



The boys and girls of *Fairy Tail* are back for more adventures, which is alright by me. After finishing off their adventures on Galuna Island, the guild find themselves under attack by rivals Phantom Lord - who have a particular interest in Lucy...

So. When we left the gang, they were on Galuna Island, dealing with Gray's former friend Lyon and his attempt to revive big bad demon Deliora. Having taken the job without permission, there was always the chance that payback was eventually going to reach them - payback that soon arrives in the form of Erza, who's really not happy with them, but who's willing to at least let them finish what they've started before taking them back to Makarov to *suffer*.

That suffering gets put on the backburner for a while when, after returning to the guild house, they find that it's been somewhat trashed by rival guild Phantom Lord, who have a long history of enmity with the 'fairies' of Fairy Tail. Now, they've been hired by Lucy's father - head, it turns out, of a very rich family - to bring his runaway daughter back to fulfill her family responsibilities. There are two problems with this: Fairy Tail have no problem picking a fight with Phantom Lord if they want one; and with Lucy being a member of the guild, if she doesn't want to leave, the other members aren't inclined to just hand her over. With Phantom Lord being heavily into the darker side of the magical arts, though, it's not exactly a fair fight.

Up-front admission: I'm surprised by just how much I enjoy *Fairy Tail*. It's a shounen fighting show at heart, and as a general rule I do not get on with them - but there are several aspects of *Fairy Tail*

, all present on this disc, that keep me coming back. First up are some great characters - Lucy's top of my list at the moment, but Natsu, Erza, and hell even Happy in his annoying mascot way all

*work*

as characters and are interesting to watch. That list looks likely to grow, too - the Phantom Lord arc in particular does a little bit of backstory digging into the pasts of Mirajane and Elfman that does a good job of fleshing them out and making more of them than just being AN Other Guildmembers. We might run into a problem of eventually having too many characters to play with, but so far, so good.

Second, the series never forgets its sense of humour. When *Naruto* or *Bleach* get deep into fighting arcs, they get deadly serious - a real shame, as both shows can be quite funny when they set their minds to it.

*Fairy Tail*

keeps the humour going, with the characters continuing to poke fun at their enemies and each other, making mistakes and facefaults, and you're never too far from a smile or a snicker, even when the battle stakes are high, and the cumulative value of those little bits of enjoyment when it comes to judging the worth of a series can't be underestimated.

Finally, there's the soundtrack, which I find to be absolutely wonderful. Some of the tunes

are instantly recognisable (*Land of Hope and Glory* gets an outing this volume), others are original to the show, but they're all catchy, scene-appropriate pieces that quite often had me tapping along. Again, the music makes me smile, and that can only be a good thing.

Those are general comments, but even in terms of story this volume fares well. The Galuna Island story has some neat twists and turns in it, while all the background stories in the Phantom Lord arc combine with some nicely-crazy villains and a battle that gets rapidly out-of-hand to create the sort of confrontation that you'd normally expect as a series closer. Away from the two main arcs, there are two 'filler' episodes in between - a magic-gone-awry tale of bodyswapping, and the story of how Happy joined the gang - that are also decently entertaining.

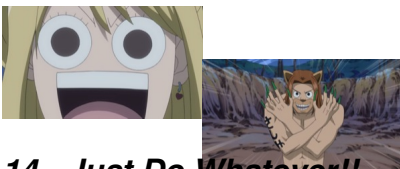
Wrap it up into a 12-episode package, and there's a lot here to like, and a lot of fun to be had from watching it - and it feels decidedly strange for me to be saying that about this sort of series. Entertaining from start to finish, it's been a genuine surprise for me, and is now one of the rare shows where I'm actively looking forward to the next volume. Go get.



Episode summaries are taken from [Wikipedia](#), and are available under the [Creative Commons Attribution-ShareAlike License](#).

### **13 - Natsu vs Yuka the Wave User**

Gray is badly injured during his fight with Lyon and is brought back to the village by Natsu. Lyon's henchmen destroy the village with a flume of acidic jelly, but Natsu protects everyone from Lyon's henchmen Yuka and Toby. Meanwhile, Lucy fights with Lyon's henchman Sherry, who has the power to control Lucy's celestial spirits...



### **14 - Just Do Whatever!!**

After Lucy defeats Sherry, Erza arrives on Galuna Island to apprehend the heroes and return them to the guild for punishment for taking the S-Class job without permission, showing no interest in the situation the islanders are in. Once Gray states his intention to defeat Lyon no matter what, however, Erza relents and sets them free to look for Natsu, who tries to defeat Lyon and prevent Deliora's resurrection by himself. Along the way, Gray reveals that Ur is still alive...

# Fairy Tail #2

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