



DID YOU KNOW?

RAMADAN STARTS ON DIFFERENT DATES EVERY YEAR

Ramadan's dates change each year because the Islamic calendar is based on the lunar cycle rather than the solar cycle used by the Gregorian calendar. As a result, Islamic months are shorter, lasting about 29 or 30 days, compared to Gregorian months, which usually have 30 or 31 days. Since the two calendars measure time differently, their months do not align consistently.

Because of this difference, Ramadan shifts earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar. Its beginning and end fall on different dates annually, moving back by about 10 or 11 days compared to the previous year. Although the change is gradual, over time, it allows Ramadan to occur in different seasons.



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WHY LOVE THROUGH A PRISM IS THIS SEASON'S QUIET STANDOUT

SARA KABIR

Every now and then, an anime comes along that doesn't just entertain you; it inspires you to the point of creation. *Love Through a Prism* is that kind of show. Quiet, romantic, and unexpectedly affecting, it has slowly built a devoted audience not through spectacle, but through mood, character, and a keen understanding of why we still crave gentle, emotionally grounded love stories.

At first glance, the premise feels familiar. Lili, a young artist, leaves Japan to study painting at London's prestigious St Thomas Art Academy and consequently meets the magnetic, mysterious Kit Church. What unfolds next is equal parts coming-of-age and art school melodrama. It's the classic underdog setup: a new city, a new language of belonging, and the constant struggle of proving yourself against all odds. But the series refuses to rush, instead lingering on homesickness, creative doubt, and that fragile in-between where you're still forming your identity. Watching Lili navigate unfamiliar streets and form friendships, I couldn't help but think of my own days as an international postgraduate student in Glasgow – learning how to belong in a place that felt both magical yet distant, finding small anchors in architecture, routine, and the beauty of creative work.



Visually, *Love Through a Prism* is on another level. Nearly every frame feels thoughtfully composed, as though it could be lifted and hung in a gallery. The skies stretch wide and dramatic, clouds gathering with quiet weight. Historic buildings rise in careful architectural detail. Museums glow softly in filtered light. Cobblestone streets, rolling hills, windswept beaches, and even passing animals in the background are rendered with attentive affection.

And it's not only what you see. The sound design hums gently beneath the visuals, from the echo of footsteps in vast halls to the hush of open landscapes. The

music never overwhelms a moment. The voice performances are understated but emotionally precise. Even the episode lengths vary when necessary, refusing to force the story into a rigid structure.

The series' central romance is one of its strongest draws. The pairing of a warm, expressive female lead with a more reserved, quietly enigmatic counterpart is a trope audiences know well and love for good reason. Here, that dynamic unfolds slowly and organically. Feelings grow through shared routines, hesitant conversations, and moments of unspoken understanding. It is a slow-burn romance

built on proximity and patience rather than dramatic declarations.

What truly deepens the experience, however, is the ensemble cast. The anime leans into the found family trope with sincerity, surrounding its leads with characters who have their own ambitions, insecurities, and personal stakes instead of being background figures existing to support a romance. Over time, shared disappointments, disagreements, late-night conversations, and small acts of care bind them together into something resembling a family.

The early 20th-century European art-school setting adds another layer of charm. The subtle tension between nobility and ordinary lives intersecting gives the narrative texture without overwhelming its emotional core. Art, in this world, becomes a social equaliser, a space where hierarchy softens, and connections are forged. Ultimately, *Love Through a Prism* may not be the loudest anime of the season, but it's one of the most heartfelt. In a crowded media landscape, it's a reminder that softness, sincerity, and chosen family still matter – and that sometimes, the stories that glow the longest are the ones that speak the most gently.

Sara Kabir is a dreamer, writer, and literature lover. She currently teaches English at North South University. Find her musings on Instagram @scarletfangirl.