

shoutout to these reviews and analysis:

a)

<https://www.tumblr.com/absolutedream-art/820425452663488512/what-are-you-thoughts-on-tadc-episode-9>

b)

<https://skellyjingles.tumblr.com/post/819927075612983297/skelly-have-you-seen-the-movie-im-curious-about>

c) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OIFpgLwTKTc&list=WL&index=193&pp=iAQBsaAgC> (this one is about media literacy but related to the topic nonetheless)

My thoughts about the ending, the reaction of the fandom and the importance of promises and pay-offs.

Disclaimer: this has spoilers, is only my opinion being expressed through the best arguments and evidence I can muster, I love TADC and the people who made it possible, please don't harass or doxx anyone, yada yada yada. Alright, I think that was all, now lets get with the review/essay/analysis of TADC finale.

First lets start with a short story that seeks to represent the events previous to the YT release of the movie.

You walk into a restaurant that advertises to have the best cakes, you ask for a cake.

Everybody around you talk about how is not actually going to be a cake but a pizza, someone says that such things happens on other restaurants, people start to fight about whether the cake will be a burger or a taco. the fight somehow becomes about soccer clubs, or maybe the soccer clubs brought their fights here, it's unclear.

The cashier girl and delivery boy are harassed for more information about the truth, and then for having the "wrong" opinions or for something they did or say years ago and for what they have apologized already.

some guy comes running out of the kitchen, he holds a plate above his head "I got the leaks!" some people are horrified, some are happy for they seek the downfall of the restaurant and others outright refuse to believe it. They say that it is fake or a ruse made by the restaurant and that the real cake will be different.

Yet most gather around and take a taste... augh

"Maybe we should wait until the finished product? besides, I don't think that eating raw flour mixed with eggs is a Good idea" I say but everybody is too busy fighting.

some say its peak, others that it's the worst. a few still cope even in these moments and swear that the true cake won't have flour and eggs, that this is just a trick. lots of people proclaim that they had actually tasted a slice of the cake and when you ask them to share they go silent

"I Heard the chef said that if people didn't behave he was going to take a shit on the cake!" there is outrage for a few, the others are pretty sure that the chef meant that as a joke

eventually, the chef comes out with the finished cake

I sit down, wait until I get a portion and then eat it.

and its... Good! it's not perfect, but its far, FAR from bad. I finished my plate and get a second serving to truly appreciate the mix of flavors

while I eat my portion I can't help but listen to what others have to say. Some say it's horrible and an insult, some say it's perfect and a masterpiece, some complain because the cake was a cake and not a medium rare steak.

I finish my cake and approach the chef, "congratulations! you finally managed to bake a whole cake! and you make it reach so many people no less"

"...this is my first serious attempt at baking a cake, it was just something to do with my Friends for them, my family and a few others... I don't know any of these people, and they don't know me"

"...did you had joy in the process?"

"I did" they answer

"that's what matters, that's what you take with you. and I'm sure that all the people that you have inspired to start cooking Will feel the same"

Alright! New lets go with the review.

The movie is fine, I would say it's a 8/10. Not perfect but not horrible either, certainly WAY better than what most twitter users said about it and nowhere near the trash that were the finales of series like CSM, the boys, stranger things, JJK, JJK modulo, etc.

The animation is stellar (as always) with some spectacular musical numbers, but lets focus on the story because I feel like THAT is what matters.

The episode feels less like one cohesive story and more like 2 episodes + epilogue stitched together.

The first part is the Post Caine circus: where the characters have to deal with the new state of the circus, realize that despite everything not all hope is lost and start to rely on each other.

The second part starts with pomni hugging abstracted jax and entering into his mind

And the third and final part is from the moment where caine appears on screen until the end.

While each part is good in a vacuum, there is a severe lack of connective tissue that puts them together as one, single, unified story. In fact, it is possible to watch them in different order (for example, caines part first then the rest) or to straight up skip some parts and not a lot would change.

Let's go part by part and address some common complains plus my own at the end.

Part 1:

a) "pomni wouldn't had done that"

some people think that when jax approached pomni but then left her, it was OOC for her to not go after him or push.

I understand WHERE that is coming from, but allow me to disagree here. Pomni was trying to give jax space, to not push too hard, to have an approach of "always open without pushing for whenever you are ready"

She has been like this since episode 6. Best moment to showcase this is on episode 7 when she offers her hand to jax. She doesn't PUSH him to open up, but she doesn't closer herself to him either.

And considering what we saw with ribbit? Pomni may have had a point there.

Sadly, it didn't worked. But that too happens too often in reality, where we fail to find that perfect balance between pushing too hard and giving enough space.

Whatever, the case is that I think is in character for pomni.

B) "we didn't saw jax abstracting"

We did, on episode 7. Showing jax abstracting would had just taken more screen time to show us something we already know

And it's not like we NEED to see jax abstracting?

Now on MY thoughts:

-I like the convo between kinger and pomni, but I feel like it is... idk, redundant? Its not unnecessary but it didn't added anything that was crucial for us to see. Just a "its my fault, I just wanted to make things better" "it aint your fault, you were just trying to make things better" but that may just be a me thing

-having an abstracted jax on the loose seems like... not a problem for some reason? On episode 1 they had caine to fix shit and kaufmo was some avengers level threat that everyone was scared of. In here they have a being capabable of making them suffer maddening pain, no caine to fix it, and yet they all have the time to sit down and feel bad. no chase scene, no fear, no nothing. We also don't even get a kinger reaction to jaxs abstracting.

-I knew that soma theory could be real, no surprises here. My main problem was "if soma theory real then they never meet and also gangle probably offed himself" but that is addressed in part 3.

-what was pomni plan? Make it dark to calm jax and then... hug him? Was she trying to bring him back? Why did she went alone with no backup?

Two minor things.

-while I like the convo between rags and pom (ragapom shippers stay winning) I feel the shot where they separate and walk away from each other lingers on for too long.

-“we are not going to let you walk away to abstract somewhere” they had... huuu, they had some bigger fishes to fry at the moments. Too many irons on the pan, cant help but to lose sight of a few of them.

-the passage of time with the stars make it seems like months or even years passed when it was more likely days.

Part 2:

Ooooooh boy here we go

-I will address the whole “this is all about jax” and “the other characters have no screentime” on the “other” section since it pertains to the show as a whole rather than to this part in particular

-so, I assume pomni conjured the revolver?

-the inside of jax's mind is a mix between his intrusive thoughts, what-ifs scenenarios where the others abstracts, his coping mechanism and what he thinks on a superficial level about the others.

First door: ragatha abstracted, coping mechanism is his psychopathic and violent side that takes pleasure in using violence against other. He sees pomni not only in a very realistic way compared to his opinion on everyone else but also as someone who wants to fix him “only I can help you” (that line made me realize that it WASN'T the real pomni talking)

Second door: zooble abstracted, coping mechanism is his ironic and sarcastic side so afraid to show ANY iota of sincerity for the fear of being mocked and humiliated that he does everything “ironically” while pointing out how stupid it is. The way he sees gangle is based on episode 4, where he thinks of her as someone demanding with a toxic positivity not very different from ragathas with the exception that ragatha doesn't want anyone to feel sad while manager gangle doesn't want anyone to slack on the job cuz of depression. Notice how gangle says “I hate you”, that's what jax THINKS that gangles thinks of him (or what HE wants HER to say), he wants gangle to be open about her emotions because he thinks that she hates him when reality says otherwise. Like how SHE was the one that called to him at the start of episode 7. No comments about how flirty he was other than damn ribbon shippers are eating good (also, no, that wasn't harassment because it happened inside his MIND. He didn't actually do that FR)

Third door: what if gangle abstracted. Coping mechanism is his more looney side that thinks of himself as not a real person but a cartoon character, jax sees zooble as grumpy and in love with gangle.

Fifth door: the locked one, by process of elimination is what would happen if POMNI abstracted. Jax is so afraid of that possibility that he REFUSES to even think about it or address it. He would

have no coping mechanism to see how once again he lead to the death of a friend because of his cowardice.

Fourth door: what if jax himself abstracted.

Here we see the coping mechanisms from earlier (minus psychopath, who has been replaced by a more... normalish jax) with a particular one chained to the piano. He seems kinda similar to evil jax (explaining why jax hates evil jax, same reason as why he hates gangle, he seems himself on him/her and he hates himself) and is a more sincere, open, honest and pushable side of jax. Probably whom he was before running from home

Pomni has a short talk with them (also holy shit maid jax is a perfect representation of his internalized toxic masculinity and misogyny caused by his absent father and his abusive mother) and then enters the final door (no idea about the second chained door that is never opened, feel free to tell me your theories or HC in the comments)

-holy SHIT those flashbacks were peak. Ever since the short about jax giving kinger a potato mash beard I was like "OMG before the abstraction of ribbit he was so precious and actually funny in an endearing way rather than asshole way" but man, seeing it first hand? Stellar.

-I like ALL of it. By far the best part of the finale. From how kaufmo was the third wheel and just "the straight guy" whom was also a goat and a solid friend to how ribbit was an amazing friend while not being perfect.

-I like how they made ribbit, she isn't some "manic pixie dream girl", she isn't a perfect person who dies of some random BS so jax life can get worse. She is his own person with her own reasons who made one single, simple, yet terrible mistake.

"Im telling you this bcs I trust you do you trust me?"

Look at my eyes, and tell me that it wasn't then and there where everything went downhill.

This is where leeroy dies, and jax is born.

Ribbit pushed too hard, jax had already been open about his past before ("I told you I was homeless") but she wanted more, she pried him open before he was ready by treating sharing their past like a show of trust rather than as something done in confidence when you are ready.

And that ended everyting.

Jax was too open, too early, too honest, too fast. And he was SCARED. What if his secret was shared? What if it changes what she thinks of him? What if someone else finds out? The mere idea was enough to make him push her away.

The rest is story. She tries to close the gap but jax refuses out of fear that such moment will repeat itself and once again he will share too much, he tries to close the gap but is too coward to do so and then...

Its too late. Ribbit abstracts, the transformation is complete. From that moment onward, only jax remains.

Until the new girl turns out to be a perfect fusion of both of his death friends, leading him to lose his shit once again.

-then we have convo between jax and pomni, heartfelt goodbye, didn't cry bcs already saw the leaks but is still a really good scene (also that cover of "Isn't she lovely" is peak)

Some minor and not so minor nitpicks

-Why no kingers door? Either jax is incapable of imagining kinger abstracting, or he just gives 0 fucks about him so he wouldn't really care that much if he abstracted.

-What about the flashbangs? Pomni didn't conjure those, so where were they just standing there for the past few weeks since the adventure on episode 6? And why is THAT what makes jax finally abstract or whatever that was?

-why didn't kinger enter into queenies mind when he touched her when SHE abstracted? Did pomni push herself into jax with that hug? Was it because jax was recently abstracted?

-wait, can they repeat that? Can pomni just... visit jax whenever she wants? Was that some "once and done" type deal? Are the abstracted characters trapped in their minds with the different parts of themselves?

-WHERE THE FUCK WERE THE OTHERS?! I ain't gonna talk too much about that point since it's a "whole show" type deal

Part 3:

-caine coming back... ok, good for his fans but IMO this part feels entirely disconnected from the rest of the episode. It takes weight away from his death and it feels too rushed.

-caine changes his mind EXTREMELY quick, he goes from "they killed me I hate them" to "nvm it's my fault" like bro I know he is an AI but not even chatgpt be having such abrupt switches in mood. No one talks to him into changing his mind, no new information is presented to him... his arc of changing into a better person is said and done in 5 minutes, maybe less. This is my main problem with the finale and caine's part. It's not the beginning of character development, it's ALL the character development in one single moment.

-I LOVE the scene of the macroverse. The second best part of the movie and it might be the most necessary step to make caine change his mind. All his life he has been hearing about the macroverse, trying to make a pale imitation of it based on what little he knew to please his guests, he craved it, so he pulled down into his hell angels from our world so he could get a droplet of the real thing. But they weren't satisfied, and he COULDN'T satisfy them so he crashed against wall over and over until...

He got it. By seeing the macroverse he understood WHY they wanted to go back so bad, what he had stolen from them, why no matter how hard he tried he would have never managed to make them feel happy because nothing would ever be as good as the real deal. He also saw that they were real people, with friends and families and a life on their own. They weren't his puppets, they had never been.

-so... about abel... WTF WAS THAT!? Was caine being corrupted by abel and that was the reason why he hated them (if that was the case it would ruin his arc, imagine if jax had been mind controlled into being an asshole)? What happened to bubble? WHO was bubble?

-caine is treated WAAAAAY too kindly.

Bro had tortured them for days, used their greatest fears against them, manipulated their minds, caused the abstraction of DOZENS and refused to listen or change for DECADES.

And they are all just... fine with him. Gangle would have a panic attack at mere sight, pomni would have another crashout and zooble wouldn't allow him to approach them with a 10 foot pole.

Im talking more about this later.

-we did NOT needed to see a 10 minute long powerpoint presentation with off-screen narration and facebook screenshots about what each person was doing. A mere "yeah I saw the real world and your other selves are doing just fine and are happy" was enough brosky.

-it feels like goose realized that if soma theory is real then people are gonna think that the real jax is dead and that gangle ropemaxxed so she added that scene to not make the show so dark.

-bro their names SUCK. Leeroy!? Who the fuck calls their kid "leeroy"!? no shit bro was an abusive bully with daddy and mommy issues. Nah bro im calling them felix, Christine, Emily, nicky and Catherine and you cant change my mind about this.

-caine giving them control, becoming one more of the group, an open world circus and abstractions getting something better than the cellar... I saw it coming and its still good.

Conclusion: good, not perfect, some mistakes here and there.

Others

A) jax is/isn't trans

Based on the show? Heavily implied

Based on the headcannons on the VAs and goose? Canon

Now, independently of in which side you are:

DON'T.HARRAS.PEOPLE

If someone disagrees with you about wether jax is or isn't trans, if you someone using he/him or she/her for jax and you think otherwise.

DON'T.HARRAS.THEM

No doxing, no hatemail, no call out posts, no calling them bigots or slurs or ANYTHING like that.

REAL PEOPLE WITH REAL FEELINGS >>>>> FICTIONAL CHARACTERS WITH FICTIONAL FEELINGS

B) unaddressed questions

Besides the ones mentioned above... what about the carnival?! they went to the lake but never to the carnival? also crazy that in all those years they NEVER went to the lake.

c) abstractions

abstractions are a metaphor, not an allegory.

Allegories are like codes, synonyms of other words (hence why Tolkien hated them). Whenever you see an allegory you can change it for the real meaning

Metaphors are different in that they can have different meanings or interpretations.

Abstraction is not an allegory for suicide.

Abstraction is a METAPHORE for suicide, yes. It is also a metaphore for dying, mental breakdowns, going insane, falling for drug addiction, losing hope, etc.

c) jax thrived in real life but died on the circus

jax with no friends and homeless? Works as UPS

jax on circus with friends? Abstracted

other than because of meta reasons (show would be too bleak if IRL jax died too) I think its because he didn't opened up until he was ready.

ill like to point out to people to the scene with ribbit. Everything started because Jax opened up before he was ready and he, ribbit, kaufmo, and everyone else after them paid for the consequences of that.

d) SOMA and IHNMAIMS

TADC is INSPIRED by, its not a reboot or a remake or anything like that so we cant just expect it to repeat the same story beats in the same way in the same order with the same message.

e) No kinger and jax talk or caine and pomni talk

for caine and pomni: pomni TRIED to approach caine but the whole deal with caine is that he refuses to listen or change or adapt so even when she gave him feedback about his adventures he made deaf ears to them and kept going on as usual. Besides the fact he always isolated himself from the others so interacting with him normally was pretty much imposible.

And for jax and kinger? it's a "if these two interact the show is over". It would had been nice but if it had happened jax wouldn't had abstracted and then the show would have a different message and the amount of people complaining on twitter would increase by a 22.5%

f) lack of character interactions

I can see the in universe reasons for why there wasn't an interaction between pomni and caine, and the meta reasons for why there was never a talk between jax and kinger.

But for the rest? Yeah, I agree. Zooble only seems to talk to gangle, jax or caine. Pomni never talked to zooble and barely spoke to gangle, etc.

It's a character driven story with a small cast, so PLEASE give us character interactions and moments.

g) ""Why introduce the idea of Caine being behind abstractions just to do nothing with them?""

good question, I have NO idea about this one.

h) "no C&A lore"

bro this aint some poppy playtime, garden of banba, hello neighbor theoryslap. We are not here for the worldbuilding implications of the brain scanning tech. this is a character driven show where the narrative takes second place to the interactions between the characters and their development. We don't need to know how and why the brain scans work for the narrative to function.

j) "why did they expected us to feel pity, forgive, forget or cry for jax?"

Look, jax is not irredeemable evil like judge holden or jimmy from moutwashing. He is like a diet homelander. Guy with a fucked up past that lead to him being an asshole. You can resent him while still acknowledging that what he does is bad.

The difference is that homelander is the villain while jax is the antagonist.

His past and trauma are REASONS not JUSTIFICATIONS, the show doesn't expect you to forgive him, forget what he did or to minimize his abuse. They do expect you, however, to be able to feel empathy and pity for a guy who fucked things up beyond belief time and time again, who fought and lose against his internal demons.

Like, yeah no shit the mentally ill character with a fucked up past turned out to have poor coping mechanisms and affect others. There is a reason why most abusers where abused when they were kids.

Alright, now the STRONG STUFF.

the lack of characters screen time, Jax hogging the show, etc.

Alright! In this section we gonna talk about characters as narrative tools, narrative structures, protagonists, deuteragonists, so on and so forth.

Ill start by explaining my views of the show:

Protagonists: pomni

Deuteragonists: jax and ragatha

Everybody else falls as secondary characters, tertiary characters or background characters

Ep1: pomni + introduction
Ep2: pomni
Ep3: zooble and kinger
Ep4: gangle
Ep5: ragatha (& jax)
Ep6: jax (& ragatha)
Ep7: caine (abel was basically his mouthpiece)
Ep8: plot and lore & caine
Ep9: jax & pomni

Thing is, I could say that each episode has moments for ALL the characters and with the exception of episode 4 for kinger? I wouldn't be that far off! The show is REALLY good when it comes to handling each character screentime.

Don't believe me? Here, take a look at this:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLMEDphyjkB7ZDPPFFYphZctxBFwH8IYT7>

this is a playlist that contains a series of videos with the screentime for each character, from least to most (not including characters like bubble, gumigoo or abel)

Now, I know this isn't perfect. There is certain relation between the two but the amount of screentime a character gets its not equal to their importance, development or depth. And the videos are only from 1-8 since they were made before the relase of episode 9.

But I think they are good enough to prove my point.

Some people say that the screentime distribution is unequal, that jax hogs too much, etc.

Its not that it isn't the case (the difference between zoobles screentime and jax is like, half an hour) but that I don't think that screentime alone is that important.

Zooble is a good character, with a clear narrative arc that is developed over the episodes on each of their scenes. It would be nice to have more screentime given to them but I don't think as they are they are in a bad position or treated unfairly. 5 more minutes of screentime to have them interacting with pomni or ragatha would be cool and I would enjoy it but its not a crucial and necessary part for the development of the narrative.

There is also the point about the difference between protagonist, deutagonists, etc. and not every character is going the get the same screentime and the same importance.

But the thing is... I get it.

I get WHY people are mad, WHY they complain, is all about promises, set up and pay off.

Brandon Sanderson talked about this already, watch this short video highly recommended:

<https://youtu.be/aTnFjpmB4mY?t=365>

(sorry for not linking the video on its own, I couldn't find it on YT alone)

Its all about promises, progress and pay-offs.

The start of the show and the first episodes promised us a show where each character would have the same importance, each one with their own episode. And Goose tweet did nothing but add fuel to the fire when later on it didn't seemed to be the case.

Because what we were given IS good, its just not what the promises lead us to believe.

There is also the whole "the show went trough path A and I expected it to go trough path B" but IMO its better to talk about what the showed TRIED and INTEDED to do and wether or not it succeeded about it instead of what COULD had done different. There is only one reality, one world, one timeline, one canon tadc. Whereas there are INFINITE possibilities of what could had been so if we decided to talk about the latter we would be here for the rest of time.

And finally:

Themes and such.

Every story, every piece of fiction, is a message. Between the author and the audience.

Charracters, narrative, prose, structure, music, etc. all of those are mere tools used to deliver the message.

Now, what is the message of TADC?

"sometimes it feels pointless, but it is not, NOT IF YOU HAVE PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT YOU --- in this world, the WORSE thing you can do is make someone think THEY ARE NOT WANTED OR LOVED"

I think it's a cold take to say that THIS is THE message of TADC (even as, if not MORE than "finding a meaning on a stagnant life")

Pomni arrives at the circus and her desire to leave is so great she leaves Ragatha, the only person who showed her kindness, alone and glitching.

On episode 2 her interactions with gumigoo make her see that there are others here, she isn't the only one suffering and she can work together with others to make things better.

On episode 3 kinger makes her see that she is not alone, this is where pomni starts to want to help the others, and at the end she thanks ragatha for caring so much for her.

On episode 4 she finds a way to be there for gangle that is not just listening to her or therapy talk, she offers to close the restaurant for her so she can go home early. Small acts of kindness to show that she cares

Episode 5 is where she finds out that jax is a real person with more than just the façade of "funny guy who plays pranks as a shitty coping mechanism"

In Episode 6 she tries to make a team with ragatha, ends up in a team with jax and has fun. After their fight she has an approach of "I will not push you but I am open for whenever you are ready" because while Jax maybe be an asshole he is still a person and she doesn't want him to feel unwanted or unloved because no one deserves to feel unwanted or unloved.

Some say that pomni would set herself on fire for jax. And she would, because she would set herself on fire FOR ANYONE in the circus. That's what makes her the goat.

Episode 7 lore

Episode 8 caine shows what happens when you make someone feel unwanted and unloved, just that instead of feeling depressed like gangle he has a crashout.

Episode 9

The most important thing we have in our lives is the bonds we have with our fellow men.

People like musk or hasan show us that you can have money, power, influence, looks (in the case of hasan)... none of that leads to happiness or fulfillment.

What truly matters is the interpersonal connections we form with eachother.

That's how you can find meaning on a stagnant life.

Oh, also, it doesn't matter if you are loved if you don't love yourself, because then you will never be satisfied and believe that you don't deserve it, sabotage yourself and ultimately push everyone away because love isn't enough, you must also have the desire to change, improve and be better.

Never make anyone feel like they are unwanted or unloved, that includes yourself. Love yourself, love yourself so you can change, improve and accept the love of others.

Also you cant save those who are not willing to be saved. That's why jax lives and caines dies on ep8 while the contrary happens on episode 9. On episode 7 jax is willing to change while caine isn't, on episode 9 is the other way around.

Wha would I had done for the finale.

alright, lets do some fanfiction here.

First of all: remove the starting section with the fish, the powerpoint presentation and the credits. We need as much time as possible and if to get it we have to reduce credits to a flash well do it!

We need to address the shortcomings of the finale (lack of connective tissue, caines rushed redemption, etc.) while also writing a good episode.

For this im going to base myself on episode 6 since its what I consider to be the peak of TADC, all characters have their part, their moment, their importance, etc.

After kinger tells everyone about mind scans gangle asks why he didn't told them earlier, kinger clarified that it was just a theory he wasn't sure and he didn't wanted them to abstract.

Keep jax crashout and pomni going to kinger.

Except now instead of jax approaching her we have pomni going to her room, she stops before entering and goes to knock on jax door. He opens the door

“hey”

“hey”

Jax opens his mouth, but then closes it

“what do you want?”

“...wanna go to the lake later?”

“... *sigh* sure”

The pomni goes to sleep but clearly still thinks about her interaction with jax.

She has a dream where she takes a look on whats going on on the trash bin (instead of a white void its more of a dark infinite void), she sees bubble berating and insulting caine, who is forced to face off against his inner thoughts, biggest mistakes and fuck ups.

Caine asks why and pomni tells him, a more... civil callout compared to episode 8.

She lets caine reach into her mind, this is where he sees the macroverse and gets why the humans are so fixated on going back.

Then she wakes up, sees a dark tendril coming from jax rooms, opens the door and sees that jax has begun to abstract into some sort of dark tree with eyes.

I will change the plot so the internal conflict becomes external conflict.

The roots quickly spread trough the circus, changing the landscape to resemble the inside of the mind of jax. And from the roots 3 different beings emerge.

These would be the different sides and coping mechanism of jax, each one with a more unique, horrific design.

Psycho jax would wear a butchers outfit and look like a tall, lanky guy wearing the skin of a giant rabbit stretched over his face.

Maid jax would have more... femboy features, more of an anime style. He is not violent like the other two, he is just an absolute asshole.

Toon jax would look like a 1940s cartoon, like felix the cat or Oswald the rabbit. He would be like cartoon cat in the sense that his antics are like a cartoon but the effects said gimmicks have over people are way too real. Like dropping an anvil on top of someone and crushing them to death (like this: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uGwC5e2XM5E>)

The gang reunites, pomni tells kinger her dream and kinger realizes their only chance to save the circus might be to get caine to fix it, they all run towards the carnival since that's when the trash

bin is located and during their trip they start to lose members of the gang who stay behind to distract the different jaxes.

Psycho jax goes after ragatha, who tries to plead, beg for mercy and appeal to their past friendship. "please! We were friends once!" "...once" he chokes her "oh, don't cry dollface, remember what you told me? Don't be sad because its over, be happy because it happened"

Also, small change I would make to the lore: ragatha did a bit of an oopsie when she tried to comfort jax (I understand if some people don't like it, but for me "more drama=better" also im a bunnydoll shipper, its in character for her and I feel like it makes the plot better)

"I guess mommy was right after all, you look better when you keep your mouth sh-"

Then ragatha defends herself, turns out that psychojax is a bit of a pussy and pulls a homelander by being easily beaten. Ragatha tells him that she is NEVER going to let him hurt her, or anyone else. Psychojax laughs and says that he always knew that she hated him, just that she was too scared of him hating her back to be honest. Then ragatha says that she doesn't hate him, never did. But she cant keep allowing herself to be chewed and spitted out just for the chance to be loved by others. Psychojax goes back to being black goo and raghata runs to the carnival.

Gangle has to deal with maidjax who is just mocking her for her taste in anime, this isn't a proper fanfic so I won't waste too much time here. Lets just say that she beats him by going "im cringe but im free, I wont laugh at your taste so be sincere"

And zooble deals with toonjax, at first she is on the backfoot until she realizes "wait a second, this guy is a toon!" and pulls out the classics "what's that behind you!?" and using a fake moustache or painting a fake tunnel in a wall.

Toonjax is mad but also laughs because "I only need to win once" so eventually zooble tires out and he manages to corner them. Zooble calls him out "you are not funny, not intentionally. you don't even make yourself laugh. all you do is hurt others and convince yourself that seeing others in pain is hilarious" "...ah well, I guess dark humour is like limbs, some people have them!" and then toonjax rips zooble limbs off (it doesn't hurt her but still) and is about to eat them when they hear gangle calling out for zooble.

Zooble is horrified and toonjax is silent (even putting plugs on their ears and going back to putting pepper on zooble), gangle keeps saying that she can help them so zooble takes a leap of faith and screams, revealing her location and causing gangle to show up.

At first toonjax is annoyed for the interruption but then is delighted because now he can make zooble suffer by attacking gangle, but then gangle breaks her happy mask on her own and asks toonjax what is he gonna do now? Toonjax brings up the figurine but gangle tells zooble before he can say it. Gangle takes any and all power toonjax has over her, make him smaller and smaller until he is nothing but a cartoon rabbit just yapping that she squishes under her ribbons.

(each character needs to conclude with a different lesson. Each jax has a different method to be defeated.

Ragatha learns to stand up for herself and not let herself be used as a welcome mat just to make others feel better.

Gangle accepts her inner cringe, and by doing so, also defeats those who hold power over her by making her feel cringe.

And Zooble understands that her friends are there for her, she can also ask for help and rely that they will help them.)

Meanwhile, spread out the flashbacks so instead of being all together they are shown at different points.

Anyways, Kinger and Pomni arrive at the carnival. Roots spread out and stop their advance, forcing Pomni and Kinger to face Jax whom is at the border of abstracting.

Ragatha makes it to the carnival and even ends up with Caine.

Caine already went from "why?" to "I fucked up everything up". This is the part where Ragatha talks to Caine and makes him see that remaining locked here won't change anything. If he wants to show how sorry he is, if he wants to atone, he needs to take action. "forgiveness is not guaranteed... that's what makes it so special" so Caine accepts and escapes with her from the recycling bin, Bubble chases after them but they escape. Before they leave Caine truly apologizes to Bubble (who described themselves as "I am you, him, and me" as some sort of mix between Caine and Abel) for what he did so long ago, Bubble scoffs and says that eventually they will delete him and he will be waiting for him in the trash bin.

While that happens, Pomni has her convo with Jax.

Im torn apart between

"you cant save everyone, sometimes its too late, you can save someone who doesn't want to help themselves"

And

"ok but Pomni is HER thou"

So this ends either with Pomni bringing Jax back (he has some leftovers from the abstraction, cuz I like it when there are consequences) or Jax abstracting totally (like in the OG finale)

Isn't she lovely sounds while everything falls apart, Zooble saves Ragatha from rubble, Kinger and Gangle take shelter from falling rubble, Caine gathers all his powers and risks being corrupted, Pomni and Jax hug each other while Pomni is being absorbed by the abstraction.

Then Caine claps his hands and the circus is reseted.

They all appear over the couches, they look at each other and then Caine appears. They cower in fear, no one says anything. He raises his staff and they all shut their eyes preparing for whats coming.

Then Caine smashes his staff over his knee, breaking it. He falls to the ground, and slowly gets up "ill never hold any power over any of you. Ever again... the circus is yours now"

Then montage of them rebuilding circus, making new shit, eating at the round table (my favorite detail btw) where pomni wonders what they real selfs are doing, and caine goes

“ive seen you at your best and worst, if there is anything I can be certain of, is that whoever, whenever they are... they are doing just fine” and then post credits scene is the bus scene, add a small moment of gangle throwing her mcdonalds uniform on the trash and letting out a sight of relief while ragatha answers a call and cuts off “tells her she can talk to me herself when she apologizes” in a calm, relaxed voice.

Absolute kino or absolute trash?

And to end things, Some short comment about glitch

I’m not a glitch glazer, several times in the past I have stood against and criticized glitch for what I perceived to be mistakes, sometimes even going too far or being too harsh. That is because I LOVE glitch and the last thing I want to see is for it to end up like rooster teeth. All of my criticism come from a place of love and fear of being betrayed because money is power and power corrupts and reveals in the same measure.

I don’t like how similar the Animiz feel like gambling, I don’t like the VA of sunset paradise situation and I think that the Teather release was poorly handled. They should had wait until they could have screenings in most countries before announcing the cinematic release, because otherwise many people would had been left without the choice to watch the movie 2 weeks early and would have been forced between being spoiled or avoiding social media for 2 weeks, something which is annoying to do for some who have online friends and outright impossible for those whose jobs depend on being in close proximity to online spaces. And ofc the leaks, which while not 100% their fault couldn’t had happened hadn’t they decided to do a cinematic release.

Also, the whole “great step for indie” when they weren’t the first or the second because markiplier with iron lung and the objects show already a cinematic release, but that’s besides the point.

Some people thou, criticize glitch from a place of hate and envy. I dislike them more than you do because they make any and all criticism of glitch seem the same as hating glitch for the love of the game.

They constantly argue that glitch is not indie, TBH? IDC.

I don’t hate EA because they are not “indie” I hate EA because they are greedy assholes. My problems with glitch are not, and will never be, that they are a company trying to make a living who want to eat, pay their artists and don’t have to live paycheck to paycheck.

That’s why you are never going to see me complain about things like the price of the merchandise or that they add merch to the end credits. Because no one is forcing you to buy it and it doesn’t affect the quality of the show you are watching.

And don't let me start with accusations towards the animators, VAs, etc. for shit that happened years ago. There is making a mountain out of an ant hill and then there is turning 2 grains of sand into mount Everest. There is no desire for glitch to improve, just the desire to have an excuse to see them fail.

Like green goblin said on the best spiderman movie (im not willing to argue about this: MCU spiderman might have better action scenes but the sam reimi trilogy remains undefeated despite its mistakes like how much of an asshole MJ is and how rushed the 3rd movie was)

"but the one thing they love more than a hero, is to see them fall, fail, die trying"

"In spite of everything you've done for them, eventually they will hate you."

"everyone loves the underdog... until they start winning"

Now with TADC and in a lesse degree, gameoverse.

"ladran Sancho, señal que cabalgamos" or in english "they bark sancho, that's a signal that we ride" it's a quote said by don Quijote en "el quijote" de Miguel de Cervantes. This simple quote reflects a reality that is as common nowadays as it was centuries ago: people who have success will attract haters.

TADC is THE most famous glitch show so it was bound to attract all sorts of people, it's not that the fandom is evil but rather that its big, if a 0,1% of the fandom are bad, that means that out of millions of people there will be thousands who will harras, doxx and attack others.

And I'm talking everything here: digging out old tweets or streams made years ago, taking shit out of context, making shit up, harassment, doxing, analyzing every single detail or action waiting for an excuse to do some "ethical" witch hunting.

It's just the nature of Queer shows like steven universe or TADC, they are inclusive and have a diverse cast so they attract plenty of leftists, some of those leftists are chronically online and are engaged in a constant competition of purity where there is no forgiveness nor forgetfulness, no mistake too small, no punishment too harsh.

Shows like Space king don't have these problems not only because they have smaller fanbases, but because the audience that they attract have a different mindset. They are more willing to criticize the creators for being "woke" than for saying a slur, most of the time however, they are willing to let shit slide purely to benefit their own agenda and because

And OFC: children. Shows like these aimed at teenagers or YA (and it's a fact, this is not a kids show like bluey but also not an adult show like bojack horseman and glitch made it clear that their objective is to make shows aimed at late teenagers who are an audience that they feel are often ignored since all animation is either for kids or for adults with almost no in between, do not quote the scriptures to me for I was there when they were written) so they tend to attract LOTS of children and kids. Kids who lack the wisdom and experience that comes with age, this leads them to making several mistakes.

They have little to no experiences with mature, adult stories (or stories in general) so they lack media literacy, don't understand narrative structures, don't get patrons or tropes and fail to understand what each character is supposed to represent in the grand scheme of things.

They also have no experience in online fandoms so they don't get concepts like "don't engage with the trolls" or "if you don't like something block and move because you curate your own experience" so they fall for ragebait and tend to police others actions.

TLDR: if your show has queer people, is aimed at kids/teenagers and has the message of "be kind to each other" it's going to attract lots of people, among those there will be young inexperienced kids who will fail for ragebait and miss the point of the show, haters who want an excuse to tear you apart and purists who think that shipping two characters with an age gap of more than 5 minutes is a crime punishable by death.

They may be a minority but the 0,5% of millions is still like, a thousand or smt idk I don't do math.

Updated logs

-ribbit feels a bit too much like a "manic pixie dream girl", the "im telling you this because I trust you, do you trust me?" line is one of the few moments where we see her as a person with flaws and imperfections. Leaving that aside, she had ragatha and kaufmo so I don't think it makes too much sense to fo her abstract because ONE out of THREE friends decided to cut contact, it comes off as if Jax was her only connection in the circus when we know that she is friends both with kaufmo and ragatha. Not gonna talk about how I would personally fix it because that's another can of worms, just pointing that out.

-I don't like that Jax abstracted, IDK if its bcs im a multishipper or what but it feels like the series wasnt going or preparing for the idea of "some people just cant be saved" (specially since it seems like that was the point of Caine in ep8), specially since it means that Pomni "lost", meaning that the guy who refuses to be saved ends up achieving his "goal" and defeating the person who refuses to not try to save them

like heck, even Bojack Horseman had a "happier" ending.

And yeah yeah, IK that some people cant be saved and you cannot help those that arent willing to help themselves, but this is fiction, fantasy, we should be allowed to hope in here

-TBH im not a big fan of how they executed the trans Jax part, I feel like its a bit like with Celeste (great game, recommended btw) adding a small trans flag at the end, where making the whole point about the trans identity makes the whole message very specific, less broad and universal while also not being a deep enough exploration of its main themes.

I feel like accepting ones true gender is such a complicated, deep topic that it should be the central focus on the story from the get-go, rather than the conclusion for a story that wasnt clearly, 100% about it.

The fact that some people genuinely didnt see it coming shows that making the pivot wasnt that great of an idea, specially since all the foreshadowing could had been attributed to something else

that would also fit (jax not liking the maid thingie could had been about losing control, or jax's room could be about him/her dealing with their toxic masculinity, etc.)

LINK:

https://www.reddit.com/r/TADCEp9Spoilers/comments/1ukak5x/jaxs_backstory_didnt_feel_that_connected_to_the/

This guy explained it better than what I could.

-If jax abstracts its tragedy then sad ending, if not then happy ending, but the jax has this ending with an up beat tone. the IDEA is bittersweet, but the tone is way too cheery, its... kinda jarring. like, yeah things are better now but DOZENS OF PEOPLE ABSTRACTED and we have no way of knowing if they Will ever come back.

LINK: <https://www.reddit.com/r/TheDigitalCircus/comments/1ul837c/comment/ov2278n/>

This guy made me realize about this particular point

-why caine redemption and jax abstraction feels weird and rushed:

Up to this point it was THE OTHER way around. jax changed, caine didnt. caine doubled down in being the ringmaster, the adventures, the crave for ANY form of validation while jax became more mellow, helped during episode 7 and 8, etc.

the show was going in the OTHER direction. "not everyone can be saved" CAN work as a message except that TADC was aiming the shots at another part, specially considering how jax TRIED to approach pomni... i mean, sure, he walked away with a "Nevermind" and then abstracted but

A) HE TRIED... just didnt had the balls to make it trough

B) some say that pomni was OOC during that moment, IMO I can see both sides of the argument (the one that says that she was OOC and the one that says that makes perfect sense based on her idea of giving jax space, a "ill be open for you whenever you are ready" policy)

wich is why him fully abstracting and caine coming back feels so... rushed, the show was basically going full steam in the opposite direction.