

# The Last: Naruto The Movie

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When the *Naruto* manga ended in late 2014, fans were left excited by the announcement that a new *Naruto* movie was on the way. Titled "The Last," this movie would work as a bridge between the main plot's ending in chapter 699 and the epilogue featured in chapter 700. Unlike the earlier movies, this was going to be canon and a part of the main storyline, focusing on the romantic relationship between Naruto Uzumaki and Hinata Hyuuga.

Sadly though, it becomes quite clear that the main story wasn't really meant to go in this direction. Author Masashi Kishimoto had already been pressurised into stretching the story to make it last 700 chapters, having to add a heavily criticised plot twist to go the extra 50 chapters. And this new addition gives us even more proof that authors really shouldn't be forced into stretching stories.

The movie starts off some years after the end of the 4th Shinobi World War and shows Naruto and his classmates, now young adults, living a peaceful life. But then strange people appear from the moon, seemingly interested in gaining possession of the Byakugan, the special eye that members of the Hyuuga clan

possess. There's nothing much wrong here apart from the fact that, at the end of the original story, Naruto Uzumaki and Sasuke Uchiha had reached levels of shinobi prowess hitherto unknown. *They were quite literally shinobi Gods.* So for Naruto to get outmuscled by a new group of enemies seems confusing. Toneri Otsutsuki, the leader of the group, kidnaps Hinata's younger sister. As Naruto and friends chase after her, Hinata strangely agrees to accompany Toneri to the moon, leaving Naruto and co dumbfounded.

The movie seems to follow the Dragon Ball Z principle of coming up with villains that were stronger than preceding villains without really giving us a power scale or anything to measure them by. This hurts the *Naruto* franchise because the main story always had power scaling. And with the extensive way in which the manga has already argued about the morality of war, ways to avoid conflict and whether humanity will ever find peace, the villain, Toneri, and his ambitions of ending the world because "humans have failed" seems like someone beating the same old drum that Madara Uchiha and Kaguya Otsutsuki have beaten so many times in the main story.

Masashi Kishimoto said this was a "romance more than action."

Even then, it's rushed. At the start of the movie, Naruto is his old clueless self, oblivious to Hinata's feelings. Roughly two hours later, he has the whole concept of love figured out without yet having a proper eye to eye conversation with her.

This movie had potential, I don't deny that. But condensing everything into a 2 hour movie did not work out. The villain is rushed, the fights are rushed and so is the romance. Nothing really makes sense. If you're someone who was really desperate to see Naruto and Hinata get together, this will do for you. If you wanted to see Naruto's character develop the romantic aspect gradually, you'll be left wanting. This is clearly nothing more than a way to milk the franchise.



## Musical Bento Box

### Top 5 anime soundtracks to treat your ears to

MAYABEE ARANNYA

Quite a few anime have music that goes hand in hand with the beautiful character design and art style to bring forward the perfect animation. Ones that you can still vividly remember when you sit down on a rainy afternoon with a cup of coffee, listening to their magnificently produced soundtrack.

Some soundtracks are so well-made that people who haven't watched the anime or are non-anime watchers would love listening to them too. I would recommend the following soundtracks to everyone, since you don't even need to know Japanese to enjoy these.

#### ANGEL BEATS

This anime has made people shed a lot of tears, and its heartfelt soundtrack only helped the case. *Girls Dead Monster* is a fictional band that plays within the anime and it features artists like LiSA, a famous Japanese pop singer-songwriter. Two albums: *Keep The Beats!* and *Angel Beats! Original Soundtrack*, were released following the anime. With Jun Maeda and Anant-Garde Eyes' wonderful composition, the songs *My Soul*, *Your Beats!* and *Brave Song* create a melancholic atmosphere in just the right moments throughout.

#### SAMURAI CHAMPLOO

Four CD soundtracks were released for the anime, namely *Samurai Champloo Music Record: Masta*, *Departure*, *Playlist*, *Impression*. The title can be roughly translated to "Samurai Mashup" and the soundtrack keeps true to it with its hip-hop beats created by artists like *Nujabes*, *Force of Nature*, *Tsutchie*, and *Fat Jon*. There are only a handful of tracks with vocals, but the music alone is amazing and worth listening to, especially if you're a fan of hip-hop. The emotive beats perfectly infuse with the samurai swordplay in the anime. Be sure to check out *Battlecry*.

#### GUILTY CROWN

This anime deserves a lot more

recognition for both its story and its soundtrack. The music is breathtaking and is wonderfully woven into the scenes. My personal favourite is a scene where Inori, the female lead, sings the song *Departures* standing atop a radio tower while the rest of the protagonists are caught up in a riveting chase. *Egoist* is a fictional band from the series that brings life to the songs in the anime, while Supercell has written the openings and endings. *My Dearest* and *Departures* are songs you need to listen to. Right now.

#### COWBOY BEBOP

This is an obvious addition to the list since bebop itself is a sub-genre of jazz and suggests that the anime will have a strong musical side, which it so successfully does. Most people would argue that *Cowboy Bebop's* original soundtrack is the best out there. The band *Seatbelts* was formed by Yoko Kanno just to make the anime's music. The music incorporates both rhythm and blues and hard bop. Please do give *The Real Folk Blues* and *Tank* a listen. You're in for a treat.

#### FULLMETAL ALCHEMIST: BROTHERHOOD

Even though this anime is not highly acclaimed for its music specifically, anyone who has watched the series will tell you that they never missed a single opening or ending while watching. Akira Senju deserves a standing ovation for the masterpiece that he has composed. I won't even recommend any song individually. They're all just that good. Every opening/ending fits the arc it belongs to so the genres differ. But one thing's for sure: they perfectly capture the essence of the anime.

Absolute recommendation: First theme song of *Pokémon*. Nothing tops it. Nothing.

*Mayabee Arannya is a confused soul still searching for a purpose. Give her advice on life at facebook.com/mayabee.arannya*

