



Anime is a realm where characters and stories come alive in vibrant and often unexpected ways. One fascinating aspect is the transformation of heroes into villains, a storyline that has both captivated and shocked fans. This descent into darkness isn't just a simple plot twist; it reflects complex emotions, moral dilemmas, and sometimes, a blurry line between good and evil. In this article, we'll explore "10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain". Their stories are not only thrilling but also provoke thought about human nature and the fragile balance between right and wrong.

10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain

1. Griffith (Berserk)
2. Light Yagami (Death Note)
3. Tetsuo Shima (Akira)
4. Ken Kaneki (Tokyo Ghoul)
5. Stain (My Hero Academia)
6. Yukiteru Amano (Future Diary)
7. Gaku Yashiro (Erased)
8. Kyubey (Puella Magi Madoka Magica)
9. Sasuke Uchiha (Naruto)
10. Annie Leonhart (Attack On Titan)

Griffith (Berserk)



Griffith (Berserk)

First on our list is “Griffith”, the leader of the Band of the Hawk in “Berserk”. Who is renowned for one of anime’s most shocking betrayals. His bright smile concealed a relentless ambition, leading him to sacrifice his friends to the God Hand for godly power. This treacherous act, driven by a desire for strength and a bruised pride after being defeated by Guts, led to the branding and torture of Guts and Casca, the latter becoming a shell of her former self. Griffith’s transformation into Femto and his remorseless return to Earth, unleashing chaos and ruling a new kingdom, solidifies his status as a character whose hero-to-villain journey is both horrifying and unforgettable.

Light Yagami (Death Note)



*10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain - **Light Yagami (Death Note)***

Yagami's transformation from a just crusader to a ruthless villain in "Death Note" is a haunting descent into power's corrupting influence. Initially utilizing the Death Note to eliminate criminals, Light's intentions were rooted in justice. However, the introduction of the enigmatic L sparked a fear in Light, leading him to methodically eliminate anyone he perceived as a threat. Manipulating allies and killing opponents, Light's moral compass began to waver. A brief loss of memory revealed his underlying reluctance to use others and kill, illustrating how possession of the Death Note fundamentally altered him. What began as a righteous mission evolved into a self-serving, cruel pursuit, marking Light's tragic transition from hero to villain.

Tetsuo Shima (Akira)



Tetsuo Shima (Akira)

Initially portrayed as a decent individual and friend to Kaneda, Tetsuo's underlying inferiority complex and aggressive tendencies are soon exposed when he acquires psychic abilities. Driven by his newfound power, he embarks on a reckless quest to find Akira, showing no regard for those who cross his path. He kills and harms, even turning on his gang and friends. His confrontation with Kaneda reveals the true extent of his transformation from a troubled friend to an uncontrollable villain. Ironically, the powers that facilitated his descent also led to his grotesque downfall, reflecting the tragic consequences of unchecked ambition and power.

Ken Kaneki (Tokyo Ghoul)



10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain - Ken Kaneki (Tokyo Ghoul)

Ken Kaneki's transformation from an innocent human to a malicious Ghoul in "Tokyo Ghoul" is both tragic and complex. After a disastrous date turned him into a Half-Ghoul, Kaneki struggled with his new identity but managed to maintain his optimism. However, his innocence was brutally shattered when he fell into the clutches of Yakumo Oomori, also known as Jason. Subjected to horrific torture, Kaneki's psyche broke down, leading to the emergence of his white-haired, malevolent Ghoul persona. The trauma he endured transformed him entirely, illustrating the dark and harrowing path that a character can be forced down due to circumstances beyond their control. Kaneki's metamorphosis is emblematic of the series' exploration of identity, humanity, and the fine line between good and evil.

Stain (My Hero Academia)



Stain (My Hero Academia)

Once an aspiring hero who looked up to figures like All Might, Stain's shock at the corrupt and insincere nature of hero society led him to a darker path. Driven by a twisted sense of justice, he dedicated his life to purging the world of heroes he deemed unworthy, killing or injuring many in the process. Stain's story offers a compelling and cautionary tale about how noble intentions can become perverted when faced with harsh realities. His journey from aspiring student to fearsome villain exposes the underlying cracks in the world of professional heroes, making his character one of the most complex and intriguing in the series.

Yukiteru Amano (Future Diary)



*10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain - **Yukiteru Amano (Future Diary)***

Yukiteru Amano's transformation in "Future Diary" is a gradual descent from an innocent, tearful high school kid to a ruthless player in a lethal death game. Initially drawn into the game against his will, his exposure to constant danger and his complex relationship with Yuno lead him down a dark path. The once-reluctant participant becomes increasingly complicit in betrayal and murder, losing his innocence along the way. Yukiteru's transformation is a compelling study of how circumstances and relationships can erode morality and compassion, turning an unlikely character into one of the game's most merciless competitors. His evolution from a crybaby to a cold-blooded participant adds depth and intensity to the series, underscoring the dark themes at its heart.

Gaku Yashiro (Erased)



Gaku Yashiro (Erased)

The revelation of Gaku Yashiro as a villain in “Erased” was a shocking twist. As a caring teacher, he was admired and even looked up to as a father figure by the protagonist, Satoru. The unveiling of his true nature as a cold-blooded child murderer completely shattered this image. Gaku’s enjoyment in killing and the complex, rivalry-like relationship he had with Satoru added layers of intrigue to his character. This turn of events was not just a plot twist but a profound betrayal that gave depth to the story and raised questions about trust and human nature. Gaku’s transformation from a figure of support to a menacing antagonist encapsulates the unexpected and intricate character development found in contemporary anime.

Kyubey (Puella Magi Madoka Magica)



*10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain - **Kyubey (Puella Magi Madoka Magica)***

Posing as a supportive sidekick, Kyubey makes contracts with ordinary girls, transforming them into magical girls. What's not revealed is that this power is exchanged for their souls, and they are almost inevitably destined to become witches, the very beings they are fighting against. Kyubey's lack of remorse and impassive attitude towards the girls add to the complexity of the character. Rather than a friendly companion, Kyubey represents a manipulative force that uses innocence as a façade, leaving a trail of broken lives and tragic destinies. This twist is emblematic of the dark and unexpected turns in modern anime storytelling.

Sasuke Uchiha (Naruto)



Sasuke Uchiha (Naruto)

Traumatized by the murder of his village, his anger, arrogance, and desire for revenge propelled him into a bitter rivalry with Naruto. As he grappled with his limitations, his desire to kill his brother led him to betray the Village Hidden in the Leaves and become an agent for Orochimaru. His villainous turn continued as he joined Akatsuki, the main antagonistic organization, and even challenged all the Kage. This transformation not only showcases Sasuke's power but also cements his status as a character whose shift from hero to villain is filled with turmoil, ambition, and relentless pursuit of a dark path.

Annie Leonhart (Attack On Titan)



10 Anime Heroes Who Became Villain - Annie Leonhart (Attack On Titan)

Leonhart's transformation from a seemingly strong and stoic cadet to the brutal Female Titan is a complex arc in "Attack on Titan." Her single-minded mission to see her father again led her to commit horrendous acts without remorse, including the massacre of many soldiers. Her rivalry with Mikasa was overshadowed by her shocking revelation, and her subsequent crystallization kept her secrets intact for years. Upon her release, her unapologetic stance and readiness to ally with former enemies highlight a pragmatism and determination that make her character intriguing. Her transformation from a hero to a villain, driven by personal motives rather than pure evil, adds depth and nuance to the storyline, making her one of the most compelling characters in the series.

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