

Avatar: The Last Airbender and _____ (Insert Fun Plot Twist Here)

By: Mike Casey

A few years back, in the pandemic, I had the opportunity to live in a place where we didn't have wifi for like 5 or so months. Ultimately, it was actually kind of nice for a few reasons but one of those was because my delightful roommate bought a DVD box set of Nickelodeon's "Avatar: The Last Airbender."

Able to watch it on my Playstation 3, I was finally able to complete the show from my childhood and it really resonated with me. If you have never seen it before, I recommend watching it before you read this article so things aren't spoiled for you. But hey, it's your life.

Looking back at it now, I can see it's a great series with a fairly straightforward A to B plot but then I thought to myself, what would be a cool plot twist we could have in Aang's journey to try and defeat Firelord Ozai? What twists or turns could our story take? That could be fun, yeah?

So, let's explore the Top 3 options I like the most.

Number 1: The Unagi (and more!)

Picture this, Team Avatar is advancing on the Fire Nation in the middle parts of Book 3 and slowly moving forward with their plans, flying along on Appa but then, something is amiss.

It is going almost a little too easily. There isn't anyone in the Fire Nation even around at all. No fireballs are flying at them.

Only a sense of fear.

Horrified, Aang looks in the distance and asks, "Ummm... wait a second, Sokka? I think that whole mountain just moved!!!"

Looking at it once more, it actually did move because it wasn't a mountain at all.

It was the "Earth Unagi."

Or for the uninitiated, a massive serpent creature that can launch its element out in a stream of projectilized destruction.

Basically, the idea would be that there are six total Unagi spirits who exist across the planet. They could be given the origin of creatures born as the byproducts of the different elements being harnessed, or something like that.

So, there would be one for each element and then one for light and one for dark.

They would have to team up to not defeat them but instead tame/ calm them because the Unagi are restless after the 100 years of fighting.

Then for a further level of crazy fun, you could introduce the plot point where Ozai or someone is trying to harness their great power for himself. Turning them on each other to create a massive and epic conflict between BIG serpent monsters.

Personally, I like this idea because it could intertwine how the long term war has affected nature and the spirits while also drawing upon how someone could try and harness that nature for evil then too.

Plus, the idea of Toph trying to earthbend against a serpent the size of a mountain would be pretty epic too.

Onto the next we go!

Number 2: Azula leads the Earth Kingdom to glory!!

Okay, it's the end of Book 2 and they did it. They conquered things and people did the various things that people do. In this case, Azula and her two friends overtook the Earth Kingdom from the inside and won the day there in Ba Sing Se.

But then, plot twist!

Azula and her friends decide to stay a bit there.

Maybe it's the food.

Maybe the ambiance.

But there is something special there in the Earth Kingdom capital that inspires them to stay so instead of returning home to Ozai and his massive forces of flaming destruction, she decides to

refortify the city. Leading them as a new, legitimate but yet independent, leader. Mai and Ty Lee being her trusted advisors, obviously.

Then, with control of that and the adoring public, Princess Azula reconciles with the Earth King she overthrew as well as the leader of the Dai Li. Becoming Queen Azula.

Building a new super team of advisors and warriors, they wouldn't just join the Avatar in his quest though to defeat Ozai. Instead, they would try and win the war on their terms, turning the mighty and strong Earth Kingdom into the aggressors now. Attacking the Fire Nation, Water Tribes and the Team Avatar as a whole.

Personally, I like this idea because I think it could give Azula's character (easily the most expanded upon pure villain) a new arc.

She could get the throne that she clearly wants while still introducing a new plotline into it all.

Furthermore, it could be epic to see a "3 way clash" for the world between the newly grown and independent Earth Kingdom powerhouse, the always dangerous Fire Nation and the mighty Avatar.

For a new level of fun, you could even bring in some magical relic which allows Azula to surpass Ozai so he and Aang must team up to take down the new threat before she defeats them both, a sort of "man creates a monster so he needs help to defeat it," style.

Plus, SUPER lightning versus SUPER fire versus SUPER "Avatar State" would just be cool.

Onto the next we go!

Number 3: Sozin's Return. *From beyond the grave!!!!*

"It's a ghost!!"

That's what they would say when the spirit of one of the most feared Firelords in history came back from the dead. Back in a mortal form and a burning (pun) vengeance. Starting in the beginning of Book 3, naturally.

Returning to finish the job of eliminating all the Airbenders, this would all happen because a devoted member of the Fire Sages could feel it. They could sense Sozin's anger and malice

from the beyond when Aang's return was felt across the land. So, they performed a forbidden ritual and sacrificed their own body and consciousness to replace their own with his.

"The Boy in the Iceberg" brought upon his ghostly resentment and through that, his spirit could return to finish the job he started, oh so long ago.

An interesting extra twist could be linked to a similar idea in the 2nd option where Ozai and Aang would have to team up to defeat this new and unforeseen threat.

I think this part could work especially well here because Sozin would basically come back and be like, "ummm... young man, you haven't conquered the Earth Kingdom or the Water Tribes yet? The Southern Water Tribes have like 1 bender and she is a teenager without a teacher... What are you like totes even doing?!" Then, he and Ozai could clash for the control of the modern Fire Nation.

Additionally, it could be fun to add in Azula and Zuko's roles in this, possibly being a reconciling moment between all three of them as their previous ancestor could show just how terrible it is to hold onto a grudge for all of those years.

Then, can you just imagine when the comet of his namesake shows up and then Sozin, Ozai, Azula, Zuko and Aang have slang massive plumes of fire at each other on Roku's Island?

Sweeeeeeeet.

Honorable Mentions:

Are those particular ideas not vibing with you 100%?

Well, here are some others I wrote down in my most recent rewatch of the great series:

1. Zhou = Returns somehow to continue his quest
2. Blue Spirit/ Possession = Zuko's "Blue Spirit Mask" possesses those who wear it.
3. Canyon Crawlers - Great Divide = Show up to eat all the world's food
4. Painted Lady = Returns to wash all evil away but sees ALL people as evil for pollution
5. Space weapons = many more comets and meteors make more many strong weapons
6. Haunted Swamp = Big monster from there
7. Storms = VERY big storm is brewing across the world
8. Hidden threat in Earth Kingdom = could be a monster or a brand new person/ element

9. Inter-Earth Kingdom Feuds = Many small fights lead to a Civil War there

Conclusion

Am I going to start writing some Avatar fan fiction now?

It's not looking very likely but feel free though to take any of these ideas as yours to do your own fan fiction to that awesome series. If you do that, send me a link because I would love to read it!

I mainly just wanted to do this to showcase something I think is interesting, inspiration.

Whether that inspiration comes from watching a series, reading a book or going for a walk on a nice forested path, our feelings of this can really come from many different places and sources.

So, I hope you don't just see any series you like and that's it.

I hope you see a series you like and see how that series can change your reality and your life.

How you can apply the lessons you learned about teamwork, destiny and the morality of ending lives, to your own situation.

Just be sure to give credit where credit is due, obvio ;)

After you do that all too important step, maybe then, you can even add in some lessons of your own too as you continue to contribute to the wonderful and nearly timeless legacy of storytelling.