



Scott Pilgrim Takes Off: The highly anticipated adaptation that no one anticipated

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Being a successor to the legendary *Scott Pilgrim vs. the World* also means being subject to the loftiest expectations of long-time fans of the franchise. That said, from the signature deadpan humour to the zany lawlessness of the *Scott Pilgrim* world, *Scott Pilgrim Takes Off* not only does every aspect of its source material justice but elevates it to new heights.

The miniseries follows Scott Pilgrim who sees the girl of his dreams in a literal dream one night. He is then flabbergasted upon discovering that she exists in the real world, later introduced as Ramona Flowers.

When asked out by Scott, she inexplicably reciprocates his feelings. But before they can call it official, Ramona informs him that he must first defeat each member of a vengeful league of her "Seven Evil Exes" in one-on-one combat. In case that plot didn't give it away, Scott Pilgrim's world has never followed any logic, rhyme, or reason. It follows the Rule of Cool. However, instead of playing the narrative straight like the movie or the comic books, the show switches it up.

Our titular character mysteriously disappears in the first episode. Afterwards, the story follows Ramona trying to unravel the puzzle in a whodunnit-style chase, which also sees her on a journey of self-discovery, confronting her exes to ascertain what exactly earned her their rage. Shifting the spotlight from Scott to Ramona was a stroke of genius that explored her previously enigmatic character in fascinating ways the movie never did.

The show format creates room to delve into seemingly minor characters and their relationships with each other. The major themes of lingering trauma, personal growth, and confronting ghosts of one's past are handled gently and gracefully. While copious amounts of new character development are welcome, the show struggles to juggle everything and keep itself interesting,

especially towards the middle.

On that note, no franchise has demanded the medium of animation more than *Scott Pilgrim*. Studio Science SARU injects pure adrenaline into every fight scene. Cameras zoom in and out of the most unlikely arenas of combat. Every sequence is a high-tempo thrill ride of explosive colour and music, lighting up the senses from all directions. The pristine animation, emulating the style of the comics, also enhances the more intimate, emotional moments.

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Accompanying every major event is a soundtrack personally curated to meet this show's needs. The 70's arcade-video-game aesthetic baked into the show is frequently complemented by electronic chiptune music. The series is an unfathomably nostalgic trip down memory lane for a wide range of demographics.

Despite its flaws, the series carves out exciting, untrodden paths for its eccentric, long-cherished characters. Even if you've never experienced *Scott Pilgrim* before, you'll find in *Takes Off* an action-packed romp through a bizarre universe, with a charming emotional core.

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My Adventures with Superman

The Man of Steel with a slice-of-life flavor

SABIL SADAT ZAHIR

My Adventures with Superman is an animated series that provides a fresh take on the Superman mythos, featuring a young Clark Kent who is yet to attain all his powers and works alongside Lois Lane and Jimmy Olsen as an intern at the Daily Planet. The series primarily focuses on Clark's romantic relationship with Lois, his friendship with Jimmy, and his internal struggle to figure out who he really is. This show is basically Superman as a slice of life anime. Despite the wholesome tone, there is a sufficient amount of high-stakes action and dramatic moments that add more nuance to the overall narrative.

The biggest strength of *My Adventures with Superman* lies in its portrayal of interpersonal relationships. The show has one of the best representations of Clark Kent and Lois Lane's relationship to date, with their growing romance seeming very organic and relatable. The romance subplot is the best part of the show and very heartwarming to watch. It does not play around with the "will they/won't they" trope and handles the conflict between Clark's dual identity and his relationship with Lois in a very satisfying way as opposed to how that is written in most classic Superman interpretations.

Clark is a lovable protagonist, and that charm extends to those closest to him. Lois and Jimmy play integral roles in the narrative, each having their own sub-stories, giving them tremendous character depth.

Much like Clark's journey of self-discovery, Lois and Jimmy struggle with their sense of purpose. Lois works hard to make her mark as a reporter while dealing with her complicated relationship with her father. Jimmy wants to be taken seriously instead of feeling like a third wheel to Clark and Lois. The compelling writing and character work will leave a certain effect on viewers, making them feel emotionally attached to the main trio and giving them a sense of optimism and warmth throughout.

The show attempts to put a unique spin on Superman's origin story, and that is most reflected in the antagonists. Most of the villains get their abilities from remnants of technology from Clark's home world. The primary villains, The General and Task Force X see Superman as an alien threat and it ties into Clark's personal identity conflict, as he tries to prove that he is not an invader but rather a hero trying to help.

My Adventures with Superman's animation and art style are very anime-inspired. It might not be incredibly unique or stunning, but the animation excels during dynamic action scenes as well as sombre scenes. The designs of the main characters are rather cute which reflects the show's lighthearted tone. However, I personally think that the villain designs fall a bit short and there are a lot of reshaped locations which make Metropolis feel very small.

The heartwarming storyline, charming and relatable characters, and fun art style make *My Adventures with Superman* one of the most entertaining new animated shows to come out this year. It is not only a love letter to Superman, but also serves as a perfect starting point for people wanting to get into the character.

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