

# Plastic Memories - Coming to terms with our ends and learning to say goodbye

Have you ever wondered, if your lifespan was predetermined, how would you handle that?

Back in 2015, during my springtime of youth, when I believed I was strong enough to have survived well known tearjerkers like Ano Hana, Angel Beats, Clannad and Your Lie in April, this gem just had to pop out of god knows where and destroy me right from its first episode. Plastic Memories hit me like a train the day it ended, and till this date I have yet to fully recover from its impact.

Plastic Memories takes place in a futuristic world, where humans live alongside androids known as Giftias. Giftias behave exactly like human beings and often serve as companions for many people. However, they have a maximum lifespan of 81,920 hours (roughly nine years and four months), where beyond this they will start experiencing a breakdown of their personality and go into violent outbreaks. As such, an organisation known as Terminal Services retrieves Giftias before their expiration date to shut them down. The story follows Tsukasa, a fresh employee at Terminal Services, who works in a team with Isla, a Giftia, as they take on

assignments to retrieve near-expiring Giftias. However, as their relationship develops and begins to blossom, it is soon revealed that Isla herself is nearing the end of her 81,920 hours.

While Plastic Memories might look like a generic slice-of-life anime on face value, it certainly turned out to be much more than that to me. Right from the first episode, this anime already had me laughing, yet bawling my eyes out by the time it ended. Till this date I have yet to have another anime series have such an effect on me. At the end of the day, Plastic Memories introduces huge moral dilemmas, a great deal of soul searching, and ultimately the lesson of letting go. I have seen many other series attempt this as well, but none of them have ever quite done so the simple, yet effective way that Plastic Memories does. It certainly is one of a kind, and definitely a series that I would recommend everyone to give a shot!

Episodes: 13 MAL Ratings: 8.00





Interestingly, world of Plastic Memories is entirely based off Singapore! Here are some iconic landmarks featured:

**Holland Road** 





Hong Lim Complex

- Luka Urushibara-chan 🤝



# BTC NO PICO! First Edition 11/19

よろしくお願いします! We're an independent manga/anime fan circle in NUS and we're publishing a hardcore hardcopy magazine pamphlet piece of paper every month whenever we feel like it. We're mainly going to share various series/works we enjoy, industry news, top-10 lists and hopefully fanart and whatever cool content we can come up with. Hopefully, you'll have fun reading our stuff and it'll help you find something to do other than studying. Please keep this copy or leave it somewhere for somebody else to read - it's up to you! Thanks for reading and gambatte for finals! ^^ ありがとう ^^

#### 4 Brain-Dead-Break-Time Manga

Ever wanna just take a break from studying and you open a TV series and you just time-skip to the night before exam and you've caught up on 6 seasons of Brooklyn 99 but 0 weeks of Torts law? Yeah, me too. What you need is cheap gags/thrills and a good time! You'll find no intricate plots or long-lasting messages here, just fun in chapter-sized doses.

# The Lies of Sheriff Evans (90-ish chapters, ongoing)

How did Sheriff Evans become the fastest gun in the West? Why can't he get a girlfriend? And why does Anne Oakley, his childhood-friend-turned-bounty-hunting-rival always hang around his office? Find out how in this series where the women are cruel, the hero is clueless and the jokes are a laugh-a-page!



# Hinamatsuri! (90-ish chapters, ongoing)

The peaceful life of mid-level gangster Nitta is thrown into chaos when a 13-year-old drops out of his ceiling in a metal pot, claiming to be an ESPer from the future! You can't help but laugh at the crazy antics of this bizarre yakuza-Esper father-daughter duo!



And now for something completely different. This is a mostly-episodic, monster-of-theweek story following a middle-schooler who sees ghosts and his deceased childhood friend. It's quite violent and graphic, but everything gets resolved by the end of each chapter (2-3 at most) so it's a good mindless waste of time.



### Doushirou Gozaru (79 chapters, complete)

What happens when a Japanese man abducts his infant son from his ex-wife and raises him in Nevada among fearsome Native American warriors.... AS A SAMURAI?! That's what happened to Doushirou and his new friend and lord, Kensuke, must help him adjust to modern Tokyo. Or will Kensuke get dragged along into the samurai's world of danger, honour and glory? This action-comedy series really shines in the facial expressionsdepartment, and I consider this the author's finest work. It's really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really, really funny.







#### Moe Anime Recommendations: Cute girls doing cute things





Anime: Comic Girls MAL Ratings: 7.52

Synopsis: Kaos-chan is a young manga artist and a nervous wreck. She wants to draw manga about high school girls, but her storyboards are bland, her art sucks, and her premises weak. Her editor recommends her to move into a dorm for female manga artists - Kaos-chan meets Tsubasa-senpai, a shounen manga artist; Ruki-senpai, a jousei ero-manga artist; Koyume-chan, a shoujo artist like Kaos-chan; and Fuura-senpai (best girl), a dark mellowly horror-manga artist.

Why watch? If you are down, feeling bad and inadequate, feeling like a B- is the best grade you can get, watch Kaos-chan overcome her fears and anxiety and grow-up as an up-and-coming manga-artist! Watching Kaos-chan going ABABABABABABABA and having fun with these adorable mangakas will throw all worries away and keep the smiles going!  $\odot$   $\odot$ 



Anime: New Game!

MAL Ratings: 7.70 (Season 1), 7.86 (Season 2) Synopsis: Since childhood, Aoba-chan has loved the Fairies Story game series. Graduating from high school, she joins Eagle Jump, the company that made her favorite game. On her first day, she is excited to know that she is working on Fairies Story 3 - and even more so under Yagami-senpai, the lead character designer. Her department includes Yun lijima (twintails); Hajime Shinoda (genki tomboy); Hifumi Takimoto (shy best girl); art director Rin Tooyama (gay for Yagami); game director Shizuku Hazuki (milf with a cat); and Umiko Ahagon (tanned tsundere).

Why watch? This anime is the very definition of happiness - Aoba-chan's joy-filled office life and interactions with her cute-af colleagues will make you squeal with happiness. New Game's art is extremely clean and screams moe. You will immediately terminate your training contract with A&G/Drew & Napier in order to sign up for Eagle Jump. Moreover, tidbits of yuri and fanservice simply perfect the whole experience.

Felix Argyle chan~~~

#### Taking a breather: Short Manga

Here are three relatively short manga to read when taking a break from studying.



# 1. Grandma's Flavour (1 chapter)

Grandma's Flavour is a short, one-chapter Brazilian comic, although you won't need to learn any Portuguese to read it. The entire comic is told without using a single word, and entirely through the art itself. And while the artist is Brazilian, the art style is very reminiscent of Japanese manga, if it isn't already apparent from its panels being ordered from right to left.

I personally liked this piece for its simplicity and for the author's skill in stretching the limits of storytelling without the use of dialogue. The story is touching, centred on family and the special place we have in our hearts for that one dish that our Grandma may have cooked in our childhood.



(http://smacmag.net/v/sma7/grandmas-flavor-by-eudetenis/)

## 2. Stargazing Dog (5 chapters)

Stargazing Dog (or Hoshi Mamoru Inu) is probably one of those stories you only read once. Told entirely from the perspective of a dog, it puts the spotlight on emptiness in the life of a middle-aged man, and how that emptiness is filled by a dog named Happie.

This manga is by no means light-hearted, but it is quite a good read.



# 3. The Way of the Househusband (35 chapters)

The Way of the Househusband (or Gokushufudou) follows an exyakuza who gave up a life of gang violence and crime to become a stay-at-home husband. Shenanigans follow.

This manga is great at subverting expectations and making a joke out of absurdities. The comedy practically writes itself in seeing a tough, hardened yakuza engaged in harmless, domestic activities. A great read if you are looking for a good laugh.

>:3 Hideyoshi Kinoshita