

ANIME

CHAINSAW MAN - THE MOVIE: REZE ARC

A moony, gory, and unhinged love story for the ages

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Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc plays out more like a twisted rom-com than a straight-up action flick. The crux of the story revolves around Denji, our jagged-toothed main character, and Reze, the titular female lead who presents herself as a potential love interest to Denji.

Although Denji has hardly ever experienced basic humanity, he is no stranger to infatuation, particularly towards his boss, Makima. It is the collision between these two conflicting feelings that stirs up the teenage devil hunter's mind — does he try to stay loyal to his unrequited crush and idol, or does he reciprocate the seemingly genuine feelings from someone who is far more alike?

Studio MAPPA's visual portrayal of these internal conflicts is where the film shines brightest. Building on top of the source material's strengths – the minute details – it depicts the subtle and gradual softening of Denji's otherwise restless energy. It may be a slow burner but once it is put into the context of the series' usual chaos, the *Reze Arc* feels like a stroll in the countryside away from the city (if you know, you know).

As the final third of the movie begins and the central antagonist of the *Reze Arc*, the Bomb Devil, makes its first on-screen



appearance, the gloves come off and the chainsaws start whirring. From that point onwards, the entire film becomes a full-blown feast for the eyes, with some of the punchiest and most striking visuals in an anime film that I've seen in recent times.

With most of the tail-end of the movie being utterly chaotic, the animation turns into a visual feast. Bombastic visuals, vivid colour splashes that mirror the manga covers, and meticulously choreographed

fight scenes all combine into an incredibly stimulating theatrical experience. The production quality of the *Reze Arc* film never wanes. The early, softer scenes carry a dreamy palette and fluid animation that perfectly capture Reze's playful charm and Denji's tentative affection.

Whether or not you're a fan of the franchise, you should not deprive yourself of the absolute eye candy that is *Chainsaw Man – The Movie: Reze Arc* on the big screen.



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