

Forum:[Hack Forums](#)

Thread: [White Album 2 - An Anime like School Days Without the Blood Shed](#)

Dragon. - May 2, 2014, 4:54 pm

Last updated: October 20, 2014

Minor update: December 21, 2014

[img]http://sce.scene7.com/is/image/playstation/vljm35071_banner?\$bnr\$[/img]

Is it that strange to chase after a dream? — Haruki Kitahara

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

Introduction

Over the years, anime's romance genre has been oversaturated with mislabeled shows featuring over exaggerated breasts and fanservice. Thankfully White Album 2 (WA2 for short), does not join the countless series in its genre, whose plot revolves around useless plot devices, excessive fanservice, and little to no character development. White Album 2 is an excellently told romantic drama that isn't afraid to stab you right in the emotions and then twist the knife just to be sure.

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

The Story

White Album 2 revolves around three separate individuals whose lives, by the cruel string of fate, meet one Fall afternoon. Two anharmonic sounds - a sad piano and a lonely guitar, are brought together by one angelic voice, singing on top of the school roof. The three soon decide to make a band, and as the story progresses, form a deep friendship, which eventually turns into a love triangle by the middle of the story. Unlike other shows in its genre, who put love above friendship, White Album 2 outshines its peers by showing a more realistic view. In WA2, the level of importance of the two heroine's friendship is on the same level of importance as the romance each one of them desires with Haruki (our protagonist).

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

The Characters

At the beginning of the story, each of the characters are generically portrayed. The school idol, tsundere, and plain protagonist are all cliché character archetypes abused in countless of comedies/harems. As the story progresses, and the characters develop, we see that they are not as perfect as they seem. Each character has their own flaws and weaknesses, and they do downright terrible things to each other throughout the course of the show. But it is because of these flaws and weaknesses that these characters can be best described as human. It is through this humanity that the viewer feels for the characters, and knows just how much they want to be with each other. We come to realize that they all have the best of intentions, but they let their feelings rule over logic, which is a surefire recipe for disaster.

Without a doubt, the deepest character in this story is Setsuna. A school idol whose presence and

beauty is revered by every student at her school, regardless of gender, she appears to have her life set out for her. She's talented, too. Despite all her popularity, she keeps her distance from everyone around her, being emotionally scarred from a failed friendship in the past. As the story goes on, we see her gain friends and even fall in love for the first time.

Setsuna spoilers. Do not open if you haven't finished watching the show. [\(Click to View\)](#)

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

Setsuna

* This is your last chance to avoid being spoiled. Skip to the next section if you do not intend on being spoiled.*

We are all heroes in this story we call our lives; however, in the final episodes, we see this is simply not the case for Setsuna. The naive and kindhearted girl we saw in earlier episodes is gone. What we see instead is a calculating and manipulative individual. To Setsuna, Haruki and Kazusa are meant to be, and she is the meddler, the one who is denying them the happiness they both deserve for the sake of her own. Thus, when the truth is put to light and the bonds that they formed start to fall apart, she doesn't blame Haruki and Kazusa for all the wrongs they did to her. She accepts it. After all, this is what she thinks she deserves. Karma's a bitch.

Full character list can be found on MAL:

http://myanimelist.net/anime/18245/White_Album_2/characters

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

Art/Music

As expected of an anime whose core focus is the music, the art and music overall is top-notch. The character designs are pleasing to look at, the backgrounds are detailed, and the color palette of the show fits perfectly with its theme. There are no complaints for this section.

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

Closing remarks

Brilliantly told and flawlessly executed, White Album 2 is a show that all future adaptations should strive for. It has a simple premise, yet it delves much deeper than that. It is a show that will build you up, break you down, make you laugh, and make you cry. The emotions that it will leave in your heart will linger there long after the final credits of episode 24 roll past. It is a show that will leave you thinking and at the edge of your seat. A truly unpredictable emotional rollercoaster that will capture your heart from its very first scene, and leave you scarred and longing for more long after its last.

[img]http://www.cluster2.hostgator.co.in/files/writeable/uploads/hostgator14397/image/end-divider.png[/img]

Happeh - May 2, 2014, 5:20 pm

Tried recommending this while it was airing during the season, claiming it was probably the best of the season - no one would listen to me cause of Golden Time. ;-;

Agree with the whole review, nicely done! This anime is special and is very realistic on romance and the conflicts of a love triangle. Kazusa is best girl.

cacnecac - May 2, 2014, 5:28 pm

I'm going to check it out since you relate it to school days, School Days was a good anime for me. Thanks guys.

Nonon Jakuzure - May 2, 2014, 5:38 pm

So it's like School Days but without what made School Days horribad? I might check it out. I like Sakurasou but it wasn't 75% focused on painting, by the way. I'd say it was an equal balance of many things, painting being only a small part to Shiina's character.

Dragon. - May 2, 2014, 5:40 pm

(May 2, 2014 05:38 PM)Nonon Jakuzure Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) So it's like School Days but without what made School Days horribad? I might check it out. I like Sakurasou but it wasn't 75% focused on painting, by the way. I'd say it was an equal balance of many things, painting being only a small part to Shiina's character.

Haha. Yeah. The main protagonist doesn't die, and he respects women. It's a love triangle basically, without the stabbing, blood, and cheating...

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)Well, if you would consider what happens cheating...

cacnecac - May 2, 2014, 5:46 pm

(May 2, 2014 05:40 PM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Haha. Yeah. The main protagonist doesn't die, and he respects women. It's a love triangle basically, without the stabbing, blood, and cheating...

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)Well, if you would consider what happens cheating...

Before I watch it is there Romance Sex though?(Not Being Perverted) I feel alot of drama/romance end up with the MC not getting anything which makes them so unrealistic.

Thats why I enjoyed Rumbling Hearts and REC atleast they are somewhat realistic.

Dragon. - May 2, 2014, 6:07 pm

(May 2, 2014 05:46 PM)cacnecac Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Before I watch it is there Romance Sex though?(Not Being Perverted) I feel alot of drama/romance end up with the MC not getting anything which makes them so unrealistic.

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Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

There is. However, it is PG-13, so there are just little scenes here and there. (Kind of like REC).

cacnecac - May 2, 2014, 6:14 pm

(May 2, 2014 06:07 PM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#)

There is. However, it is PG-13, so there are just little scenes here and there. (Kind of like REC).

Ok good, I don't care if it doesn't show, thats not the point. Thanks op.

SIM-1348814 - May 2, 2014, 6:24 pm

I watched this a while back it. To me it was completely different from white album 1

Resign - May 2, 2014, 6:30 pm

I liked this one, only watched half of season one. Got to say, the ending was kind of fucked up, lol. I even have the music on my phone.

Dragon. - May 2, 2014, 7:49 pm

(May 2, 2014 06:30 PM)Resign Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) I liked this one, only watched half of season one. Got to say, the ending was kind of fucked up, lol. I even have the music on my phone.

Half of season one? Then you just skipped to the ending? O.o

cacnecac - May 2, 2014, 11:35 pm

Ugh I had to stop this anime after episode 8 I kinda spoiled it for myself but Manga readers say he ends up with the real chick he belongs to so i might keep going. LOL

Programmargorp - May 3, 2014, 12:10 am

Well White Album 2 is a perfect example of Romance done right.

The only thing it really missed to become a masterpiece was moving away from cliché.

Resign - May 3, 2014, 6:44 am

(May 2, 2014 07:49 PM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Half of season one? Then you just skipped to the ending? O.o

No, I just stopped after she sung at the Winter concert.

Dragon. - May 3, 2014, 8:52 am

(May 3, 2014 06:44 AM)Resign Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) No, I just stopped after she sung at the Winter concert.

Ah. The drama starts after that episode :/

Chips Ahoy McCoy - May 3, 2014, 3:10 pm

Does this anime have feels in it? :o

cacnecac - May 3, 2014, 3:23 pm

(May 3, 2014 03:10 PM)warmage007 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Does this anime have feels in it? :o

Mhm it does have feels, you kinda feel bad for all the 3 main characters if you follow the story closely.

Dragon. - May 3, 2014, 6:17 pm

(May 3, 2014 03:23 PM)cacnecac Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Mhm it does have feels, you kinda feel bad for all the 3 main characters if you follow the story closely.

Yeah. You definitely do. ?

Ardi22 - May 4, 2014, 1:16 pm

Lol it was the bloodshed and the cheatings that made School Days so unique!

Funnybunch50 - May 5, 2014, 5:20 pm

"An Anime like School Days Without the Blood Shed" Perfect fucking description although i thought school days was a masterpiece in its own right as you could see the characters slowly spiraling into craziness, I preferred this series in the romance genre i liked school days because of the psychological aspect and the ending fit perfectly in my OP

cacnecac - May 5, 2014, 5:23 pm

(May 5, 2014 05:20 PM)?Natsu Dragoneel? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) "An Anime like School Days Without the Blood Shed" Perfect fucking description although i thought school days was a masterpiece in its own right as you could see the characters slowly spiraling into craziness, I preferred this series in the romance genre i liked school days because of the psychological aspect and the ending fit perfectly in my OP

mhm alot of anime kids don't like school days because they think all the chicks are mindless idiots. That being said they don't like it because it couldn't happen in "real life"... when it def can.

Funnybunch50 - May 5, 2014, 5:29 pm

(May 5, 2014 05:23 PM)cacnecac Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) mhm alot of anime kids don't like school days because they think all the chicks are mindless idiots. That being said they don't like it because it couldn't happen in "real life"... when it def can. My sentiments exactly the brilliance of this anime is in how they show not only the COMPLETELY possible outcome but also shows you inside of the mind as it starts to crumble onto itself

cacnecac - May 5, 2014, 5:40 pm

(May 5, 2014 05:29 PM)?Natsu Dragoneel? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) My sentiments exactly the brilliance of this anime is in how they show not only the COMPLETELY possible outcome but also shows you inside of the mind as it starts to crumble onto itself

mhm pretty much, I wish there was another anime like School Days to be honest... but then again its so unique.

Funnybunch50 - May 5, 2014, 5:44 pm

Agreed but very few could pull it off and there's always the VN witch is actually animated
So its just like watching the series with a different outcome

cacnecac - May 5, 2014, 5:50 pm

(May 5, 2014 05:44 PM)?Natsu Dragoneel? Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Agreed but very few could pull it off and there's always the VN witch is actually animated

So its just like watching the series with a different outcome

Feels like we're turning this guys thread into school days but anyways did you feel bad for the MC guy? I kinda did lol... feels like a typical high school kid to me. anyways thats my last question about that.

PS THAT BOAT DOE.

Funnybunch50 - May 5, 2014, 7:34 pm

Yeah I agree But not really he only wanted sex from the get go but the punishment didn't really suit the crime either

Dragon. - May 5, 2014, 9:08 pm

(May 5, 2014 05:50 PM)cacnecac Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Feels like we're turning this guys thread into school days but anyways did you feel bad for the MC guy? I kinda did lol... feels like a typical high school kid to me. anyways thats my last question about that.

PS THAT BOAT DOE.

Lol. It's fine. I guess I'm partly at fault for placing it in the title. :P

!Soul - May 6, 2014, 4:05 pm

I'll go check this anime out, it seems nice. Nice review OP :D

Chips Ahoy McCoy - May 6, 2014, 10:27 pm

This ending just made me soooooo mad. i'm not sure why. i just HATED the last two episodes. like, before those last two i liked it alot. but i'm not sure why it's just the way it all ended up made me super mad.

cacnecac - May 7, 2014, 1:23 am

(May 6, 2014 10:27 PM)warmage007 Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This ending just made me soooooo mad. i'm not

sure why. i just HATED the last two episodes. like, before those last two i liked it alot. but i'm not sure why it's just the way it all ended up made me super mad.
mhm.... no worries its suppose to do that.

Dragon. - October 20, 2014, 6:08 pm

I updated this review. Should be easier to read now. :)

Dragon. - December 21, 2014, 10:22 am

Updated minor spelling/grammar errors and the flow of the sentences.

Winter is here, the season of "White Album."

Ang?I - December 21, 2014, 10:40 am

(Dec 21, 2014 11:22 AM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Updated minor spelling/grammar errors and the flow of the sentences.

Winter is here, the season of "White Album."

You should add a "best girl" section of the review and put Setsuna Ogiso in big, bold letters.

Dragon. - December 21, 2014, 12:42 pm

(Dec 21, 2014 11:40 AM)?ngel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) You should add a "best girl" section of the review and put Setsuna Ogiso in big, bold letters.

Did you like miss my entire section on her?

WA2 Spoilers [\(Click to View\)](#)

She's a manipulative bitch.

Chips Ahoy McCoy - December 21, 2014, 2:37 pm

Don't worry Angel, Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#) She will always be best girl of WA2

Ang?I - December 21, 2014, 2:44 pm

(Dec 21, 2014 03:37 PM)Endomous Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Don't worry Angel, Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#) She will always be best girl of WA2

See Dragon, I'm not the only one. Our numbers are rising.

Dragon. - December 23, 2014, 10:14 am

(Dec 21, 2014 03:44 PM)?ngel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) See Dragon, I'm not the only one. Our numbers are rising.

Lol no. You guys are always going to be the minority.

?I???ry - December 23, 2014, 9:14 pm

But guys

Spoiler [\(Click to View\)](#) Touma is by far the best. Can't stand Setsuna at some points.

Nine - December 23, 2014, 9:31 pm

(Dec 21, 2014 01:42 PM)Dragon. Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Did you like miss my entire section on her?

WA2 Spoilers [\(Click to View\)](#)

She's a manipulative bitch.

Sums her up pretty much. Definitely worst girl. She ain't better than Touma.

Ang?I - December 23, 2014, 9:49 pm

(Dec 23, 2014 10:31 PM)Nine Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Sums her up pretty much. Definitely worst girl. She ain't = "am not" better than Touma.

She am not better than Touma. Such grammer.

Chips Ahoy McCoy - December 24, 2014, 12:28 am

How was the first White Album? I liked the 2nd one (until they played mindfuck with me.) and kinda wanted to start a new romcom.

Dragon. - December 24, 2014, 5:34 am

(Dec 23, 2014 10:31 PM)Nine Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Sums her up pretty much. Definitely worst girl. She ain't better than Touma.

Oh god. Nine-senpai seriously replied? To a NON-MAGIC RELATED ANIME?

Peanut Butter - December 24, 2014, 8:24 am

Would I need to watch WA1 to fully understand WA2 or is WA2 like a remake?

Dragon. - December 24, 2014, 10:19 am

(Dec 24, 2014 09:24 AM)Peanut Butter Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) Would I need to watch WA1 to fully understand WA2 or is WA2 like a remake?

Not at all. I don't even know why they named it White Album 2 tbh.

They're only related by a song. Knowing this relationship is absolutely insignificant in the grand scheme of things. I highly recommend you just watch the second one, the superior one of the two.

Also, the characters are not related in any way. The second WA takes place 20-30 years after the first.

Gladly - December 24, 2014, 10:55 am

This show was so great, I wish I had dedicated the time to watch it all at once :(

You know how long it took me to watch it, but hey, I finished it.

Nine - December 24, 2014, 11:12 am

(Dec 23, 2014 10:49 PM)?ngel Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) She am not better than Touma. Such grammer. ain't: am not; are not; is not

She ain't (is not) better than Touma.

Ang?I - December 24, 2014, 11:15 am

(Dec 24, 2014 12:12 PM)Nine Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) ain't: am not; are not; is not

She ain't (is not) better than Touma.

I see what you did there. She ain't (are not) better than Touma.

VYKTOR - January 6, 2015, 8:22 am

So I just finished watching this after reading your review & I agree with each & every word.

I want to know what more happened & I was very sad to see the state of affairs when the story ended.

This was definitely not the cliché type & I think it was done very well.

I didn't expect things to turn out this way at all when the story started.

I got the feels which I had when I watched Angel Beats.

Great review & I really recommend this anime to people who are fed up of boring romance stories.

H??????a X™ - January 6, 2015, 3:11 pm

This is a great anime and like you said, has nothing to do with the first WA. You can just jump right into this without watching it. It is a drama packed ride. Though the ending was a little weak.

Dragon. - January 17, 2015, 1:59 pm

(Jan 6, 2015 04:11 PM)H??????a X™ Wrote: [\[CITE\]](#) This is a great anime and like you said, has nothing to do with the first WA. You can just jump right into this without watching it. It is a drama packed ride. Though the ending was a little weak.

Really? I felt as though the ending suited the anime perfectly.

I won't spoil the other two VNs that haven't been adapted yet, but if a studio does pick those two up for another season, it'll probably have more feels than this one. This is only the beginning.