



# UNDERRATED ANIME COUPLES

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This article is not about your traditional romantic couple that everyone worships. It is about those couples that we sometimes forget. Let's get to it then.

## ANDROID 18 AND KRILLIN (DRAGON BALL Z)

Krillin and Android 18 are one of those couples in the anime world who got overshadowed by power couples like Vegeta-Bulma and Goku-Chichi. The first time Krillin made an appearance on Dragon Ball Z, everyone assumed that this was one of those characters who end up having a crush on everyone but will eventually be rejected. Men who are bald in their teenage days aren't really men that we as a society deem desirable. The first time Android 18 made an appearance, we were sure she was only a machine designed to kill Goku and his friends. Android 18's love story was one that nobody saw coming. And now years later, we see their child, Marron.

## EREN AND MIKASA (ATTACK ON TITAN)

Of all the unrealistic surroundings in which someone can find love, Eren and Mikasa's situation was probably the most challenging one. The anime is built around Titans who have suddenly started to emerge on Earth and mankind's desperate attempt to emerge victorious from this titan apocalypse. However, the plot cannot thrive without the surreal emotional journey that Eren and Mikasa take on throughout this apocalypse.

## ICHIGO AND ORIHIME (BLEACH)

This one is a bit controversial because Ichigo and Orihime are not a couple. Every time someone talks about

romantic couples from "BLEACH", they either talk about Ichigo and Rukia, or Renji and Rukia. However, it is quite evident that Orihime has had feelings for Ichigo ever since she was a kid. And the journey that the two characters take us on during the last arc of the anime is certainly a testament to the "more than friendship but not quite there love" type of a relationship that Ichigo and Orihime have.

## YATO AND HIYORI (NORAGAMI)

Yato is a god who decides to visit Earth. No human should have been able to see him but somehow, Hiyori saw him in the middle of a busy road and mistook him for a real human being. In her attempt to save a god from being hit by a car, Hiyori almost gave her life. This act of kindness is the beginning of the love story between Yato and Hiyori. Though the anime is about the history of war among gods, the romantic exchanges between Yato and Hiyori are so intertwined with the plotline that it has become an indispensable part of Noragami.

## CELTY AND SHINRA (DURARARA)

Of all the couples that I mentioned till now, Celly and Shinra are the ones who intrigue me the most. Their story seems so impossible yet so relatable that it will leave you wondering what being a couple actually means. Celly is (quite literally) a headless rider and Shinra is a doctor who is helping Celly find her head. This odd love story between a supernatural creature and a doctor will leave you in awe as you get to know more about their story.

*Megha is not a fan of romantic anime but she does enjoy the occasional unrealistic and overdramatic love stories. Send her your thoughts on this article at [megharahman26@gmail.com](mailto:megharahman26@gmail.com)*

# YOU and romantic stalkers

TV SHOW REVIEW

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Romantic dramas and YA novels are known for many things, including romanticising abusive relationships. We've all seen or read about that male protagonist; the mysterious, brooding guy with a dark past who's manhandling and belittling the female protagonist at every turn. He treats her like his possession and completely disregards her sense of privacy and still manages to get the girl.

Netflix's new show, YOU, shows the terrifying outcome that occurs when an average man follows these to the letter. The series tells the story of Joe Goldberg, a bookstore manager, who meets a girl named Guinevere Beck, and quickly becomes obsessed with her. There is no line he won't cross to have here, including murder.

However, YOU is not just an ordinary story about a girl and her stalker. What really sets the show apart is its clever use of classic romance tropes and putting a dark spin on them. One can observe that Joe's actions, although obsessive and unhealthy, are mostly following what romantic movies have always told us about how to 'woo' a girl. Taking pictures of her without her consent, following her to places and tracking her movements are some of the many things that are simply glossed over, or in some cases, encouraged. In

these movies and books, the girl always seems to return the man's affections. In everyday life, this is considered harassment.

Yet, there is something creepily endearing about Joe. He is the narrator and protagonist of the story and it's very easy to connect with him. One of the most fascinating parts about his character is that even though he's doing all these terrible things, he never once considers himself to be in the wrong. He's always convinced that he's following the rules to one great romance and thinks of himself more as a knight in shining armour than some kind of villain. His obliviousness could've easily been frustrating, but instead it leaves you feeling intrigued and eager to discover more about him.

The supporting cast are all very competent but the showstopper has to be Penn Badgley, the actor who plays Joe. His portrayal of the character is so raw that even as he's doing the vilest things one can think of, you never want him out of your screen. The show doesn't glorify Joe's actions – it is well aware that everything he's doing is wrong and makes you aware of that from the beginning. Once it ends, you're left feeling conflicted. Unable to decide how you feel about him and the consequences that followed. Dare I say, this may just be one of the best psychological thrillers in recent times.

