



THE PHANTOM THIEF

With awesome animation, cool character designs and a rockin' storyline, **D.N.ANGEL volume 1 (The Dawn of Dark)** is definitely the best year-end anime release of **2004!** *by Dennis A. Amith*

D.N.ANGEL VOLUME 1

Suggested for 13+, 4 episodes, 100 minutes, 2003

"COOL!" That was the first impression when looking at the character designs on the DVD cover of the first volume of "D.N.Angel".

I decided to check out "D.N.Angel" and usually when there are cool character designs, I have high expectations for the anime series and anime fans, I'm proud to say that "D.N.Angel" does not disappoint. It's definitely a series worth checking out!

The storyline is about a teenager named Daisuke Niwa. He has been receiving stealth training by his mother and his grand-

father his whole life and really is not sure why he is doing it.

Daisuke has a big crush for a girl named Risa and to kick off his 14th birthday, he's prepared to let her know that he likes her. Unfortunately, that was until she tells him that she thinks of him only as a good friend.

Daisuke is not exactly having a great birthday but unbeknownst to him, there is a surprise waiting for the new 14-year-old.

All that training he learned was because he is the next person in the family line (in 40 years) to be the host of the legendary phantom thief known as Dark.

It's all within his DNA and whenever he feels a desire for Risa (even through a photo), Daisuke

will transform into Dark. And his family immediately has him on missions to steal an artifact.

Of course, Daisuke wants only to be a normal teen and the last thing he wants is to become the phantom thief, Dark.

One reason is because when he turns into Dark, Dark becomes somewhat of a playboy who has his eyes set on Risa and poor Daisuke has no recollection of it even happening. And to make things worse, Risa has fallen in love with Dark.

This sets up the storyline for "D.N.Angel" with a complicated love triangle, interesting characters and reminiscent to of one of my favorite mid-90's TV anime series, "DNA^2".

The next two episodes feature Daisuke/Dark on missions to steal more artifacts but also the love triangle between Daisuke, Dark and Risa.

But things get a bit more complicated in the first episode when Dark ends up kissing Risa's older twin sister, Riku. But when Riku opens her eyes to see who kissed her, Dark has already transformed back to Daisuke.

The fourth episode introduces us to Dark's doppelganger, Krad (who looks like a blonde version of Dark, with white clothing and white wings) and despite the color of their wings, Dark calls Krad a devil with the face of an angel. And we get to see the two go face off against each other!

The first volume of D.N.Angel is very exciting because the quality of anima-

what are we watching on dvd

tion is superb and to think that this is a TV series, the animation looks awesome and you will be impressed when you watch it on your television. Very well done!

The voice acting in Japanese and also the English dub are also very well done.

And to top things off are the special features available on this first volume.

Included on the special features are the clean opening and closing themes, voice actor commentary by two of the English dub voice actors who play Dark and Daisuke, the Japanese promo, Japanese TV spots and also the creation of the opening theme which was cool to watch.

As we approach the end of



2004, I was very pleased with the quality of D.N. Angel.

The animation, the well-written storyline and the good voice acting thus far surpassed my expectations that I had for this series.

I can't say how much I really dig the character designs and as mentioned, the animation, music, and storyline. It all meshes very well together and the result makes me craving for more. It's that good!

"D.N. Angel" is one of the few anime TV series released on DVD in 2004 that has hooked me and caught my attention from the get go. I highly recommend checking this anime series out! It's all good! **A**



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