

ONE FOR ALL AND TWO FOR ONE

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WARNING: Spoilers ahead

The *My Hero Academia* (MHA) series has already set itself apart from the more mainstream and generic *shonen* anime. Its well-designed plot and brilliant characters help in making it a definite contender for the number one sport alongside the likes of *Naruto*, *Fairy Tail* and *Dragon Ball*.

Therefore it should be a no-brainer that its movie, *Two Heroes*, is equally as impressive.

Sadly, most anime, at least in the *shonen* world, do not have good movies. Most anime series usually go for a spinoff movie instead of one directly related to the main show's plot.

Thus the final result is one disappointing movie after another. However, MHA deviates from the general standard and instead provides a whole new experience.

In terms of timeline, the movie takes place between the second and third season of the show, and mainly deals with All Might going to an island with Izuku Midoriya upon invitation from an old friend.



The movie spends a bit of time to recap the journey of Midoriya and All Might since the beginning of the show, all the way up until the end of season 2.

This essentially helps get the audience hyped, and hooked to the story. The animation is beautiful and can be likened to the quality of animation during the shows major fight scenes, or even something like *Bleach*.

However, the movie isn't without flaws. Within 20 minutes of it starting, we find Midoriya and All Might's adventure being invaded by the rest of the U.A. first-year class, mostly comprising of non-major characters.

After that, around 7 minutes is spent trying to explain how all of these characters got onto the special island, mostly when All Might and Midoriya

only came due to them being invited. This particular bit, along with the presence of so many unnecessary characters, makes for lacklustre storytelling.

While the presence of almost every recurring character feels pointless, the movie is quick to recover its footing and set out a narrative to appease everyone's need.

We get a history of All Might's younger days, mostly during his time as a student and aspiring number one hero. Additionally, we're also shown his time in America and are finally made aware of how he came to name all his final moves.

Two Heroes also takes time out to showcase Midoriya as the future successor to All Might's spot in the world of heroes. Mostly by the end of the movie, we're definitely given a lot of character development on Midoriya's end.

The movie is under no circumstances a flawless work of art. Mostly with the overflow of characters included, who don't even serve the plot, as well as a somewhat repetitive story.

However, as anime movies go, mostly in the genre of *shonen*, it can definitely give any of its rivals a run for their money.

YOU SHOULD READ MANGA

Let me tell you why

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It's given how – for most of us at least – a far better experience is to watch an anime screening than to read its print counterpart. The motion pictures mean better fight scenes to get hooked to, better animation to rave about and better soundtrack for our playlists.

In all honesty, settling for the convenience of not having to focus on following a storyline through pages robs us of the depth and entirety a story has to offer. An anime, in this context, can perhaps even be called an "abridged" version of the manga it's usually based on. Here are some of the reasons why stepping into the world of manga will undoubtedly be a treat for your otaku soul.

CHARACTER-INVESTED

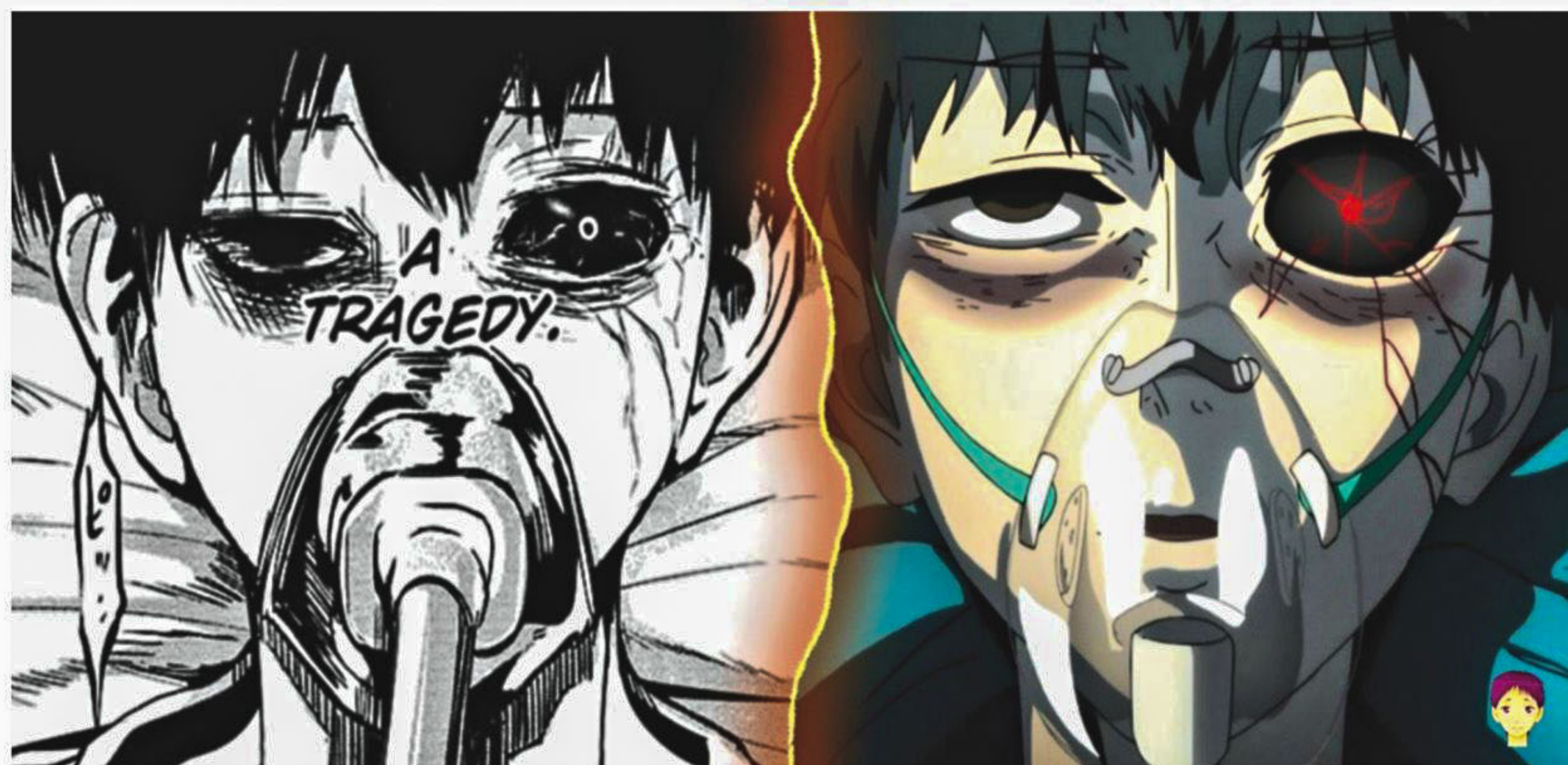
Manga lets you spend more time with the characters. Even when the story is not character-driven, it weaves in fun quirks, impactful dialogues, and interesting backstories for the readers' sake. Knowing full well how a perfectly built plotline will collapse under the weight of drawing empty shells for characters. It allows readers to understand how each headspace works, and get a more in-depth feel of the characters to perceive them in a new light.

SIDE-PLOTS

The anime tends to typically skip the extra chapters that explore sub-plots and side stories, instead preferring to trim them to tie up loose ends and continue with the principal design of the story. These extra chapters are just as integral as the rest of the storyline; reading them can clear out a lot of mix ups and head scratchers.

DETAILS

People worry about picking up the manga of the anime they've already seen, anticipating repetitiveness and demotivation in finishing it. While the main story remains the same for the most part, the manga draws in readers using more depth and details. Each scene gets broken up for the audience to capture the image in one



go. Sometimes it's so artistically crafted and well thought-out that the act plays out effortlessly in the readers' minds. There's always something more in a manga, be it the drawn out chapters or the creative positioning of symbolism in its art. Of course there are exceptions where the anime is the one that takes its time and prolongs the sequence of a plot point, a fitting example being Episode 25 of *Death Note*.

LIGHTER SIDE

Anime generally sticks to a preset model of episode numbers and can get too plot-heavy under the time constraint. Manga, on the other hand, can sometimes go on a weekend trip to the lighter side of things – adding comical elements, light-heartedness, and bonding time for its characters. It's a momentary getaway from the intensity

and wild pace of the plot on screen. The readers get to take a breather and have a good laugh instead, soaking in the glimpses of sunlight amidst a never-ending downpour.

AN ENDING

A lot of anime end up sketching out a rushed ending because of the episode constraint, sometimes even leaving it at a cliff-hanger and consequently disappointing most of its fan base. In such cases, reading the manga is crucial to get closure and leave that fictional world on a peaceful note.

Mashiyat Iqbal is a procrastinator, a coffee-addict and an insomniac whose friends say she is hopelessly optimistic but she begs to differ. Send her some much needed luck at tenfinance10@gmail.com