Emily Booth, "Entry on: Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon / Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon [□□□□□□□□□□□□ (Bishōjo Senshi Sērā Mūn)]. Arc 2: The Black Moon Arc by Naoko Takeuchi", peer-reviewed by Elizabeth Hale and Daniel A. Nkemleke. Our Mythical Childhood Survey (Warsaw: University of Warsaw, 2022). Link: http://omc.obta.al.uw.edu.pl/myth-survey/item/1402. Entry version as of July 12, 2026.

Naoko Takeuchi

Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon / Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon [□□□□□□□□□□□□ (Bishōjo Senshi Sērā Mūn)]. Arc 2: The Black Moon Arc

Japan (1991)

TAGS: Artemis Chronos Diana Luna Pluto / Plouton

We are still trying to obtain permission for posting the original cover.

General information	
Title of the work	Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon / Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon [□□□□□□□ □□□□□ (Bishōjo Senshi Sērā Mūn)]. Arc 2: The Black Moon Arc
Country of the First Edition	Japan
Country/countries of popularity	Japan, Worldwide
Original Language	Japanese
First Edition Date	1991
First Edition Details	Originally serialised in Nakayoshi Magazine: December 28, 1991 – February 3, 1997. Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon Volumes 1–18*, vol. 3–5, Kodansha Comics, 1993–1997.
ISBN	9781935429760 / 9781612620008 / 9781612620015
Official Website	Sailormoon-official.com (accessed: January 20, 2022).
Awards	1993 – Kodansha Manga Award – Shōjo Category.
Genre	Comics (Graphic works), Graphic novels, Shōjo Manga / Girls' Manga*, Urban fiction
Target Audience	Crossover (Teenage Girls, Young Adults)
Author of the Entry	Emily Booth, University of Technology, Sydney, Emily.Booth@uts.edu.au

This Project has received funding from the European Research Council (ERC) under the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation Programme under grant agreement No 681202, *Our Mythical Childhood… The Reception of Classical Antiquity in Children's and Young Adults' Culture in Response to Regional and Global Challenges*, ERC Consolidator Grant (2016–2021), led by Prof. Katarzyna Marciniak, Faculty of "Artes Liberales" of the University of Warsaw.

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Creators

Naoko Takeuchi (Author, Illustrator)

Naoko Takeuchi is the creator of numerous successful manga series for teenage girls; most notably the globally-renowned *Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon* and its prequel series, *Codename: Sailor V*. As a manga artist, she both authors and illustrates all her works. She has won numerous awards, and *Sailor Moon* is considered the archetype of the "magical girl" character and genre. Nonetheless, Takeuchi has frequently discussed the publisher and editorial interference in the *Sailor Moon* manga, and criticised the 1990s anime adaptation for having "a slight male perspective" due to the mostly-male creator team, compared to her manga which was "written by a girl (me) for girls…" (quoted in MTV). She originally trained to be a licensed pharmacist at Kyoritsu University of Pharmacy and graduated with a degree in chemistry. Takeuchi is also a songwriter under the pen name "Sumire Shirobara", and has written many songs to accompany various *Sailor Moon* adaptations.

Sources:

Sailor Moon official website (accessed: July 26, 2021);

AnimeNewsNetwork (accessed: July 26, 2021);

Alverson, Brigid, *Sailor Moon 101: Pretty, Powerful, and Pure of Heart* available at MTV.com (accessed: July 26, 2021).

Bio prepared by Emily Booth, University of Technology, Sydney, Emily.Booth@uts.edu.au

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Additional information

Translation	According to the publisher's website the versions of the manga that are currently in print are available in Japanese, English, French, German, Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Italian, Thai, and Portuguese.
Sequels, Prequels and Spin-offs	Sailor Moon Volume 1: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 1, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 248 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 2: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 2, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 244 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 6: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 6, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 240 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 7: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 7, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 240 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 8: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 8, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 232 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 9: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 9, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 264 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 10: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 10, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 248 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 11: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 11, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 248 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 12: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 12, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 280 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 13: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Short Stories* Volume 1, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 200 pp. Sailor Moon Volume 14: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Short Stories* Volume 2, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 208 pp.

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Summary

Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon follows 14-year-old Usagi Tsukino, a klutz and crybaby who receives the power to transform into a magical warrior named Sailor Moon, Soldier of Love and Justice. Transforming not only changes her clothes, but grants her access to supernatural powers to fight enemies. The story is set in Tokyo, Japan. There are five primary arcs to the series, plus several short stories that accompany the core narrative. The arcs reflect the primary antagonists and themes the protagonists face in those chapters. The five story arcs are: The Dark Kingdom Arc, The Black Moon Arc, The Infinity Arc, The Dream Arc, and The Stars Arc. This entry focuses on Black Moon Arc. The series draws extensively from Classical mythologies, as well as fairytales and other folktales.

Black Moon Arc (Volume 3, Volume 4, Volume 5):

While Usagi and Mamoru are on a date, a little girl falls out of the sky. Because she resembles Usagi, she is nicknamed Chibiusa (akin to calling her "Small Usagi"). Meanwhile, evil clones are being unleashed on the people of Tokyo. The Sailor Soldiers discover the threat is coming from the future, which is also where Chibiusa travelled from—to find Sailor Moon and save her mother. Chibusa leads the Sailor Soldiers through a portal where they meet Sailor Pluto (Soldier of Space-Time and Guardian of the Underworld), who is Chibusa's only friend, and who guides them to the future. Upon arrival in the 30th Century, they learn Chibiusa's mother is the future Usagi, named Neo-Queen Serenity. At age 22, she ascended to the throne of Crystal Tokyo, a global utopia she created after a terrible battle. However, a generation of radicals known as the Black Moon Family, whose ancestors were banished to the prison planet Nemesis, have since tried to destroy Crystal Tokyo. Neo-Queen Serenity lies in a coma, along with King Endymion (the future incarnation of Mamoru, and Chibiusa's father), whose spirit is able to speak to them. They meet Chibiusa's cat, Diana, who is the future kitten of Luna and Artemis.

The Black Moon Family launches several plots against the Sailor Soldiers. The leader, Prince Demand, kidnaps Sailor Moon, who he attempts to assault. Against the odds, Sailor Moon manages to use her magic and escape. However, Prince Demand's sinister advisor, Wiseman, kidnaps Chibiusa and turns her into a brainwashed adolescent girl named Black Lady, so called for the darkness of her emotions rather than any relation to skin colour. He also kidnaps

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Mamoru and brainwashes him to be evil. During a clash between the Sailor Soldiers and Wiseman, it is revealed that the Black Moon Family were finally able to successfully attack Crystal Tokyo and harm Neo-Queen Serenity because Chibiusa stole the future Illusionary Silver Crystal to try and grow up faster, to be as strong and beautiful as her mother. Despite the pleas of the Sailor Soldiers, they are unable to return Black Lady to being Chibiusa; and Wiseman reveals himself as the monster Death Phantom – who is in turn revealed to be an extension of the living Planet Nemesis – and begins to destroy the future. However, when Sailor Pluto arrives and is inadvertently killed, Chibiusa's grief at losing her only friend restores her to herself. Chibiusa transforms for the first time, becoming Sailor Chibimoon, and aids the Sailor Soldiers in defeating Death Phantom and restoring peace to Crystal Tokyo. Usagi and her friends receive a blessing from Neo-Queen Serenity to increase their powers, and return to the past – with Chibiusa in tow, who wishes to keep studying on how to be a soldier with Sailor Moon.

Analysis

Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon draws on Greek and Roman mythology, Japanese folklore and traditions, and fairytales to establish its worldbuilding. The series has a strong focus on the theme that peace and happiness are always worth fighting for, even though they can never be permanent, because hardship is part of human existence. The Black Moon Arc introduces the figure of Sailor Pluto. There are several references to Sailor Pluto being the daughter of the Greek God Chronos, the personification of time; however, it is unclear whether this is merely a reference to her powers over space-time, or if Chronos actually exists as a figure within the narrative's universe.

The Black Moon Arc is predominantly set in 20th Century Japan or the futuristic 30th Century. As such, it has fewer references to Greek or Roman mythology, or images of the past. Instead, the Black Moon Arc actively rejects fantasies of returning to the past. At the end of the previous Dark Kingdom Arc, when the Moon Kingdom is restored, Usagi was offered the opportunity to travel there and rule over it as she should have done as Princess Serenity. However, she declined because she believed her future is on earth. It is in the Black Moon Arc's vision of the 30th Century, and the world of Crystal Tokyo, that readers see the future that Usagi will go on to create as Neo-Queen Serenity. In Crystal Tokyo, the architecture is sleek and modern, with

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buildings made of reflective crystal and reach skyward in a manner similar to contemporary high-rise apartments. This is a stark contrast to the rounded domes and columns of the Moon Kingdom, suggesting that while the past should be remembered, it is not always something to be returned to. Further emphasising this is the incorporation of future generations, including Usagi and Mamoru's daughter, nicknamed Chibiusa, and Luna and Artemis' daughter named Diana; her name a reference to the Roman goddess of the moon.

Classical, Mythological, Traditional Motifs, Characters, and Concepts	Artemis Chronos Diana Luna Pluto / Plouton
Other Motifs, Figures, and Concepts Relevant for Children and Youth Culture	Adventure Adversity Coming of age Death Disability Fairy tale references Family Fashion Femininity Friendship Gender, female Girls Good vs evil Heroism History Intertextuality LGBTQI Magic Magic powers Mental health* Morality Suicide Transformation

Further Reading

Fujimoto, Yukari, "Sailor Moon! The Treasure Box All Girls Want" in Masami Toku, ed., *International Perspectives on Shojo Manga*, New York, NY: Routledge, 2015, 32–39.

Nozomi, Masuda, "Shojo Manga and Its Acceptance: What is the Power of Shojo Manga?" in Masami Toku, ed., *International Perspectives on Shojo Manga*, Routledge, New York, NY: Routledge, 2015, 23–31.

Addenda

Originally serialised in Nakayoshi Magazine: December 28, 1991 – February 3, 1997.

First Japanese compilation of 18 volumes: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon Volumes 1–18*, Kodansha Comics, 1993–1997.

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Second Japanese compilation of 12 volumes: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Soldier Sailor Moon Volumes 1–12*, Kodansha Comics, 2003–2004.

Third Japanese compilation: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon Volumes 1–10*, Kodansha Comics, 2013–2014.

Editions used for entry:

Sailor Moon Volume 3: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 3, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 240 pp.

Sailor Moon Volume 4: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 4, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 240 pp.

Sailor Moon Volume 5: Naoko Takeuchi, *Pretty Guardian Sailor Moon* Volume 5, Kodansha Comics, 2014, 256 pp.

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