



## Waves of YA, Episode 23, Manga Mayhem

### **Transcript:**

00;00;08;13 - 00;00;18;07

Chris

[CHRIS] Hello and welcome to Waves of YA, a podcast focused on young adult literacy brought to you by the Ocean County Library's Teen Literacy Workgroup. My name is Chris. Joining me say we have...

00;00;18;21 - 00;00;22;28

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Cecelia, I'm a teen services librarian, at the Ocean County Library.

00;00;22;28 - 00;00;27;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Hi, my name is Summer and I'm the teen librarian at the Long Beach Island Library.

00;00;28;14 - 00;00;45;03

Chris

[CHRIS] I am also a teen librarian in Lakewood. That also helps. Today's episode will be focused on manga. We'll discuss what got us interested in manga, our preferences when it comes to reading and what titles we think you'll want to check out. So first of all, how did you guys get interested in anime or manga?

00;00;45;18 - 00;01;33;11

Summer

[SUMMER] I think that the first manga I ever started reading because I didn't end up finishing it, was it was actually through the library, not making this up. I was at my local library and they had almost all of the original editions of the Fruits Basket manga, which I had never heard of at the time, and I, I don't think I ever actually checked them out. I think I would just kind of flip through them and read them in little bits because I found them intriguing. But I wasn't, I guess I don't know if I thought I wasn't allowed to check them out or if I thought that I'd get in trouble or something, but I never ended up actually reading them in order until much later in life when I rediscovered them. But that was my first ever peek at it, I think.

00;01;33;11 - 00;02;09;00

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I want to say it's anime that first got me interested like Pokémon and Sailor Moon. I'm of that generation Toonami kids, sort of. So that was the first anime I was super, super, super into Sailor Moon. I started reading Fruit Basket and became completely obsessed with it because the artwork, it's just so amazing. And I actually started reading manga with my mom too. We would read the Fruits Basket mangas together. She actually read the last one before me.

00;02;09;00 - 00;02;10;10

Chris

[CHRIS] Oh, that's so cute.

00;02;10;10 - 00;02;31;15

Summer

[SUMMER] That's really cute. I also the first anime I probably ever watched was Sailor Moon too. We would go to Blockbuster and get the Sailor Moon VHS tapes. It had like three episodes per tape and we would watch those or I would go to my friend's house and watch them because she had a bunch of them and we were obsessed with that as well, me and my siblings.

00;02;32;02 - 00;03;18;13

Chris

[CHRIS] I also started with Sailor Moon, the anime, but it was before it was on Toonami. I was like in preschool and it was like on before I would go to like my mom would bring me to school or to the babysitters. So I was watching it like teeny tiny and it was so exciting. When it was on... came back for Toonami. It was like [gasps] and then I was like, old enough to understand, like more of it. Other thanm, like, "Ooh, they transform." But manga-wise, it was definitely like a lot of the Shonen Jump stuff, Rurouni Kenshin, YuYu Hakusho, where like the creator's married to the creator of Sailor Moon, which is great, and Inuyasha like that era where I could get it in the library and they're like that, like someone always was reading it at the same time. You're like, I need the next volume. Somebody needs to return it.

00;03;19;15 - 00;03;32;20

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I think that's like when I was a kid, I never really knew where to find anime specifically, and I've heard of Toonami. I don't know if that was on like before I was of the age, but.

00;03;33;06 - 00;03;34;16

Chris

[CHRIS] You're a little bit younger than us.

00;03;34;24 - 00;03;36;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I'm a baby.

00;03;37;09 - 00;03;41;10

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah, because Toonami has a block of Sailor Moon, Dragon Ball Z...

00;03;42;02 - 00;03;44;07

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Inuyasha really late at night.

00;03;44;08 - 00;03;49;18

Chris

[CHRIS] Late. Oh, that was that one was Adult Swim and Inuyasha, YuYu Hakushoso, Rurouni Kenshin.

00;03;50;02 - 00;04;00;09

Cecelia

[CECELIA] And they would rotate stuff out because I remember when Death Note and Bleach were on there too. And Full Metal Alchemist too. People forget Full Metal.

00;04;00;26 - 00;04;14;01

Summer

[SUMMER] Full Metal is so beautiful. Yes. I think I started getting into it somehow because me and my siblings started liking anime at the same time and we watched bootleg episodes online, however we could find them.

00;04;15;07 - 00;04;18;03

Chris

[CHRIS] Watching a three part anime on YouTube.

00;04;18;06 - 00;04;18;23

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah.

00;04;19;05 - 00;04;22;07

Chris

[CHRIS] That's how we watched all of Lucky Star and it was painful.

00;04;22;07 - 00;04;37;18

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. Or, there was one website I can't remember the name, but they had a bunch of anime, but every now and then it would shut down I guess because it wasn't technically legal and then it would pop up again. But now there's Crunchyroll where you can get a free subscription with ads and stuff, which is good.

00;04;37;28 - 00;04;46;16

Chris

[CHRIS] Like, the invention of Crunchyroll is amazing. No more three-part downloads, no more playing, like "Man, I hope I don't get a virus doing this."

00;04;46;27 - 00;05;03;00

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, yeah. And there's so many animes are now on Netflix and Hulu scattered around, which is good as well. I think I watched Fairytale on Netflix while it was on there. Do you prefer a Shonen or a Shojo? I always forget what Shonen is.

00;05;03;02 - 00;05;08;27

Chris

[CHRIS] Shonen is more like boys' action, like adventure, like YuYu Hakusho, Dragon Ball Z, kind of.

00;05;08;28 - 00;05;11;03

Cecelia

[CECELIA] My Hero Academia.

00;05;11;03 - 00;05;30;17

Summer

[SUMMER] That's what I thought it might be. I am definitely a more of a Shojo girl. I love slice of life and I love romance manga and anime. Some of my favorites, I'm just trying to think off the top of my head. I loved My Love Story. Have you guys ever seen that?

00;05;30;17 - 00;05;31;24

Cecelia

[CECELIA] That's a good one

00;05;31;24 - 00;05;44;27

Summer

[SUMMER] For anyone who hasn't, it's about this guy and he is very, as far as traditional anime beauty standards, he's not traditionally attractive, he's very tall, he's very muscular. He kind of is one of those.

00;05;45;05 - 00;05;45;27

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Oh, I remember.

00;05;46;17 - 00;06;30;22

Summer

[SUMMER] He's one of the kids that developed early. And so he's 14, but he looks like a grown man. But he has a super soft heart and he falls in love really easily. But none of his crushes have ever returned his feelings. But then he meets this girl who is super tiny and super cute. She's a total sweetheart and she instantly has a crush on him. But he it takes him a little bit of miscommunication to get together because he has been rejected so many times that he doesn't think that she would like him. But then she confesses that she likes him and they get together really early in the series. So the rest of the series is

their developing relationship. And it's really cute and really pure and sweet. And they both are just head over heels for each other the whole time. So it's all just like silly antics.

00;06;30;22 - 00;06;33;25

Cecelia

[CECELIA] That's my type of go-to anime for context.

00;06;34;07 - 00;07;06;06

Chris

[Chris] Mine is pretty solidly Shonen. Every one's quality like I showed you earlier slice of life thing, but like, give me the action and give me the adventure. Like, what if I started off with like magical girl Sailor Moon stuff is like, okay, we've got a monster every week. There's an overarching plot. You get to see the girls doing their thing, but like, I don't care how many volumes there are of Dragon Ball, Dragon Ball Z, currently Dragon Ball Super, like, I am here. I'm here for the story arc that has been going for longer than I've been alive.

00;07;07;05 - 00;07;07;17

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Yeah.

00;07;08;03 - 00;07;20;27

Chris

[CHRIS] So like oh, Dragon Ball Z came out in the eighties, that's fun. I also I don't care that much about romance. Like even with, like, YA books and, like, whatever, like, where is the plot? Okay, you're falling in love. Like there's a monster, go fight that.

00;07;21;07 - 00;07;26;26

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I'm like, the opposite. I'm just like, Why are we fighting a monster? You should be kissing.

00;07;26;26 - 00;07;28;14

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Only kiss monsters.

00;07;28;14 - 00;07;32;05

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes. Or "Beauty and the Beast," kiss the monster.

00;07;33;20 - 00;07;47;27

Chris

[CHRIS] I want, like, the action adventure. It does get repetitive. Like right now, I'm currently on a lull for all of it, like, Dragon Ball Z, or Dragon Ball Super technically. I love you. I'm here for like my short king that's here for his life.

00;07;47;27 - 00;07;48;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh my God.

00;07;49;03 - 00;07;50;10

Chris

[CHRIS] I want you win so badly.

00;07;50;10 - 00;08;03;20

Summer

[SUMMER] I do. I do know enough about Dragon Ball Z, and I've watched a little bit that I was talking to somebody about something and I was just like, "Vegeta is the most beloved character on that one." That's the female gaze.

00;08;04;05 - 00;08;17;10

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah. I mean, like, it's so funny because like, for YuYu Hakusho they've done polls and like Hiei, like, their equivalent of Vegeta is also like the number one fan favorite or like yeah, we're short angry white guys.

00;08;17;17 - 00;08;37;18

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes it is, um, in Fairy Tale, Vegeta and Bulma remind me of Levy and Gajeel from Fairy Tale because he's not short. He's a very tall, but he's very angry, kind of gruff dude, and she's like the short, blue haired girl that he falls in love with. And so I'm just like, "Oh, it's it's them."

00;08;37;18 - 00;09;05;28

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I think for me, I'm somewhere in between both of you because I like shonen and I like shojo. I think I lean more shojo with like "Fruits Basket" and "Ouran High School Host Club" and "Komi Can't Communicate." like the slice of life sort of rom com-y aspects. But I also really like the supernatural and like fantasy aspects. One of my favorite of the newer mangas is "Ancient Magus' Bride."

00;09;05;28 - 00;09;08;18

Summer

[SUMMER] I haven't read the manga that I watched the whole anime and I love it.

00;09;08;25 - 00;09;28;21

Cecelia

[CECELIA] It's just the artwork and the world is so beautiful. It has very, like, Studio Ghibli vibes. Like, very cottagecore, very like folklore, and it just feels ancient, and I love all the monsters and getting to know all the folklore and stuff.

00;09;28;21 - 00;09;47;25

Summer

[SUMEMR] Yeah, yeah. And I totally will watch Shonen like Full Metal Alchemist is one of my favorite animes of all time. So like, I will hop to and I do want to watch My Hero Academia when I get the chance. I just tend to like I think when I go to anime I want something light and fluffy to like, revive my spirit. So that's why I go to shojo.

00;09;47;25 - 00;10;25;16

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Well, this kind of blends into our next question. What elements of manga are your favorite? Yeah, I like how very small - this is similar for Studio Ghibli as well - how very small mundane moments are often romanticized and portrayed with a very soft light, making little moments feel special, like when they're preparing food or when they're out shopping with their friends or doing household chores, they just make it look so charming. That's why I like slice of life because it kind of romanticizes daily life.

00;10;26;13 - 00;10;45;20

Chris

[CHRIS] I've been reading. There's been so many more like LGBT manga coming out. I've been reading a lot of those. I'm like, "I'm on board for this." So "Bloom into You" which is so cute. Like the one girl goes back in time to go befriend her future wife. She has friends growing up in a way.

00;10;45;20 - 00;10;48;08

Cecelia

[CECELIA] My God, I'm writing it down.

00;10;48;21 - 00;11;09;02

Chris

[CHRIS] Oh yeah, we have it. It's so cute. I love them so much. And like, it's just such a sweet, like, little, like, I can't remember anyone's name cause it's been a while since I read it, but she's just like, "No, we're going to be friends." And, like, her future wife was like, "Who are you? Why are you talking to me?"

00;11;09;13 - 00;11;10;24

Summer

"I'm the love of your life!"

00;11;12;00 - 00;11;33;10

Chris

[CHRIS] I'm here to play like, video games. She'll do dating. She'll play some games. And she has, like, no interest in dating whatsoever. And like, is not on board with, like, time travel, I'm-your-wife-in-the-future nonsense. She's like "No. The level of 'not interested' I am is pretty impressive," and like persistence of, like, "No, this is happening. We're going get married, don't worry."

00;11;34;15 - 00;11;36;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Funny. Oh, so she's very up front about it?

00;11;37;08 - 00;11;54;00

Chris

[CHRIS] Part of it is. Or, like, we know and she's just like going. And like I said, it's been like, what did we first get this? It was published in 2017... I remember reading it when we first got it and then it's been at least a year since I read it. But like, it's so cute.

00;11;54;16 - 00;12;39;13

Summer

[SUMMER] Another aspect I really like that I said before, in anime is when in shojo, when the couple gets together early. There's nothing wrong with slow burn romance, but I often feel like when you spend the entire season leading up to the two protagonists getting together, I always feel like I just want to see more of them together. So I like when they get together early and then you get to see them interacting and being cute throughout the rest of the series. Another good example of that is "Horimiya." Another just slice of life manga. We have a lot of the mangas checked in at various branches. That's a good one and it's a really cute anime as well. And it's just like, you know, cuteness and romance and friendship and high school antics.

00;12;39;13 - 00;12;42;26

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Has anybody read "I Want to Become a Wall?"

00;12;43;19 - 00;12;47;17

Summer

[SUMMER] No, but I agree. I'm looking it up right now.

00;12;47;17 - 00;12;49;24

Chris

[CHRIS] I want to put that on hold.

00;12;49;24 - 00;12;53;05

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I Want to Be a Wall. I Want to Be a Wall. Sorry.

00;12;53;05 - 00;12;55;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, I feel like I've seen this.

00;12;55;16 - 00;13;16;04

Cecelia

[CECELIA] It's an adult manga. The main character is asexual and is married to a gay man. And is super into BL and her new husband is in love with his childhood best friend. So she is very enamored with their relationship.



00;13;16;04 - 00;13;17;15

Summer

[SUMMER] She ships it.

00;13;17;15 - 00;13;37;07

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Yes, basically. But like I think a lot of the manga, as we talked about today, there's initial like overview premise of like, here's a fun kind of a light story, but like underneath the surface it just all the feelings like bubble to the surface is like so much more than that.

00;13;37;07 - 00;13;42;11

Summer

[SUMMER] Like Fruits Basket. How you think it's cute and sweet and then it's like, "Wow, here's some childhood trauma."

00;13;42;11 - 00;14;03;00

Cecelia

[CECELIA] And family trauma and like, relationships. And it's just more than like, oh, you know, when I hug you, you become an animal. It's like they hide it underneath these premises and then they draw you in and then break your heart. That's manga.

00;14;04;00 - 00;14;17;15

Summer

[SUMMER] Because and I do feel like sometimes animes, I mean, manga that has adult characters can still be read by younger readers because it is still like the slice of life, but it's like adult life.

00;14;17;29 - 00;15;13;20

Chris

[CHRIS] I realize I kept saying Bloom into You. I's actually "Strawberry Fields Once Again." Strawberry Fields Once Again is the manga where the wife travels back in time to go befriend her teenage version of her wife. So, wrong title, correct plot. For slice of life, I started reading "A Man and his Cat," which is about an adult man with a grown daughter. But it's in YA. It's him taking care of a cat because he's sad. Like his wife died and so, it's him coming out of his shell and like, started talking with coworkers and like, how his life improves because he has a not traditionally cute cat. "My wife wanted to get a cat, but she passed away." He gets the cat and his life gets so much better. Like his younger coworkers who look up to him, like, start spending time with him because he's a lot more approachable now...

00;15;14;05 - 00;15;14;19

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh my God.

00;15;14;19 - 00;15;17;07

Chris

[CHRIS] You kids nowadays are much more approachable.

00;15;17;07 - 00;15;18;14

Summer

[SUMMER] That's beautiful.

00;15;18;14 - 00;15;28;19

Chris

[CHRIS] It started as a webcomic or as like, just like an Instagram post or something, but it's so like, it's so it's a super quick, like really short, like little bits of slice of life. It's so much fun.

00;15;28;27 - 00;15;38;21

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, I feel like manga and anime in general are getting more progressive, more LGBTQ and more challenging of traditional gender roles.

00;15;38;21 - 00;15;55;04

Cecelia

[CECELIA] We have been getting - I don't know if you guys have been noticing - but Saturday AM. It's a new publishing company that publishes titles of western creators inspired by manga that are of diverse backgrounds.

00;15;55;04 - 00;15;56;21

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, that's wild I haven't heard of that.

00;15;56;21 - 00;15;57;10

Chris

[CHRIS] No.

00;15;57;21 - 00;16;30;11

Summer

[SUMMER] I also read this manga from the library when I was really young. That was not a Japanese manga. It was an American-made manga, it was called "Bizenghast" and it's impossible to find anywhere except for like it's on Hoopla and Kindle Unlimited. And we had that the library at my home library for a short amount of time and it's just really a cool like steampunk gothic horror manga. But I keep trying to like find an author online and like what else she's done, but she's like, disappeared off the face of the earth forever.

00;16;31;01 - 00;16;36;08

Chris

[CHRIS] When we got hoopla, I started rereading it again and it was like, Oh, I forgot how much I love this, that and "The Shutter Box."

00;16;36;24 - 00;16;41;15

Summer

[SUMMER] But I don't think she ever wrote the eighth book because I got to the end of the seventh book and I couldn't find the eighth book anywhere.

00;16;41;20 - 00;16;46;25

Chris

[CHRIS] I feel like that... happens so often.

00;16;47;13 - 00;16;50;18

Summer

[SUMMER] It ends on a cliffhanger, I'm just like, "What the heck, man?"

00;16;50;18 - 00;16;51;08

Chris

[CHRIS] Was she through Tokyopop?

00;16;52;08 - 00;16;53;02

Summer

[SUMMER] I think so.

00;16;53;03 - 00;16;55;29

Chris

[CHRIS] We lost so many things when Tokyopop went under.

00;16;57;05 - 00;16;59;04

Summer

[SUMMER] How tragic.

00;16;59;11 - 00;17;30;17

Chris

[CHRIS] For what I like about manga, since I am our shonen representation right now, I like that, like, characters evolve... like Dragon Ball Z, but like, your enemies become your friends and like, seeing the shift in dynamics of, like, they're the bad guys, but now they're our friend. They're still not great. They're kind of jerks, but like, they're still our friend. And like, seeing that, like, it's kind of fun. Also, like, I just want a magical transformation.

00;17;31;04 - 00;18;01;11

Summer

[SUMMER] And you get some of the best... story arcs, often they're shonen. Like, from the moment I watched it to this day, the ending of Full Alchemist Brotherhood, like, the way the plot comes full circle is so artfully done. I remember going back and watching and being like, "Oh my God!" They referenced that there, and that was foreshadowing, and this character's storyline is a direct mirror to this character's storyline, and it's so beautifully constructed, you know?

00;18;02;09 - 00;18;05;06

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah, I also like some of the speeches in there are great.

00;18;05;10 - 00;18;36;06

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Also, I like how in shonen and how, well, in the anime in general this is true too, the cheesiest sentiment and lines can ring so true and it's so heartfelt. I saw this, someone made a meme online about Fairy Tale where they were like, "Every battle scene in Fairy Tale is like, 'I hit you with my strongest spell. How are you still standing?'" And then the response is, "The power of friendship!" But it's good every single time because it is the power of friendship.

00;18;37;14 - 00;18;42;22

Chris

[CHRIS] Hey, it's working. Since I started watching, Sailor Moon when I was like four, and I'm like, "Yeah, the power of friendship. I'm all in."

00;18;42;22 - 00;18;44;06

Cecelia

[CECELIA] That is always true.

00;18;44;11 - 00;19;03;02

Chris

[CHRIS] It's like a group of people that are working together for a thing that might not necessarily fit together. They've got one united goal they're going for it. And the friendship and they just go through so much together and if you get that one slice of life, like, chapter or episode where you're like "Oh, this is what they do when they're not fighting monsters. Now let's go fight a monster."

00;19;03;10 - 00;19;04;29

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. And there's always like a beach episode.

00;19;04;29 - 00;19;05;12

Chris

[CHRIS] Yes.

00;19;06;09 - 00;19;07;29

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Always a beach episode. Yeah.

00;19;07;29 - 00;19;14;03

Cecelia

[SUMMER] Yeah. They reference like, have you guys seen the the cartoon on Disney Plus “The Owl House?”

00;19;14;03 - 00;19;15;02

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Yes.

00;19;15;02 - 00;20;00;02

Summer

[SUMMER] You can tell that the creator of the show loves anime because they reference anime so much. Everything from, like, at one point, two of the girls do the Sailor Moon, like, finger guns thing with the sparkles. And there's another point where they're at the end of the second season and one character asks the other, like... They have to kind of go save the world tomorrow. So they're like, “What do you wanna do today?” And she wants to go do something. And so they're like, “Wouldn't you rather, like, have a beach day?” And she's like, “Maybe if we had time for 23 more adventures, but we don't.” And there's also a point where they reference Dragon Ball Z being old because they pick up, like, a DVD that is not Dragon Ball Z, but very clearly meant to be Dragon Ball Z. They're like, “This looks ancient.”

00;20;01;02 - 00;20;39;24

Chris

[CHRIS] I had one of my teens a few years ago telling me in detail about the anime they were watching on these, like, black square things and I was like, “Do you mean cassette tapes, like VHS tapes?” and they're like, “No.” And I pull one out from my desk drawer - don't ask why I have one - but I was like, it turned into an art project... they're like, “Oh yeah, yeah, I guess that.” I'm like, “Okay, they're watching Dragon Ball Z on a VHS tape that they had found in, like, some older family member's house, and that's how they got into Dragon Ball Z. Like, this is amazing, but also kind of hysterical that you didn't know what a VHS tape was.

00;20;40;01 - 00;20;43;09

Cecelia

[CECELIA] That is urban archeology at its finest.

00;20;43;10 - 00;20;47;06

Chris

[CHRIS] I know. I was like, “Oh, this is how you end up in ‘The Ring,’ kid.”

00;20;47;06 - 00;20;57;28

Summer

[SUMMER] Also I love that they didn't know what they are is funny, but like, understandable because they grew up not using them, why would they know what they are?

00;20;57;28 - 00;21;02;28

Cecelia

[CECELIA] But they did have to put it in something to watch it, so...

00;21;03;11 - 00;21;08;28

Chris

[CHRIS] They knew it was a VCR, but then got lost at VHS tape immediately. I was like, "huh."

00;21;09;08 - 00;21;35;02

Summer

[SUMMER] You know, they probably asked their parents like, you know... Do we have a thing for this? My parents still have their dual DVD/VHS tape player because they still have like old tapes of Casablanca and The Princess Bride and stuff. I think they might still have one of my old Barbie VHS tapes. If so, I want it because the Barbie Cinematic Universe is the peak of cinema and no one can change my mind.

00;21;35;02 - 00;21;37;00

Cecelia

[CECELIA] It's still going strong.

00;21;37;21 - 00;21;40;15

Chris

[CHRIS] They know what they're doing and achieve it.

00;21;41;10 - 00;21;43;29

Summer

[SUMMER] Barbie is the voice of a generation.

00;21;43;29 - 00;21;45;06

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Many generations.

00;21;45;06 - 00;21;46;14

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes.

00;21;46;14 - 00;21;50;09

Cecelia

[CECELIA] How is manga different from other visual materials for you?

00;21;50;09 - 00;21;53;29

Summer

[SUMMER] I guess by that we mean like graphic novels?

00;21;53;29 - 00;22;19;10

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Well, I think manga like with the expressions and stuff. That's like a whole language, almost. The drawings of like when a character is happy, sad, angry, frustrated. We were talking earlier about

waterfall tears like the exaggeration of all the emotions, like the blushing with the three lines, the angry symbol on the forehead, the sweat drop.

00;22;19;10 - 00;22;32;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Or even like the little cultural exchanges that you learn through anime and manga like using someone's first name is very informal. What's that called?

00;22;32;25 - 00;22;33;17

Chris

[CHRIS] The honorific.

00;22;33;17 - 00;22;49;02

Cecelia

Honorifics. Yeah. I couldn't think of the word, which I didn't know was a thing until I started reading manga and idea of like also, if you ever watch K-Dramas, you also learn a lot of like little cultural quirks that are different from where we live obviously.

00;22;49;02 - 00;23;18;27

Chris

[CHRIS] Manga, like when I was in middle school and high school have like the little like "see the back for details." And it would give you cultural context, like definitions of things. It was like, "Hey, you might not get this because of cultural differences. This is what's happening. This is why they actually are happening." And I love those because I am a huge nerd. And I was like, Yeah, tell me more. All the information about Japanese culture you possibly can because I am all in on this.

00;23;19;17 - 00;23;28;17

Summer

[SUMMER] I also love when the author would do little pop up pages with like a little cartoon of themselves being like, "Hi, everybody, here's some stuff I want to tell you."

00;23;28;17 - 00;23;44;24

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I was just about to say that. I was like, Do you guys remember the sidebar? It's just like, "Oh, this is what this means," or, "This is why I did things this way." And they always have their character be something else. Like, I think the author for Fullmetal Alchemist always like to draw herself as a cow or something.

00;23;44;24 - 00;24;05;25

Chris

[CHRIS] I love "Sakamoto Days," which is another action adventure, but it's a retired assassin that he ends up like dad, like very dad vibe, like has a wife and a daughter and the corner store gets sucked back into, like, the assassin lifestyle. But he's still in full, dad mode.

00;24;05;25 - 00;24;15;13

Cecelia

[SUMMER] I love it. That's kind of like the way of the househusband. Where the ex-Yakuza marries this lady. I love a man who loves his wife.

00;24;15;22 - 00;24;27;25

Chris

[CHRIS] Oh yeah. He gets sucked back in and like, there's, like, a whole thing where, like, a gym organization tried to get all the assassins is like, trying to fight them, and it's great. It's just so, like, so much fun.

00;24;28;02 - 00;24;29;12

Summer

[SUMMER] Sounds kind of like John Wick.

00;24;29;20 - 00;24;30;28

Chris

[CHRIS] I've never watched it or read it.

00;24;31;06 - 00;24;37;23

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, well, Keanu Reeves, and it's not a book, it's just movie series where Keanu Reeves is fighting people.

00;24;38;15 - 00;24;50;14

Chris

[CHRIS] It's so funny. He just keep adopting like these, like, baby assassins, like, okay, these will all work at the corner store with me. You're my children now.

00;24;51;00 - 00;24;51;19

Summer

[SUMMER] Amazing.

00;24;51;28 - 00;24;57;00

Chris

[CHRIS] And they're like, "He's the best assassin ever!" And it just cuts to him, like, casually, like dad bod sweeping.

00;24;57;21 - 00;25;02;17

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes we must learn from his ways. The secret technique.

00;25;02;17 - 00;25;04;07

Chris



[CHRIS] Yeah, they're just all lie, "Okay, so we don't kill any more, but we're.

00;25;06;03 - 00;25;07;29

Summer

[SUMMER] Grocery store assassins.

00;25;07;29 - 00;25;17;25

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah. So good. Because, like I was told of a similar, "Spy x Family," but now reading both of them of, like, slice of life, but also action adventure.

00;25;18;04 - 00;25;22;19

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Yeah. "Spy x Family" is huge right now.

00;25;22;19 - 00;26;01;15

Chris

[CHRIS] I'm currently, like, working my way through, like, "Jujutsu Kaisen" is probably the most current thing I'm working my way through. I was like, I love me some monsters. Although I was like... I don't know why, like, after all these years, like, not just be like, this is going to wildly snowball out of control. Immediately I was like, maybe like, nope, definitely. I knew this was coming. Why am I surprised? I was like, we have two of the fun school adventures, now we have to go fight monsters like Battle Royale? I was like, Oh, different tone. Different tone. Okay. It got real serious real fast!

00;26;02;03 - 00;26;16;21

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I do love a good anime or manga that has ghosts or demons in it because I feel like there's a lot of like folklore that comes up too. Like, I don't know if I'm saying this right, which is half the time with anime or manga.

00;26;16;21 - 00;26;20;23

Cecelia

[SUMMER] Oh, it's like, do you like "Kamisama Kiss?"

00;26;20;23 - 00;26;23;20

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Yes, I do. Yes, I...

00;26;23;20 - 00;26;27;16

Chris

[CHRIS] I read that so many times. I just can't get into it.

00;26;28;21 - 00;26;55;15

Cecelia

[CECELIA] I feel like that's like on the line of, like, shoujo and shonen a little bit because, like, there's actiony stuff that happens like "Kakuriyo: Bed & Breakfast for Spirits." So it's about a girl that her grandfather passes away and she learns that he's in debt to like these demons of this other world. So she ends up having to be like the bride of the demon that owns this bed and breakfast.

00;26;55;15 - 00;26;57;10

Summer

[SUMMER] I love an arranged marriage plot. I'm sorry...

00;26;57;10 - 00;27;10;27

Cecelia

[CECELIA] It is very good. And she's like a cook the way like she gets like the spirits to, like, lay off of her and she makes them like these huge meals and is like, "Please leave me alone."

00;27;10;27 - 00;27;31;13

Summer

[SUMMER] Amazing. I just find it so funny that me and Chris are so opposite in our like, book tastes. Like, Chris, I want to show you what I'm reading right now. I'm just reading like a classic historical romance with all of the tropes and all of the cheesiness. And I'm just like, it's very, like, you'll hate it.

00;27;31;13 - 00;27;42;16

Chris

[CHRIS] I do like historical fiction, and I'm like, "Hello, give me a historical romance. Show me those ankles." Do we want any final thoughts on manga or manga recommendations? Like, "Hey, you should check this out."

00;27;42;18 - 00;27;46;10

Summer

[SUMMER] I'm trying to think of a list. I forgot to mention "One-Punch Man," obviously.

00;27;47;00 - 00;28;23;19

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah, I really don't finish books or series, but I like "Mashle," which is... "Mashle: Magic and Muscles," partially like Harry Potter action adventure where he doesn't have any powers. He's just super strong and faking his way into a magic school. So it's fun. But I also need to read more than like the first three volumes. I didn't talk about Junji Ito. He has a new book out again. I love that he's so creepy. Also that he's like standalone, like, "Here's one book but just short stories - go." Oh you mentioned One-Punch Man...

00;28;23;28 - 00;29;04;17

Summer

[SUMMER] One-Punch Man, though parody, like the monster character will like list their whole dramatic backstory. And then Saitama, who's the main character, will just be like, "I'm not interested," and punch them. And so another plot point is that he's so strong that he can defeat a character with one punch.

But that doesn't really make for a big, complicated fight scene. They also make his character really directionally challenged. So it takes him like the whole episode to get to the fight. And so all the other characters are fighting, and then he shows up... but also he's really bad at like, no one seems to realize who he is. So no one, like, knows who is punching all of these people and being so strong because he's just dumb.

00;29;05;22 - 00;29;31;03

Chris

[CHRIS] I've had people recommended it to me. I have it on the ever-growing to-be-read list. I've started reading my Mashle: Magic & Muscles, which is like Harry Potter action adventure where he doesn't have any powers or magic whatsoever at all, but he's super, super strong, so he's faking his way through a magic school by being strong. Cool.

00;29;31;03 - 00;29;32;09

Summer

[SUMMER] Cool. Wait, what is this?

00;29;32;09 - 00;29;33;14

Chris

[CHRIS] Mashle: Magic & Muscles.

00;29;34;03 - 00;29;34;27

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, that's cool.

00;29;34;29 - 00;29;51;18

Chris

[CHRIS] And it's like it's five volumes and I read the first two so far, and it's definitely more than five volumes now. But for the first couple, it's just fun and funny, I'm sure it's going to get more serious as it goes. But like where I'm at is like, let's see how you're going to pretend to have magic next.

00;29;52;07 - 00;29;58;15

Summer

[SUMMER] I wish this character - I'm looking at the covers now - looked more physically strong.

00;29;58;15 - 00;29;59;12

Chris

[CHRIS] You would not guess it.

00;30;00;05 - 00;30;20;23

Summer

[SUMMER] Because that's just something that bothers me sometimes in anime. Like it might just be my personal aesthetic preference, but I feel that obviously the beauty standards and anime are for men.

The beauty standards are to look very pretty. Which is fine, but I wish that we saw more diversity in character type, especially the characters meant to be like super strong. I wish he looked super strong.

00;30;21;03 - 00;30;23;08

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah, I was like, for him, like, he should be ripped.

00;30;23;17 - 00;30;32;03

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah, like Gajeel in Fairy Tail. And again, it could just be my own aesthetic preference, but I wish we saw like more variety in character type.

00;30;32;11 - 00;30;41;14

Chris

[CHRIS] I do. I feel like there used to be more and like it kind of got like, narrowed down, like, expand that back out again. Give me like, like we're looking for characters.

00;30;41;27 - 00;30;46;08

Summer

[SUMMER] Hmm. Yeah. And that's probably also indicative of the beauty standard in Japan as well.

00;30;46;08 - 00;30;46;21

Chris

[CHRIS] Yeah.

00;30;47;10 - 00;30;51;22

Summer

Not that I would know. I don't live in Japan. I've never been to Japan. But it might be a...

00;30;51;29 - 00;31;02;04

Chris

[CHRIS] This is what's happening right now culturally. And so that's what we're getting in manga as well... Give us more diversity.

00;31;02;11 - 00;31;05;28

Summer

[SUMMER] Yes. Do you have any last mangas to shout out?

00;31;05;28 - 00;31;09;06

Chris

[CHRIS] Right now I'm just taking my dear sweet time reading A Man and His Cat.

00;31;09;26 - 00;31;11;13

Summer

[SUMMER] It sounds adorable.

00;31;11;17 - 00;31;20;18

Chris

[CHRIS] It's so cute. And oh, Junji Ito... has a new book out and, like...

00;31;20;18 - 00;31;27;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Oh, "The Liminal Zone?" I checked that out but really didn't get to it, but I like Junji Ito, even though he also terrifies me.

00;31;28;00 - 00;31;37;15

Chris

[CHRIS] I know. I read - I don't even remember which one I read - in, like, middle school I want to say. It was like, this is a creepy nightmare.

00;31;37;28 - 00;31;42;22

Summer

[SUMMER] I read the first volume of "Spiral," which is the English name.

00;31;42;22 - 00;31;57;09

Cecelia

[CHRIS] Yeah. It was probably Spiral. Yeah, I love his stuff. It's so creepy. And it's just like little short stories. It's like, little bit of, like, unsettling. Like they're not like, like, necessarily, like, graphic. Sometimes it's just like, this is unsettling and I don't like it.

00;31;57;14 - 00;32;03;16

Summer

[SUMMER] Yeah. And I think also, didn't he like almost like coin the page turn jump scare?

00;32;03;16 - 00;32;09;00

Chris

[CHRIS] It's so good. Like it is silent, so to speak, where you're like, it is perfect for what you write.

00;32;10;01 - 00;32;26;16

Cecelia

[CECELIA] Thanks for joining us today. Be sure to check out the Ocean County Library's website for more podcasts and events. All titles mentioned in today's episode can be found through the Ocean County Library. Free with your library card. Until next time. Happy reading.