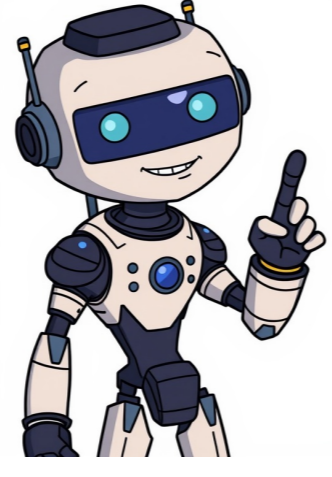


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Alice in Borderland: A Desperate Fight for Survival ===== Imawa no Kuni no Arisu, a Japanese manga series by Haro Aso, has captured the hearts of many with its gripping storyline and eerie atmosphere. The series revolves around Ryohei Arisu, an apathetic young man who finds himself in a desperate struggle for survival. Arisu's life is turned upside down when mysterious fireworks transport him to a desolate version of Tokyo called Borderland. He soon discovers that he is not alone, as other stranded players must navigate the brutal rules of this new world. The game, based on playing cards, tests their knowledge under threat of flaming arrows, leaving Chōta Segawa injured. As Arisu and his friends, including Daikichi Karube and Saori Shibuki, face increasingly perilous games, they realize that survival is not just about winning but also about human connection. The group's bond grows stronger as they work together to overcome the challenges of Borderland. Their journey takes them to the Beach, a player stronghold led by the eccentric "Mad Hatter." Believing collecting all game cards will grant freedom, the Mad Hatter's leadership is put to the test when the Beach becomes the arena for the "Ten of Hearts" game. Throughout the series, Haro Aso masterfully weaves together elements of suspense, horror, and drama. The manga explores themes of survival, human connection, and the true meaning of freedom. ===== The series revolves around Ryohei Arisu and his friends as they navigate the game-like world of Borderland, where they must work together to survive against powerful opponents. Arisu, a third-year high school student with a passion for video games, is aided by Yuzuha Usagi, a mountain climber who lost her father and joined the group after the death of his friends. The group also includes Daikichi Karube, a bartender and friend of Arisu's, Chōta Segawa, an IT technician and karate expert, Saori Shibuki, the first person they meet in the deserted city, Shuntarō Chishiya, a mysterious player who teams up with Kuina to steal Hatter's deck of cards, and Akane Heiya, a high schooler with a special affinity for archery. As they progress through the series, the group faces numerous challenges, including betrayals and sacrifices, but ultimately strives to escape the city and uncover its secrets. ===== Arisu Kojima, a high schooler from Tokyo, finds himself transported to the world of the Four of Hearts game. Here, he meets Aguni, a strong fighter, and Akane, with whom he forms a close bond. Notably, Arisu is one of the few major characters missing from the Netflix adaptation. Takeru Danma, also known as the Mad Hatter, is the enigmatic leader of "the Beach", a hotel inhabited by dozens of players. His objective is to collect all the playing cards given to players for winning games. Danma's quest becomes increasingly desperate, ultimately leading him down a path of madness and self-destruction. Morizono Aguni, the Knave of Hearts, initially appears as an important figure at "the Beach". As the story unfolds, he becomes a key player, seeking revenge against those who have wronged him. After the Hatter's demise and the Witch Hunt game, Aguni embarks on a solo journey, eventually teaming up with Akane and Dodo. Rizuna An, the White Queen, is an executive member of "the Beach" known for her rational approach to winning games. She plays a pivotal role in the Witch Hunt game before joining forces with Arisu and Kuina. Suguru Niragi, or Jub Jub Bird, is a volatile member of "the Beach", harboring deep-seated hatred towards Chishiya and Arisu due to past betrayals. Despite this, he forms an alliance with Arisu during the King of Clubs game. Mira Kano, the Queen of Hearts, serves as one of the four main gamemasters in the Borderlands. With her elegant presence, she seems to possess a unique understanding of the world's origins. Mira is ultimately defeated by Arisu. Keiichi Kuzuryū, or the King of Diamonds, is another key gamemaker with a troubled past as a failed lawyer struggling for equality in life. His cunning and intelligence make him a formidable opponent, but he falls to Chishiya in the series. Ginji Kyūma, the King of Clubs, is a laid-back and humane gamemaker, renowned for his music career and respect for Arisu. He ultimately loses to Arisu. Isao Shirabi, or the King of Spades, leads the Survival game as a skilled mercenary and former special forces member. His name remains unknown, but he meets a tragic end at Aguni's hands in a final confrontation. Arisu's story continues on Alice on Border Road, where he discovers his role as an Intermediator between worlds, bridging the gap between reality and fantasy. ===== The concept of purgatory is suggested by the Joker's presence in Alice in Borderland, implying that he may serve as a grim reaper. He remains unseen in the Netflix series but has had his card shown at the final scene. The manga, written and illustrated by Haro Aso, was serialized from November 25, 2010, to March 25, 2015, before moving to Weekly Shōnen Sunday on April 8, 2015. A total of 18 tankōbon volumes were published between April 18, 2011, and April 18, 2016. In July 2021, Viz Media announced that it had acquired the rights for an English translation. The series was later re-released in nine two-in-one volumes from March 15, 2022. ===== The OVAs of Alice in Borderland were produced by Silver Link and Connect, with Hideki Tachibana handling directing duties. The first episode was bundled with the limited edition of the 12th volume of the manga on October 17, 2014. Subsequent episodes followed, with the third and final one released on February 18, 2015. The opening theme for the series is "NEXTAGE" by the Japanese idol group 100%RIS. The OVAs were licensed for international distribution by Sentai Filmworks, while MVM Entertainment secured the rights in the United Kingdom and Ireland. Three OVA episodes were released: "Three of Clubs", "Five of Spades", and "Seven of Hearts". These episodes have been made available to audiences worldwide. ===== The latest installment of Alice in Borderland, titled Vol. 9, has been released. This volume marks a significant milestone for fans of the series, as it delves deeper into the world and characters created by Haro Aso. According to reports, the manga was initially intended to be a one-shot story but ended up becoming a two-chapter special due to its popularity among readers. The story follows the main character, Arisu's, journey as he navigates through various challenges and obstacles in the borderland. The series has gained significant attention worldwide for its unique blend of mystery, action, and social commentary. Fans have praised the manga for its thought-provoking themes and engaging characters. Vol. 9 is available now from Viz Media. The Japanese title of the manga series "Alice in Borderland" refers to the protagonist's journey into a mysterious world filled with challenges and obstacles. The series has gained popularity worldwide, particularly among young adults. ===== The popular Japanese manga and anime series "Alice in Borderland" has been adapted into a live-action television series, which premiered on Netflix in December 2020. The show was produced by Netflix and features a unique blend of action, drama, and supernatural elements. The story follows the main character, Ryouhei Aramaki, who is forced to participate in a mysterious game along with his friends Karube and Chota after being transported from their own world to a strange borderland. The rules of this new world are harsh and unforgiving, with players facing deadly challenges and having to make difficult moral choices to survive. Throughout the series, Ryouhei and his companions face various obstacles and adversaries as they try to find a way back home. Along the way, they encounter other characters who possess unique abilities and strengths, which often prove crucial in their survival. The show has received positive reviews for its dark and suspenseful atmosphere, as well as its thought-provoking themes of morality, friendship, and the human condition. Its success can be attributed to its engaging storyline, memorable characters, and stunning visuals. 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