I'm not a robot

Japanese manga series The Drifting ClassroomManga volume 1 cover漂流教室(Hyōryū Kyōshitsu)GenreHorror[1]Science fiction[1]Supernatural[1] MangaWritten byKazuo UmezuPublished byShogakukanEnglish publisherNA: Viz MediaImprintShōnen Sunday ComicsMagazineWeekly Shōnen SundayDemographicShōnenOriginal run1972 – 1974Volumes11 Live-action filmDirected byNobuhiko ObayashiStudioBandai EntertainmentReleasedJuly 11, 1987Runtime104 minutes Television dramaThe Long Love LetterStudioFuji TVOriginal run January 9, 2002 – March 20, 2002 The Drifting Classroom (漂流教室, Hyōryū Kyōshitsu) is a Japanese horror manga series written and illustrated by Kazuo Umezu. It was serialized in the manga magazine Weekly Shōnen Sunday from 1972 to 1974, and published as collected tankōbon volumes by Shogakukan. The series follows a school that is mysteriously transported through time to a post-apocalyptic future. In 1987, The Drifting Classroom was adapted into a live-action film directed by Nobuhiko Obayashi. An American adaptation, Drifting School, was produced in 1995. The Long Love Letter, a Japanese television drama loosely based on The Drifting Classroom, was released in 2002. The series was critically acclaimed, and won a Shogakukan Manga Award in 1974. Sixth grader Sho Takamatsu travels to school after a bitter argument with his mother Emiko. Meanwhile, a burglar breaks into the school to steal money. While in class, a tremor shakes the facility, and the school is transported to an otherworldly wasteland. Yu, a three-year-old boy who was caught in the tremor, shows Sho a memorial buried in the dust commemorating the disappearance of their school. It transpires that the school has traveled through time to a post-apocalyptic future ravaged by environmental disasters. As the hopelessness of their situation becomes clear, most of the adults descend into insanity. Delivery man Sekiya hoards the school's food and immolates the teachers who attempt to stop him, but is then subdued by Sho’s class. Meanwhile, teacher Wakahara murders his colleagues and several students before being killed by Sho in self-defense. With all adults except Sekiya dead, Sho and his companions attempt to lead the children as a quasi-government. Nishi, a telepathic student who is able to communicate with individuals in the past, is able to contact Emiko, who prepares objects in her own time to assist the children in their future. The stranded children face many threats in their fight for survival, including hostile megafauna, a deadly plague, food and water shortages, delinquents who sow dissension, and creeping madness, as well as sadistic schemings by Sekiya, whose mental faculties gradually deteriorate. Eventually, the remaining semi-feral children come back to their senses after Otomo, a high-achieving student who is jealous of Sho, admits that he had planted dynamite in the school the night before the tremor, which had probably caused their temporal displacement, and apologizes for his behavior. The burglar who was caught in the explosion survived, but fragments of his body, including his arm and much of his brain, were displaced in time along with the school, remaining alive and telepathically connected to the burglar. Nishi ultimately falls into a coma, though the children are able to use her powers one final time to send Yu back into the past. Sekiya appears one last time intent on spoiling the children’s plan, but the burglar’s displaced arm kills him. Yu promises that he will try to avert the events that have led to their future, and delivers Sho's journal to Emiko upon returning to the present. Emiko then dedicates her future to building an artificial satellite that will orbit the Earth with supplies necessary to start a settlement. Just as Yu is sent back to his time, Emiko’s satellite lands back on the barren Earth, providing Sho and the remaining children resources needed to survive. The children remaining in the future vow to rebuild the world from the ashes of the past. Sho Takamatsu The main character of the story. Sho is noble and brave, and rather selfless. He consistently refuses to sacrifice anyone for the good of the rest. Even though he started the story by fighting with his mother, he loves her a lot and thanks to Nishi's power is even able to contact her. He is good friends with Ikegaki and Otomo, and later becomes good friends with Sakiko, Gamo, and the other officials. Nishi Ayumi A fair-haired girl with a crippled leg, a fifth-grader from Nagano and Sho's love interest. She is a latent psychic who is capable of telepathically linking the past and the present, a gift which becomes crucial for the stranded children – especially Sho and his desperate mother – at times and which may also be one of the causes which got the school time-stranded. However, she is very insecure, believing she brings bad fortune to everyone around her. In the end she falls comatose when Sho is operated on his appendix and his pain links his mind to his mother through her power, but the children are still able to tap into her power, sending at least one of them back. It is uncertain (though not unlikely) if she survived her ordeal. Sakiko Kawada A friend of Sho, on whom she has a secret crush. She is a sixth grader from class 3 and she has a brother, Takeshi, in the third grade who dies from an illness shortly after their arrival in the future. When everyone else doubts Sho, she sticks up for him. After the Nation of Yamato Elementary is formed, she seems to be a cook or a server when it is meal time. She is brave, but jealous of Sho's attention to Nishi. Sho eventually tells Sakiko that, even if she comes to hate him over his close relationship with Nishi, he still cares about her deeply. Otomo A sixth grader who is in class 3. He is also very brave and athletic, and extremely pragmatic. However, he has a dark side: he was the one who tried blowing up the school when the stress of being given too much burden as a student and class representative got him - a deed which combined with other incidental factors into getting the school marooned in the future. Worried about being found out, he opposes Sho at every turn and eventually leads an armed revolt against him. Despite this, he still has honor through most of the novel; he helps Yuichi make the chasm jump, and also tells Sho to chase Sekiya (who is fleeing with the food) rather than help him and Sakiko face the monsters. At the very end, he admits to his sins and helps reunite the school. Emiko Takamatsu Sho's mother, who is left behind in the present/past. Remorseful over the argument she had with Sho on the morning of his disappearance, she desperately renders any help she can give him when Nishi's power enables them to contact each other across the time rift. She is eventually deified by the older children in order to keep morale up amongst the younger students. Yu (Yuichi) A three-year-old boy who along with the school in the time shift when he was playing nearby, waiting for Sho. The only child who manages to return to the present, he delivers a journal recording the events and misadventures the children had in the future to Sho's mother, and promises to try to reverse their bleak future. Ikegaki Extremely brave and hot-headed, he was one of the students who wanted to kill Sekiya after his first attack. He stops Sekiya from leaving Sho to be eaten by the monster, and he leads a defense force against a monster attacking the school, buying Sho time to save the other children. Though stripped of one hand, he still fights on until he dies. Hata A jokester who has a hard time taking any tell-tale news seriously. Sekiya stabbed and killed him when he tried rescuing Aikawa, Sekiya's hostage. Okubo A boy who participates in the attempted liberation of Aikawa, and is accidentally shot by Hata when the latter is stabbed by Sekiya. Yoshida A nice boy, but very clueless. He intrudes on Hashimoto's sick bed to inform the government officials that peaches are growing. Otomo gets mad at him when this turns out to just be peach flowers. He freaks out when told that he must leave the school due to being a plague risk, and needs to be restrained. He escapes Sho and runs towards Scar Kid's mob, and is killed. Yanase He is a son of a doctor and also wants to be one when he grows up. He's one of the first people to return to Sho's side after Sho returns. He helps in examining what is wrong with Hashimoto and discovers that Hashimoto has the black plague. He is very knowledgeable about medicine, and although full of hesitation at the first time, he is able to perform surgery later. Yoshikawa A girl who wants to be a singer. After eating strange mushrooms, she proceeds to mutate and create the One-Eyed cult, which creates a temporary schism in the school. Her cult eventually collapses after her subordinates actually see the "One-Eyed God" (one of the mutants; see below). She is stopped from fleeing with the rest of the cult by her friend Koyami, but when the monsters come to the school, she leaves with them. She later helps Sho and his friends escape from the monsters when in the subway tunnels, and is presumably killed by the mutants for her betrayal. Mari A girl who suffers from achluophobia. She becomes infected with the black plague, but is cured. It is unknown if she survives the end of the series. Kyoko Aikawa A girl who is held hostage by Sekiya when he tries to seize the school's food supply for himself, but is rescued. She survives the plague and later joins Sho's side when Otomo leads his rebellion against his friend. It is unknown if she survives the end of the series. Yamamoto A sixth grade girl who, right after the school is time-stranded, attempts to climb the safety fence of the school roof, tearfully looking for her mother, only to fall off and thus becomes the first casualty in the school. Shinichi Yamada A classmate and friend of Sho, and the only student of the school who remains in the present because he had returned home to fetch his forgotten lunch money on the morning the school disappeared. Although he does not appear to grasp the situation as well as Sho's mother does, he assists her in remorse over Sho's disappearance, believing that if he had convinced Sho to wait for him, he would still be in the present. Otsuki A practical jokester with suspenders and an annoying sense of humor. One of the government officials, and he seems to be in charge of the census. He is appointed to his position by Sho. He is instrumental in using the mummy to frighten away Scar Kid's mob. He joins Otomo's side in forcing Sekiya to eat the mushrooms, but Sekiya tricks them all and eventually forces Otsuki to eat the mushrooms. Otsuki proceeds to run off into the desert and mutate into one of the future humans. He helps protect Sho and his friends when the mutants catch them, and is presumably killed later. Ishida A quiet kid who runs the garden. One of the governmental officials. He says little, but takes Otomo's side in disagreements with Sho. When escaping the mutant tunnels, a volcano eruption bursts his eardrums, and then Otomo pushes a billboard on top of him, killing him. Shibata A kid with a black shirt. Easily excited. More loyal to Sho than Otsuki and Ishida. He is the construction minister. He is decapitated fighting the monsters after escaping the tunnels. Akabane A cowardly boy, he is among the students taken by Sekiya to see the insect. Akabane and Tashiro beat up Otomo rather than fight the monster to buy Yu time, then he lies and says that Sho was a coward. He sides with Princess in the election, but once Sho wins, he apologizes. It is unknown if he survives. Tashiro He goes with Sho and everyone to find the forest in the desert. After being attacked by the insect monster, he, Otomo, and Akabane escape. Akabane and he beats up Otomo after he suggests they stay and fight the monster instead of escaping. At the last moment, he has a change of heart, and attacks the beast head on, and is eaten by the monster. Nagata While Sho, he, and a few other classmates are out searching for supplies, they are all attacked by Tashimi Yakuto. He manages to escape Mr. Wakahara's car and eventually finds a jungle. He makes his way back to the school, but collapses dead right after reaching it when the jungle plants he ate turn into sand inside his body. Tatsumi The school bully. When a rumor is spread about a person whose name begins with 'Ta' is said to be the cause of why they are stuck in the wasteland, he is captured by the lower grades and is nearly burned alive. Sho manages to save him, but it is unknown if he survives the series. Ando One of the five people who went with Mr. Wakahara to search for food. Sho managed to pull off a plastic bag wrapped around his head and he points out Mr. Wakahara as the attacker. He is the second to be struck down and killed by Wakahara when he attacks the group with his car. Seino One of the five people who went with Mr. Wakahara to search for food. He was the first to be killed by Wakahara using his car. Uemura He is devoured alive by the insect swarm when he investigates his classroom after people heard the strange sound coming from his class. Relatively brave. Hatsuta Goofy and weird, he almost breaks his teeth biting a can of pineapples. It is never stated that he dies, but he is not shown in the final volume's 'wishing circle' and so presumably perished somewhere along the way. Murata A non-athletic student who drowned in quicksand during a flood. Nakata A very good friend of Nishi. Frail and weak, but a loyal friend and, just like Nishi, a latent psychic. When he is hungry, he summons insect monsters with his mind. At first unbelieving, he eventually commits suicide to stop the monsters from eating Nishi. Gamo He is the smartest student in the whole school with an IQ of 230. He has a natural aptitude for science and often helps with explanation, such as telling the student body about their time travelling. He is incredibly loyal to Sho, casting the deciding vote for him during the elections and risking the plague to stay with him in the desert. He survives the series. Mr. Wakahara Sho's sixth grade teacher. At first Wakahara appears as a stout-minded and dependable father figure, but after seeing Sakura commit suicide, he suffers a mental breakdown that causes him to go insane and murder all the teachers and several students. His murder spree is interrupted by Sho, who stabs him with a knife left behind in the ruins of the Keiyo Hotel by his mother; Wakahara then falls to his death. Mr. Sakura A teacher who is prone to hysterics. When he realizes that he is stranded in a desolate future, he commits suicide by cutting open his jugular vein. Principal The school's principal. Right before everyone was transported to the future, he was attacked by a burglar who stole the teachers' pay. Clueless and rather dumb. He was killed by Wakahara. Ms. Tanimura A teacher for the school who suffered from seizures. She was killed by Wakahara. Mr. Arakawa A teacher for the school. When all the older students try to rush out into the wasteland after discovery what happened to them, he breaks his glasses and stabs his son in the arm to calm everyone down. He was killed by Wakahara. Mr. Asai A teacher for the school. Before the school vanished, he was listening to his handheld radio in the teacher's lounge. He was killed by Wakahara. Kyusaku Sekiya A 38-year-old school lunch delivery man. Originally an unassuming and mild-mannered man, he becomes a selfish and vicious tyrant when he finds himself stranded in the future. He refers to children as beasts and resources to be exploited, and routinely kills or threatens them in order to fulfill his own desires. In the end, he attempts to kill Yu to be teleported home in his stead, but Basai's arm strangles him. "Princess" She is a leader of a girl gang and attempts to take over the school. A violent and cruel bully who advocates capital punishment for stealing food. She takes over because she believes all that Sho does just gets them into more trouble. Her friends who help her in tyranny over the school are Tomeko and Hatsuko. She leaves the school in a huff after losing the election. Totally emaciated and more dead than alive, she comes back to the school much later to tell the students that there's a 'paradise' in Mount Fuji before dying. Hatsuko She is one of the Princess's friends/gang members. She doesn't talk much and obeys the Princess without question. Her hair is cut a bit short and she wears a short dress. After the Prime Minister election, The Princess lost and she with a few other followers left the school to go into the desert. After this event, her fate remains unknown. Tomeko She is one of the Princess's friends/gang members. She doesn't talk much and obeys "The Princess" without question. She is a bit of a masculine build and has ponytails. She left with the rest of the gang after the election, and after that her fate remains unknown. "Scar Kid" A rather selfish kid who leads the pogrom that burns Hashimoto to death. He kills Yoshida and almost burns up half of the remaining students in order to remove the plague and to increase the food supply available for himself. Once he learns that he is himself infected, he decides to kill everyone, but eventually succumbs to the deadly sickness. Future Humans A band of monstrous creatures descended from humans, implied to be an evolutionary leap triggered by the human population becoming too large. They are intelligent and capable of human speech; their bodies, however, are spider-like with four spindly legs and a single large eye on their back, and they are capable of spitting sticky strands to immobilize their opponents. Their society is a hivemind; individualism is punishable by death. They also share a collective loathing for pre-collapse humans, whose blind hedonism and greed are thought to be responsible for the end of civilization. Initially they are hostile to humans, but after Sho manages to appeal them through their common ancestry, they stop the attack. Later they appear again when some starfish monsters attack the school, but shortly afterwards a giant worm consumes them all. Basai One of two thieves that robbed the school and beat up the principal before the explosion of Otomo's dynamite. His partner is killed in the blast, and Basai's arm and half of his face are subsequently teleported into the future along with the school, though he can still see through his missing eye and use his missing hand as if it were still attached. He remains off-screen for the vast majority of the adventure, until the very end. When Sekiya attempts to kill Yuichi, Basai wills his body parts to jump out and strangle him. The body parts then return with Yu and are reunited with his body. The Drifting Classroom won the 20th Shogakukan Manga Award in 1974.[2] Dash Shaw has cited the manga as an influence on his film My Entire High School Sinking into the Sea.[3] Hyōryū Kyōshitsu (1987) Drifting School (1995) The Long Love Letter (2002) Fourteen—an indirect sequel to The Drifting Classroom The Woods, an American comic series with a similar premise. ^ a b c "The Official Website for The Drifting Classroom". Viz Media. Archived from the original on October 17, 2019. Retrieved March 14, 2019. ^ 小学館漫画賞 過去受賞作 – 小学館コミック (in Japanese). Shogakukan. October 25, 2018. Archived from the original on February 19, 2022. Retrieved July 25, 2022. ^ "TIFF 2016: Five Questions for My Entire High School Sinking into the Sea Writer/Director Dash Shaw | Filmmaker Magazine". September 10, 2016. Archived from the original on August 18, 2017. Retrieved August 18, 2017. The Drifting Classroom official site from Viz Media Right Turn Only!!! review of volume 1 at Anime News Network Volume One Review with plot detail Archived 2007-11-18 at the Wayback Machine A small profile of the live action movie version of Drifting Classroom (in Japanese) The Drifting Classroom at IMDb The Drifting Classroom (manga) at Anime News Network's encyclopedia Retrieved from " Welcome to the The Drifting Classroom Wiki! Sixth grader Shou Takamatsu is a troublemaker who refuses to grow up. However, one fateful day, his world is turned upside down, forcing him to quickly mature—or die. When Shou arrives at school that morning, an earthquake of mysterious origin strikes, and the campus is teleported to an empty wasteland, far removed from society. 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If I ever see the Yatta guys again it will be too soon. Listening to Bach's Goldberg Variations on the way home helped to reset my brain from the sensory overload. What's your "opposite of Japanese pop culture" when you need to get away from the fandom? THE DRIFTING CLASSROOM Vol. 1 (by Kazuo Umezu, Viz Media, $9.99) FROM THE BACK COVER: "In the aftermath of a strange earthquake, an entire elementary school vanishes, leaving nothing but a hole in the ground. While parents mourn and authorities investigate, the students and teachers find themselves somewhere far away...somewhere cold and dark...a lifeless, nightmarish wasteland in which their school stands like a lone fortress. As panic turns to terror, as the rules start to fall apart, a sixth-grade boy named Sho and his friends must fight to survive in an alien world..." PROS: There are many stories that claim to be "horror," but only a few that seriously get it right. Umezu's classic is one of them, using fear and panic as a propulsive force throughout this volume. The truly terrifying thing about Drifting Classroom isn't the dire situation, but how the victims react to it. Students and teachers alike turn against each other, committing acts of violence that remind us of the thin line between civilization and chaos. When someone draws blood in this story, it doesn't just hurt at the physical level; it's psychological, too. Shadowy, heavily-inked artwork adds to the oppressive mood, especially with Umezu's depiction of the alien wasteland. But even with that intense detail, the straightforward layouts move the story along quickly, delivering shock after emotional shock. CONS: The opening chapter, about an argument between Sho and his mother before school, is something of a gimmick to make us feel even more sorry for the lead character. Introducing the protagonist by showing his home and school life is fine, but Sho's inner monologue goes too far with the sentimentality, while the disagreement with his mom goes too far with the theatrics. Only after the school is transported does the story settle into the right mood. The artwork, detailed as it is, also has its moments of crudeness—apparently, any form of running involves swinging your legs out and letting "whoosh lines" appear behind you. Facial expressions lack variety, and the dated character designs might take some getting used to. RTO!! RATING: A- THE LAW OF UEKI Vol. 1 (by Tsubasa Fukuchi, Viz Media, $9.99) FROM THE BACK COVER: "In a world of powerful celestial beings, an epic contest is being held to select the next king! Each Celestial selects a kid in junior high to be his champion and grants him a special power. The kids battle it out—losers are eliminated, and winners are granted new talents! Seemingly ordinary Kosuke Ueki has been chosen to be a contender. Granted the power to change trash into trees, Ueki has two disadvantages to overcome—one, he doesn't know he's a participant in the tournament, and two, how the heck can anyone win a battle with the power to turn trash into trees?" PROS: You can tell that tournament-style shounen manga has gone postmodern when creators start making up ridiculous powers just for the hell of it. The Law of Ueki's absurdity works in its favor, however, as Volume 1 jumps into action and rides the energy all the way through. Ueki's detached apathy is an amusing reversal of the typical energetic shounen hero, and doubly so when he yawns his way through wild, over-the-top battles. Sure, turning trash into trees and drinking water into fire sound silly enough to merit some eye-rolling, but the ideas are imaginative, if nothing else. And as Ueki gets the hang of his unconventional power, he pulls off some clever fighting moves that you won't see anywhere else. CONS: Absurdity for absurdity's sake has been the downfall of many a comedy title (just look at the utterly lightweight Bobobo-bobo-bobobo), and this one is no exception. Ueki just shows up for each fight, with no reason or motivation. The rules of the celestial tournament, which are explained along the way, feel tacked on instead of logically planned out, like a playground game where the kids make up new rules to suit each situation. Silliness and non sequitur are good for a laugh, but as the foundation for the opening chapters of a tournament series (even a satirical one), it's not enough to keep things together. The amateurish artwork drags this one down even further; the artist's limitations are made obvious in his juvenile character designs and tendency to draw in every square inch of available space. It's too much for the eyes, and not enough for the brain. RTO!! RATING: C- A LITTLE SNOW FAIRY SUGAR Vol. 1 (by Haruka Aoi and BH SNOW+CLINIC, ADV Manga, $9.99) FROM THE BACK COVER: "Saga Bergman suddenly has her orderly little world twisted into knots when she meets Sugar, a 'Season Fairy' that only she can see! What's more, it turns out that Sugar is still an apprentice, and the only way to become a full-blown fairy is to find 'Twinkles' ... but no one knows where Twinkles are, or even what they are! Can Saga help Sugar and her pals Salt and Pepper find their Twinkles before they drive her crazy?" PROS: Any story with a piano-playing lead character wins a special place in my heart, but music is just one of the sweet little flourishes in this series. Numerous other quirks help to establish the world of Sugar: the quaint German small-town setting, the fairies being named after spices and seasonings, the mad-scientist boy next door, and the obsession with waffles. As a character, Saga is a welcome relief from the typical young klutz; instead, she lives exactly by the clock, and the arrival of carefree Sugar causes a friction between the two that effectively drives the story. Saga's connection to her deceased mother through music also adds a layer of bittersweetness. The artwork isn't as cloying as Koge Donbo's original character designs, but still maintains the energy and sheer cuteness required. Unlike other anime-to-manga conversions that get warped into an awkward style, this one makes the transition painlessly. CONS: Saga and Sugar's clashes of personality make for fun entertainment, but the subsequent making-up is enough to make even the most cute-tolerant reader gag. This is a story so hellbent on positive feelings and avoiding conflict that it becomes more of a self-affirmation manual than a tale of personal growth. Each chapter after the first relies on the same pattern: fairy and human have a disagreement, both of them go off to sulk, then someone says something enlightening and everyone is happy again. Clearly, plot and theme are not the main priorities. Page layouts are easy to follow but sometimes get too crowded, especially in Chapter 1, where Sugar's origin story is rushed just so that everything else can get started. RTO!! RATING: B- LOVE ROMA Vol. 3 (by Minoru Toyoda, Del Rey, $10.95) FROM THE BACK COVER: "Time passes so quickly... especially when you're in love for the first time! Hoshino fell for Negishi the very first moment he saw her. But that was in their first year of high school, and now they're about to start their second. Will growing up change their love? Because, all of a sudden, it's time to start planning for the future. They're in the same school now, but someday they'll graduate. Negishi finally meets Hoshino's family, but someday they'll have to start their own. And when they take their first trip together, it seems like it's over almost as soon as it's begun. Can young love stand the test of time... or is time the only thing that can take it away?" PROS: It takes nothing less than the guileless innocence of Love Roma to turn something as crass as touching a girl's breast into a moment of poignancy. Odd little scenes like that, among many others, add up to a low-key romantic comedy that miraculously avoids the histrionics of the genre. Volume 3 continues the saga of a clueless but likable boy courting a temperamental but likable girl—and you can't help but root for them all the way. While some series are about trying to get the right couple together, this one shows that even if you do have the right couple, keeping them together is still tricky. Hoshino's unflappable honesty sets up lots of subtle humor, and the arrival of his eccentric family adds new comedic possibilities. The flat, bold-lined artwork—just a bit awkward, like Hoshino and Negi's relationship—adds to the unique flavor, with occasional full-page spreads that deliver the same emotional weight as any swishy, hyper-toned shoujo epic. CONS: Of course, if you want a swishy shoujo epic, this isn't going to do it. Toyoda openly admits that he draws each chapter like it were the last, so the series is episodic by nature. Depth is the one thing that's seriously lacking here; we don't learn much about the main characters other than that they like each other, and if Hoshino and Negishi spit out yet another sentimental platitude, it might be time to sign them up for the greeting card industry. With only the passing school year to mark the time, the story also veers into some of usual clichés like flower-viewing in the spring, summer vacation, and a fireworks festival. You'd think a series with such a unique outlook on high school love could also find more imaginative situations to put the characters in. It's very good at being cute, but not so good at being fulfilling. RTO!! RATING: B THE WALLFLOWER Vol. 8 (by Tomoko Hayakawa, Del Rey, $10.95) FROM THE BACK COVER: "Four of Japan's most gorgeous guys have the near-impossible task of turning goth-loner Sunako into a lady. When they find Sunako all dressed up and ready for a night on the town, the guys think their luck may have finally changed. Hoping to catch a glimpse of Sunako's date, the quartet follow her out the door. But instead of a handsome young prince, they find an old granny with a taste for the macabre! Granny's Museum of Horrors is closing shop and she's promised all of the remaining items to her best (and only) customer, Sunako. Just what the guys need—more gruesome artifacts cluttering their house. Sunako plans to bring her horrific treasures home, but the guys will do anything to stop her . . . even if it means all-out war." PROS: Although it starts out with a dull meditation on bishounen Takenaga's love life, this volume improves with each succeeding chapter, ending with a Golden Week episode that uses the series' elements to maximum advantage. Sunako's macabre mind imagines a metaphorical desert where the boys' bright-and-exciting holiday plans threaten to scorch her dry; it gets funnier yet when Golden Week actually begins and they learn the dangers of overindulgence. The other chapters also succeed when they exaggerate for comic effect, like a madcap fishing battle, or an ultra-depressed crowd of mourners at a graveyard on flower-viewing day. Hayakawa's simple and sparse layouts make this a breezy read, and yet she also takes time to render those lovely bishounen with their sparkling eyes and fine hair. CONS: Now here's a manga that is remarkably adept at getting nowhere. No matter what happens, the events of any given chapter always circle back to the original premise: the boys are still trying to turn Sunako into a proper lady. Also, the less effective jokes in this volume rely on the same old formula that's been regurgitated throughout the series. "Gosh! Those guys sure are hot and popular! Gosh! That girl sure is dark and scary!" The chapter on Takenaga and his maybe-not-quite girlfriend is particularly boring, being devoid of any conflict with Sunako. Nonexistent backgrounds often make it look like the characters are just floating around in space, and sharp-eyed readers will notice some awkward poses and a lack of artistic confidence. RTO!! RATING: C+ THE RISING STARS OF MANGA Vol. 6 (edited by Rob Valois, Tokyopop, $9.99) FROM THE BACK COVER: "Tokyopop's Rising Stars of Manga competition has launched the revolution—the Manga Revolution! Inside the pages of this book is the next wave of manga visionaries—the artists and writers who have taken visual storytelling to the next level... So treat yourself to a snapshot of the most exciting young voices in manga! In Rising Stars of Manga Volume 6, Tokyopop has once again awarded aspiring artists and writers a unique opportunity to launch their creative careers. These are the manga icons of tomorrow, whose time is now!" PROS: The latest iteration of Tokyopop's talent contest shows a remarkable level of variety, spanning genres and target audiences that may not even exist in "proper" manga. The winning story, "Bomango," is a character study propelled by its instantly charismatic lead; coming in second place is the more traditional romance "Boy/Girl" that reaches surprising emotional depths in just 20 pages. Even stories borne out of well-worn ideas, like the fairytale fantasy "The Little Miss Witch Hater," manage to twist those ideas into an explosion of creativity—witness the parasitic magic hat, the unhuggable teddy bear, and the crying violin. Artistic influences are similarly diverse, borrowing styles that range from mainstream children's animation to fantasy illustration to the more accessible side of independent comics. Heck, there might even be a dose of manga in there. But this isn't about imitating Japan: it's about seeing what they do and doing it better. CONS: Diversity makes for interesting reading, but it's also every short story anthology's worst enemy, and this one has a couple of "How did that get in?" cases. The worst offender is probably "The Orphans," a nightmare of muddy toning that is near impossible to read. Even high-quality entries have their missteps—"Departure" leads the way in craftsmanship, but there isn't much of a story to back up the stunning art. In fact, the same might be said of all the entries, which struggle valiantly to fit within the contest's page limit. The less accomplished runner-ups always have that feeling of cutting off too soon; a winner emerges by successfully hiding the problem or adjusting the pace accordingly (and so it is that "Bomango" takes top prize). The volume could also do without all those ads and promos for past winners—that's 30 pages of filler right there. When it comes to horror manga, there's perhaps no bigger name than Junji Ito. Known for stories featuring natural, cosmic and grotesque body horror, Ito's works such as Uzumaki and Gyo turn everyday concepts and situations into truly terrifying experiences. He obviously had his influences, however, and there's no more unsung hero of manga than Kazuo Umezu and The Drifting Classroom. Featuring a school that literally disappears from the Earth, The Drifting Classroom is a horror manga classic that inspired several adaptations and the work of Junji Ito. In fact, one of Ito's manga collections almost directly homages Umezu's in its title. Here's a look at the story of this somewhat forgotten masterpiece and what makes it such a perfect Halloween read. The Story of The Drifting Classroom The Drifting Classroom was written and drawn by Kazuo Umezu and was originally published from 1972 to 1974. The story follows a young boy named Sho who, along with the rest of his entire school, ends up being mysteriously transported to another dimension. This is a dark future -- one in which the world has become assaulted by natural disasters and environmental phenomena. Unfortunately for everyone involved, this is only the beginning of the terrifying ordeal. The adults soon descend into madness, turning on the students at the slightest agitation and soon dying themselves one by one. Other threats that the kids find themselves facing include gigantic beasts, low resources like food, and their fellow students striking against them in their own fits of madness. Thankfully, one of their number, Nishi, is telepathic and able to communicate with those in the past. What transpires from there is a bid to change the past and survive the future. What makes the series so creepy and scary is how quickly things begin to spiral into total chaos and uncertainty, with the fantastic events interspersed with realistic and grounded reactions that people, especially children, would have. Said reactions include outright child abuse, showing that the twisted future isn't the only threat to the kids. This makes it as much of a post-apocalyptic survival tale as it is a horror story. Likewise, Umezu's art and its shady tones perfectly encapsulate horror, making the scenery and characters seem that much eerier. 2019 saw the release of a "Perfect Edition" of The Drifting Classroom, bringing it more mainstream recognition than before with the rising wave of international manga popularity. This was no doubt in response to the success of English localizations of Junji Ito's work, in particular. Ito would later state how much the book affected him and influenced his works, even doing a sort of autobiographical gag manga strip showing his younger self reading The Drifting Classroom. Similarities can be seen in how Ito's stories involve fantastic variants of seemingly normal situations or concepts, turning everyday life into a fight for survival amid these weird circumstances. The similarly stylized yet still realistic artwork of Ito's is also similar to Umezu's, showing how the student/fanboy has most definitely become the teacher at this point. Beyond Ito, The Drifting Classroom influenced other mediums by way of two different adaptations. 1987 saw the release of a live-action Japanese movie adaptation of The Drifting Classroom, with a Western adaptation, Drifting School, coming out eight years later. This was notable for being the first major role of actor Drake Bell. The Long Love Letter was a 2002 TV version that came out in Japan, although it was more loosely based on the material. Now readily available at books retailers like Barnes & Noble and Books-a-Million, as well as digitally through Comixology, there's no better time to finally read The Drifting Classroom's scant few Perfect Edition volumes. With the end of the month approaching and Halloween right around the corner, the manga is the perfect segue into what the medium can do to provide audiences with a scare and a tingle down their spine. KEEP READING: Tsukuyomi: Moon Phase Is a Wacky Vampire Classic © 2014 MangaTown.com. if (typeof(adgrouplist) != "undefined"){ for (var i = 0; i < adgrouplist.length; i++){var obj = (arr[i]);addtogroup(obj.lid, obj, gid, obj.aid, obj.tid);}); Aug 10, 2013 I like horror manga; I generally always do. So it should come as no surprise that I avidly read works by Itou Junji and Kazuo Umezu (the latter of which I will be focusing on), two well-known masters at the horror genre. Works such as Orochi (by Kazuo Umezu) may have an “out-there” kind of premise but the way it seems so natural and tangibly believable is what really scares us. I mean, if the characters act in a similar way we would in a situation (and things go horribly wrong) then we can’t help but feel vulnerable to that fact. The reality of the ... Share — copy and redistribute the material in any medium or format for any purpose, even commercially. Adapt — remix, transform, and build upon the material for any purpose, even commercially. The licensor cannot revoke these freedoms as long as you follow the license terms. Attribution — You must give appropriate credit , provide a link to the license, and indicate if changes were made . You may do so in any reasonable manner, but not in any way that suggests the licensor endorses you or your use. ShareAlike — If you remix, transform, or build upon the material, you must distribute your contributions under the same license as the original. No additional restrictions — You may not apply legal terms or technological measures that legally restrict others from doing anything the license permits. You do not have to comply with the license for elements of the material in the public domain or where your use is permitted by an applicable exception or limitation . No warranties are given. The license may not give you all of the permissions necessary for your intended use. For example, other rights such as publicity, privacy, or moral rights may limit how you use the material. Welcome to the The Drifting Classroom Wiki! Sixth grader Shou Takamatsu is a troublemaker who refuses to grow up. However, one fateful day, his world is turned upside down, forcing him to quickly mature—or die. When Shou arrives at school that morning, an earthquake of mysterious origin strikes, and the campus is teleported to an empty wasteland, far removed from society. Read more Please enable JavaScript to view MangaDex. Vol.11 The Nightmarish Imagination: An Essay6 years agoVol.11 The WishAug 25, 2019Chapter 43: No Longer DriftingAug 25, 2019Chapter 42: Friends AgainAug 25, 2019Chapter 41: The ConfessionAug 25, 2019Chapter 40: The HungerAug 25, 2019Chapter 39: The Menace Of ParadiseAug 25, 2019Chapter 38: The Death MarchAug 25, 2019Chapter 37: The Dying MessageAug 25, 2019Chapter 36: The OperationAug 25, 2019Chapter 35: The End Of FriendshipAug 25, 2019Chapter 34: The Web Of FearAug 25, 2019Chapter 33: Escape From The DarknessAug 25, 2019Chapter 32: A Mother's GiftAug 25, 2019Chapter 31: The Record Of The EndAug 25, 2019Chapter 30: The World BelowAug 25, 2019Chapter 29: Cold StaresAug 25, 2019Chapter 28: The Giant EyeAug 25, 2019Chapter 27: The CultAug 25, 2019Chapter 26: The Food Of The FutureAug 25, 2019Chapter 25: The Fading LightAug 25, 2019Chapter 24: Beyond TimeAug 25, 2019Chapter 23: The Shadow Of DeathAug 25, 2019Vol.5 PreviewsAug 25, 2019Chapter 22: The BeastsAug 25, 2019Chapter 21: The Plague TerrorAug 25, 2019Chapter 20: Black SpotsAug 25, 2019Chapter 19: The Fatal ThirstAug 25, 2019Chapter 18: The Courageous BlowAug 25, 2019Vol.4 PreviewsAug 25, 2019Chapter 17: The Small EnemyAug 25, 2019Chapter 16: A Desperate ActAug 25, 2019Chapter 15: The Monster AttacksAug 25, 2019Chapter 14: The Nation Of Yamato ElementaryAug 25, 2019Chapter 13: The New LeaderAug 25, 2019Chapter 12: A Single LeafAug 25, 2019Chapter 11: The SacrificeAug 25, 2019Chapter 10: The Scream From The WallAug 25, 2019Chapter 9: A Mother's WishAug 25, 2019Chapter 8: Death's JourneyAug 25, 2019Chapter 7: The Lost 862Aug 25, 2019Chapter 6: The Battle Of The 6Th GradersAug 25, 2019Chapter 5: Rage For BreadAug 25, 2019Vol.1 About The Artist: Kazuo UmezuAug 25, 2019Vol.1 PreviewsAug 25, 2019Chapter 4: The Closed WorldAug 25, 2019Chapter 3: Eyes Full Of FearAug 25, 2019Chapter 2: The QuakeAug 25, 2019Chapter 1: That MorningAug 25, 2019 SHOW MORE The Simpsons has had some iconic episodes, but the best of them all also has an alternate ending that few have seen. While he didn't take on that franchise role, Michael Cera is currently starring in The Phoenician Scheme from writer-director Wes Anderson. Known for SNL and brilliant comedies like Planes, Trains and Automobiles, Steve Martin's career took an unexpected turn with this 1997 crime drama. Arnold Schwarzenegger isn't beating around the bush when he explains the why behind his pick for the worst Terminator movie. Vegeta is a crucial character who is often in Goku's shadow, yet there's s a strong case to be made as to why he's Dragon Ball Super's secret weapon! Horizon: An American Saga Amid the uncertainty surrounding Horizon: An American Saga's future, the Western film series gets a hopeful update from one of its actors. In a CBR review of Superman Unlimited #2, see the Man of Steel's brand-new superpower in action Sci-fi isn't for everyone, but I think there is one series in the genre that is so good that everyone should check it out, even the haters. Liam Hemsworth is becoming popular on Netflix before taking the lead role in The Witcher. Marvel Cinematic Universe The Avengers have led the MCU for the better part of a decade, but it's time for Marvel's First Family to take the reins for the universe's future. The new attention the film is getting on streaming might lead to a sequel, which has been caught in development hell. Adolescence had a difficult journey to become the worldwide hit it is. Jason DeMarco reveals how Toonami brought Bleach back after years off-air, ending Hulu’s exclusive run and marking a major win for the anime block. Comedian Kevin James tries to leave the mob in the first trailer for the action-packed movie Guns Up. While the Sailor Moon anime has many memorable fights, some of the best of them are non-canon. Netflix's latest Western romance series has divided fans and critics, but the streamer confirms that the show will be coming back for Season 2. Shortly after its 40th anniversary, Clint Eastwood's Western with a supernatural undertone is heading to streaming for free. F1 director Joseph Kosinski goes into effusive detail about his collaboration with star Brad Pitt on Apple's highly anticipated racing movie. Avatar: The Last Airbender and The Legend of Korra have introduced six avatars, and each one of them had their own elemental preferences and power. Skybound Entertainment is about to introduce one of the smallest, most unassuming Decepticons of all time, and they might just be the worst. Page 2 Comedian Kevin James tries to leave the mob in the first trailer for the action-packed movie Guns Up. While the Sailor Moon anime has many memorable fights, some of the best of them are non-canon. Netflix's latest Western romance series has divided fans and critics, but the streamer confirms that the show will be coming back for Season 2. Pokémon Scarlet & Violet's Paldea region expanded the Pokédex to over 1000 species of Pokémon — some of which are incredibly powerful, like Miraidon. Lionsgate debuts the official trailer for the second chapter in The Strangers reboot trilogy. Shortly after its 40th anniversary, Clint Eastwood's Western with a supernatural undertone is heading to streaming for free. F1 director Joseph Kosinski goes into effusive detail about his collaboration with star Brad Pitt on Apple's highly anticipated racing movie. Avatar: The Last Airbender and The Legend of Korra have introduced six avatars, and each one of them had their own elemental preferences and power. Skybound Entertainment is about to introduce one of the smallest, most unassuming Decepticons of all time, and they might just be the worst. With the limited number of Devil Fruits in One Piece, the Straw Hats may need to rely on Haki in order to power up for their next big fight! Paramount is making a significant change to its Paramount+ premium tier as it becomes the latest streaming service trying to overhaul its image. Netflix unveils Cillian Murphy in his next role. Chainsaw Man Part 2 has been accused of “falling off” more than once, but Asa Mitaka’s latest feat in Chapter 206 proves that’s actually a good thing. Pedro Pascal has never seen one particularly heartwrenching scene from The Last of Us season two. Five years later, the fantasy-horror show is as popular as ever. A set photo reveals the first look at Samuel L. Jackson's character. Terminator 2: Judgment Day Terminator fans will soon be able to stream the best entry in the sci-fi action franchise for free. Mark Gatiss recently got talking about the smash hit detective show Sherlock, starring Benedict Cumberbatch. The creator of Cowboy Bebop and HBO Max's anime streaming hit, Lazarus, addressed the many challenges the animation industry faces today. Yellowstone has always been about legacy—now with spin-offs on the way, Sheridan may be setting up the Duttons’ next generational shift. Page 3 28 Days Later is immediately a hit on streaming as fans are eager to see how Cillian Murphy will return in the 28 Years Later movie trilogy. While countless action anime are content to simply rip-off DBZ, others are far more original. Tanya's death was a huge shock in The White Lotus and even now it's something fans talk about, raising many questions in the grand scheme. Solo Leveling Season 3 will adapt some of the manhwa’s best arcs, but there are some specific details from the source material the anime should revise Actor Dominique Thorne reveals who she could see Riri Williams meeting post-Ironheart, even selecting someone who could "humble Riri in a cool way." Charlie Cox's performance as Gustave in Clair Obscur: Expedition 33 was met with high praise, which came as a shock to the Daredevil actor. 28 Years Later has revived the Rage Virus, but are the Infected the same as traditional Zombies from other franchises? The popular actor has a new exciting projects away from his Jack Reacher character. The show, based on the Zen book series, won a Peabody Award in 2021. Blade reboot star Mahershala Ali addresses the progress report for the long-gestating film, and his update won't be what MCU enthusiasts want to hear. The Strangers are back to finish what they started with Madelaine Petsch in the second installment of the horror franchise's reboot trilogy. Romano's classic sitcom Everybody Loves Raymond aired for 9 seasons on CBS. There's good news for fans of one of Netflix's most divisive live-action anime series of the year, with Bet getting a surprise streaming update. After a very long wait, Netflix is finally giving My Life With the Walter Boys fans something to look forward to. The Fantastic Four: First Steps The Fantastic Four: First Steps star Pedro Pascal is all too aware of why fans think he shouldn't be playing the MCU's Mister Fantastic. The duo's previous title had been a major hit with near-perfect scores. Mission: Impossible - Dead Reckoning Mission: Impossible -- Dead Reckoning Part One delivers all the terrific action and spy thrills but also includes some surprisingly thoughtful quotes. Pedro Pascal isn't afraid to stand up for his transgender sister, even if that means going up against a billionaire. Sitcoms go through many backstage issues, but for Seinfeld, one feud led to a character's exit that fans haven't forgotten. X-Men '97 creator Beau DeMayo reveals a cut ending from Season 1 that introduced two of Marvel's most iconic mutants. Page 4 The Ironheart executive producer talks about how the series connects to Doctor Doom and the upcoming Avengers: Doomsday movie. One of Hello Kitty's most adorable friends sports a 'nerdy' new look as part of Sanrio's official Glasses Series -- and he pulls it off perfectly. The actor has one pretty lofty wish for the upcoming revival series. The Fantastic Four: First Steps The runtime for The Fantastic Four: First Steps has been updated again on theater websites, but this one is here to stay. Rachel Zegler got a lot of hate for playing Snow White in the live-action Disney remake. Tabletop gamers have been on pins and needles, waiting for D&D 5e's first adventure anthology, and the wait for Dragon Delves is finally over! The 2024 adventure horror film is finally heading to a streaming platform. In the final years of his life, the author of The Lord of the Rings published one of his least-known stories, and it deserves more recognition. The list of axed DC projects spans several decades. From True Detective to The Terror and Stranger Things, some TV shows from the 2010s delivered 10/10 episodes making them true masterpieces. Shutter Island may be Martin Scorsese's most recent horror film, but his 1991 debut genre movie, featuring a stellar cast, remains his most iconic. Superman's live-action movies aren't always so hot, but the original superhero has a collection of animated movies that are considered hidden gems. Will Ferrell's Land of the Lost movie may not be talked about often, but it's far from the end of the franchise that it failed to reboot. Horror fans who enjoy 28 Years Later should also check out great zombie movies like Day of the Dead and The Girl With All the Gifts. The creator of My Hero Academia reveals why he refused to confirm the most popular romantic pairing in the Shonen Jump series' controversial ending. The X-Files' initial run lasted nine seasons, but aliens beamed up David Duchovny's Mulder to accommodate the actor leaving in Season 7. Goku has always been the most powerful of the Z-Fighters, but even he should have stepped back to let the others handle these dangerous scenarios. Lost has many great and memorable characters, but a lot of them didn't deserve all of the positive attention they got. MHA fans may be surprised to learn which fan favorite character ended up at the top of the Hero Rankings. These anime women make a huge difference in their world through their manifold scientific, magical, diplomatic, leadership, and scholastic skills. Page 5 While The Boy and the Heron is a great film, several issues prevent it from being the best Studio Ghibli movie. Series like Demon Slayer, Dragon Ball Z, One Piece, and more show why action anime are among the best in the medium. Many war movies struggle to gain recognition, but films like Green Zone and G.I. Jane have achieved cult status years after their release. 1994's The Fantastic Four isn't a superhero movie every comics fan has seen, but it's worth a watch if they can find it. Dwayne Johnson may be a movie icon, but he also knows TV, and one surprising choice is also one of his favorites. Many fantasy anime have featured high-stakes wars that involve droves of powerful combatants. These popular anime characters were beloved when they first aired, but they haven't necessarily aged well. Diego Luna looks back on Andor's key moments, including a mission that helps lay the groundwork for his relationship with a pivotal rebel leader. Ballard is coming soon and with it, it's missing a key element that helped make Bosch: Legacy so beloved. Square Enix might be most well-known for the Final Fantasy franchise, but plenty of its best games go under the radar This terrifying element worked so well in the trailer that it had to be included in the film. MCU fans and critics often immediately dismiss certain casting choices and crossovers as nostalgia or fan service, but that's almost never a bad thing In 2005, Brokeback Mountain changed how cinemagoers looked at cowboys and was a breakthrough for same-sex romance on screen. Today, it's a classic. Jensen Ackles' new show debuts on Prime Video this week. Despite its inaccuracies, this 2024 Guy Ritchie war film showcases the director's signature style, a star-studded cast, and lots of action. While Sailor Moon might be known for its flashy transformations & colorful vibes, the shojo also had some heart-breaking moments that captivated fans. Titus Welliver teases his next TV role with a first look photo. While there are strong rangers that have existed in the Power Rangers franchise, it's the duos that make certain shows stand out. These Gundam characters all went through a long list of heartbreaking tragedies. Despite starring one of the most popular comedians of the era, this 2001 comedy flopped hard, but that didn't stop it from becoming a cult classic. Page 6 From Dragon Ball to Naruto, anime's shonen series tend

to be some of the most popular in the medium. But which are the best of them all? These polarizing Sopranos episodes pushed fans too far, with dream logic, tonal shifts and slow pacing driving some to quit the show for good. Sometimes, the best action games require some strategic sneakiness - here are the greatest stealth games to play before the MGS3 remake drops. Devil Fruits have served as the basis for some of One Piece's most notable scientific achievements. My Hero Academia: Vigilantes My Hero Academia: Vigilantes Episode 12 sends Knuckleduster down a dark path in the fight against Hachisuka while Pop Step shines at her biggest show. Borderlands 4 looks to be an amazing entry for the beloved Gearbox series, but the lack of a true minimap could be problematic for the game. Studio Ghibli's official store gets fans ready for travel with a collection of travel bags and even a suitcase featuring iconic mascot Totoro. Lord of the Rings redefined the fantasy genre and the early 2000s was full of other films trying to get in on its success, but always coming up short. Several of anime's most important questions remain unanswered, literal years after they were first posed. From high school kids fighting an alien invasion to dealing with zombies in the historical era, the best South Korean survival series have it all. Some fans are wondering if they've seen the last of Morgan, and Lennie James shares what he knows. Daredevil: Born Again took a few story ideas from the Devil's Reign series, and some fans of the show and characters might need a guide for the event. Now 50 years old, this horror classic was the first summer blockbuster, and it still has lessons to teach Hollywood today. Even though it takes place in the modern day, there are a lot of different ways Pokémon Legends: Z-A could include Pokémon introduced after Gen VI. The Walking Dead: Dead City Negan burns (mostly) everything to the ground and Maggie attempts to end a longstanding feud once and for all in the Season 2 finale of Dead City. This Brandon Cronenberg sci-fi horror film, praised for its originality, depicts a terrifying world with devastating technology. Many Sailor Moon couples tragically never got the happily ever after they deserved, and some well-written love interests have unrequited crushes. Martin Kove was reportedly asked to leave the convention after the alleged bite. Donal Logue co-starred in 7 episodes of Sons of Anarchy, and fans were hoping that he'd become one of its defining villains until Vikings interfered. These frightening anime are a great choice for fans looking forward to the release of Stranger Things Season 5. Page 7 Stephan Pastis's Pearls Before Swine comic strip is known for featuring characters who love to break the fourth wall, and they do it fairly often. Guillermo del Toro is a master of genre filmmaking, but one very grounded Martin Scorsese movie is "perfect" in his eyes, and he's got a point. HBO's Game of Thrones became known for shocking deaths, and despite these characters' limited screen time, their losses hit fans of the series hard. One of the best new superheroes of the MCU's Multiverse Saga disappeared after Phase 4, but there's a simple fix for fans and Marvel Studios. Although these iconic anime were massively influential, they don't hold up to the modern eye. Although war epics often dominate the box office, releases like The Patriot and American Sniper don't always age well. Home Alone fans can stream three of the franchise's movies in July. Macaulay Culkin faces off with Joe Pesci and Daniel Stern in the first two movies. Classic examples of Gary Larson's humor, the greatest stories from The Far Side comic strips make readers chuckle while giving them plenty to ponder. Tony Stark plays a significant role in the development of Riri Williams. But was Robert Downey Jr. ever approached? Pennywise is a shapeshifter who can take any form. IT: Welcome to Derry could be a faithful adaptation of King's novel by exploring this fact. Anime characters like Anya from Spy x Family and Reigen from Mob Psycho 100 have become fan favorites. Ironheart actor Dominique Thorne reveals why Riri Williams may not be the "ideal superhero" that everyone expects in the Disney+ miniseries. The anime industry is filled with legendary directors whose series and films will never disappoint. The Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum can finally bring a forgotten Hobbit from the books back for his big-screen debut. Creator Hwang Dong-hyuk is going all in with Squid Game Season 3's ending. Frieren: Beyond Journey's End VIZ Media reveals a surprise return date for the original Frieren: Beyond Journey's End, which has been on hiatus since January 2025. Some fans might have forgotten just how chilling moments in DBZ could get. "Stress Relief" is not only one of the highest-rated episodes of The Office, but it features the fire drill—one of the most iconic cold opens. The Walking Dead's Scott M. Gimple discusses the possibility of a Glenn return following the Dead City Season 2 finale. These Jujutsu Kaisen fan theories are a little out there, but it would be amazing to see them come true. Page 8 Although Sung Jinwoo is currently the most recognizable shadow monarch in anime, One Piece's main antagonist is arguably even more powerful. Fantasy anime can touch our hearts or be incredibly generic, but this unassuming anime on Amazon Prime is perfect for scratching the fantasy itch. There's positive news for those who have been waiting for an official return for Ladybug and Cat Noir after two years away. Some more details about Christopher Nolan's The Odyssey have also made their way online. The Street Fighter reboot may have found its Balrog. The Dragon Ball anime often strays from Akira Toriyama's vision, so anime-onlys might have missed some crucial details about Son Goku. Scorpion ended almost a decade ago, but the exciting action drama shares some themes and similarities with another new procedural fans will love. A Marvel insider has just given fans a conflicting report about the future of the Ultimate Universe, and they can only hope he is right. Audiences who have enjoyed 28 Years Later now finally have the opportunity to stream the original movie 28 Days Later for free on a new platform. The Alpha Zombie in 28 Years Later was played by Chi Lewis-Parry, and he's got a lot of stories to tell. Amber Heard has lined up her acting comeback three years after her infamous legal battle. Tom Cruise and Brad Pitt are reunited over three decades after co-starring in their hit vampire film. Vertical debuts the official trailer for the Liam Neeson-led action sequel, Ice Road: Vengeance. The Elder Scrolls has known some truly sinister villains of the years - but which is the most evil of all? The Naked Gun isn't the only action franchise Liam Neeson fans will see the actor in this year, as a trailer for another sequel has been released. Off the Grid tries to position Josh Duhamel as the next action star, but it struggles to land all of its punches. Ralph Fiennes' character looks like he'll be returning for 28 Years Later: The Bone Temple, and the actor has let slip some details about the sequel. From bittersweet endings to poetic justice, series like Naruto and Cowboy Bebop have some of the most unforgettable anime endings of all time. Legendary's highly anticipated Street Fighter reboot has found an actor to portray fan-favorite character Chun-Li. Solo Leveling's sequel manhwa series follows the story of Jinwoo's son, Sung Suho; but he's already taking a completely different path from his father Page 9 Dragon Ball's Goku is a deceptively complex character whose incredible growth during his youth sets up his later years for surprising depth. Toonami's fan-favorite anime tribute, Megas XLR, was almost revived after 21 years, but David Zaslav's takeover of Warner Bros. Discovery killed it. Marvel Cinematic Universe The MCU is a lengthy, action-packed story that drew fans in over the years with those traits, as well as a unique capacity for humor that stood out. Hellboy actor Ron Perlman is returning to the horror genre with a new, more comedic role in the movie Horrified, opposite an original Dexter star. Pokemon Trading Card Game A trailer for the Pokémon Trading Card Game's upcoming Mega Evolution set has been revealed, showing off some of its incredibly powerful 'Mons. New and crafty Transformers collectibles are more than meets the eye. Outlander: Blood of My Blood There's great news for Outlander fans ahead of the premiere of the prequel series, Outlander: Blood of My Blood. Goyer says Marvel turned down his offer to help with its Blade reboot. 28 Years Later has hit an impressive benchmark with its box office opening numbers, as Danny Boyle's thriller also enjoys critical success. One of Taylor Sheridan's best series that isn't in the Yellowstone universe is climbing up the streaming charts. Warner Bros. drops a new trailer for filmmaker Zach Cregger's upcoming horror-thriller Weapons. Steven Spielberg's upcoming UFO movie starring Emily Blunt and Colin Firth receives an exciting update from screenwriter David Koepp. A widely derided Disney live-action adaptation knocks off Brave New World from the top of the streaming charts. Unused footage from Star Wars: Episode II - Attack of the Clones reveals that Mace Windu's fight with Jango Fett was once going to be more violent. Ahead of Happy Gilmore 2's release on Netflix, a different streamer will add a beloved 2000s sports comedy from Adam Sandler to its library. An entire classroom of children disappears without explanation in the new trailer for Zach Cregger's Weapons. I Know What You Did Last Summer The actor is having a lot of fun ahead of her return as Julie James. Audiences are very divided over the unexpected ending to 28 Years Later. The author has expressed many times that she doesn't care about the backlash she receives. After two recent hits, Jason Statham will soon return with a mysterious action thriller. Page 10 The new action thriller series starring Jensen Ackles on Prime Video, Countdown, delivers both character drama and spectacle in a fun way. From Jake Gyllenhaal's Donnie Darko to Keanu Reeves' Point Break, YouTube's library of free movies has something for everyone. Jake Sully and the Na'vi will return in the comics long before Avatar 3 hits theaters with an untold tale that promises to reveal even more secrets. It looks like Marvel Studios is going to keep its Thunderbolts* title gag going when the film arrives on home video next month. Michael Shanks, who played the fan-favorite Daniel Jackson, left Stargate SG-1 after season 5 due to creative differences but returned in season 7. Marvel told Daredevil: Born Again's creative team not to watch one surprising series when bringing Matt Murdock's adventures to the MCU. The crossover would've been a major event on Tumblr in 2014. Sanrio takes its most famous mascot to the grocery store with a brand-new merchandise line that's perfect for at-home play or on-the-go practicality. 28 Years Later ended on a big cliffhanger, but who is Jimmy, and how does he affect the upcoming sequel, Bone Temple? Romano did everything he could to get the name changed, but to no avail. This week, catch brand-new episodes of Resident Alien, The Gilded Age, The Mortician, SpongeBob SquarePants, Wylde Pak, and more tonight. Three weeks after its explosive Season 1 finale, Paramount+ reveals the future of Guy Ritchie and Tom Hardy's crime drama series. Sons of Anarchy star Kim Coates shares his thoughts about one major part of the hit FX series' story that people get entirely wrong. The Right Stuff, Philip Kaufman's epic historical film, continues to stand the test of time due to its realistic depiction of space exploration. The new teaser for Zach Cregger's film gives viewers some clues on what to expect from the horror thriller. There's great news for Tokyo Revengers fans, with the anime getting a major production update as Season 4, the Three Titans Arc, is revealed. The X-Files perfectly blended horror and science fiction. Mulder and Scully investigated many weird cases, but the following are the most terrifying. Dragon Ball Z is a classic, but that doesn't mean it didn't frequently falter with its story. Lacking any of Dragon Ball and DBZ's emotional depth, Dragon Ball Super typically only cares about hype moments and aura. A theory suggests that one of Disney's most cherished franchises may have originated from the Twilight Zone. Page 11 These contemporary anime characters deserve way more praise from fans. One Piece's Egghead Arc has been spectacular, but its anime filler specials may be a sign of a stark change in the series' production schedule. While a ton of amazing titles are returning for another season, there are also a lot of other brand-new anime title's to check out too. Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba The Demon Slayer franchise has produced a wide variety of figures that every collector should check out. The Man in the High Castle comes highly recommended by Stephen King and is still one of the best dystopian shows to stream. Fans looking to prepare for James Gunn's new take on the Man of Steel might want to check out a few of these classic and modern Superman comic books. Modern Disney movies can be thrilling, but certain aspects set them apart from classic films, making it difficult to overlook when rewatching. A former CIA clandestine officer breaks down the Mission: Impossible franchise's most realistic scene—and it's not what fans would think. One Piece uses flashbacks and backstories to explain character motivations while expanding worldbuilding, but some are far more tragic than others. The Street Sharks once dominated a sea of mutant-inspired media, and now the Ninja Turtles need to watch out as they prepare to surface again. Derek Haas revealed the episode names for Prime Video's Countdown have special meaning. Countdown stars Jensen Ackles and premieres June 25th. DBD x FNAF is a match made in gaming heaven - here's everything you need to know about the new Freddy Fazbear's Pizza map. The X-Men's Krakoa Era was game changing for Marvel's mutants, but it also stirred many controversies in its five-year run. The Walking Dead: Dead City The Walking Dead's Chief Content Officer Scott M. Gimple talks to CBR about the Dead City Season 2 finale and the secret to the thriving franchise. Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire Godzilla x Kong: The New Empire featured intense and epic battles, but only one stands to victor as the strongest Titan in all the MonsterVerse. Peter Jackson often incorporated the actors' ideas when creating his The Lord of the Rings film trilogy, and that was especially true of Bernard Hill. Batman Begins screenwriter David Goyer just dropped an insightful piece of criticism on modern superhero movies (and he's absolutely right). Doctor Strange is Marvel's Master of the Mystic Arts and isn't always seen as its friendliest face, though he still has several memorable team-ups. FBI: International co-creator Derek Haas explains why he has come to terms with the spinoff series' recent cancellation at CBS and Wolf Entertainment. Ezra Miller has resurfaced, revealing the planned project that could serve as a Hollywood comeback. Page 12 The Walking Dead: Dead City Kim Coates talks to CBR about Bruegel's fiery ending on The Walking Dead: Dead City, and why the second season needed the villain. The 2000s were a great era for action RPGs, giving players timeless classics like Mass Effect, Diablo 2, and Tales of Symphonia. The Walking Dead: Dead City Lauren Cohan spoke to CBR about The Walking Dead: Dead City Season 2 finale, where Maggie sacrifices her relationship with her son to protect Negan. Sanrio solidifies its dominance in the world of anime-style mascots in a new Japanese "Gen Z" survey ranking popular trends in media and pop culture. The Alien franchise wouldn't be the same without the iconic inclusion of this actor's role, which is more significant than fans realize. The Walking Dead: Dead City In TWD: Dead City Season 2 finale, Maggie finally has the perfect opportunity to kill Negan. Meanwhile, Negan takes care of his Bruegel problem. Despite its polarizing reception years ago, the underrated Terminator movie is finding new streaming success. Before gods and multiverses, the '90s DBZ era had its own power kings, and characters like Vegeta and Gohan were the top dogs. Star Trek: Strange New Worlds As a prequel to Star Trek's first show, Strange New Worlds can end the series in one of three ways, but the most controversial one could be the best. Inspired by true events, this 2016 crime drama featuring Michael Fassbender has remained under the radar since its release. Everyone loves the Fellowship of the Ring, but Lord of the Rings heroes like Bilbo and Arwen can hold their own, too! From Anya Forger to Yuji Itadori, these anime characters are relatable Gen Z icons who are awkward, real and just trying to survive. Bridgerton Season 4 won't be out for a while, but from Dickinson to My Lady Jane, fans have plenty of other shows to fill the void. 26 years ago, Roger Ebert predicted the ongoing controversy behind David Fincher's critically acclaimed thriller movie, and his prediction was right. Pseudoscience and mystery are abound in two very different shows, but with similar approaches to how they unfold their plots and arcs. Larson uses musicians many times in The Far Side, with a drastic change occurring halfway through the series. The unluckiest of which prove hilarious. 3 years after The Walking Dead's epic, nostalgia-filled finale, fans may finally have a series to help fill the void with SYFY's Revival. Some modern JRPGs, like Nier: Automata and Persona 5 Royal, have stories that rival the classics. Whether it's for their charisma or their sympathetic motives, anime fans will root for villains like Pain and Suguru Geto more than they'll admit. While Sauron and Saruman are the most prominent villains in Lord of the Rings, there were still some deadly villains beyond the Dark Lord and Wizard. Page 13 War movies are usually big hits at the box office, but some soldiers believe that even the most accurate depictions of conflict have their flaws. Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning director Christopher McQuarrie explains why this major character's death was important for the latest instal Jennifer Love Hewitt joined Criminal Minds Season 10 as new agent Kate Callahan, but why did she only last one season on the hit CBS crime drama? Robert De Niro is one of the greatest film gangsters of all time, but even he couldn't save this unfunny gangster comedy from mediocrity. Twin Peaks is a sci-fi series that is still held in high esteem even today, but its sequel series is even more impressive and deserves attention. Actor Dominique Thorne talks about Ironheart's place amongst other Marvel heroes and how youth can blind her to "what's in front of us at the moment." Buffy the Vampire Slayer is an amazing series with a loyal fandom, which allowed the story to continue on in comic book form for years. They weren't meant to be funny, but somehow, anime movies like Akira and Princess Mononoke had viewers cracking up anyway. Johnny Depp fell into acting and he can still remember when he first started feeling "miserable" in the profession. James Gunn recently teased death will be permanent in the DCU, a direction that fixes a major misstep the MCU has taken with its characters. Fan-favorite ghost boy Hanako will soon return to Hulu for Season 2, Part 2 of Studio Lerche's supernatural anime hit, Toilet-Bound Hanako-kun. This three-season Netflix series is the perfect teen drama for Gossip Girl fans to watch next because it might be the best show in the genre. Tite Kubo is a masterful artist who brought Bleach to life with astonishing panels featuring Ichigo Kurosaki, Rukia Kuchiki, and others. Not only does Scorsese's Cape Fear pull from the original it is based on, it also references another great Robert Mitchum classic from 1955. Spencer Reid is a beloved character on Criminal Minds, but one of his best storylines has yet to get any follow-up. That's high praise from an actor who played one of cinema's most iconic villains. From Light Yagami to Levi Ackerman, these iconic anime characters have earned their place in the hall of fame. Donkey Kong Bananza takes the series in a new direction with a 3D action adventure game that could have ties with Super Mario Odyssey. DreamWorks' first traditionally animated feature, which starred Val Kilmer, remains one of the best animated films of all time. Anyone looking to return to Kanto in Pokémon Red & Blue should seek out these powerful 'Mons for their team, as they'll trash the competition. Page 14 Hulu recently announced a reboot of Buffy the Vampire Slayer, exciting slayer fans around the world. These characters must return in some capacity. Each anime season features gorgeous-looking anime, yet there are some series and movie that truly stand the test of time with their beautiful visuals. Nightmare Alley is a classic piece of noir cinema, yet the nearly forgotten Del Toro remake might be even better. Dandadan Chapter 198 spotlights Jiji's devastating power in beautiful detail, and the artistic execution takes the sequence from fun to unforgettable. Dragons are a recurring character-type in Fire Emblem, and these are the standouts Robert De Niro also stars alongside Scott Eastwood and Jamie Foxx in the new film that is streaming internationally. Anyone looking to feel the same tension and passion as Tombstone must see NBC's classic Bonanza series. One of the most underrated World War II films of all time has found some major streaming success more than a decade after arriving in theaters. Spirited Away director Hayao Miyazaki and his production company have a fascinating roster of what-ifs. The Lord of the Rings trilogy is known as one of the best trilogies ever, but there are still some mistakes that continue to haunt the movies. Gon has defeated some noteworthy characters with his Nen, but some of the HxH characters he has not faced would be challenging opponents. The duo worked together on the 2000 Oscar-winning film, Gladiator. The anime girls of Demon Slayer, One Piece, Bleach and more competed for the title of cutest Shonen Jump heroine, but which one took home the crown? Alfie Allen shows his acting range in the historical drama SAS: Rogue Heroes as Jock Lewes, after portraying Theon Greyjoy in HBO's Game of Thrones. A knight and a dragon team up to take down a corrupted king in this 90s fantasy classic. Every event in To Be Hero X Episodes 1-12, told in chronological order. Eleven years after starring as Jax Teller in Sons of Anarchy, Charlie Hunnam's next TV role sees him transform into a real-life monster, Ed Gein. The Lazarus Team finally finds Dr Skinner where no one else would think to look in Lazarus Episode 12, but fans should've really seen this coming. The MCU has struggled in recent years, and a big part of that is its refusal to adapt comic stories, but that can change if they just adapt these runs From Max to Prime Video to Netflix, every streaming service has plenty to offer, but what are the best new movies on streaming right now? Page 15 Some shows get better in later seasons, rewarding patient viewers with deeper stories, richer characters and bold turns. Guy Ritchie's action-adventure led by two Hollywood icons has officially become a streaming hit after failing to impress upon its release. Dragon Ball fans get a unique look at DBZ's most powerful Super Saiyan 3 warrior in a special artwork release drawn by Akira Toriyama. David Corenswet's extreme physical change to play Superman would cause some issues with the iconic Suit. HBO Max has canceled many hit shows over the years, but one of the biggest shocks was an animated series with a perfect first season. The cast members of Spy x Family need intelligence, sharp wits, and cunning to survive in Cold War Berlint. Sea Serpents aren't often supported in Yu-Gi-Oh, but they still have some of the most powerful cards in the game. Tom Hanks' 2020 war movie Greyhound has found new success on streaming. The Apple TV+ movie is an adaptation of 1995 novel The Good Shepherd. This animated version of J.R.R. Tolkien's masterpiece was first released in 1978. Gary Larson's use of chickens in The Far Side is well documented, but he also employed many other types of birds with hilarious results. One Piece Chapter 1152 launches an exciting flashback for Loki's rough past while teasing a new Straw Hat Pirate and revealing Zoro's latest power-up. One of the original X-Men, Jean Grey may prove pivotal to the X-Men's MCU future due to her connection with the Phoenix Force. Before Ella Purnell was wandering the apocalyptic wasteland of Fallout, she was showing off her peculiar power in Tim Burton's Miss Peregrine film. Kevin Williamson gives fans some major hints at what is to come for each member of the Buckley family if The Waterfront returns for a second season. Johnny Depp reflects on his public legal battle with Amber Heard and how he feels about his recent castings being called a "comeback." Ghost of Tsushima is widely respected as one of the best AAA titles on PlayStation and the upcoming sequel must follow-up on a major element. Disney's newest flick is flopping globally. Could Jason Statham's underrated franchise get a new sequel? Fans of Dirty Dancing have something to look forward to. The Kaguya-sama: Love Is War anime isn't over. Page 16 Transformers: Rise of the Beasts One of the most critically derided Transformers movies has become a streaming hit years after failing to make a major box office impact. Nico Robin is definitely one of One Piece's most stylish characters, and these are her best outfits in the series. Linda Hamilton talks about her latest time traveling adventure as General McCallister in Alan Tudyk's Resident Alien series. Pokémon Master Journeys continues Ash and Goh's adventures, battling and catching Pokémon from Kanto to Galar. Witch Watch Episode 12 finally ditches tired high school tropes for fantastical magic battles, but it's still not enough to fix the anime's mistakes. Season 5 of the hit CBS sitcom Ghosts may finally answer one of the show's longest-running mysteries, a showrunner recently revealed. Spaceballs is a beloved classic, but in today's cinema landscape, I think that the sequel will need to make a major change to reach the same heights. Ironheart on Disney+ will air the second half of the series, reintroducing Riri Williams to the MCU after her debut in Black Panther: Wakanda Forever. Netflix is reimagining the classic Little House on the Prarie series. The Vampire Diaries has had an intense lore over the years, but some instances of plot armor are too strange to ignore. Amid Superman cameo speculation, DC Studios head James Gunn is clearing the air on when fans can expect to see the DCU's Batman in live-action. The adaptation of the popular video game was a smash hit in theaters, and that translated well on the streaming charts, too. School Spirits finally completed its second season and there's a lot to unpack after many elements were finally solved or brought to light. To Be Hero X is as puzzling as it is compelling, but Reddit users may be on to something with the theories they've managed to put together. Both of the Big Two publishers recently revealed that the upcoming Batman and Deadpool one-shot is just the tip of the Marvel/DC crossover iceberg. Dragon Ball Z is home to many good-looking characters, and there's a reason why the men, in particular, look the way they do. A new pair of high-heels inspired by the Frieren: Beyond Journey's End anime series are a must-buy for fans of everyone's favorite Elven mage. Netflix's new thriller with Coronation Street's Suranne Jones will hit the streaming platform this August. The debut Rotten Tomatoes score for Prime Video's latest series adaptation is pretty good, and that's no lie. After years of rebrands and burials, the fan favorite Punisher is back with a vengeance in September solicits that promise a bloody return to form. Page 17 Stephen King flies with fans of one of television's greatest trail-blazing sci-fi series. So say we all. Jenna Ortega's latest genre-bending dark comedy film may not have done well in theaters, but it has a new chance to shine on Max next month. The Walking Dead: Daryl Dixon The Walking Dead franchise is keeping fans entertained. DreamWorks' How to Train Your Dragon live-action remake is a resounding success. Here's what Disney needs to learn from the new film. Netflix explores the dark side of Yosemite National Park in this haunting crime drama. Han Solo will be going on a new adventure this September, with new details teasing it will tie up a longstanding Star Wars mystery. There are plenty of new great series for anime fans to check out this summer, from Secrets of the Silent Witch to GACHIAKUTA. Opinion has changed a lot throughout MHA but some Heroes' (& Villains') popularity has remained strong throughout the series and Vigilantes. Demon Slayer: Kimetsu no Yaiba Uniqlo brings four instantly iconic Demon Slayer designs to the U.S. for a late Summer 2025 release. The controversial author is involved in the development of the upcoming Harry Potter show. Several too-cute Vocaloids go up for sale in animal form, including Piapro fan-favorite Hatsune Miku. In a brand-new Line it is Drawn, our artists drew your suggestions for comic characters celebrating Pride month Fans swear by manga like Gantz and Elfen Lied, but maybe it's time to stop pretending the problematic parts don't exist. This 2012 sports movie has gone largely unnoticed, despite featuring an all-star cast that includes Clint Eastwood, Amy Adams, and John Goodman. Even in kid form, Goku's a beast. Characters like Tien and Hercule wouldn't stand a chance, even without Super Saiyan. Criminal Minds: Evolution is officially bringing back one of the series' most important (and scariest) characters in its upcoming nineteenth season. In a CBR review of Aliens vs. Avengers #4, see how this crossover addresses some heady concepts like the very nature of heroism The New Giant Warrior Pirates carry the legacy of the Giant Warrior Pirates. Coming from Elbaph, they represent a mix of new and old Warland culture. The Rookie creator and showrunner Alexi Hawley finally confirms what the future holds for the series' fan-favorite will-they-won't-they romance. Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage Georgie & Mandy's First Marriage fans can look forward to their favorite antagonist making a comeback in the series' upcoming second season. Page 18 Despite their high episode counts, these anime have filler arcs that are still worthy of fans' time. Buffy the Vampire Slayer opened its second season by killing off a potential major villain in a shocking development that reenergized the series. After reintroducing Broly to new audiences, it's time that Dragon Ball Super looks to bring more of its non-canonical characters into the fold. While many fans love to see their favorite heroes on the big screen in live-action, animation has arguably become the best place for comic stories. Every war film contains an element of truth, but movies like Hacksaw Ridge and 1917 aim to tell unique and compelling stories on the big screen. The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim The animated film The Lord of the Rings: The War of the Rohirrim did not perform well, but it has plenty to offer to those who enjoy Middle-earth. From moody monsters to bland bionic women, some TV reboots prove that not every classic show deserves a second chance. Attack on Titan is one of the most famous anime in history, and BoxLunch has several pieces of merchandise averrable for purchase online. James Gunn confirmed Superman will feature a post-credits scene like most modern superhero films, though it still plans to avoid a common MCU problem. Eerie, Indiana may have only lasted one season, but its blend of suburban horror and mystery helped pave the way for a generation of similar shows. Metal Gear Solid Delta: Snake Eater seems poised to be an amazing single-player experience, but the multiplayer mode has fans worried. Bethesda is famous for making the Elder Scrolls franchise, but they've created and published plenty of other classic games that need remakes. From Hal Jordan's creepy 80s dating lore to fridging multiple Batgirls, what are the ten biggest controversies DC have faced as a publisher so far? Christian Bale's portrayal of American Psycho's Patrick Bateman wasn't inspired by a serial killer but by a Tom Cruise interview. From creepy tropes to wild clichés, these anime trends aged like milk, and fans are not sad to see them go. James Cameron is known for his perfectionism, and Titanic is no exception. The Fantastic Four: First Steps Marvel Studios has been developing its slate on the fly because of changes. Here's how I think they affect The Fantastic Four. Magneto, aka the Master of Magnetism, is a powerful force in Marvel comics; as such, he has done many horrible acts to leave his mark in history. Seth Rogen predicts he'd be finished in Hollywood if footage of his audition ever leaks. Star Trek: The Next Generation Star Trek: The Next Generation explored lots of social dilemmas, but its treatment of war and the trauma it causes was ahead of its time. Page 19 From Batman: Gotham Knight to The Animatrix, these anime gave iconic American franchises a fresh new twist. Final Destination may be beloved now, but it is all thanks to the "rotten" sequel, Final Destination 2, that the franchise is flourishing now. Within the vast collection of manhwa available, there are a ton of manhwa that can easily make readers shed a tear or two. Star Trek: Strange New Worlds It's been almost two years since the Star Trek: Strange New Worlds finale, and ahead of Season 3's debut CBR runs down what fans need to remember. Tom Hanks is a household name, and his performance in Saving Private Ryan is more real than almost any other performance in his repertoire. Gangster movies aren't known for the comedic moments, but some mob movies will leave audiences laughing. It was like surreal "summer camp" for Sarah Catherine Hook, filming The White Lotus Season 3. Chuck Norris is back in action, taking on zombies with Vanilla Ice and Ice-T by his side. Game of Thrones always makes the second to last episode of each season something special, so which of these episodes is the best? Jason Statham is an action legend, and one of his favorite movies is a Western that may surprise people. These moments prove Dragon Ball power levels were always kind of a joke. The Vampire Diaries may not be inherently connected to Buffy the Vampire Slayer, but one tie was invisible to many fans. Throughout 1982, Gary Larson continued delivering thought-provoking jokes in his iconic The Far Side comic series that took the whole world by storm. James Cameron's cyberpunk movie based on a popular anime and manga will soon have a new streaming home after a recent update on its planned sequel. "Some Enchanting Evening" may not be the most memorable episode of The Simpsons but it's arguably responsible for the show's success. Known for his massive arsenal of powerful suits and his highly creative mind, Iron Man is always searching for ways to improve on his designs. A good movie needs a strong antagonist to elevate a story, and some legendary villains from the past shine in their roles. Ron Perlman's Clay Morrow is one of Sons of Anarchy's most despised characters, but some of the acts he commits are far worse than others. Conan may be the most popular barbarian, but the early idea of Conan was actually made into a spiritual sequel to the popular fantasy film. The Man of Steel and The Dark Knight never stop butting heads leading to a few matchups between Batman and Superman that comic fans won't ever forget. Page 20 Val Kilmer's portrayal of Doc Holliday in Tombstone has become legendary over the years, but the film took some liberties concerning the real outlaw. With the announcement of the new Spider-Man '94 comic series, it's now time to dust off the plans of a canceled film for its own comic continuation. The Walking Dead: Dead City The Walking Dead: Dead City's second season marks a significant milestone for one major character--and it may depress fans of the original series. From Japan's Goto Ryuji to South Korea's Sung Jinwoo, these are the most powerful hunters in Solo Leveling. A longtime Simpsons character will have more of his dark backstory explored by spoofing The Godfather II, but it's not one of the mobsters. Planet Namek is one of the most iconic locations in Dragon Ball Z, but it's also emblematic of everything wrong with the battle Shonen anime. Fantasy films are an acquired taste but certain films manage to transport audiences to new worlds, regardless if they like the genre or not. The Big Bang Theory introduced audiences to a lovable gang of nerds, but one of its best characters may have been hiding a dark secret. With the Warner Bros. gaming slate getting shifted, the company has the opportunity to focus in on a different aspect of the Wizarding World. The John Wick franchise's newest spinoff isn't lighting up the box office, and it might be due to when the otherwise well-received movie was released. The Legend of Korra's leading voice actor opens up about one particularly rough scene and how it was crafted from within the recording booth. Dex entries in the Pokémon games are funny as often as they are horrifying. While the main Power Rangers teams are always awesome, there have been some extra rangers that are both unique and also incredibly cool. Peter Jackson, the director of The Lord of the Rings and The Hobbit trilogies, pointed to a classic monster movie as his favorite film of all time. Not every job in the Final Fantasy franchise is some OP beast, as there are plenty of terrible character classes for players to waste time with. Tombstone is a beloved ensemble Western, and some other movies in that category are must-watch for fans. Fans are still reeling from that shocking Season 2 finale. Through four season of Succession, Logan Roy had some fantastic one-liners, but one statement in particular stands out. The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr. The Adventures of Brisco County, Jr., starring Bruce Campbell as the titular character, was a one-season wonder that aired between 1993 and 1994. Elrond, Galadriel and Thranduil each possessed strengths and weaknesses, but I would consider Elrond to be the greatest Elven ruler of the Third Age. Page 21 Now You See Me is a slick thriller about magicians known as the Four Horsemen. There are many clues that give away the twist ending of the movie. One surreal episode of The X-Files pushed it to the limits, and fans, even now, have still missed the point of it entirely. Television and Broadway star Lynn Hamilton has passed away. While some fans are concerned over the Superman's stacked cast of actors, James Gunn's comparison to Judd Apatow's debut should help put them at ease. Classroom of the Elite anime fans have a surprise new release to look forward to, courtesy of Crunchyroll. From wild twists to unresolved mysteries, these shows left viewers puzzled, and still theorizing long after the final episode. Nathan Fillion will later play Guy Gardner in the HBO Max series Lanterns. Dennis Quaid co-stars in this sci-fi disaster film. Gunn's directorial debut was a box office failure, but it received rave reviews from critics and has since become a cult classic. Star Trek: Strange New Worlds This classic character fought Captain Kirk in the original Star Trek series. Video game franchises like Crash Bandicoot and Final Fantasy peaked on the PS1 and never recovered. DK Bananza is shaping up to be one of Nintendo's most interesting releases of the year, and fans want to know why Pauline is a kid in the new title. MHA's cast has seen a lot of development over the years. Who has changed the most? Superman is one of DC's most iconic characters, but some things about the Man of Steel just don't make sense. Kowloon Generic Romance repeats many of the anime's biggest mistakes, and it's only partly saved by a truly shocking and unexpected ending. The Fantastic Four: First Steps Kevin Feige reveals the link between The Fantastic Four: First Steps and Avengers: Doomsday during CineEurope as one of several major Disney previews. With the X-Men officially coming to the MCU, let's take a look at Gambit's Marvel comics history to try to predict his MCU future. A major release for Gundam anime and Gunpla model kit fans is finally seeing an official launch in select countries, including the U.S. Luke Skywalker actor Mark Hamill has suggested the franchise should move on from its original hero, but there are still stories of Luke to be told. Seth Rogen's Apple TV+ show has been renewed for a second season, and Vin Diesel is being courted to join the cast. Page 22 28 Years Later director Danny Boyle has expressed his annoyance over a particular scene that he couldn't use for promotional footage. Call of the Night Season 2 is all set to return during the Summer 2025 anime season. Some Switch 2 owners have discovered a major issue with the console, and so far, Nintendo doesn't have a fix. The Snow-Snow Fruit has captured fans' imaginations, and they have a few fun ideas on what may happen next. The HBO historical drama rises up the popularity charts just ahead of its long-awaited return. Pixar's latest animated feature, Elio, is breaking all sorts of box office records, just not the ones the animation studio wanted to be broken. With a near-perfect Rotten Tomatoes score and a new season on the way, the series is extremely popular. The Walking Dead: Dead City The Walking Dead: Dead City will soon conclude its second season, and the finale is expected to answer a lot of questions. Star Trek: Strange New Worlds Strange New Worlds, which is normally episodic, ended its second season on a cliffhanger. A Solo Leveling producer opened up about Japan's middling reception to the Anime of the Year winner in contrast to its massive global audience. The new film had Al Pacino's worst debut score ever. A female Trafalgar Law was once thought to be mere speculation, but Oda found a way to sneak her into the series proper. Now she's officially canon. The writer of 28 Years Later talks about his trilogy plans for the new story and how his creative process changed working on the first two films. Avatar: The Last Airbender No fantasy hero is perfect, and Avatar Aang and his friends have definitely made mistakes. The John Wick franchise has increased its scope since the first movie, but the protagonist himself might have been why fans were interested. Jack Betts had a memorable role in Sam Raimi's Spider-Man movie. Ridley Scott's new movie, Echo Valley starring Sydney Sweeney, is no match for Apple TV+'s latest hit sci-fi adaptation. Lazarus is heavily criticized by anime fans for one specific reason — but it's that very same reason that makes Shinichiro Watanabe's new anime great. Over six seasons, anything was possible on Lost, but when pitching the show to ABC, the producers established rules for the show they quickly broke. This sequel film also features Superman actor David Corenswet. Page 23 While some anime become better on a rewatch, some reveal plot holes and inconsistent character development that makes it worse. Jeremy Renner and Idris Elba teamed up for a terrifying zombie movie that's currently climbing the charts on streaming. One of the creator's behind the scripts for a beloved Marvel Comics series may have just revealed the end of the entire Ultimate Universe. After recently airing its shocking series finale, one of the best dystopian television series ever made is soaring up the streaming charts. Awakened Devil Fruits give an edge that powerful people don't need. However, several strong people in One Piece probably have awakened Devil Fruits. Dragon Ball fans will have a new streaming destination to watch one of the latest record-breaking Dragon Ball series next month. Japan is famous for animated shows, but series like Kakegurui and Alice in Borderlands prove it should be known for live-action as well. James Cameron's record-breaking disaster movie is becoming a massive streaming success 28 years after it hit theaters. From slice-of-life anime to bloody action-packed films, Netflix has a ton of anime series to binge watch in one night. Sybil Crawley's tragic death in Downton Abbey devastated the family, but it also led to unexpected growth and unity at the estate. Most fans agree that the Battle of Helm's Deep is the coolest action sequence in The Lord of the Rings... but these battles all come close. Marvel shares new details about how one of the most underrated Avengers is going to confront the big bad villain of the Ultimate Universe. The West hasn't exactly mastered the adaptation formula, and these unremarkable remakes prove that. Studio Ghibli's official watercolor greeting cards allow fans to share the beauty and majesty of Hayao Miyazaki's works with friends and loved ones. Sanrio and Igloo have given Hello Kitty fans a whole new way to show off their favorite franchise and beat the heat during Summer 2025. Dragon Ball Z and CASETiFY collaborate for a new lineup of phone cases and tech accessories commemorating the series' 40th anniversary. The final minutes of Fire Force Season 3, Episode 12 contain one of the most mind-blowing twists in modern anime. Dragon Ball GT remains one of the franchise's most polarizing entries, yet there are certain decisions in the anime that are widely reviled. Star Wars Jedi: Survivor will be receiving a sequel, and new details concerning the galaxy far, far away's most popular series are starting to emerge. Shonen anime may be popular, but there's still plenty to debate about the genre. Page 24 In 1975, Steven Spielberg changed moviemaking forever with Jaws, ushering in an era of imitators and announcing himself as a cinematic powerhouse. Stephen King has made it clear that he is not a big fan of one of Quentin Tarantino's most celebrated and action-packed movies, The Vampire Diaries universe was largely flawless until it broke some major rules and left fans confused. Netflix's latest crime drama (from the creator of one of the best horror franchise's of all time) hits the top of the streaming charts after 24 hours Known as the First Family of Comics, the members of the Fantastic Four have some of the best comic storylines in Marvel's entire comics history. Titus Welliver may be the most recognizable for his role in the Bosch franchise, but he's also been apart of one of Ben Affleck's best movies. The Pokémon world has many creatures known for their beauty or cuteness, yet many of them can actually be quite aggressive or hold devastating power. Not all Kanto Pokémon are created equal, as those who want to replay Pokémon Red & Blue need to avoid these weak 'Mons when going through the story. A new John Wick documentary details how Chad Stahelski's background created the perfect storm for the movies to thrive. Ping-pong, tennis balls, and nets are fair game when Gary Larson highlighted the sport of tennis in his iconic The Far Side comic strip. The Sopranos became known for its unexpected deaths, but the demise of one character had a greater impact than any other throughout the HBO series. Although Dragon Ball Super is an enjoyable anime, it's still far inferior to Dragon Ball Z. The Lord of the Rings is responsible for some of the most iconic characters in media, but it introduced a few annoying ones along the way. Premium Bandai unveils its latest Gunpla model, and it's a pitch-perfect recreation of one of Mobile Suit Gundam SEED Freedom's best mecha. The Twilight Zone created many odd worlds to explore, but one series did the same thanks to an iconic author and his many twisted tales. Gailard Sartain, who played the Big Bopper in The Buddy Holly Story, has passed away. Renowned director Ridley Scott believes that a forgotten fantasy film with an incredible Rotten Tomatoes score remains brilliant, and he's right! The Peaky Blinders movie is coming soon, and there are more than a few films that are perfect to watch in preparation for the next installment. The Witcher 4 is one of gaming's most anticipated releases, and CD Projekt Red's recent trailer gives players new info regarding the upcoming title. The Nintendo Switch 2's third-party game sales have been far lower than expected, despite the system having a huge launch period overall. Page 25 James Gunn's Superman will bring back the red trunks, and now the DCU should let another hero wear them after years away from the classic design. Crunchyroll has some bad news for Solo Leveling fans following its impressive set of wins at the 2025 Anime Awards and recent streaming achievement. The 1995 psychological thriller continues to climb Netflix's top movie charts. No region has a perfect lineup of Pokemon, with every generation introducing at least one underwhelming design. Rian Johnson's acclaimed murder mystery series continues to captivate the minds of audiences everywhere amid the airing of its second season. How to Train Your Dragon has returned to theaters, and it reminds fans about one of the darkest fan theories in an animated movie of all time. The Walking Dead features plenty of strong fighters, but who can really stand up against Andrew Lincoln's Rick Grimes? Sega is known for games starring the Blue Blur and the Dragon of Dojima, but the iconic developer has created other influential titles too One of the most iconic sitcoms of the late 80s and 90s is seeing a bit of an influx in popularity on streaming. A blink-and-you'll-miss-it moment in Tombstone has continued to inspire an Old West legend with a fascinating story behind it. The first set photo also reveals the perfect filming code name for the prequel. Stanley Kubrick is a very distinct and particular director, but one 15-hour-long project affected him more than anything else. The mystery teen drama had multiple "A" attempts. Just a year before she stole everyone's hearts in Pride & Prejudice, Keira Knightley starred in this underrated fantasy. While Se7en remains one of David Fincher's best movies, this 2014 drama thriller is the filmmaker's most powerful film to date. World War I wasn't the only battle for Sam Mendes' 1917. The award-winning war epic also sparked an archeological scuffle. The heroes of Dragon Ball Z are more than just fighters; they're also professionals in their chosen field. These long-running procedural crime dramas didn't fade with time. Instead, they evolved, deepened and got better with every season. Captain America: Brave New World Now that it's landed on Disney+, it's time for us all to admit that Captain America: Brave New World is actually pretty good. A new TV spot for James Gunn's Superman features much better flying footage and an adorable moment between the DCU's Man of Steel and Krypto. Page 26 Not all Final Fantasy characters are memorable, as these party members are so boring that they have become the least-talked-about in the series. Dragon Ball teases Goku's departure from the spotlight on several occasions, only to repeatedly learn that his presence is essential to the story. Archive 81 is a gripping supernatural horror series, which, despite its canceled second season, wraps up nicely with a satisfyingly ambiguous ending. Draco Malfoy is a villainous kid in Harry Potter, but there are a few times when he is the true hero of the story. Spider-Man: Brand New Day Jon Bernthal's The Punisher is making the jump from the small to the big screen, with the actor confirmed to appear in an upcoming MCU blockbuster. The 2025 Anime Awards winner for Best Original Anime was also one of the most pirated anime series internationally, according to Toonami's co-creator. Luffy started his adventure out bright-eyed and ambitious, but a lot has happened since Episode 1. The horror genre has made a big impression on modern TV and some horror characters equally left a mark on fans. Buffy's relationship with Angel was a high point of Buffy the Vampire series, but there's one scene that fans never saw. Rick and Morty's Ian Cardoni and Harry Belden spoke to CBR about taking over as the titular characters and how to prep for Season 9. This forgotten Wonder Woman TV series featured the future star of an iconic MCU television series, though it likely wouldn't have gotten as far today. Sailor Moon is well-known for its amazing transformations, and Crystal offers fresh new versions of these classic sequences. Usually, The X-Files relies on Mulder and Scully to drive the plot forward. Yet, a deeply gritty episode took a gamble by not making them the focus. The Rookie, the ABC series starring fan-favorite actor Nathan Fillion, is finding major streaming success in the weeks following its Season 7 finale. If DreamWorks is making more live-action reboots after How to Train Your Dragon, this underrated animated movie should be first on their list. From classic to modern Westerns, these series are perfect for 1883 fans craving more frontier grit, gunfights, and family drama. Marvel fans are always hungry to see everyone's favorite web-head team up with everyone's favorite horn-head, especially in this classic meeting. Sung Jinwoo has already become synonymous with the term "aura farming", but one scene in Solo Leveling Season 3 will give that term new meaning. In an interview with CBR, The Stranger In My Home stars Sophia Bush and Chris Carmack discuss set memories, fight scenes, and Grey's Anatomy. Smokey and the Bandit is a beloved 70s movie, but there was another film released at the same time with almost the same plot. Manga The Drifting Classroom (漂流教室 Hyōryū Kyōshitsu) is a science-fiction supernatural manga by Kazuo Umezu. The series ran in Weekly Shonen Sunday from 1972 to 1974, spawning 11 volumes. It was awarded the 20th Shogakukan Manga Award in general category in 1974. It received a movie adaptation as well in 1987. Plot[] Following the occurrence of a strange earthquake, an elementary school mysteriously disappears, in which only a giant hole where the school once stood, remains. While the police and worried parents alike think that everybody in the school were somehow killed, the students and staff find themselves and their school in the middle of a barren wasteland. As chaos and panic begins to engulf the school and its inhabitants, sixth-grader Sho Takamatsu and his friends attempt to find out just what happened to them, while trying to stay alive. Movie adaptation[] Movie poster An international school in Kobe, Japan is catapulted into the future after a time-slip occurs. Most of the movie dialogue was in english, was was unusual among Japanese movies. Staff[] Directed by Nobuhiko Ôbayashi Writing Izô Hashimoto, Mitsutoshi Ishigami (adaptation), Yoji Ogura (adaptation), Nobuhiko Ôbayashi (adaptation) Cast[] Yasufumi Hayashi as Sho Takamatsu Aiko Asano as Nishi Ayumi Vajra Barzaghi as Bernard Leana D'Aloisio as Debbie Marcus Daub as Piggy Troy Donahue as Taggart Dennis Falt as Robin Kwanchai Faulkner as Lisa Kiwako Harada as Kazuko Elizabeth Hoffler as Miss Sue Dorama[] The Long Love Letter (ロング・ラブレター〜漂流教室〜) is a 2002 Japanese television drama series based on the manga The Drifting Classroom. A more modern remake which changed it into a love-story of sorts. Plot[] One day, Yuka Misaki, a daughter of a flower shop owner meets Akio Asami, a college student. They are both attracted to each other, but they have no way to get in touch with each other at that time. One year later, Yuka begins a job at her father's flower shop and Akio becomes a mathematics teacher at Motokura High School. One day in November, Yuka goes to the Motokura High School to collect money for the flowers and meets Akio again. However, they can't get along well. In January, Yuka gets a call from Ryuta Fujisawa and they promise to meet that afternoon. In the morning, Yuka goes to the school again to collect money that she couldn't collect before. Akio finds Yuka in the playground and calls out to her. At that moment, a large earthquake occurs. By the time it stops, their school is surrounded by dry and sandy desert. Not only Yuka and Akio, but other students including Tadashi Otomo, Shou Takamatsu, Fumiya Ikegaki are in the school that day. Cast[] Takako Tokiwa as Yuka Misaki Yōsuke Kubozuka as Akio Asami Tomohisa Yamashita as Tadashi Otomo Takayuki Yamada as Sho Takamatu Emi Suzuki as Midori Gamou Ren Osugi as Shigeo Misaki Satoshi Tsumabuki as Ryuta Fujisawa Hiromi Nakajima as Noriko Sekiya Kei Ishibashi as Jyunko Nakazawa Asami Mizukawa as Kaoru Ichinose Asahi Uchida as Shinichi Yamada Kana Fujii as Mizuho Nippa

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