

Netflix Review

# 'Knights of Sidonia' Season 1: a fast paced entertaining anime



By Jordon Morgan  
Editor in Chief

Being the first anime series that was ever put out by Netflix, "Knights of Sidonia" on paper seems to have all the standard cliches: science fiction premise, humanity on its last legs, an outsider hero ready to save the day, the whole nine yards. Thankfully, the show largely succeeds thanks to its strong storytelling, tight-paced action and interesting characters.

Set in the far off future, "Knights of Sidonia" follows the last remnants of humanity who have been nearly destroyed by a mysterious alien force known as the Gauna. Said remnants are hiding out on a massive spaceship named the Sidonia, armed with fighter pilots who operate machines known as Gardes, who must venture out into space every so often to fight approaching Gauna forces.

Deep within the massive spaceship, a young man named Nagate Tanikaze, who had been living deep underground in the ship away from the general populace, is discovered and taken to Captain Kobayashi, the highest authority of Sidonia. She asks him to become a Garde pilot as well, believing that he has the skills necessary to become one of Sidonia's foremost protectors,

an offer that Nagate subsequently agrees to.

Much like the Netflix original film "Blame!" (though again this show came out before that film), the animation is somewhat unique in that it blends traditional two-dimensional anime style with three-dimensional CGI. The results, once you get used to them, work quite well. It's very striking at times and one of the true benefits of the style is that it allows the action, which is very fast paced and could have been hard to follow, to flow smoothly.

The action is almost jarring in how fast it is. Being that it takes place in space with highly advanced mech suits, it makes sense and fortunately the show does a great job of making it relatively easy to follow. That is if you're paying attention.

That doesn't mean the storytelling is any sort of slouch. Through it is a twelve episode season, the show balances back and forth between character development and the aforementioned action scenes.

Although the characterization for everyone is fairly standard (Nagate for instance being the gifted outsider who has trouble fitting in), the solid writing make it so that they are all interesting in their own ways.

A nagging issue for the series however is its propensity to not explain certain glaring

aspects that desperately need an explanation. For example, there is a character named Lala Hiyama who is essentially a walking sentient bear who everyone interacts with as if its normal. Another weird element is the fact that many humans in this world are able to live off of very little food due to the fact that they can photosynthesize.

There are obviously going to be some aspects in science fiction that are outside the bounds of the norm but the issue here is that they aren't given any sort of explanation, which is especially a problem when you have an outsider character like Nagate which allows a perfectly plausible tool in which to ask these questions. In fact, for Hiyama's case you would need to look at outside information to learn that she is a human who wears a bear-like life support suit to sustain herself.

Perhaps it's a nitpick but elements such as these that stick out should be given at least a passing mention so as not to continuously baffle the viewer.

Setting that aside, "Knights of Sidonia" is still a solid anime that is worth your while. Given that each episode (bar the season finale) is only just over 20 minutes long, it's easy to watch when you only have a limited amount of time. If you're a fan of anime, you won't regret the time you invest.

## HOROSCOPES

### FEBRUARY 21 - 27

**PISCES (FEB 19 - MARCH 20)**  
Happy birthday Pisces! You have many opportunities coming your way right now and some may seem too good to be true. Be discerning and take your time before making a big, impulsive decision.

**ARJES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 19)**  
Things are finally calming down after the drama that began the year. Hold on to the feelings of unity and idealism you found with the Aquarius new moon on Feb. 15, you've got a lot to give.

**TAURUS (APRIL 20 - MAY 20)**  
If you've been struggling with a personal situation - maybe trouble with a female relative - then this week that situation can either be escalated or soothed. Hold fast to the key to your happiness and find balance in the chaos.

**GEMINI (MAY 21 - JUNE 20)**  
You might be losing steam after giving it your all the past few weeks, but keep on pushing Gemini. You might not be seeing results right now, but the March 1 full moon will make it all worth it.

**CANCER (JUNE 21 - JULY 22)**  
Let's face it, you've been busy lately! You might be thinking you can't go on. If that's the case, it's time to take a break if you can. Get out of town or just chill by yourself for a few hours.

**LEO (JULY 23 - AUG 22)**  
If you're struggling in your relationship, it's time to be honest. Think about what you need to feel supported and cared for, then ask for it. Or perhaps if you're single it's time to tell that crush how you really feel.

**VIRGO (AUG 23 - SEPT 22)**  
Valentine's Day may not have been as eventful as you had hoped, but don't lose heart. The end of this month should prove to be exciting, with more uncertainty than you may have hope for.

**LIBRA (SEPT 23 - OCT 22)**  
It's been a big month for you, maybe due to school, family, or romance. Valentine's Day was more exciting than most years and you are feeling confident, but it's time now to take a step back and focus on yourself. This is a good moment to really think deeply about your goals.

**SCORPIO (OCT 23 - NOV 21)**  
It's time to go out on a limb Scorpio. Have you been pondering a big decision? The odds are good that taking the plunge will lead to beneficial outcomes. This could be a pivotal moment for you, in ways that might surprise you.

**SAGITTARIUS (NOV 22-DEC 21)**  
Your social life and relationships are lively right now, but don't overwhelm yourself. Just enjoy it and remember not to be too hard on your friends. You may have taken on too much this semester, but hang in there and enjoy special moments as they come.

**CAPRICORN (DEC 22 - JAN 19)**  
You're in the midst of a period of personal development and change, so don't be too hard on yourself. Take things one step at a time. You will soon find yourself with fewer commitments, leaving you more time to recharge by yourself.

**AQUARIUS (JAN 20 - FEB 18)**  
Since August, you've been obsessing over some situation - maybe you've been considering ending a relationship - and you finally got some answers on Feb. 15 with the solar eclipse. The decision you made then will be the right one.

