Y?ya Kido , who also was substituted ; Takuya Kawaharada took the role .

= = Reception = =

Hitsugaya has been highly popular in the Weekly Sh?nen Jump 's Bleach popularity polls ranking most of the times within the top ten . In early 2008 , Hitsugaya was voted the most popular character in the series , replacing Ichigo , who had previously held the position . Hy?rinmaru was voted the most popular zanpakut? in the zanpakut? popularity poll of the series . In the 2007 Japanese Newtype magazine character polls , he was voted the 9th most popular male character in any anime . In the 28th Annual Animage Readers ' Poll , Anime Grand Prix , Hitsugaya was voted as the eighth most popular male anime character . He has also been featured in similar Animage monthly polls . Hitsugaya ranked eighth in 2008 and third in 2009 in a survey titled " The Character I Want to Be My Groom " from the Japanese music distributor Recochoku . In order to promote the second film of Bleach , the trailer had the line " Execute Hitsugaya ! " . Kubo admitted that it was his own idea to make everybody be surprised , but he and Masakazu Morita , the voice actor of Ichigo , received a lot of letters from worried fans , causing Kubo to apologize in response . Various merchandise based on Hitsugaya 's appearance has been created , including action figures , plush toys and key chains .

Various publications from manga , anime and other media have commented on Hitsugaya 's character adding praise and criticism . He has been noted to be one of the most common " fan favorite " characters from the series . Carl Kimlinger from Anime News Network praised Steve Staley for giving an interesting variation of his voice rather than " integrity @-@ destroying abominations " . Also , he commented that Hitsugaya 's unresolved personal issue is , along with the ones from others characters , a good part from the climax of the Soul Society story arc . He

additionally praised the animation of Hitsugaya 's bankai in the anime . Later , however , Kimlinger criticized it as " it makes him look like an arthritic blue crow " . IGN 's Ramsey Isler lamented the fact that his first fight against an Arrancar was not very entertaining and his character did not " get a chance to shine . " Hitsugaya 's early appearances were criticized by Isaac Hale from Pop Culture Shock who found Kubo was ignoring other characters and giving a lot of attention to him and Matsumoto 's gags . However , in a later arc , Chris Beveridge of Mania Entertainment noted he " has a pretty good arc " and " shine [s] brightly " facing Aizen . His appearance in DiamondDust Rebellion were praised by Active Anime 's Holly Ellingwood who found his motivations and back story " involving and intriguing " . Similarly , Chris Beveridge from Mania Entertainment praised " how he stands as a man " on this film .