

Tsubasa — RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE VOLUME 1

TRUE LOVE, LOST MEMORIES AND INTERDIMENSIONAL TRAVEL...

EVERY CLAMP FAN knows Sakura and Syaoran are meant to be. They are the “it” couple in anime, and *Tsubasa — RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE* sees the pair once again reunited in another world of the CLAMP multi-verse, the land of Clow.

A little older and wiser, Sakura is now a princess and Syaoran’s her best friend. Like her Clow Card-capturing alter-ego, this Sakura also possesses magical abilities, along with an annoying big brother named Touya. When Syaoran returns from an excavation, she is drawn to the same ruins—and when the barrier between worlds collapses, her memories become scattered. In the following chaos, Clow is invaded by forces unknown and the high priest Yukito sends Syaoran and the sleeping Sakura to Yuko Ichihara, the Dimension Witch of *xxxHOLiC* fame.

Together with Kurogane (a warrior from Japan) and Fay (a jovial mage from the land of Ceres), Syaoran makes a bargain with Yuko to travel to different worlds in search of Sakura’s memories, which have



taken the form of white feathers containing untold power. But there is a price: Kurogane forfeits his sword, Fay his magical tattoo and Syaoran his relationship with Sakura and her memories of him.

The first DVD, which contains four episodes, charts the gang’s initial adventures in the Hanshin Republic. Aided by Mokona, who serves as their feather detector and method of transport, the group encounters a bustling metropolis where people have *kudan*, spirits connected to each person who enters the world of Hanshin.

Purists will quickly spot a slight variance in the way the series is being released in the US—it uses the full manga title *RESERVoIR CHRoNiCLE* (whereas the Japanese series is known simply as *Tsubasa Chronicle*), and even borrows the logo from Del Rey’s graphic novel releases. Still, it’s nice to see this consistency embraced by separate companies, and it’s also tough to be a stickler when the DVD is available in either a standard edition or as a set with a beautifully illustrated collector’s box.

Neither dark and depressing nor lighthearted, *Tsubasa* strikes the



>> NOT AS WE KNOW THEM

As if to drive home the fact that this is not a sequel to any previous CLAMP anime, none of the voice actors from the original series reprise their roles. Despite this, *Tsubasa* sees dozens of cameos from much-loved CLAMP characters including regular appearances from Yuko of sister-series *xxxHOLiC*, Tomoyo of *Cardcaptor Sakura* and Sorata and Arashi of *X*. There’s no sign of Miyuki-chan, though....

perfect balance: part romance, part science fiction and part comedy (thanks to Fay and Kurogane). The Japanese dub might not have any familiar names from previous series, but it is brilliantly done. The same can be said of FUNimation’s English language track as well,

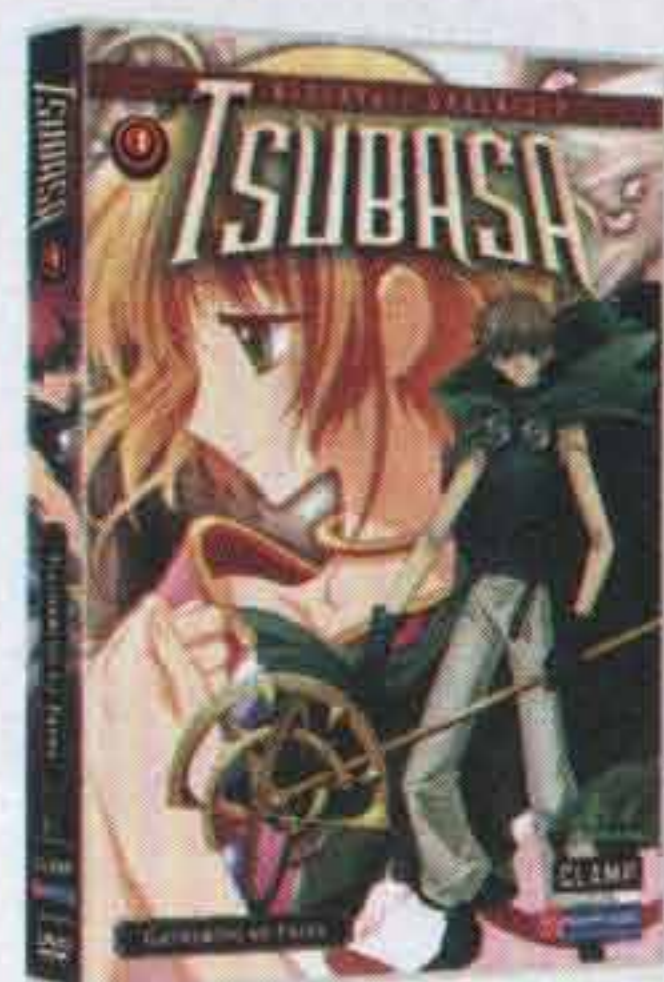


which is an almost literal—but still very watchable—translation of the original Japanese.

Tsubasa is a beautiful anime that sucks you in and refuses to let go, pulling you right along for a thrilling ride filled with danger

and action. The show also features stunning animation from Bee Train and the ethereally beautiful music of composer Yuki Kajiura—resulting in the perfect blend for this must-see series.

—Lesley Smith



AVAILABLE

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PUBLISHER

FUNimation Entertainment

RUNNING TIME

100 min.

RATING

13+