


ANIME

Takopi's Original Sin dissects the complexity of love, cruelty, and guilt

MD. NAYEEM HAIDER
Trigger warning: Mention of abuse and violence
**This review contains spoilers for the anime*

A small, octopus-like alien, on a mission to spread happiness throughout the universe with their gadgets, crash-lands on Earth. They are found by Shizuka, a young girl who shares bread with them and gives them the name 'Takopi'. Over the following days, Takopi offers her various gadgets, only for her to reject each one. She insists that they can't do a thing to change her situation.

Within minutes of its beginning, *Takopi's Original Sin* presents an almost infectious innocence, juxtaposed with a quiet, sinister

atmosphere. This tension is not only sustained but delved into further as the story progresses.

Takopi's Original Sin can be an uncomfortable anime to watch. Not least because of the relentless abuse of children that is carried out by other children. Rather, it is because of the quiet helplessness of the victim that is depicted in contrast to the unceasing malice of their abuser.

As the anime progresses, a girl's life is taken, and the characters are meant to convince themselves that they shouldn't feel too bad about what has just transpired. Eventually, however, they are confronted by the girl's mother, who sobs and begs that she be returned to her, promising to be a

good mother. As they're each crushed under the guilt of their sins, the show forces us to acknowledge the convoluted complexity of trauma and the cyclic distortions it begets.

The show is masterful in its depiction of the way parents set the tone for the lives of their children. It also portrays how that very same thing can easily devolve into a burden that drags them down into the abyss.

Takopi's Original Sin is a bleak journey throughout. There are hopeful moments, but in painful contrast to their transience, the suffocating gloom of inevitable doom is always present. There is only a faint light at the end of the long, dark tunnel. A light that can be reached through empathy.

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