

TOKYOPOP
PRESENTS

MANGA

漫画

WINTER 2006

SORCERERS & SECRETARIES:
DAYDREAM BELIEVER

THE DREAMING
...IT WAS NOT ALL
JUST A DREAM

**MITSUKAZU
MIHARA**
THE INTERVIEW

**THE BEAT
CRUSADERS**
BECK'S MEN BEHIND
THE MASK

PLUS

- POINT-COUNTERPOINT:
WHICH SIDE ARE
YOU ON?
- YOUR FAVORITE
MANGA CAMEOS
- SGT. FROG SCALES
THE EMPIRE
STATE BUILDING?!



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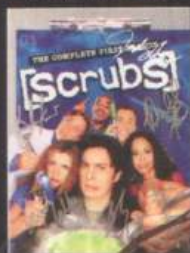
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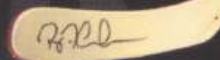
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HAPPY NEW YEAR. READY FOR MORE?!

Manga magazine's resolution for 2006—the year of the dog—is to paws, perk up our ears, and listen to what *you* want. Clearly, you have good taste...that's why you're part of the TOKYOPOP Manga Revolution! And this issue of the magazine is chock-full of new features and ultra-cool bonuses, all in response to *your* amazing feedback.

First off, you told us you wanted "more-more-more!" We heard you. And we've delivered. The winter issue of *Manga* magazine has exploded to 192 pages (if you don't believe me, just count 'em), packed with more full-color manga love, and it's all at the same low price: nada...or *tada* as they say in Japanese.

We're also psyched to give you *Loveless* cards. When we announced this series at Anime Expo, you sang paeans of joy. So make sure you give a *Loveless* card to someone you care about—let's resolve to leave *no one* loveless in '06! The cards are bound in the middle of the magazine—thanks, Uncle Ron.

And finally, there's a little manga series called *Fruits Basket*. We read all your letters, and it was unanimous—you want MORE *Furuba*! (After all, you need your recommended five daily servings of *Fruit*!) That's why we've given you a sneak peek of the entire first chapter of *Fruits Basket* volume 13—read it here first!

And since there were so many things you already loved about *Manga* magazine, we're proud to offer you more of the same! That means there's tons of manga from Japan, including *Dragon Head*, a new, pulse-pounding adventure, and *Kami-Kaze*, the bloody supernatural epic. We're showcasing cool original series from our own creators, including ones on which talent from all over the world collaborated. Check out *Ark Angels* (from Korea) and *Juror 13* (from Japan). This issue proves one thing: Manga is a global phenomenon!

And just when you thought it couldn't get any better, there's MORE! We interview the Goth Loli Queen Mitsukazu Mihara, creator of *Beautiful People*; recast *King Kong* manga-style; and reveal what your blood type says about you.

Keep the letters coming and visit us when we hit your town—we'll be at New York Comic-Con, February 24–26. We'll be the ones trying to figure out how to get to Carnegie Hall.

~Marcoting



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

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ON THE COVERS



FRONT:
Sorcerers & Secretaries



BACK
Fruits Basket

A **Publication**

MANGA 漫画

LA COSA NOSTRA

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COMMENTS? LETTERS? SUGGESTIONS? STORIES?

Here's some info you should know about sending us your stuff:

All submissions of letters and art must be made via regular mail to:

TOKYOPOP attn: Manga Magazine
5900 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 2000
Los Angeles, CA 90036

Please print your name, your age, and your address clearly on your letter, art, story, etc.

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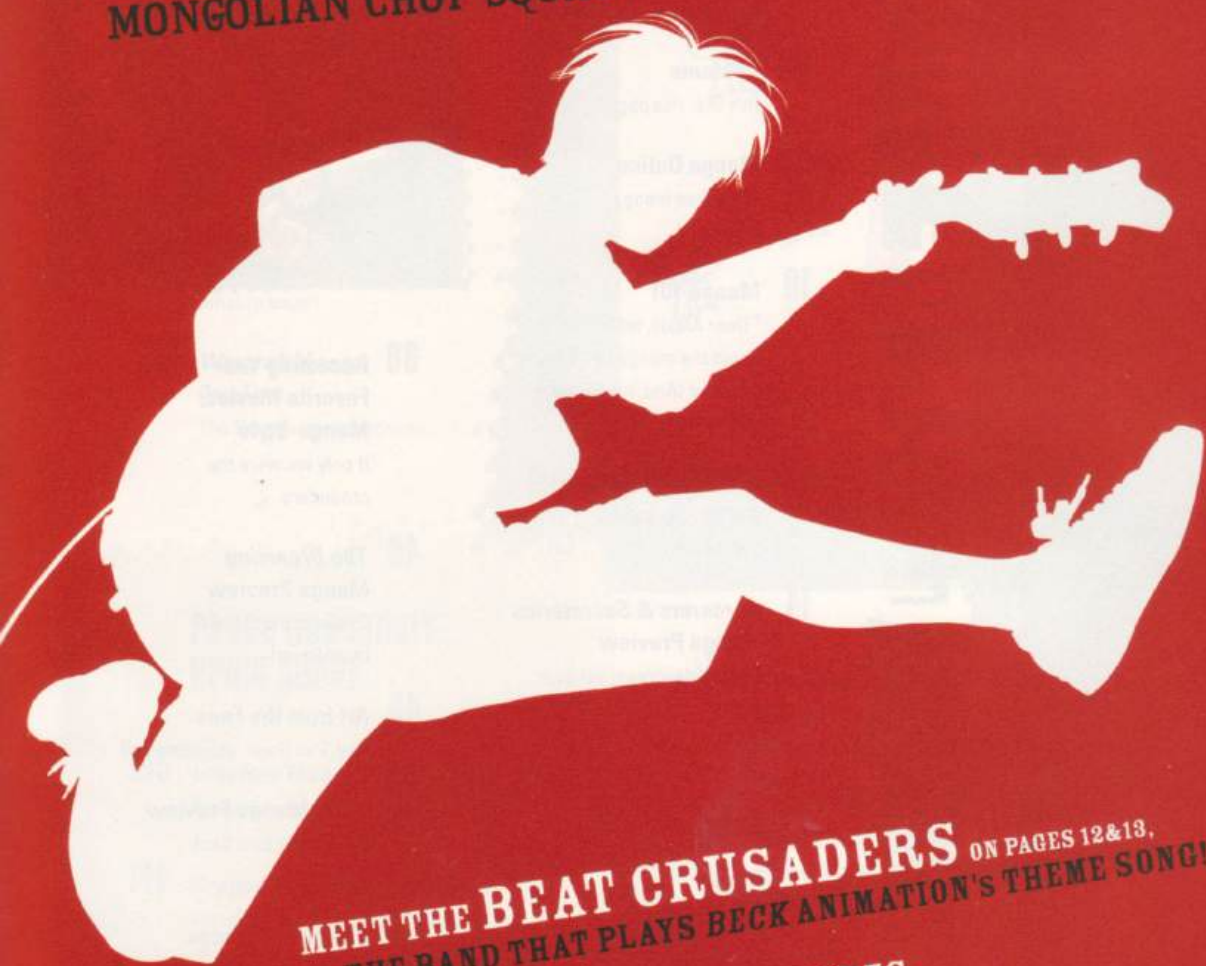
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THE BAND THAT PLAYS BECK ANIMATION'S THEME SONG!

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MANGA ONLINE: ARE YOU EXPERIENCED?



Hey, there! Logged onto Manga Online recently? If ya did, then you'll have seen totally exclusive manga previews. And you also know that you can vote for your favorite manga, submit cosplay photos, listen to MangaPods, read creator interviews...all sorts of free schtuff. Here is a sampling of things to come when you log on to www.TOKYOPOP.com/mangaonline.

So whatcha waiting for? Kick back, put yer feet up, grab a cold one (soda, dudes!), boot your computer, tell your little brother to run away, and experience the revolution that is manga.

VIEW NOW

MY CAT LOKI

The day his pet cat died was the day Ameya withdrew from the world. Several years later, Ameya encounters a drenched stray cat in the park. Little does he know what fate has in store for him...

ATOMIC KING DAIDOGAN

In Neo-Tokyo, Goto Onishi and his tiny ramen house have rocketed to prominence. Enraged by the attention Goto receives, unsavory CEOs constantly

SPOTLIGHT BIZENGHAST VOL 2

When Dinah and Vincent set out to solve the rest of the Mausoleum's riddles, they travel through Bizenghast's eerie past to rid the woods of a festering plague-carrier.

KAT & MOUSE

When a clique of rich, popular kids frame Kat's science teacher dad for stealing school property, can she and her new friend, rebellious computer nerd Mouse, prove who the real culprits are?

undercover in that most dangerous of territories—high school!

PRIVATE SCHOOL

The nation's Covert Ops budget is overburdened, and the best way to secretly reallocate money is to do it in the open and exploit legitimate channels: your school taxes. Welcome to Private School.

GO WITH GRACE

Grace, a bedridden girl with no reason to live, is visited one night by a mysterious boy who invites her to leave her room. As they journey together to strange cities, it becomes clear that the boy is not everything he seems to be...and Grace's reason to live might be the death of her.

EARTHLIGHT

The year: 2068 AD. The place: Earthlight, the first international moon colony. Population: 228 adults—and 42 kids. This all amounts to a high-tech, high-stress environment. Like their parents, these teens must forge



SO YOU WANT TO SEE A MANGA STAR?

challenge him to epic corporate robot battles! But Goto has the world's most powerful robot: Atomic King DAIDOGAN!

I LUV HALLOWEEN VOL 2

All your twisted favorites return, but this time they've brought along a few friends! The ghoulish Halloween adventures continue—but what's this? The town has been overrun with zombies!

NEW SERIES DEBUTING IN FEBRUARY

BLANK

Follow the misadventures of Blank, a screwed-up secret agent with a serious lapse in memory, and Aki, the confused tomboy whom he has sworn to protect, as they go deep

their own forms of survival and cooperation—if they are to succeed in this harsh new world.



EAST COAST RISING

From New York City's lower east side to the depths of the Atlantic Ocean, Cannonball Joe and his crew of roughnecks test their strength and friendship in search of the ultimate buried treasure!

SPOTLIGHT

VAN VON HUNTER VOL. 2

The continuing adventures of a hero who is a legend in his own lunchtime.

DRAMA CON VOL. 2

It's Christie's second year at the anime convention, and the drama does not stop here. Matt is also back, but to Christie's shock, he now has a girlfriend!

MAIL ORDER NINJA

Welcome to Timmy McAllister's world: Ninjas, giant robots, killer monsters from outer space, pit fiends, dragons, yetis, super spies with wristwatches and all sorts of other crazy stuff. What more do you need?



SOKORA REFUGEES VOL. 2

"Bad" is having to time-share her body with the elfin sorceress Veila. "Worse" is finding out that just about every demon in Sokora seems to be after Veila! And when a demon vampire wants to either date her or eat her, what's a girl like Kana to do?

THE DARK GOODBYE

Hired to locate a missing girl, Detective Max "Mutt" Mason discovers deeper malignant forces at work. Femme fatales soon give way to strange creatures older than humanity, all bent on remaking our world as their own.

THE DREAMING

When twin sisters Amber and Jeanie are accepted into an exclusive boarding school, they learn the key to the school's dark past may lie in the world of their dreams...

KING CITY

With a simple injection, Joe's cat can be anything: a weapon, a tool, or even a cuddly companion. But what—if anything—can transform Joe? Whatever it is, it can probably be found in King City, an outrageous semifuturistic city full of spy gangs, alien porn, and reasonably priced diners.



SNOW

Snow, a young man endowed with destructive powers, flees to an icy, desolate planet. There, he hopes to escape his past. But he soon forges a romance with Katarina, the spunky leader of a vigilante gang, and all hell is about to break loose!

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BOYS OF SUMMER

Wear tight uniforms and carry a big stick! Nothing ever goes as Bud Waterston hopes, especially when all the good-looking girls in his college dorm won't give him the time of day. So what's a guy to do? Join the beleaguered band of misfits in an effort to prove he's not as big a loser as everyone thinks he is!

NEW SERIES DEBUTING IN MARCH

SPOTLIGHT OFF-BEAT VOL. 2

The intrigue, drama, and thrills continue as more secrets about Colin and the mysterious Gaia Project are revealed!

RSOM UK WINNERS

Check out the next generation of manga-ka from across the pond in TOKYOPOP's *Rising Stars of Manga!*

Art (from left to right, sort of):

I Luv Halloween, Blank, East Coast Rising, My Cat Loki



HEY, MANGA
FANS! THANKS
FOR ALL THE
LETTERS!

manga dog alexis K dishes it out to you fans who want to know everything there is to know about why some anime end halfway through the series, when the next volume of *Furuba* comes out, and how to score with the hotties from *D•N•Angel*.

manga 101



Dear Manga 101,

I may sound like I'm a complete idiot but what's the difference between anime and manga?

Also, I want to dress up as a person from *Tokyo Mew Mew*—where can I find a pattern for a Café Mew Mew uniform? I'm probably asking too many questions now, but I have one more.

What is cosplay?

Yours truly,

Anime Unsure

Dear AU,

Sound like a COMPLETE idiot? Of course not...

Anime is animation while manga are graphic novels (think comics). Many popular anime series have manga versions on which they were based! Check out *Girls Bravo*, *Samurai Champloo*, *Ai Yori Aoshi*, *Samurai Deeper Kyo*, *Scrapped Princess*, *Initial D* and *DearS*! Wait, you ask about dressing up as a manga character and then want to know what cosplay is? That is what cosplay is! Visit *Manga Online* at www.TOKYOPOP.com for tips about your costume. Good luck!



Dear Manga 101,

What's up with those anime series that end halfway? Why don't they finish them? When this happens, does it mean that it's over? Next, this is probably stupid, so please don't smack me with your fan. I just wanted to know if I can get a date with Riku and Risa Harada from *D•N•Angel*. They're like hot and I just fell in love with the twins.

You Rock!

Day Dreamer

Yo, DD!

Sometimes anime and manga series aren't very popular and get canceled without a proper ending. There are also cases when the anime ends because it has caught up to where the manga story is and must wait until more of the manga is released—I know many fans are hoping for a continuation of the *Fruits Basket* anime. As for your other question... Don't worry, I won't smack you with a fan. Lillian damaged so many fans that I had to take over Manga 101 to ensure fan safety. And while I can certainly relate to your twin love, don't you think hotties like Riku and Risa have better things to do than hang out with you? ;)

Dear Manga 101,

I have dreams of creating my very own manga series. I'm currently working on it but it's hard when you don't have a clue on the first thing to do. My question to you is would TOKYOPOP be a good company to publish my story, and if so, what would I need to do? Thanks for the time, Mickey

Hi, Mickey.

TOKYOPOP is proud to be the largest publisher of manga not from Japan. We are very creator-friendly and look forward to working with you! The best way to get started is to join our *Rising Stars of Manga* competition. Information about submissions can be found at www.TOKYOPOP.com. We have signed up many *Rising Stars of Manga* winners to manga deals, including creators of books such as *Sorcerers & Secretaries*, which we're featuring in *Manga* magazine. Also, if you have a great story but not the artistic skills, you can always find an artist to team up with!

Dear Manga 101,

I've got a question that's been driving me crazy. Why does it take so long for new volumes of certain manga to come out here in America? For instance, the twelfth volume of *Fruits Basket* (one of my total faves) wasn't released until December! I know it takes a while to translate and print, but please. It can't take over three months?! Can it? Meanwhile I, and I'm sure many others, feel the time tick by unbearingly slowly. Help me! I can't take all the waiting!!!!

x!

Manga-Luv'n-Girl

Dear MLG,

As a fellow Manga Luv'er, I feel your pain... When it comes to *Fruits Basket* specifically, TOKYOPOP is catching up to the original Japanese releases. In Japan, *Fruits Basket* comes out quite slowly, about 3–4 volumes a year. So we have to slow our release to match theirs. How about trying some new series in the meantime to get you through your *Fruits Basket* withdrawals? Some great ones you might like are *Broken Angels*, *Dazzle*, *Queen's Knight* and *Snow Drop*.



FIGURE OUT THE BOOK ON MY HEAD AND WIN FREE MANGA

BECK: MONGOLIAN CHOP SQUAD IS A
MANGA THAT NOT ONLY ROCKS... IT ROLLS.

WE SAT DOWN WITH SINGER-GUITARIST
TORU HIDAKA OF THE BEAT CRUSADERS,
THE BAND THAT PLAYS THE THEME SONG
FOR THE BECK ANIME. CHECK OUT THE
MAN BEHIND THE MASK...



I'LL

BEHIND THE MUSIC WITH THE BEAT CRUSADERS



Manga magazine's marketing ninja Josh Pool and his partner in crime, the Mad Professor Paul Morrissey, ask the Q's in their quest to find all the A's on the long and winding road up Mt. Rockmore.

Q: How long have the Beat Crusaders been a band? How did all of you meet and form the band?

A: It was 1997 or 1998. When my former band (a lame local indie-guitar band) broke up, I made up my mind that I was going to make a new band which plays strange guitar-pop with hooky melodies and a punk edge. Back then there was no such band. Everyone else played simple. So I tried to get signed to a "major" label because the Japanese indie scene was getting boring day by day, year by year. We were all friends from the Japanese live house scene (you know?). Each of us belonged to

BE BECK



different bands, but we recognized each other's talents.

Q: Why did you choose to name the band "Beat Crusaders"?

A: There was a cool band called Folk Crusaders almost thirty years ago in Japan. They played weird songs but every song they played had beautiful melodies. The name Beat Crusaders is kinda dedicated to Folk Crusaders, and literally, we'd like to save Japanese Beat...I mean, music.

Q: I love your cover of "I Can See Clearly Now." You seem to have a pretty strong punk influence. Which bands and musicians have inspired you?

A: Sure! I'm still into punk rock stuff. From the Ramones, Sex Pistols, the Clash, The Damned, etc. to modern stuff like Nirvana, Operation Ivy, NOFX, Sebadoh, etc... But I'm also a big fan of Devo, XTC and The Residents, which play pop songs with strange ideas. That part inspires me a lot. Always.

Q: What are your favorite bands right now?

A: Each member is into different genres. Nowadays, I'm into strange

pop bands like OK Go, Chin Up Chin Up, and Need New Body. Also, I'm listening to early hard-core stuff again, like G.B.H, Discharge, Germs and Gang Green...etc.

Q: Providing the theme song for the Beck anime is a pretty sweet gig. How did you land it?

A: There were some Beat Crusaders fans amongst the animation staff. They knew that we were a big fan of rock 'n' roll, so they trusted us to make various types of rock songs. That's pretty cool!

Q: Did you have the chance to work with the manga-ka, Harold Sakuishi?

A: I had some interviews with him. He's a big fan of baseball!

Q: What's your favorite part about Beck—Maho right?

A: Beck describes the real Japanese Indie scene. That's what I love! My favorite character is Chiba. He always feels lonely and thinks that nobody loves him...but he tries to change the situation to become better by himself. That's a simple logic, but we seldom make it happen...that's the point.

Q: How long have you been touring?

What are your favorite things about your live shows and being on the road?

A: We toured a lot...I don't remember the actual number. Being on the road is always tough (sometimes rough) for us; it tells us how important it is to know what happens at each place. Those kinda things are a great inspiration for us to keep playing.... great inspiration to write new songs.

Q: Do you have any plans to tour the U.S.?

A: None right now. But I'd like to!

Q: I just have to ask one more question: What is going on with you wearing character masks and covering up your faces in your photos? Are those characters truly the Beat Crusaders? When I started Beat Crusaders, I was a businessman in Japanese show biz. Basically, the band was totally my hobby, so I wasn't thinking about being famous at the beginning. Eventually, the *omen* ["mask" in Japanese] became well-known...

SORCERERS & SECRETARIES

FIND REAL MAGIC WHERE YOU LEAST EXPECT IT!

Amy Kim Ganter was born in 1980 in Binghamton, N.Y. and has been drawing all her life. AKG holds a degree in Cartooning and Illustration from The School of Visual Arts.

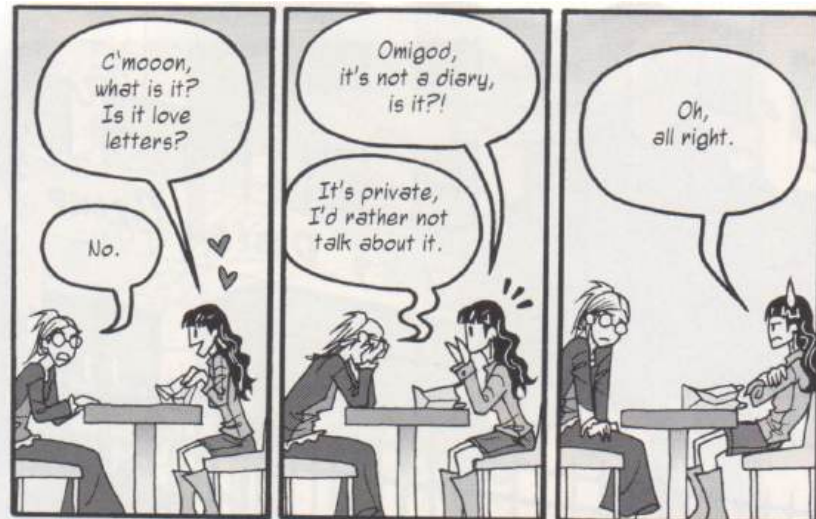
She also runs her online comic site, <http://www.felaxx.com>, where she serializes her own fantasy story, "Reman Mythology." Amy currently resides in Los Angeles, C.A. but will soon be on her way along the Oregon Trail to Portland—with her fiancé!



I've been a huge fan of Amy's work ever since I first saw her webcomic *Reman Mythology*. She's got an incredible talent for world-building and came up with a compelling romance to go alongside an epic action-fantasy story. I'm a total sap at heart, and so I'd get to points in the story and just go, "Squeee! So cute!" So when Amy wanted to pitch a series to us, we asked that she try something that combined her talent for writing good love stories and creating unique and beautiful fantasy. What came out is *Sorcerers & Secretaries*, a story set solidly in the real world, but about a girl with her head in the clouds.



~Lillian Diaz-Przybyl



This is the cafeteria of the business school Nicole attends (against her will).

>> Nicole, the protagonist of *Sorcerers & Secretaries*, talks to a friend about her dream log—it's really a budding fantasy novel (but Nicole doesn't realize it yet!).

Nicole is bored as a business student in New York, and she is constantly telling a story in her head about a sorcerer named Ellon and his battle against his former ally, the rebellious son of the moon goddess.



Nicole is rushing to her boring job, where they treat her like a piece of furniture. She's lonely, but hasn't really figured out that to make friends—and fall in love (she has to connect more with what's going on around her). >>



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**Amy Kim Ganter
used to work
at a place very
much like Joy
Design Group.**

>> Ganter's artistic style for New York is a result of her memory of living and working in the city for 10 years—and studying some photos. However, like all good artists, she freely admits to taking some artistic license!

Ganter declares: "I am not a fashion plate!"



Ganter pays a lot of attention to fashion, but depicts her characters in everyday clothes rather than in the hottest trends. She thought Nicole would wear clothes that are more practical than ultra-stylish. >>



As the editor admits, it was tremendously fun to get in new pages from Amy and see what her characters were up to! The relationships build slowly, but the romantic payoff is well worth the wait!

>> When the editor first looked at these pages, she thought the top panel showed Nicole hitting the office printer—truly a TOKYOPOP moment! (Instead, Nicole is making sure the boxes don't fall over.)

**The editor
confesses: The
dude's scarf is
fabulous!**

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Nicole is basically ignored at work, and when people do talk to her, they are rather dismissive. Ganter drew upon her true life experience to show the work environment. >>

Just double-checking,
because last time there
was a slight problem
and the package ended
up at the wrong place.

It caused loads of problems and I
was behind schedule for a week!

If you could actually
double check maybe it'll go to
the right place for once!

If you could
actually give me
the right address
for once,
maybe it will!

BZZT

SIGH~

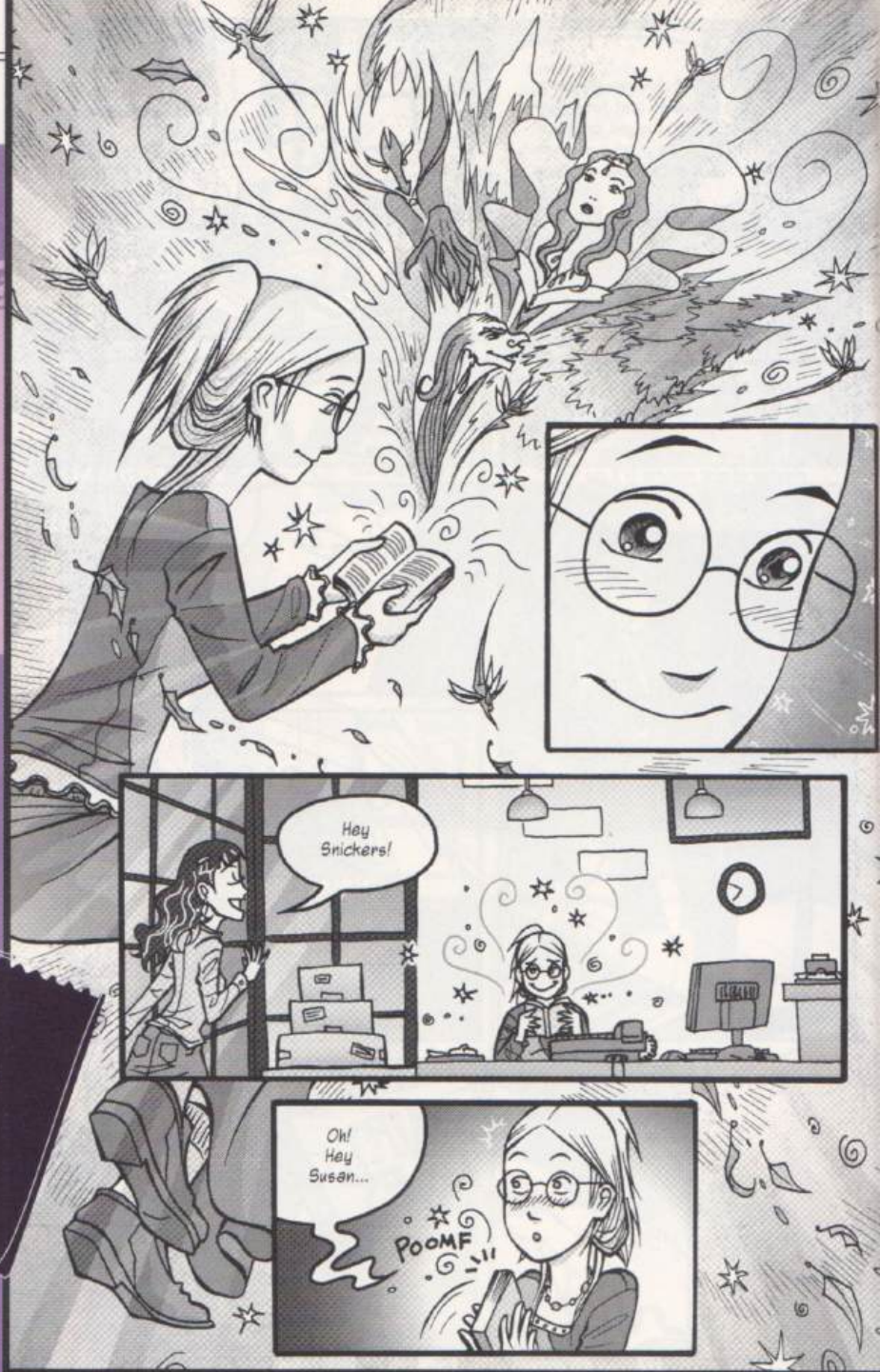
FAIRY
TALES
COLLECTION

**Chick with
Bangs = Upper
Management**

>> The background pattern in the bottom panel is the product of Ganter hand-drawing a pattern, scanning it, and then copying and pasting it throughout the frame, rather than composing it entirely by computer software.

Make sure to send in your
Sorcerers & Secretaries
 fan art—we may just print
 your work in volume 2!

Enter
 Nicole's
 fantasy
 life!



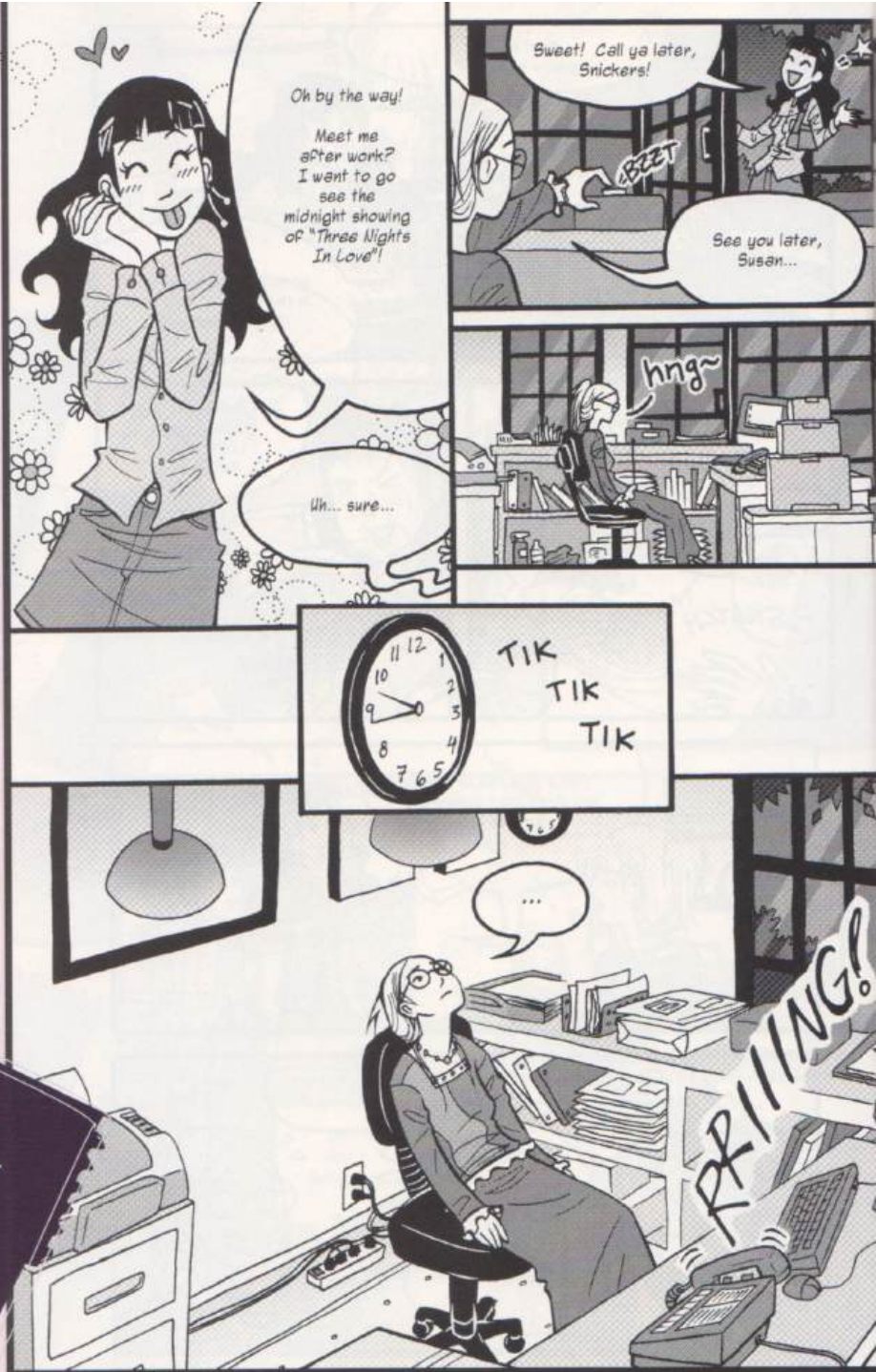
"Snickers"... "Nicky"... Nobody in the manga calls Nicole "Nicole" other than Josh, her former neighbor, who has been harboring a crush on her since they first met. (Don't worry, we'll meet him in a few pages.) >>



Office food chain: production assistants take advantage of the receptionist.

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>> Susan, the production assistant talking with Nicole, doesn't mean to be cruel—she's just in her own world. But don't you love the fact that she wants to give her cousin a secondhand gift? Clueless!

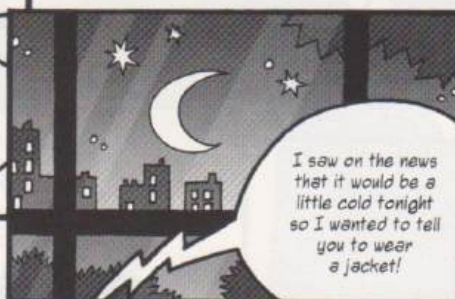


Ganter effectively portrays an excruciatingly slow night...

Most of the office leaves at 7:00, so after that, Nicole feels the night crawl. At Ganter's real-life job, on which she based Joy Design Group, the night security guard would spend the evening watching TV! >>



Nicole's mom is doing the "mom" thing!



The artist shows without telling: The myriad camera angles and facial expressions add to the growing tension and boredom that Nicole is experiencing.

>> Nicole's mom is like Amy Kim Ganter's mom, with a big exception: AKG's mother is very supportive of her career, and didn't make her go to business school.

I just wanted you to know that you make me sooo proud, honey!

I'm so glad you aren't into all that childish Fantasy stuff anymore!

And after you graduate you can come back and help out with Mom's business and we can really make it grow!

AKG admits her Web comic is like her own dream log.

Hello? Nicky, are you there?

SIGH

Yes, I'm here.

Oh, I thought you might've fallen asleep on me for a second there! Haha!

Anyway, I guess I'd better let you go. Just called to tell you to bundle up! I love you and you make me proud, my little angel!

Thanks, Mom.

The dream log that Nicole carries is her security blanket...and her last-ditch attempt to hold on to the final threads of her childhood dreams! >>



Nicole never wanted to go to business school, but was forced to enroll in a "big university" by her mother.

Insider 411:
We will never actually see Nicole's mother.

>> If you only had to look at the facial expressions on this page, the progression tells a remarkable story even without the dialog.

This lovely chapter
break also introduces
us to the sorcerer!

**Nicole is an
only child and
her father is out
of the picture.**



Amy Kim Ganter puts a lot of effort into distinguishing the dream world from reality. Note the flower pattern picked up from the dream log. >>

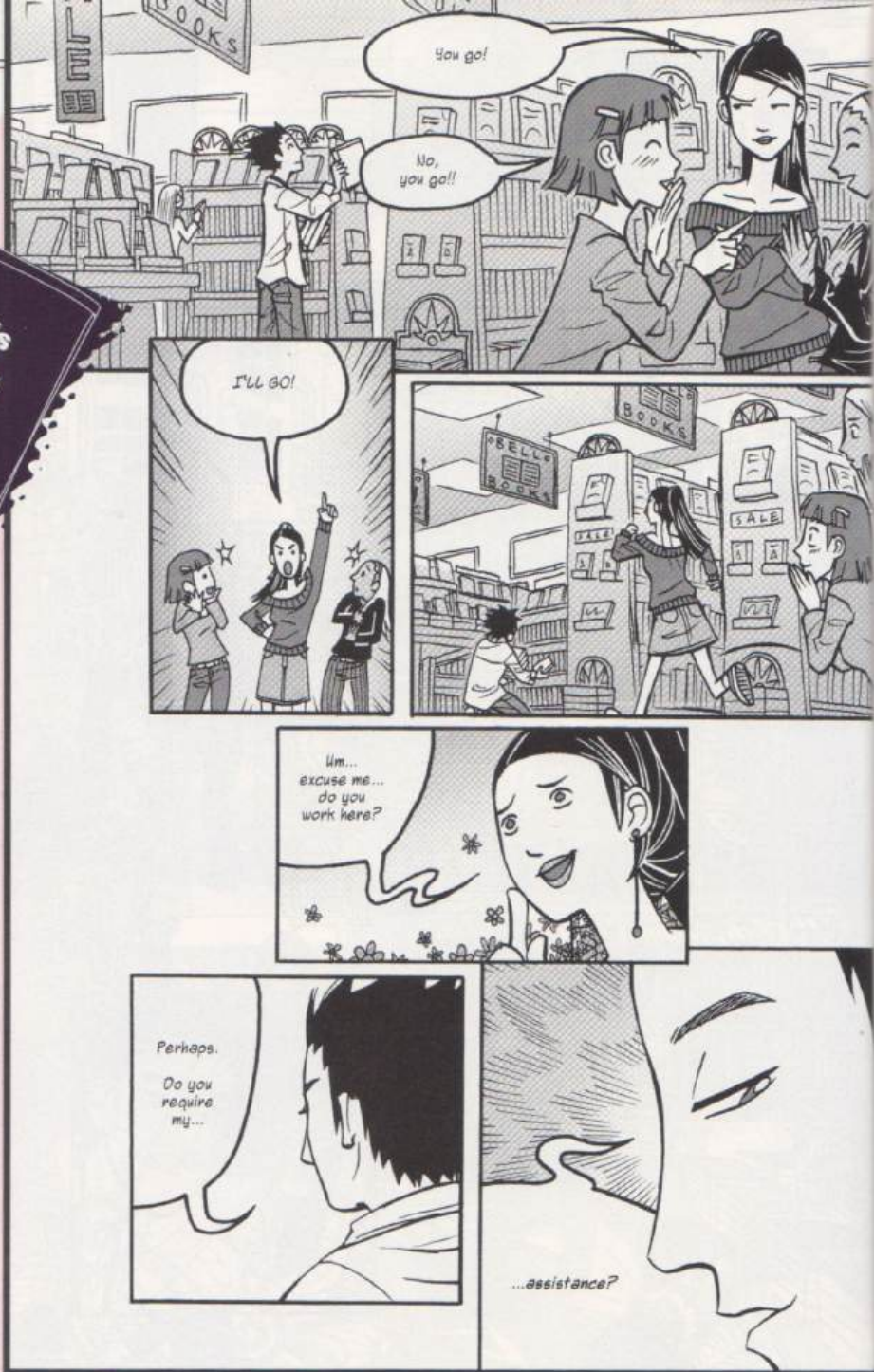


Enter Josh,
working at one
of those "B"
bookstores.

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>> Ganter based Josh on Korean pop star Bi, who was very much influenced by Usher.

These girls
are Ganter's
idea of fan-
girl stalkers.



Josh has great lines, but he's such a dork. He does, however, have his looks going for him. >>



Sorcerers & Secretaries

is a spinoff of Ganter's

winning entry in

TOKYOPOP's Rising Stars

of Manga competition.

Deep down,
Josh is
a romantic.

>> Amy Kim Ganter did a lot of research in the romance and chick lit sections of bookstores to come up with these book titles.

Check out the
bottom panel—
that last girl is
s-k-e-p-t-i-c-a-l!

Ganter spends a lot of
time listening to K-pop
music and watching
Korean dramas, where
she gets ideas for
characters and storylines
(and does a bit of
escaping, herself).



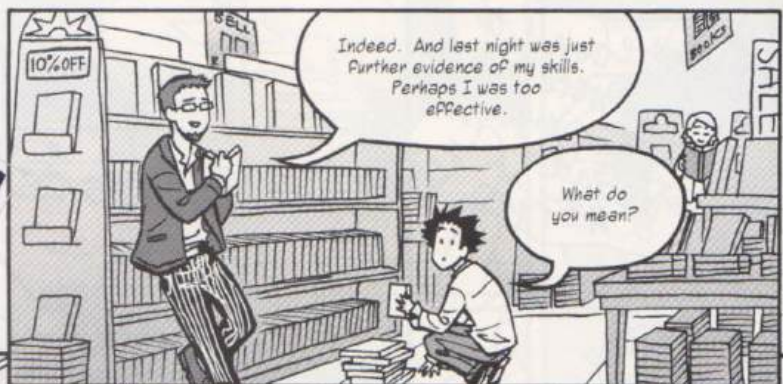
Ganter portrays Josh acting like a guy after winning a video game—he slays a monster, he wins a prize...or a phone number. >>



>> Riley is Josh's mentor. One thing about him is that he always reads odd books. And with cool pinstriped pants, he is soooo chic!

Riley doesn't work at the bookstore—he just hangs out there.

How to create a character? Amy Kim Ganter based Riley on several guys that she knows.



Vampire of Love is not a real romance novel—not yet, anyway! The title is a product of Ganter's research. >>

Being with only one girl would be like only eating bread every day.

Every once in a while you'll want to try something more Flavorful!

Yeah, I guess you're right...

Midnight showing of Metal Rage tonight.

You in, yes?

Metal Rage?

I kind of wanted to see that other one, 'Three Nights In Love'.

Uh...

Josh kind of admits he's a dork—he'd rather see a chick flick than check out Metal Rage!

>> Riley may seem like a cool guy, but any good therapist will tell you that he has serious commitment issues.

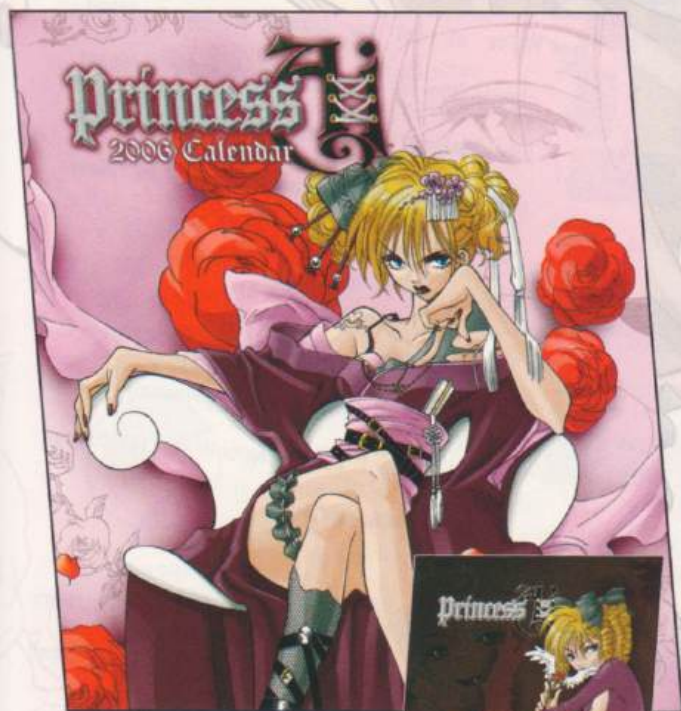
Who is
it that
Josh sees?
Hmmm....



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Later in the manga, Josh will cross paths with Nicole, who will find him tremendously unappealing. Perhaps there is more to Josh than she will give him credit for? Life is never simple in shojo manga! >>

Enjoy Princess Ai all Year with this Stunning 2006 Wall Calendar



- Co-created by international rock star Courtney Love
- Available Now!
- Only \$12.99!



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RECASTING THE CLASSICS MANGA



Hey, manga maniacs and film fanatics! Are you bored of those features, "If you were casting a live-action version of your favorite manga, who would you cast in the movie?" Yeah, well we are, too. Everybody and their mother's done that old chestnut! So, what are we doing here, then? Glad you asked!

We've all got our favorite flicks—a grand classic from the heyday of Hollywood or a recent blockbuster at your local multiplex. Well, what if they were populated by an all-manga cast? Now that's what we're talking about!

We took a few of our much-loved films, threw in a bunch of our favorite manga personalities and yelled, "Action!" See for yourself—the results just might be Oscar-worthy!

So grab a bucket of popcorn and some Twizzlers (or Red Vines—we'll debate that next time) and enjoy the ride.



BY BRYCE P. COLEMAN
AND PAUL MORRISSEY



KING KONG

Okay, so we know that some hack already did the remake of this classic, but his cast of nobodies can't compare to the ensemble we'd assemble for this epic!

• LUPIN THE THIRD AS CARL DENHAM

Who else would play the greedy schemer willing to put a beautiful dame in harm's way for money and fame?

• KURUMI AYAKI FROM REMOTE AS ANN DARROW

Kurumi's used to danger, not to mention having her clothes torn off. Plus, she's a babe! What big ape wouldn't fall for her?



• DAISUKE NIWA FROM D•N•ANGEL AS JACK DRISCOLL

If you need to cast a cute guy willing to throw himself headfirst into danger for the sake of the girl he loves, Daisuke's your man!

• THE ENTIRE CLASS OF BATTLE ROYALE AS THE ISLAND NATIVES

I mean, if you're going to populate a remote island with a group of bloodthirsty savages, who else are you going to cast?

• KERORO FROM SGT. FROG AS KONG!

Can't you just see him swinging from the top of the Empire State building, swatting at a squad of pesky little Gundams buzzing around his head?!



THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

Gender-bending is a manga staple, so we've decided to recast the classic cult film *Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Let's do the manga warp again!



• COUNT D FROM PET SHOP OF HORRORS AS DR. FRANK-N-FURTER

Throw some fishnets and a bustier on Count D and he'd be the best Dr. Frank-N-Furter this side of Transylvania!

• YUKINO MIYAZAWA FROM KARE KANO AS JANET WEISS

She's a pretty and preppy bookworm who is dying to unleash her wild side!

• YUKIO TANAKA FROM BECK: MONGOLIAN CHOP SQUAD AS BRAD MAJORS

Like Brad, Yukio is a bit of a goody-goody geek. He's sheltered, shy, nervous and introverted. And even though Dr. Frank-N-Furter would freak Yukio out, I get the feeling he'd dig being cast in a rock musical.

• GRANDPA MASA FROM ABENOBASHI: MAGICAL SHOPPING ARCADE AS RIFF RAFF

Okay, we confess: Masa gets the nod because he's hunched over and bald!

• KAZUHARA FUKUYAMA FROM GIRLS BRAVO AS ROCKY HORROR

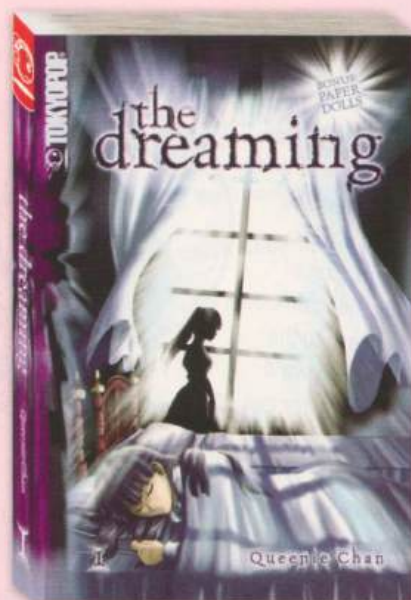
He's blond, he's buff, and he's convinced that he's the most handsome student at his school—Fukuyama's a shoo-in to play the hunky Rocky.



THE DREAMING

ALL OF THEM VANISHED...WITHOUT A TRACE!

Queenie Chan was born in 1980 in Hong Kong, where she was given the coolest name ever. At age six, she migrated to Australia, where she read a lot of manga and watched a lot of anime. This bred in her a love of the medium from an early age. After high school she started drawing manga on the side, until her big break came in 2004, when TOKYOPOP began accepting international artists.



There's nothing quite so delicious as a ghost story among friends. Lighting the candles, telling the tales...huddling in your sleeping bags afterward, afraid to sleep...and then, sleeping! A good scare for all, and no harm done.

Now imagine this magical experience inside a centuries-old boarding school in the middle of a dark, impenetrable Australian wilderness. And add lots of harm.

Greenwich Private College holds a terrible secret...and as twins Jeanie and Amber are about to learn, this is one place where "lights out" is held for a very good reason.

~Carol Fox, Editor



...WHERE
AM I...?

AM I
DREAMING...?

IT FEELS...

...LIKE I'M
FLOATING...

The Australian bush was difficult to depict—in Queenie Chan's mind, it's the colors that make the bush unique.

Check out
all her majesty:
Visit Queenie
Chan's Web site
queeniechan.com

>> Queenie says: "Black and white line work can be very evocative in its own way, but there are some qualities that toned pictures capture much better."

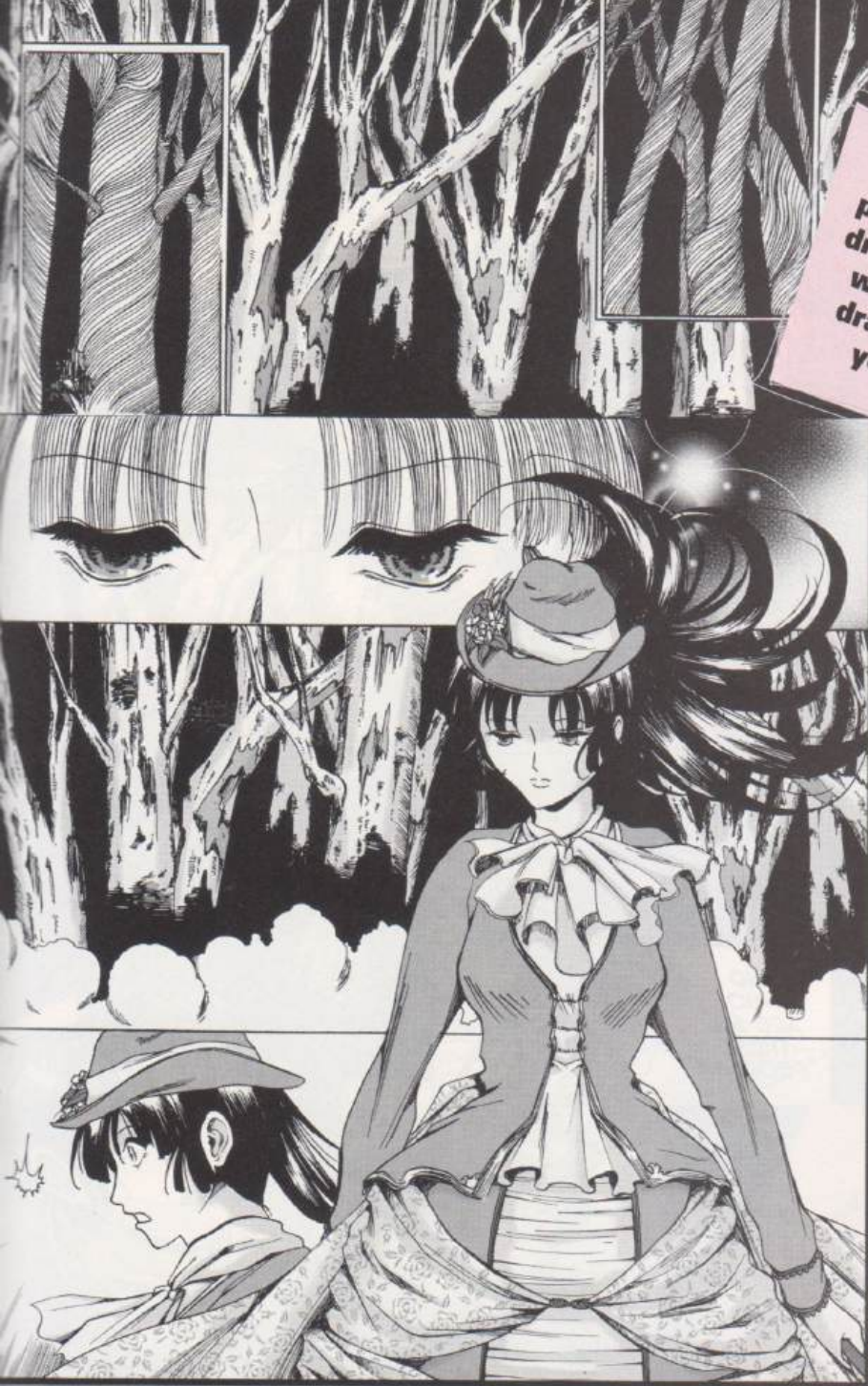
Queenie Chan did as much black-and-white line work in this book as possible, and fortunately, the grayscale toning lets it show through.

Queenie likes to design bizarre and colorful costumes.



"Strictly speaking, most of the clothes that appear in *The Dreaming* aren't actually 'vintage' Victorian," says Queenie. "The costumes have a more fantastic, imagined flair about them, which I prefer." >>

Queenie's
philosophy: Why
draw what's real
when you can
draw anything
you want?



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>> Color's obviously not possible here, so Queenie deviated from her "normal" way of drawing trees. She admits that drawing nature scenes is always hard work for her.

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Chan loves
"fisheye"
and distorted
perspectives.



Chan uses broken panels and jagged-shaped, overlapping frames. Her paneling style expresses the fragmented sense of reality one gets in dreams. >>

The "fisheye" view creates an unusual perspective and an eerie mood.

For the dream sequences in the story, Chan deliberately chose to use a looser style of paneling than when "reality" was happening.



>> Queenie uses camera angles such as the one on this page "to make the surroundings look slightly unnatural."

Note the change in camera angles.

They say, "Perspective is everything." Queenie likes to look down on characters from a three-quarter angle.



Faster and faster cutting between panels shows Jeanie's growing state of panic—this is a product of Queenie's sense of timing and pacing. >>



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Setting is
 a character
 with its own
 personality.

>> Queenie loves to draw backgrounds—they are of absolute importance to her. “I like to ground my characters firmly in a certain time and place,” she says.

A true artist, Chan admits that "world building" is one of her favorite activities.

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Queenie on backgrounds: "It's important that the readers get as strong a sense of the surroundings as the characters, especially in this kind of story, which hinges so much on atmosphere." >>

Fantastic!

art from our creative fans

People always ask me, "Troy, what's your favorite part of your job? Is it editing *Rave Master*? Exchanging witty banter with Zack and Kara? Bagels on Wednesday?!" Well, yes, it's all of this, and much more. Without question, one thing that always puts a smile on my face (after stuffing it with a toasted everything from Ess-a-Bagel with a schmear) is fan mail—which always includes loads of your art. So without further ado, here's a peak at some of the recent creations you've sent us. Keep on drawing... and keep our mail carrier busy! ~Troy Lewter, Editor

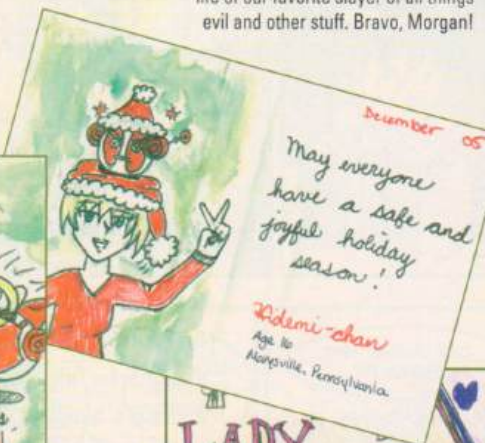
Van Von Hunter
Morgan L.
Sacramento, CA

Looks like it's just another day in the life of our favorite slayer of all things evil and other stuff. Bravo, Morgan!



TOKYOPOP Holiday Card
Hidemi G., Marysville, PA

Thanks for the good wishes, Hidemi-chan. Not only was it the first holiday card we received, but you may be the first person ever to draw the TOKYOPOP Robofish from the front view! Good stuff...and hope you have a fabulous 2006—it's another year in which to excel!

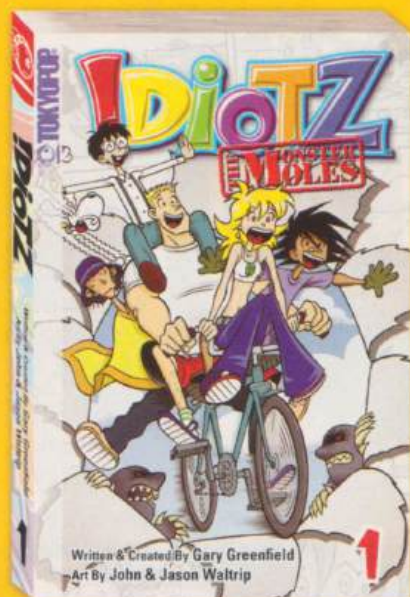


Dinah from Bizenghast/Ai from Princess Ai;
Madeline C., age 16, Lakewood, CA

Here we get two heroines for the price of one! Don't you love how the background art sets two different moods for each character? This piece also raises an interesting question: What would happen if Dinah and Ai met? Hmm...

IDIOTZ

PUTTING THE "ZERO" BACK IN "HERO"



Writer Gary Greenfield was born in the beautiful, mystical land known as Brooklyn, New York. He writes for books, magazines, newspapers, television and radio, as well as for tabloids. His story "Ventriloquist Dummy Starts Riot in Subway" is still causing ripples in literary circles.

This series is so much fun. I signed on for *Idiotz* because I really wanted to do something lighthearted, clever and kid-friendly. Gary wrote us a hilarious script that's absolutely pun-derful, and John & Jason Waltrip came up with terrific designs for all the various characters, and did a bang-up job of bringing Gary's vision to light! These pages introduce Pinhead, Janey Jinx and Nitwit, three out of five of our future group of plucky crusaders for goodness, as they sit in the local diner and try to decide how to best go about preparing to save the world from stupidity. They'll be lucky if they can even manage to save themselves, though...

~Lilian Diaz-Przybyl



The title of the author's original pitch to TOKYOPOP was *Captain Pinhead*.

We're not talking about the Man of Steel.

We're not talking about the Caped Crusader.

We're not even talking about the heroic rodent, Mighty Mouse.

We're talking about Harold Melman, who has earned the sadly apt nickname Capt. Pinhead.

>> The creative process at work: Greenfield didn't give the Waltrips any descriptive info about some of the secondary characters. The guy in the second panel was the result of pure artistic freedom...and we love him!

**"Totally
awesome"—
Nitwit speaks in
malapropisms
throughout...**

Harold Melman got the name "Captain Pinhead" when he went to Harry's Boot Camp and Nail Salon. He tried unsuccessfully to get into every branch of the armed services—and then he even tried (unsuccessfully) to get into the Boy Scouts and Salvation Army.

30 Minutes Later

...AND MARVELOUS MAGIC MAN HAS ALL THESE INCREDULOUS POWERS.

HE CAN MAKE THINGS DISAPPEAR... AND HE CAN HYPNOTIZE PEOPLE... AND HE CAN PULL THE BIRDS AND THE BEES OUT OF HIS HAT.

HE DEVOTES HIS LIFE TO HELPING THOSE WHO CAN'T HELP THEMSELVES!

ARMIES HELP PEOPLE... BUT RIGHT NOW THE ARMY WON'T ACCEPT ME...

...SO I'LL CREATE MY OWN ARMY... TO FIGHT FOR AND TO PROTECT THE STUPID!

THAT'S TOTALLY EWESOME! DO YOU THINK... IS IT POSSIBLE... DARE I ASK...

Pinhead and Nitwit meet up at Aunt Ruth's Blood & Guts, Army-Navy Surplus Store and Knitting Supplies (gasp!), bonding over costumes... >>

D'YOU THINK
I CAN ENLIST,
CAPT. PINHEAD?

IT WOULD BE AN
HONOR TO HAVE YOU
SERVE UNDER MY
COMMAND, 1ST LT.
NITWIT.

I'M HONORED
THAT YOU'RE
HONORED.

AND I'M
HONORED THAT
YOU'RE HONORED
THAT I'M HONORED!

WATCH OUT,
THE PLATES
ARE HOT.

...Nitwit is
11 years old, so
his speech can
sometimes be
"furless."

>> Pinhead wants to be in the armed services, and Nitwit wants to be a superhero. Together, they decide to team up to help people who can't help themselves.

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The Inky Dinky
special: a burger
and fries with
strawberry and
whipped and (!)
melted cheese.



The Inky Dinky has a weird menu, to say the least. But is Pinhead powered by the terrible things he eats?! >>



Janey Jinx fears that a piano will no doubt fall right on top of her (which it no doubt will).

>> We never really see books in the bookstore—and don't ask why they have a piano!

The artist and writer worked very independently on this manga—Gary is an animation writer, so he left a lot of the manga art creation to the artistic vision of the Waltrips.



Just as Janey's bad luck is about to kick in—her boss is ready to fire her—Pinhead sticks up for her. Janey's so grateful that she decides to join up with Harold and company... >>



A very manga moment: the eye-pull thing (bottom panel).



>> What's next in the manga? The gang will meet up with two future members of the Idiotz...and, in fact, we'll find out how they came up with the name "Idiotz" (something to do with a milkshake!).

IS THAT WHO I THINK IT IS?

MAKING A CAMEO... MANGA-STYLE!

We're all familiar with cameos in movies. Hitchcock turned up in the background of most of the movies he directed; Bruce Campbell chewed the fat in short speaking roles in both Spider-Man movies; I was even in the background on a street interview shot for Maury Povich. (Okay, not a real cameo.)

Cameos in manga come in all sorts of forms, too, from background shots of characters from other series to short speaking roles by inked versions of real people (or at least the Hollywood version of "real"). Essential contributions...extra amusement...you decide.

Here are a few examples of cameos in great series from *Beck* to *Planetes*. Keep your eyes open for cameos in other manga you read—we'd love to hear about any more you find!

—Peter Ahlstrom



CRAZY LOVE STORY VOL. 3 P. 103
Manga-ka Lee Vin makes a cameo in her own manga (along with her cat ToTo) in order to torment the male lead of *Crazy Love Story*...



SAMURAI CHAMPOO VOL. 1 P. 80
Here we seem to have Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* swimming in the underground sea from Jules Verne's *Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Both those books take place toward the end of the Edo period, the setting of *Samurai Champloo*... though not in Japan, of course...



FAERIES' LANDING VOL. 7 P. 129

Who's that hanging out on the beach when Ryang and his class travel for some fun in the sun? Arrrr—looks like Luffy from *One Piece*. This kind of background cameo is the hardest to spot—it's my favorite of the bunch.



LIGHTS OUT VOL. 9 P. 70

Toward the end of his first series' good run, Myung-Jin Lee really started hyping his next series, *Ragnarok*. While you can't blame him for wanting *Lights Out*'s huge following to keep buying his next books...c'mon, this is a little much, don't you think? Iris here is as blatant as can be, and there's no way the two stories take place in anything remotely like the same universe. There is also, however, a nice nod to another creator—the store in the background is named Red Blood, the original title of fellow Daiwon artist Tae-Hyung Kim's *Planet Blood*.



BECK VOL. 6 P. 118–120

In *Beck*, rising star Koyuki has a vision of deceased rockers whose staggering skills and accomplishments he is nowhere near beginning to compete with...yet! Can you name these legends and their bands? Drop us a line at Manga magazine!



PLANETES VOL. 4/1 P. 132

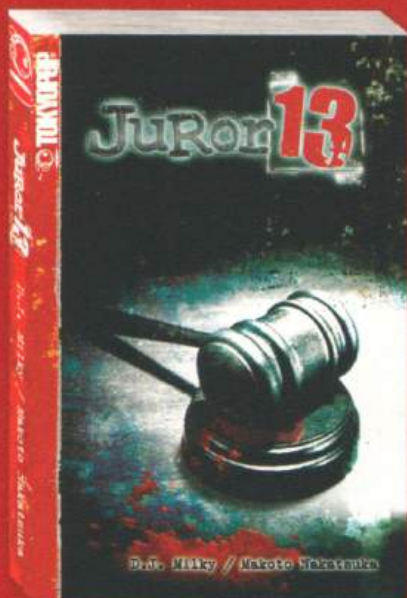
Aboard the debris collection vessel *Toy Box 2*, Fee Carmichael gets an unwelcome call from a certain military "colonel" who seems sympathetic to her cause in the anti-space-war protest. She rebuffs his offers, telling him he should go sell a certain foodstuff at a gas station... Talk about not being chicken!

JUROR 13

CAN YOU TRUST WHAT YOU SEE?

Juror 13 is penned by D.J. Milky, whose work manga fans know from the three-book series *Princess Ai*. When Milky is not creating manga, he likes to eat ramen late at night and bananas for breakfast. Fortunately those late-night snack sessions led him to artist Makoto Nakatsuka, with whom he collaborated on *Juror 13*.

View more of this manga for free:
www.TOKYOPOP.com/mangaonline.

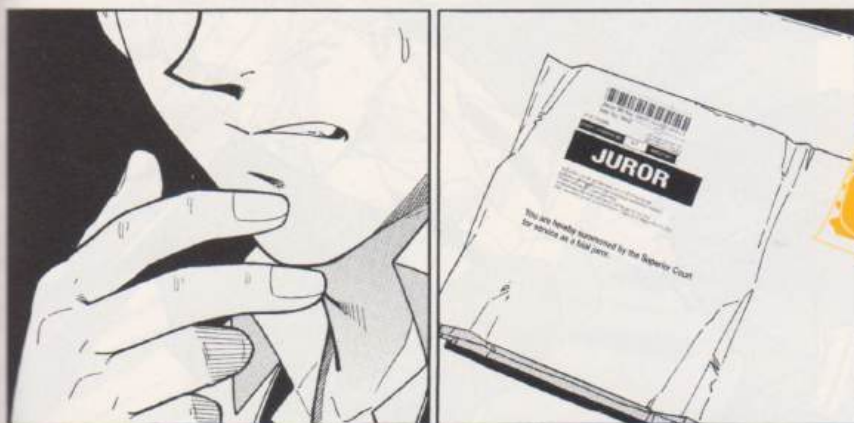
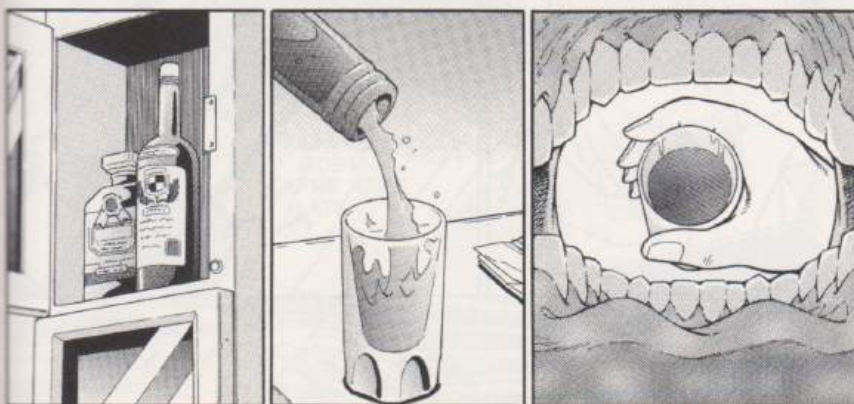
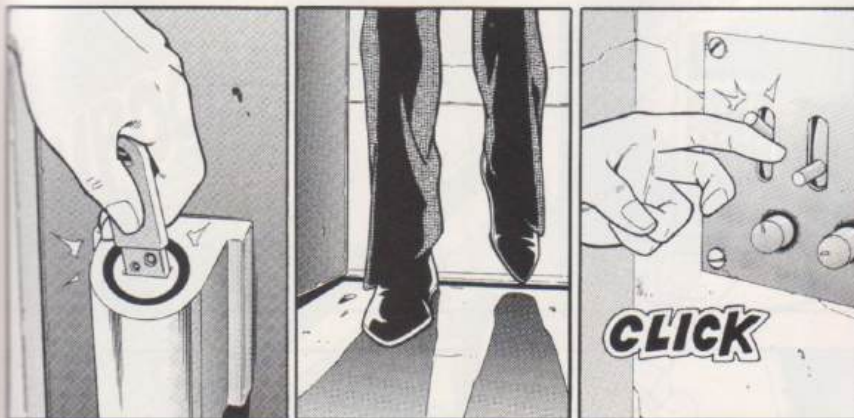


With the arrival of a mysterious jury summons, a man's life is thrust into a dizzying downward spiral: his fiancée leaves him, he has problems at work, and his best friend is suddenly nowhere to be found. As the jury trial approaches, who can he trust? Why does he suddenly feel that he has to defend his every move? And who exactly is 13?

Juror 13 follows one man's fight for sanity in world dripping psychological angst, suspense and the paranoia of Hitchcock and Kafka. A word of advice while reading the manga: Don't blink.

~Rob Valois





Juror 13 is the product

of a remarkable

collaboration between

TOKYOPOP's Japan and

and U.S. creative teams.

The script was originally

written in English, then

translated into Japanese,

at which point it was sent

to the Japan office...

Enter Jeremy
Rosen, having
returned from
having coffee
with his
ex-fiancée.

>> Jeremy's life is falling apart, but at this point in the manga, he's starting to put two and two together—and it's adding up to a disturbing equation...



After the Japan creative team received the translated script, they worked with Makoto Nakatsuka to create pencils, inks, and layouts. Each stage was then returned to the TOKYOPOP U.S. editor for review and notes.

So much in manga is told by characters' expressions—"don't tell me, show me." Jeremy is having an epiphany, and rushes away... >>

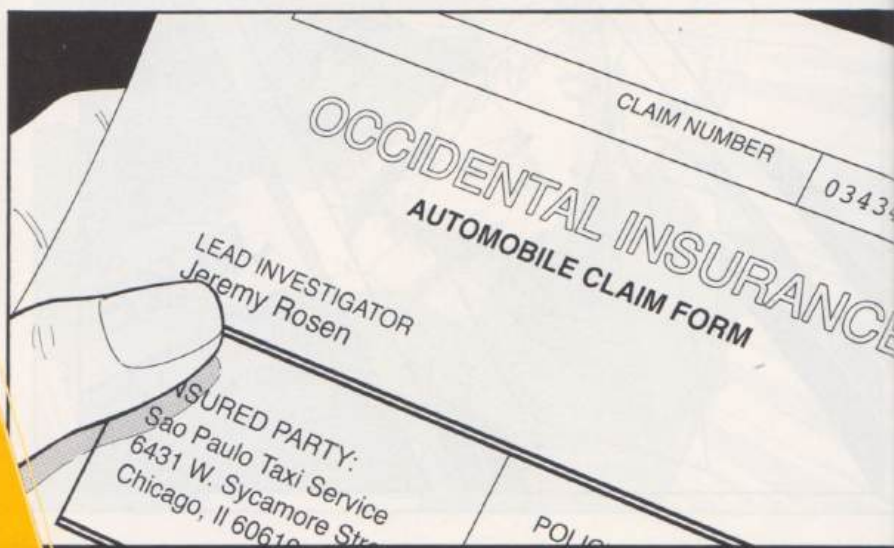


Artist Makoto Nakatsuka has a fan following due to his work on *X-Men* and *Fantastic Four*.

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>> ...returning to work to make sense of the recent events in his life: the trouble at work, breaking up with his girlfriend, and the general feeling of paranoia.

Juror 13 is filled with visual clues about the mystery that is unfolding before Jeremy's eyes. Like all effective storytelling, the characters' dialog and actions say much more than what is actually on the page.



Jake is
Jeremy's best
friend in
the office...
or is he?

What Jeremy had at first thought was Jake's problem at work seems now like it's become *his*... >>



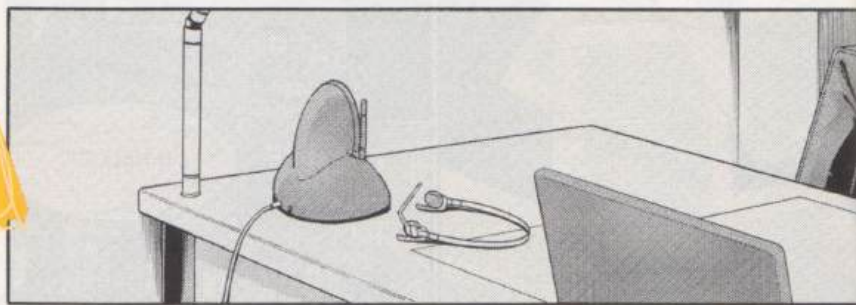
Jeremy calls
the only
person he can
trust...



>> ...and he can't believe his best friend would try to frame him.

The manga continues, with Jeremy slowly understanding why he is feeling like he has to justify his every move—and why everything he has thus far taken for granted in life is suddenly coming under question.

Jeremy is putting together the pieces of the puzzle...or thinks he is putting them together.



Dawn—and Jake—went to college with Jeremy, and the three of them have remained pretty close since. Although the breakup has undeniably put a strain on their friendship, she still cares about Jeremy. >>

Boys Be...

See the anime based on
the best-selling manga
from Itabashi Masahiro!

Coming Soon...
boys-be.rightstuf.com

THE RIGHTstuf
INTERNATIONAL, INC.

ROADSONG

CAN MUSIC SAVE YOUR SOUL?

Allan Gross has lived a childhood dream and written *Tarzan* stories, both in comic book form and for the syndicated newspaper strip.

Joanna Estep's work has appeared in comic anthologies such as *Fractured Kisses*, *Zacherley's Midnite Terrors*, and *21st Century Romances*.



Two runaway boys form the ultimate band on the run in order to let music save their souls! The popular Monty and down-on-his-luck Simon cross paths when they collaborate on a song for a wedding between members of their respective families. But when an explosion kills the wedding party, the boys' lives are irrevocably changed. Charged with murder, the boys are forced to go on the lam, and to make matters worse, the real killers are after them, too! But using their talent as musicians, Monty and Simon flee to the seedy world of broken-down bars in the Midwest, where they must survive life on the wild side while trying to clear their names!

~Lillian Diaz-Przybyl





Built approximately 160 years ago, the B&O Railroad was America's first common carrier railroad and survived to become one of the world's oldest railroad companies.

>> You can only write what you know: Allan Gross grew up right on the B&O railroad line and spent many hours "tramping along the tracks contemplating life."

Gross confessions:
 "I really enjoy writing
 the interactions between
 the two boys—Monty
 is probably how I see
 myself—and Simon
 is probably more like
 I really am!"



The boys tie together many aspects of Gross's life. He explains: "I took violin lessons when I was young, but didn't have the patience for it... >>



A true artist,
Allan Gross
has played in
half a dozen
bands over
20 years.

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>> "I played baseball in high school and I loved punk rock. I ended up a self-taught guitarist/singer/songwriter in college."

Writing songs is a great form of therapy.

IT WAS FUN FOR A WHILE, BUT IT GOT TO BE TOO MUCH PRESSURE...

...AND HE HATED MY MUSIC.

LOUSY WAY TO MAKE A LIVING, HE'D SAY.

BAM!

WHY DID HE HAVE TO LIVE...

...AND EVERYONE ELSE DIE?

I CAN'T BELIEVE I JUST SAID THAT.

Monty's internal war erupts, a product of his mother's artistic nature and his father's strict training. >>



Like Monty, Allan Gross has always been able to write songs at the drop of a hat—he's written hundreds!



>> These pages in the manga are really the first in which Monty and Simon open up to each other.

If growing up means
forgiving your parents,
the boys still have a lot of
growing up to do!



One thing about Monty and Simon is undeniable: They're still kids—unable to cope with the tragedy that has befallen them. >>



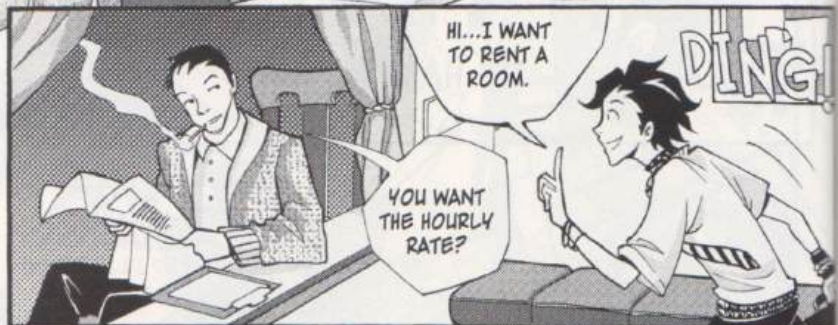
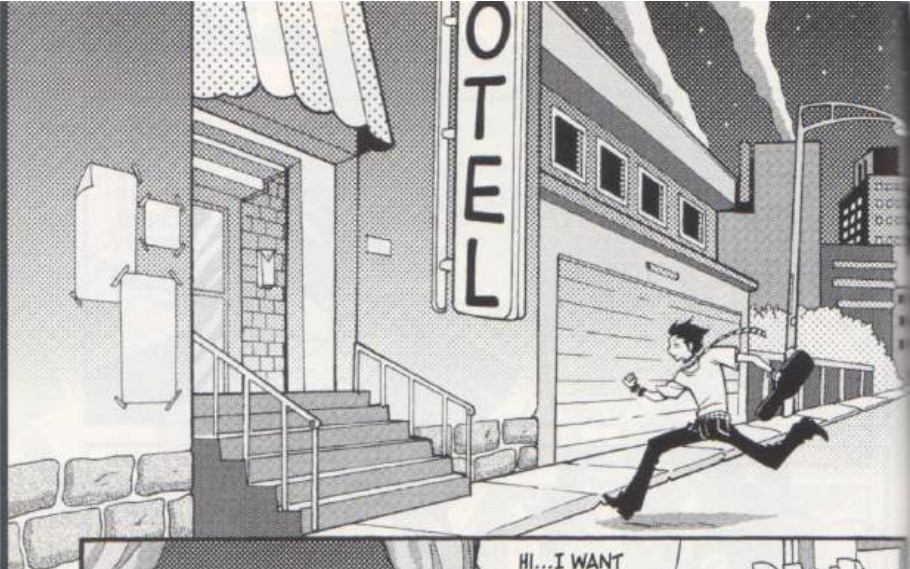
Monty will go through a classic adolescent struggle...

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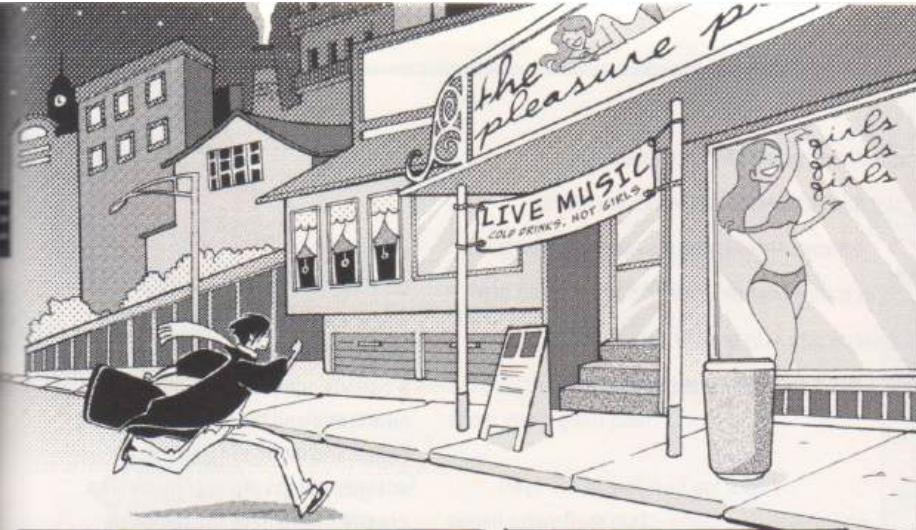
>> The series shows the boys on a roller coaster of emotions—grief, denial, and anger. It stirs up all the repressed feelings of their already tumultuous lives.

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Read more
of the manga
for free:
TOKYOPOP.com/
mangaonline.



What was the artist thinking while creating the manga? Estep admits, "My editor suggested I tell a funny story about the creation of these pages, like 'I drank 10 cups of coffee when I drew this and thought I was gonna die,'... >>



Many themes pop up

as we go forward in

this manga series:

Monty struggles to

please his dad—but

also tries to figure out

who he is as a person.

>> "...or 'I was abducted by aliens in the middle of this chapter and had a really hard time making my deadline.' But to be perfectly honest, everything went smoothly, and I had a lot of fun. Am I a boring person?"

STORY VS. ART!

THE ETERNAL MANGA DEBATE!

LILLIAN AND LINDSEY GIVE WELL-THOUGHT-OUT, CAREFULLY RESEARCHED AND HIGHLY DIPLOMATIC OPINIONS ABOUT THE ISSUES THAT MATTER MOST TO US MANGA FANS. OR MAYBE NOT. BUT THE DROLL DUO DISSOLVE INTO A LOT OF NAME-CALLING, WHICH IS ALWAYS GOOD FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY...

THE ISSUE: What makes you want to read manga?

THE PARTICIPANTS: Lillian (LDP) and Lindsey (LJ), TOKYOPOP's Jr. Editor and Managing Editor, respectively

THE CHOICES: Story vs. Art

THE STAKES: Will li'l Lil grill Lindsey like a kielbasa? Or will TOKYOPOP's managing ed turn the Polish powerhouse into a sauerkraut? Read on!

LDP: One of the best things about manga is the long-format storytelling.

I love how authors really take advantage of the length of a series to stretch out character development and how the plot unfolds.

The amount of detail and exploration that authors put into their stories is really remarkable, and it's what got me hooked on manga in the first place.

LJ: I beg to differ. The first thing that draws me to a new series is attractive and unique art. Creating a visually complete and compelling new world and then adding dynamic action and interesting character designs will get me every time. The creator has to have the chops to show the story in a style that's new and different.

LDP: But what about the melodrama and the excitement of manga? Everything is over-the-top and out of control, and yet so earnest and heartfelt. Even in the most mainstream of mainstream titles, manga stretches the limits of what is possible, while still maintaining a powerful sense of the human connection to the story. It's more than just pointy chins and big eyes, no matter how well rendered they are.

LJ: Sure, but if the art is ugly, you're not going to get readers past the first page. Come on, most manga plots make you sound like you're a raving lunatic if you try and explain them to someone—people who turn into zodiac animals when you hug them? Helloooo!

LDP: Even with crazy scenarios and basic character types, the story gives everything its own cool spin and breathes life into the book. Give me a story that's going to grab me by the throat, make me love the





characters and care about what happens to them!

LJ: Have you even looked at manga before? How many mediocre plots have become phenomenally popular just because they've got a healthy dose of bishonen? Your average harem

manga has only the most cookie-cutter of plots, but add some hot chicks in there, and you've got yourself a winner.

LDP: Mmm...bishonen...Oops! I mean...I get bored reading the same old story over and over again with different pretty faces attached. I want something challenging and creative to really expand my mind and tell me more about the human condition.

LJ: Yeah, well, when your literary manga masterpiece hits the shelf looking like it was drawn by a two-year-old with a chewed-up crayon, don't come whining to me when it only sells two copies. Blow me away with the rendering, and I'd pay to read your grocery list. (Ivory tower intellectual snob...)

LDP: Whatever, Miss Art Major! Just because you're superficial doesn't mean that you're right!

LJ: Ow! Stop pulling my hair! I'll show you a good plot!

LDP: Hey! No biting! And get that pencil away from me!

LJ: Stay back, or I'll give you a paper-cut with this manuscript!

LDP: Graaaaah!

LJ: Gaaaaooo!

So there you have it. Some of us read manga for the illustrious art, while others crave a roaring good yarn. That's what makes horse racing. Drop us a line and let us know what's your take!

Thanks, Lil and Lindsey, for a lively, liberating, and above all lilliputian discussion.



WHAT ARE WORDS FOR?

CHECK OUT THESE STATE-OF-THE-ART SERIES...



WHAT'S THE STORY MORNING GLORY?

HANG ON TO EVERY WORD IN THESE PAGE-TURNERS...



ARK ANGELS

SAVING THE EARTH ONE SPECIES AT A TIME.

Sang-Sun Park is the artist of *Les Bijoux* and creator of *The Tarot Café*. In creating *Ark Angels*, Korean-born Park collaborated with editors in TOKYOPOP's Japan and U.S. offices. She is still calculating the number of frequent flyer miles she has accumulated during the making of the manga.



From a small lake at the edge of town, three young girls have emerged—Shem, Hamu and Japheth, sisters from another world. Equipped with magical powers, they must save the Earth from extinction. However, there is something—or someone—sinister trying to stop them.

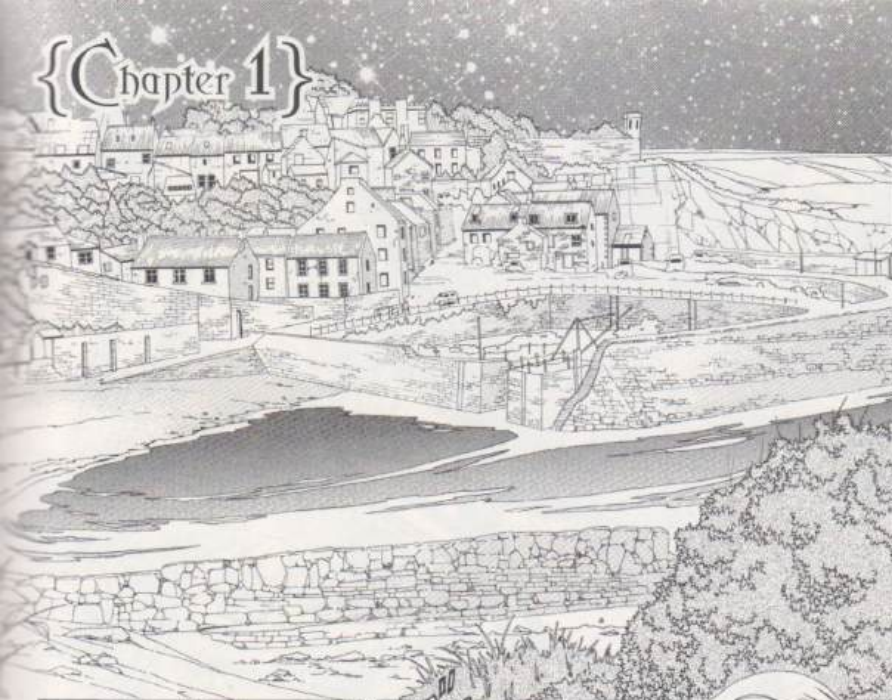
And on top of saving our world, these magical girls have to live like normal human girls—they go to school, hang around with friends and even fall in love!

~Rob Valois



{Chapter 1}

ARK ANGELS



Everybody

Sang-Sun Tonight!

Ten (10) lucky winners

can receive a signed

copy of volume one of

Sang-Sun Park's series

Ark Angels, The Tarot

Café, and Les Bijoux.

See *Manga* magazine

page 86 for details.

>> Welcome to the first page of the manga...there's something wrong on Earth, and the sisters are about to arrive.

**Park is fluent
in Japanese,
Korean, and the
visual language
of manga.**

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Here are the sisters, arriving on Earth from *another* dimension—in *Ark Angels*, Earth is a character. >>




In the creative process,
Sang-Sun Park and
the TOKYOPOP editors
decided to make
the sound effects in
Japanese.

>> Japheth, the youngest sister (she rocks the skateboard), is also the narrator of the manga series.

Is it all about the birth order? Hamu, the middle sister, enjoys riding bikes—and busting out martial arts. Japheth, the youngest, can stop time. Shem, the oldest, acts calm, but when she gets upset, watch out!



Fans of Ms. Park's luscious, elaborate style will no doubt recognize the gorgeous lines and fluidity in her art... >>



We come from an Earth in a parallel dimension.

Our mission is to rescue the animals of your planet that are on the brink of extinction, preserving them in "Noah's Ark."

Our perception of your Earth's animals is different from yours.

We don't just see an animal's physical form, but we look inside to its soul.

That's why...we believe every life is equal and precious.

More on birth order: The U.S. editor is an older child, with one sister.

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>> ...but compared to a series such as *The Tarot Café*, the art in *Ark Angels* has a more fanciful, youthful feel.

Want to win volume 1

of Sang-Sun

Park's *Les Bijoux*,

The Tarot Café,

and *Ark Angels*?

Simply log on to

www.TOKYOPOP.com/

arkdrawing

for all the details

you need to know!



10

Later in the manga, we learn how the girls' father is involved in their mission to save the Earth. >>

This is my
oldest sister,
Shem.

IT'S NOT
PINPIN'S FAULT.
THE TURBULENCE
BETWEEN DIMENSIONS
MAKES IT IMPOSSIBLE
TO MAINTAIN OUR
FORMS.

She's kindhearted
and is really serious
about most things,
but when she gets
angry, she's like a
monster!

HEY, CHECK
IT OUT! IT
LOOKS LIKE
OUR CLOTHES
CHANGED FOR
THIS MISSION!

WELL,
SINCE WE
DON'T HAVE
MUCH TIME...

My name is
Japheth. I'm the
youngest.

LET'S QUIT
STANDING
AROUND AND
GET TO WORK!

11

Read more
of the manga
for free:
[TOKYOPOP.com/
mangaonline](http://TOKYOPOP.com/mangaonline)

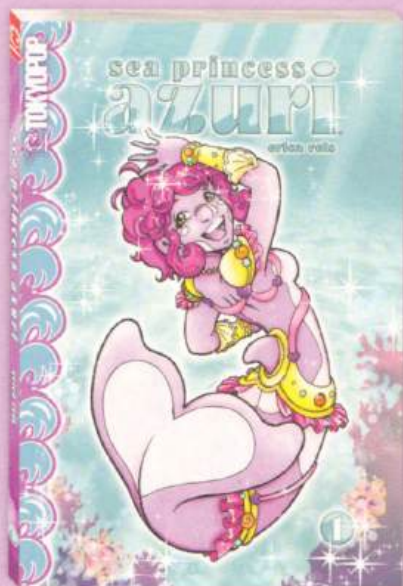
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>> Of course, there's a catch, which you'll have to read
about in the manga!

SEA PRINCESS AZURI

THE STORY OF A LOVE AS DEEP AS THE SEA...

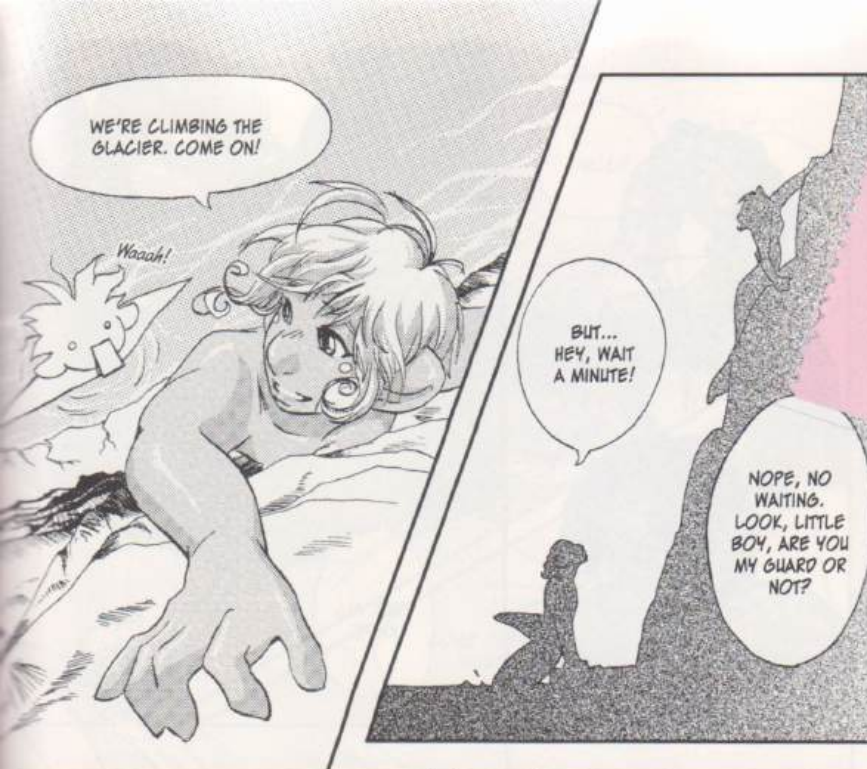
Born in Austin, Texas, Erica Reis is currently a student at Savannah College of Art and Design. She likes chocolate, chatting on the computer, her hermit crab Gimli, and being nocturnal. She dislikes mean people, cold days, and math questions.



I just love *Sea Princess Azuri*—after all, I’m a sucker for a good romance! Azuri is the mermaid princess and the only royal heir of the Orcans, a race of whale-merpeople that lives in a fantasy environment deep within the ocean. Azuri is betrothed to Prince Unagi, leader of the Eel people. Their marriage is arranged as a means to bring peace to two kingdoms. But soon Azuri falls in love with Thalo, a royal Orcan guard, and her world falls apart! Prince Unagi discovers Azuri’s love for Thalo and sends him to live on dry land—a fate worse than death for a merperson! While Azuri will stop at nothing to find her long, lost love, the fate of the world hangs in the balance. Talk about dramarama...I love it!

~Julie Taylor, Senior Editor

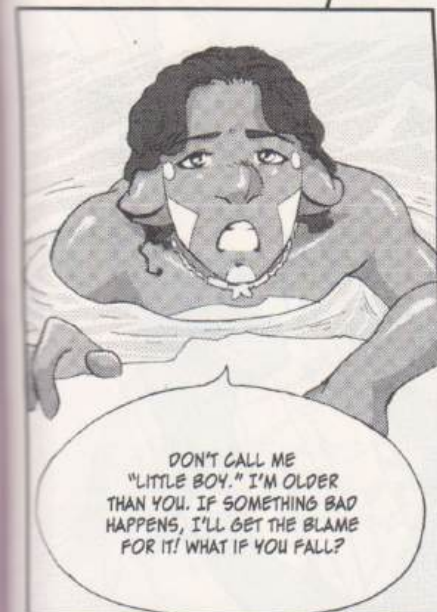




BUT...
HEY, WAIT
A MINUTE!

NOPE, NO
WAITING.
LOOK, LITTLE
BOY, ARE YOU
MY GUARD OR
NOT?

*Erica likes
drawing curly
hair because
her own hair
is curly!*



You know how in a lot of shojo there are all those pages with the beautiful flowers around the characters? Erica wanted to do something like that, but she didn't think flowers would be appropriate for mermaids. So she created a seashell and starfish background of her own. (See page 93!)

>> Erica wanted Azuri to be the opposite of the "typical" fairy-tale princess. Erica figured if Azuri was a mermaid swimming around all day, she wouldn't want a huge mane of hair getting tangled in her face!

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Merpeople's tails
are extensions
of their spines,
and they don't
have knees!



SHE'S HAVING
ENTIRELY TOO MUCH
FUN WITH THIS...



Did you know they're up on top of a snow-covered glacier? The Orcans live somewhere near one of the poles, so there's always ice. Their underwater cities are beautiful, with palaces made out of giant seashells. >>



Check out the diagonal panel borders—Erica tries to give each page a unique layout!

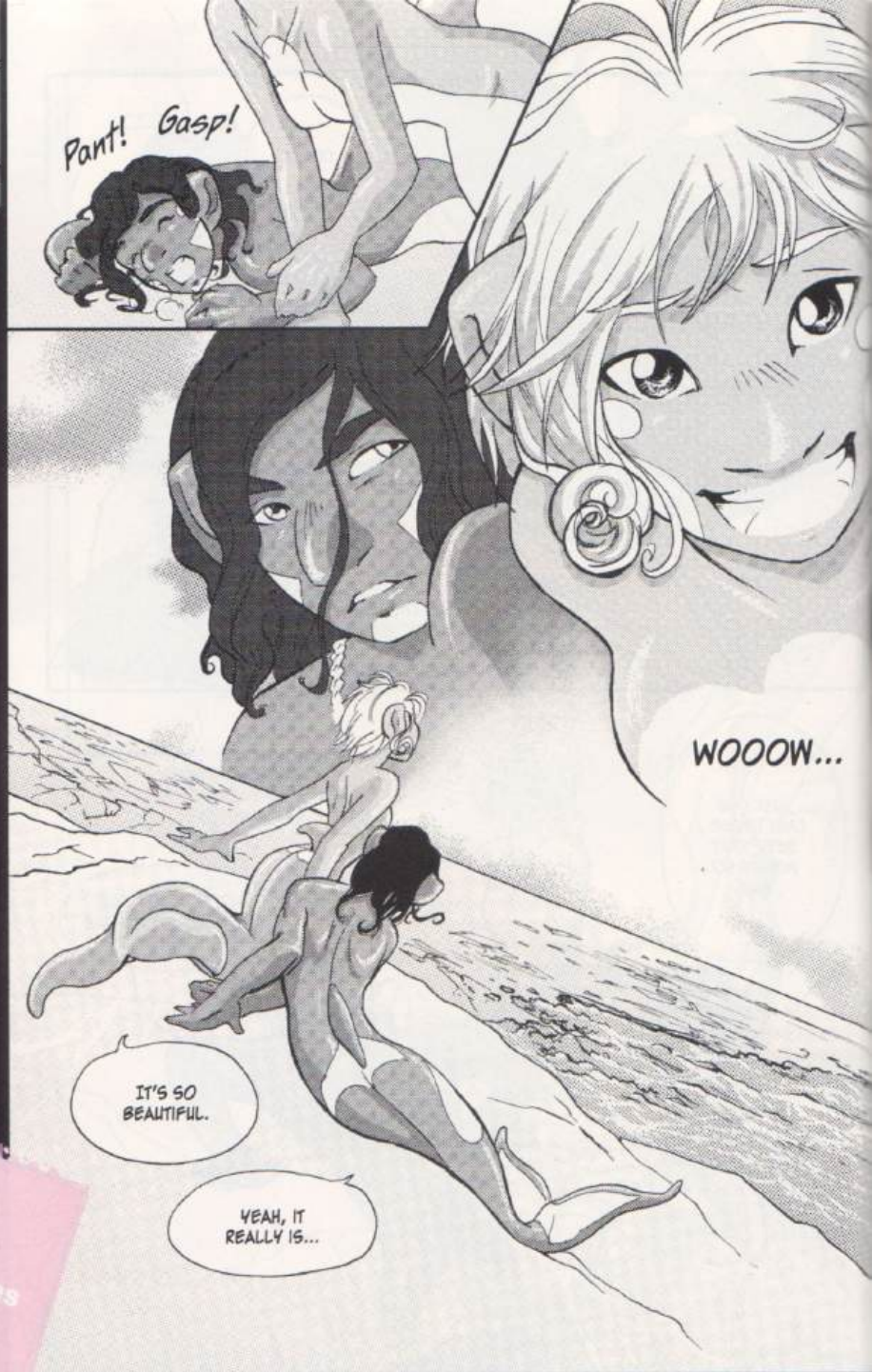


Drawing the characters' big noses makes Erica happy. They're kind of the opposite of regular anime noses, but remember: They are whale people, after all!

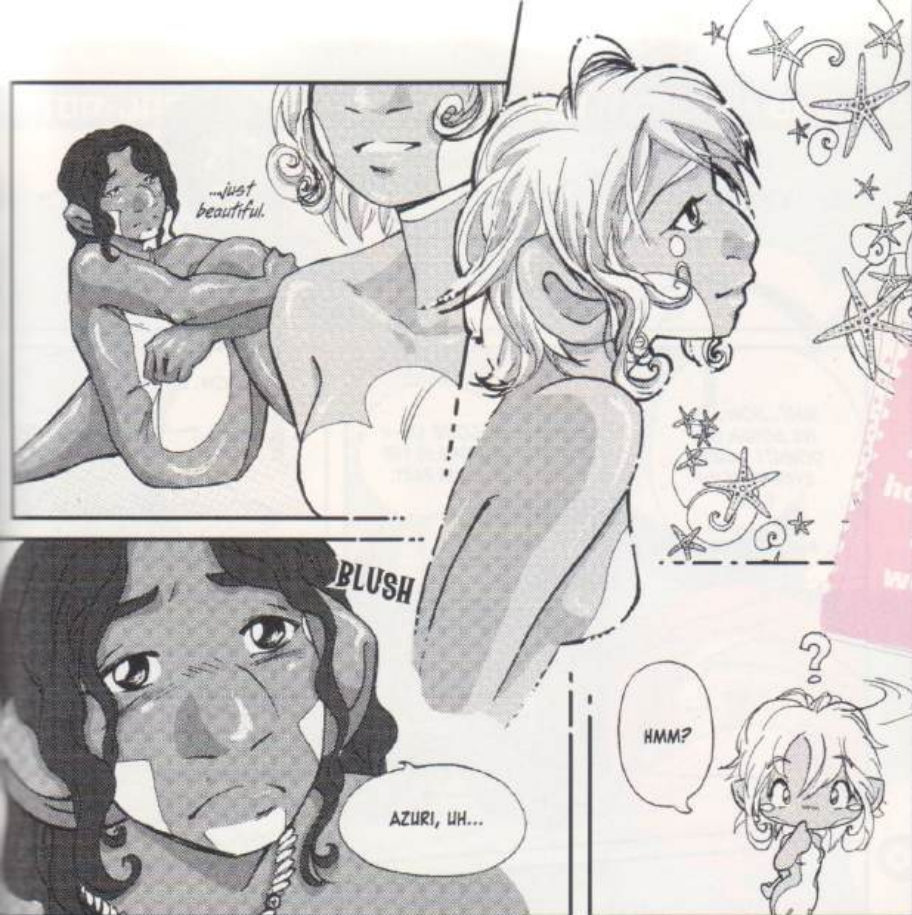
>> Poor Thalo! Look at him go! It's sort of a species thing. Merpeople have a small phobia of heights when they're out of the water. It's because they could so easily fall and get hurt, since they have no legs to land on.

Erica tried to make the facial markings really different on each person, so that if readers couldn't tell her faces apart, then at least they could look at the markings and know who that person is. Also, the first whale person Erica ever drew was yeeaaaars ago in high school. She drew it on lined notebook paper—but unfortunately doesn't have the drawing anymore. (Darn!)

Notice how Azuri's tail makes an upside-down heart?



Erica did research before drawing the aquatic life in the story. She particularly enjoyed drawing the penguins that will appear in the manga. She loves animals that are pure black and white—just like her family cat! >>



>> Have you ever tried drawing a mermaid in perspective from behind? It's hard! Erica loves drawing figures though. But she's drawn so many mermaids lately, she thinks she's forgotten how to draw legs!

Read the manga for free:

www.TOKYOPOP.com/mangaonline

And our story continues

in *Sea Princess Azuri*

Volume 2!

Will Azuri choose

Unagi or Thalo?

What's in store for these

star-crossed lovers?!

Tell your friends:
Sea Princess
Azuri is on sale
for only \$4.99!



The girl Orcans all have the little curvy fins on their backs. Real killer whales are like that, too. You can tell if one is a girl or a boy just by looking at his/her fin! But a dorsal fin isn't actually bone, so it's flexible. >>

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02. **Rewrite / ASIAN KUNG-FU GENERATION**
From the Anime TV Series Fullmetal Alchemist
03. **HIT IN THE USA / BEAT CRUSADERS**
From the Japanese Anime TV Series BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad
04. **Beginnings ~Hajimari no Uta~ / Puffy AmiYumi**
From the Anime Movie Pocket Monster Advance Generation: Myuu to Hado no Yuusha
05. **Dramatic / YUKI**
From the Anime TV Series Honey and Clover
06. **Houkigumo / RYTHEM**
From the Anime TV Series Yakitate!! Japan
07. **DAYS / FLOW**
From the Anime TV Series Eureka 7
08. **LOST HEAVEN / L'Arc~en~Ciel**
From the Anime Movie Fullmetal Alchemist - The Conqueror of Shambala
09. **Information / Suiteisho-jo**
From the Anime TV Series E's Otherwise
10. **PRIDE / HIGH and MIGHTY COLOR**
From the Anime TV series Gundam SEED Destiny
11. ***~asterisk~/ ORANGE RANGE**
From the Anime TV Series BLEACH
12. **Hey my friend / Tommy heavenly***
From the Live Action Movie Kamikaze Girls
13. **pureness / Nana Kitade**
From the Anime TV Series BEET the Vandal Buster
14. **Glaring Dream / Kinya Kotani**
From the Anime TV Series GRAVITATION
15. **Life Is Like a Boat / Rie fu**
From the Anime TV Series BLEACH

FEATURING HIT IN THE USA
from the anime TV series
BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT WWW.TOFURECORDS.COM

steal THIS LOOK

When it comes to fashion, have you got your *mobo* on? Caught up with the latest *kogal* trends ...or are you a freewheelin' freeter? Wherever your fashion pulse is these days, there's no question that we all can have a better dress code through manga. And don't worry, in this fashion planet, stealing is not a crime!

THIS SPEAKS FOR ITSELF.



From Dragon Voice.

The ever-evil Sae gives an example of a fashion “don’t” here. Momo’s got a great sense of style, but Sae duplicating every aspect of her look—right down to the shoulder bag that she convinced Momo to buy so that she could go back and buy it herself (What a sleeze!)—is just not cool. It’s one thing to take inspiration from your friends and fashion magazines, but it’s another thing to just blatantly rip off someone else’s look out of sheer malice. The big moral of *Peach Girl* is, “Cheaters never win, and winners never cheat!”

Momo gets even in the best possible way though, when she ends up with not one, but two devastatingly handsome and charming men head-over-heels for her!

STEAL THIS LOOK!

Posing with Toji and Kiley (below), in their casual Shibuya best, Momo’s life is pretty peachy for once.

- The arm-candy accessory. When you’re dressed to the nines, it’s nice to be alongside someone else who is equally stylin’. Momo lucked out here with these two (although Kiley seriously needs to ditch the dorky hat). The contrasting styles of the guys is highlighted by Toji’s preppy striped turtleneck and Kiley’s more relaxed baggy sweater with the floppy collar.

- Don’t forget to accessorize! The layered sundress that Momo is sporting is stunning enough on its own, but

adding a rosebud ring and a butterfly hair clip helps crank up the floral theme of the ensemble and gives Momo’s look just that much more polish and pizzazz!



In *President Dad*, Ami (below), the daughter of the president of South Korea, shows us some classic Audrey Hepburn style while on a picnic with the charming but mysterious Moo-Hyun!



STEAL THIS LOOK!

- Clip-on pearl earrings add that little touch of feminine sophistication without breaking ritzy private school body-piercing rules!

- Ami’s wide headband is both a practical—keeping her lovely hair out of the cheese-cake—and a stylish and easily duplicated accessory. A craft store ribbon can fit the bill here just as easily as a pricey designer version.

- Moo-Hyun is keeping it casual and simple, but the dog collar definitely adds a bit of an edge!

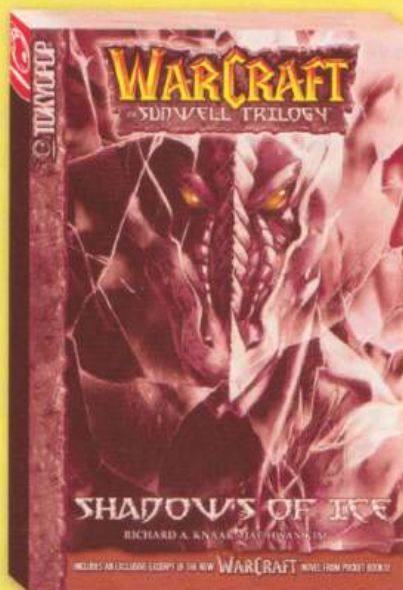
- And remember, you’re never fully dressed without a smile!

WARCRAFT

THE DRAGON HUNT CONTINUES...

Richard A. Knaak: In addition to his work on *Warcraft: The Sunwell Trilogy* and *Ragnarok* (also by TOKYOPOP), Richard A. Knaak is the *New York Times* bestselling fantasy author of 27 novels.

Jae-Hwan Kim was born in 1971 in Korea. He is perhaps best known for the series *King of Hell* published by TOKYOPOP.



Why is *Warcraft* such a popular, addictive game? If you ask me (and, by reading this, you have), it's because the story is so compelling and the setting is so vast and well realized. Even though you're meeting characters in the Tolkienesque world of Azeroth, they're often people (and creatures) with whom you can identify and sympathize. No one group is necessarily "good" or "bad" and their rich, complex history will be the first of many pleasant surprises in store for those of you who are unfamiliar with this fantastic world.

In the following preview, we join Baron Mordis in mid-flashback. He's telling the tale of his death, resurrection as a zombie by the Undead Scourge, and his life after undeath...



~Rob Tokar

THERE, YOUNG TRAG--NOT SO YOUNG ANYMORE--FOUND ME. HE, ALONE, WAS UNAFRAID OF WHAT I HAD BECOME.



WITH HIM AT MY SIDE, I FOUND NEW STRENGTH AND SWORE TO AVENGE MY HOME AND PEOPLE!



THE CURSE LAID UPON ME BY THE SCOURGE BECAME THE WEAPON I WIELDED AGAINST THEM.

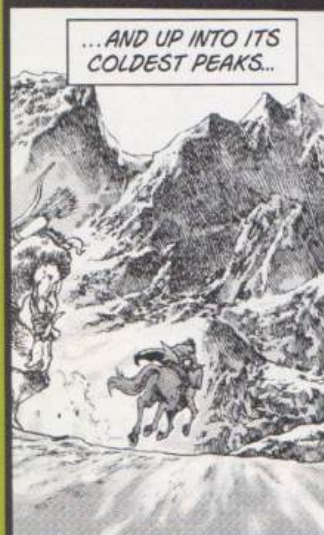


MY POWERS AND TRAG'S STRONG ARM...



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>> Baron Mordis (the narrator) is not suffering from adult acne—he's undead. Some who have been resurrected to serve the Undead Scourge have regained their free will...but they're still shunned by the living.



Trag is a Tauren, a minotaur-like creature from a quiet, tribal society. However, when roused by conflict, they can be implacable enemies who will use every ounce of their strength to smash their enemies under hoof. >>



HE HAD WITH HIM THE
ORB OF NER'ZHUL...

...AND HAD COME
IN SEARCH OF
SOMETHING UPON
WHICH TO USE ITS
ACCURSED
ABILITIES.



**Ner'Zhul was an
orc shaman who
was corrupted and
driven insane by
demons from the
Twisting Nether.**

>> Transformed by demons into the Lich King, Ner'Zhul spread death and terror across Azeroth. Those who died would arise as the undead, and their spirits would be forever bound to the Lich King's iron will.

HE FOUND THAT
SOMETHING.

**Note the
incredible detail:
the muscles, the
internal organs,
the tattered,
leathery wings.**



More proof of Jae-Hwan Kim's incredible talent and imagination—it's not like he could go to a museum and take photos of dragon skeletons for reference! >>

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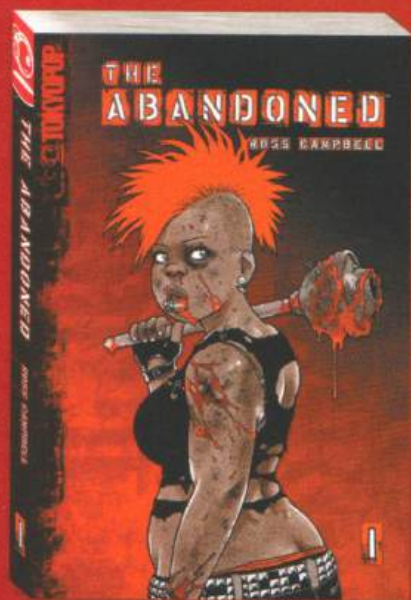
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THE ABANDONED

WHEN YOU FALL IN LOVE, THE DEAD CAN BE A REAL DRAG.

Ross Campbell is a nocturnal recluse who currently lives in an undisclosed location. He spends his time working and not much else. He gets some time off to watch one movie every Friday. Ross likes teen drama, cats, horror movie monsters, and Japanese giant monsters—his monster of choice, of course, is Gamera.



The Abandoned is a tale of some very real people dealing with very real issues—jobs, family, romance, personal conflict...and death! It's that last one that really comes back to bite them in the butt—literally. After a big storm hits the small town of Buffalora, Georgia, its young residents find themselves picking up the pieces of not only their homes, but their elders as well! Join Rylie and the gang as they bludgeon their way through a sea of the undead on a desperate race to freedom.



~Aaron Suhr, Senior Editor



23

After her parents died in an unfortunate dump truck accident several months ago, Naomi lived with her aunt in Atlanta.

Naomi's emotionally fragile right now and doesn't know if she's up for romance.

>> Along the way, don't forget to take some time to stop and admire Ross Campbell's beautiful ink-wash art—in two colors!

Ross Campbell digs
zombies, mystic warrior
monks, rednecks and
hillbilly horror, African
cultures, the South, road
warriors, and David
Lynch. Pretty much all of
the above is included in
The Abandoned.



30

Sometimes an artist can be his toughest critic. Other times, he's satisfied. Ross admits on this page: "I like the way Rylie's smile came out in the first panel." >>



The nursing home is a combo of a few different designs that Campbell found.



So, I'll see ya later, then?

Yeah.

You don't have to call or nothin'... just show up, I'll be home.



Be careful if it's windy or rainy, from the storm... lots of people in the city are evacuating.



Now... it'll be fine.

>> Advancing a story is key to visual storytelling. This page is a good example of effective pacing throughout the panels.

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Sometimes the residents of the nursing home get a little out of hand...and this is before the storm! >>



47

After the storms hits,
almost everyone dies...
and then the dead rise...

>> Of course, it's a good thing undead senior citizens are so slow on their feet.

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Pacing and
structure is
an effective
way to show
movement—even
slow movement.



58

Like we said earlier, an artist can be his toughest critic. Campbell wishes that he'd done the rain a little better.

>>



Campbell admits that he "really likes reading girls' magazines like *Seventeen* and the now-defunct *YM*." The quiz results Naomi reads were adapted from a few issues he had that determined stress levels.

>> Art imitates life...after death? The zombie in the last two panels is none other than Ross Campbell himself.

CHECK OUT THESE NEW TOKYOPOP RELEASES!

JANUARY

ACTION

Blade of Heaven Vol. 6
Dragon Head Vol. 1
Hyper Police Vol. 5
Idiotz Vol. 1
Lights Out Vol. 2
Mahoromatic: Automatic Maiden Vol. 8
Mobile Suit Gundam École du Ciel Vol. 2
Mobile Suit Gundam Seed (Novel) Vol. 2
Remote Vol. 8
Roadsong Vol. 1
Sengoku Nights Vol. 1
Smuggler Vol. 1

SCI-FI

B'T X Vol. 10

COMEDY

Comic Party Vol. 5
DearS Vol. 5
Hands Off! Vol. 5
Honey Mustard Vol. 3
Lizzie McGuire Vol. 14
SpongeBob SquarePants Who's Hungry? -
Patty Hype (Cine-Manga) Vol. 11
Ultra Cute Vol. 1

DRAMA

Dazzle Vol. 1
Juror 13

FANTASY

Chronicles of the Cursed Sword Vol. 14
Kingdom Hearts Vol. 2
PhD: Phantasy Degree Vol. 5
RG Veda Vol. 4
Scrapped Princess Vol. 2

HORROR

Cross Vol. 5
Visitor Vol. 3

ROMANCE

Crazy Love Story Vol. 5
Peach Girl Authentic Vol. 7
Sea Princess Azuri Vol. 1
Yonen Buzz Vol. 1

FEBRUARY

ACTION

Avatar (Cine-Manga) Vol. 1
iD_eNTITY Vol. 5
Initial D Vol. 21
GetBackers Vol. 13
Heaven Above Heaven
Vol. 4
Kami-Kaze Vol. 1
King of Hell Vol. 12
Mobile Suit Gundam Lost
War Chronicles Vol. 1
Rebirth Vol. 17
Samurai Deeper Kyo Vol. 17
Sequence Vol. 1
Threads of Time Vol. 6

SCI-FI

BLAME! Vol. 3

COMEDY

Boys Be... Vol. 8
Lady and the Tramp Vol. 1
Lupin III - World's Most Wanted Vol. 6
President Dad Vol. 5
Sorcerer Hunters—100%
Authentic Format Vol. 5

DRAMA

Beautiful People Vol. 1

FANTASY

.hack//AI buster (Novel) Vol. 2
Broken Angels Vol. 1
Princess Ai Vol. 3: Evolution

ROMANCE

Glass Wings Vol. 1
Loveless Vol. 1
One Vol. 9
The Queen's Knight Vol. 5
Sorcerers & Secretaries Vol. 1
Tramps Like Us Vol. 8

ART BOOK

CLAMP no Kiseki Vol. 6 (exclusively
at Waldens, Borders, and select
comic shops)

MARCH

ACTION

Battle Club Vol. 1
Blazin' Barrels Vol. 4
Rave Master Vol. 19
Samurai Champloo Vol. 2
Saiyuki Reload Vol. 3
Shaolin Sisters: Reborn Vol. 4

SCI-FI

Psychic Academy Vol. 11
Telepathic Wanderers Vol. 2

COMEDY

Ai Yori Aoshi Vol. 12
BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad Vol. 3
Gacha Gacha Vol. 1
Girls Bravo Vol. 3
Gravitation (Novel) Vol. 1
I Luv Halloween Vol. 2
Last Fantasy Vol. 1
Never Give Up Vol. 1
Vampire Game Vol. 14

DRAMA

Made in Heaven: Kazemichi
Someday's Dreamers Vol. 1

FANTASY

Dragon Knights Vol. 22
Faeries' Landing Vol. 12
Suikoden III Vol. 9
Tsukuyomi: Moon Phase Vol. 2
Warcraft Vol. 2

HORROR

The Abandoned Vol. 1

ROMANCE

Kamichama Karin Vol. 3
Pita-Ten Official Fan Book Vol. 2
Snow Drop Vol. 12

JANUARY

ACTION	GET IT	GOT IT	ACTION cont.	GET IT	GOT IT
Blade of Heaven Vol. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Roadsong Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dragon Head Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sengoku Nights Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hyper Police Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smuggler Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Idiotz Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Lights Out Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SCI-FI		
Mahoromatic: Automatic Maiden Vol. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	B*TX Vol. 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile Suit Gundam École du Ciel Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMEDY		
Mobile Suit Gundam Seed (Novel) Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comic Party Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remote Vol. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	DearS Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Hands Off! Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Honey Mustard Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

TOKYOPOP



FEBRUARY

ACTION	GET IT	GOT IT	ACTION cont.	GET IT	GOT IT
Avatar Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sequence Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
iD_eNTITY Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Threads of Time Vol. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Initial D Vol. 21	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
GetBackers Vol. 13	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	SCI-FI		
Heaven Above Heaven Vol. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BLAME! Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kami-Kaze Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMEDY		
King of Hell Vol. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Boys Be... Vol. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mobile Suit Gundam Lost War Chronicles Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lady and the Tramp Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rebirth Vol. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lupin III - World's Most Wanted Vol. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Samurai Deeper Kyo Vol. 17	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

TOKYOPOP



MARCH

ACTION	GET IT	GOT IT	SCI-FI cont.	GET IT	GOT IT
Battle Club Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Telepathic Wanderers Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Blaizin' Barrels Vol. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			
Rave Master Vol. 19	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	COMEDY		
Samurai Champloo Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ai Yori Aoshi Vol. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saiyuki Reload Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	BECK: Mongolian Chop Squad Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Shaolin Sisters: Reborn Vol. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gatcha Gacha Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Warcraft Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Girls Bravo Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SCI-FI			Gravitation Novel Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Psychic Academy Vol. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	I Luv Halloween Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Last Fantasy Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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From:

LOVELESS™

In a secret world where mere words can determine your destiny, what do you do when your name is Loveless?

Manga available now at bookstores everywhere.

JANUARY CONT.

COMEDY cont.	GET IT	GOT IT	FANTASY cont.	GET IT	GOT IT
Lizzie McGuire Vol. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	PhD: Phantasy Degree Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SpongeBob SquarePants Who's Hungry?-Patty Hype Vol. 11	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	RG Veda Vol. 4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Ultra Cute Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scrapped Princess Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRAMA			HORROR		
Dazzle Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Juror 13 Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Visitor Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FANTASY			ROMANCE		
Chronicles of the Cursed Sword Vol. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Crazy Love Story Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kingdom Hearts Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peach Girl Authentic Vol. 7	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Sea Princess Azuri Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Wild Rock Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
			Yonen Buzz Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

FEBRUARY CONT.

COMEDY cont.	GET IT	GOT IT	ROMANCE	GET IT	GOT IT
President Dad Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Earthian Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sorcerer Hunters—100% Authentic Format Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gorgeous Carat Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
DRAMA			Glass Wings Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Beautiful People Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Loveless Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FANTASY			One Vol. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
hack//AI buster (Novel) Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	The Queen's Knight Vol. 5	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Broken Angels Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sorcerers & Secretaries Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Princess Ai	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tramps Like Us Vol. 8	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Evolution Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ART BOOK		
			Clamp No Kiseki Vol. 6	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

MARCH CONT.

COMEDY cont.	GET IT	GOT IT	FANTASY cont.	GET IT	GOT IT
Never Give Up Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tsukuyomi: Moon Phase Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Vampire Game Vol. 14	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	HORROR		
DRAMA			The Abandoned Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Made in Heaven: Kazemichi Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	ROMANCE		
Someday's Dreamers Vol. 1	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Kamichama Karin Vol. 3	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
FANTASY			Love Mode Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Dragon Knights Vol. 22	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pita-Ten Official Fan Book Vol. 2	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Faeries' Landing Vol. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Snow Drop Vol. 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Saikoden III Vol. 9	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>			

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HEY BABY, WHAT'S YOUR BLOOD TYPE*?

*essentially the type of antigens on the surface of your red blood cells and the type of antibodies in your blood plasma, in case you care

I'm a natural-born leader who's tough and athletic. Or at least that's what my blood type says about me. (Probably not what my fourth-grade kickball teammates would say about me, but that's another story!)

Psychologist Takeji Furukawa pioneered the theory (known in Japan as *ketsu-eki-gata*) that blood types have an effect on personality in 1927, believing that because your blood type is present in every part of your body, it must affect your behavior too. However, although blood type has since been linked to susceptibility to certain diseases, there has been no scientific connection shown between blood type and personality.

Still, *ketsu-eki-gata* has become so popular in Japan that it's as common there as asking what your sign is here in the States. Most Americans are Type O, but Type A is the most common in Japan. Wondering what your blood type says about you? Read on!

TYPE A:

BEST QUALITIES: Punctual, responsible, conservative, hard-working, patient, green thumb

WORST QUALITIES: Stubborn, anal-retentive, shy

MOST COMPATIBLE WITH: A and AB

FAMOUS TYPE A's: George H. W. Bush, Britney Spears

TYPE B:

BEST QUALITIES: Enthusiastic, passionate, creative, curious, energetic, good with animals

WORST QUALITIES: Unreliable, self-involved, flighty

MOST COMPATIBLE WITH: B and AB

FAMOUS TYPE B's: Leonardo DiCaprio, Jack Nicholson

TYPE AB:

BEST QUALITIES: Cool-headed, logical, considerate, artistic, sensitive, outgoing

WORST QUALITIES: Judgmental, indecisive, unpredictable

MOST COMPATIBLE WITH: AB, B, A, and O

FAMOUS TYPE AB's: Marilyn Monroe, Mick Jagger

TYPE O:

BEST QUALITIES: Natural leader, assertive, self-assured, athletic, diplomatic, generous

WORST QUALITIES: Conceited, insensitive, careless

MOST COMPATIBLE WITH: O and AB

FAMOUS TYPE O's: Elvis Presley, John Lennon, Al Capone

~Elizabeth "Type O" Hurchalla

THE SIX DEGREES

OF TELEPATHIC WANDERERS

IF YOU WERE
TELEPATHIC, YOU
WOULD ALREADY
KNOW THIS...

In *Telepathic Wanderers*, Nanase is a beautiful young telepath who returns to her hometown to retreat into the quiet life. But that wouldn't make for good manga, so when she stumbles across others who possess telepathic powers, this drama begins to sizzle.

Now, when you think about it, this sexy, sophisticated paranormal series isn't too far removed from some of our other favorite manga series, such as *Tokyo Mew Mew*, *Hyper Police*, *Snow Drop*...even Kevin Bacon! Everything is connected. Think we're crazy? (Well, that's beside the point.) Just take a look for yourself. It's funny how the mind works, isn't it?



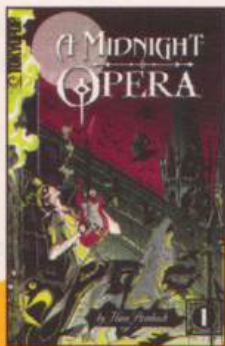
kids with
cat ears



has the word "love"
in the title, somewhat
ironically



features two families that hate each other



includes a whopper
of a hospital scene

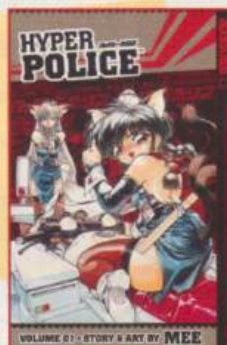
has telepaths



aura battlers



a character named Sakura

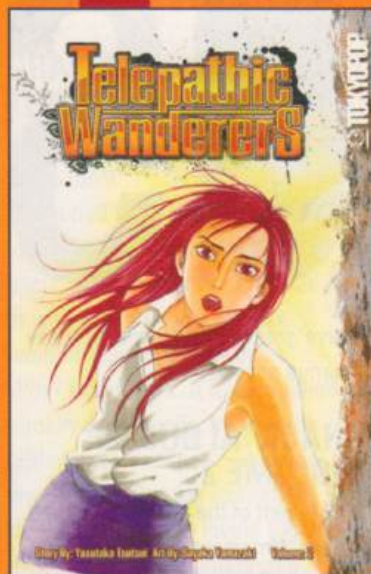


filled with catgirls

attended in 2005



a train that meets disaster



takes place in France

co-starred in *Trapped*

CHARLIZE THERON



YOU KNOW WHO!

A NOVEL CONCEPT FOR MANGA

PROSE FROM THE PROS

The word from Japanese publishing is, well, "words," as in manga novels, which are über popular and a great way to read more about your favorite manga and anime characters. Manga novels are opening up a new chapter here in the U.S., too! (Okay, sorry about all the puns—I think you get the picture...but in this case, there are *not* a lot of pictures.)

We thought we'd share a few of our favorite lines from some of our much-loved novels. Will these passages be the next "All children, except one, grow up," "Marley was dead to begin with. There is no doubt whatever about that," or "It was a pleasure to burn"? Who knows—but we do

have *great expectations* for these manga novels!

.HACK//AI BUSTER VOLUME 2

My part of the adventure ended there. A moment later, Albireo and Lycoris disappeared in a blaze of light, again breaking the rules of The World.

Their sudden disappearance left my heart yearning for closure. I decided to write Albireo an e-mail. If possible, I wanted to meet him in real life.

Albireo,
You and your words
touched my heart. I
hope, perhaps, that
you might feel the
same way. I don't know

where you and Lyco disappeared to, but I don't want to end our adventure like this. Please contact me.

My mouse hovered over the send icon, but instead, I clicked delete. I was expecting too much.

GRAVITATION: THE NOVEL

And thus, Shuichi was kicked out of the room.

He had been toyed with, insulted, and rejected on a daily basis, since the day he'd moved in with Yuki. And yet, he was happier than he'd ever been. Why? Gravitation. A force applied equally to all things, from which nothing can escape... In other words, love. But the strength of the force that drew lovers together did not necessarily guarantee happiness.

Shuichi's vague anxiety, his gut instinct, had been trying to warn him. He sensed the events about to unfold, like an animal felt the approach of a storm. He was going to bomb at this concert contest, in front of Japan—in front of the world. And then Yuki wouldn't want him anymore.

GUNDAM SEED VOLUME 2

La Flaga turned to Kira. "You know we can't rely on the resistance's

forces, right? They're too weak. Just do your best." La Flaga grinned. "But then, you always do." He patted Kira on the shoulder.

As he prepared to board the Strike, Kira asked, "Do you know what a 'berserker' is?"

La Flaga looked puzzled. "Berserker? I think it's a crazed soldier who becomes so enraged in battle, he can't control himself. Berserkers were legendary ferocious fighters."

Kira shivered. The Desert Tiger thought of him as a crazed soldier. That didn't mesh with Kira's image of himself, but he had managed to destroy many enemy machines. He'd continue to do whatever it took to protect the ones he loved.

SLAYERS VOLUME 6

I quickened my pace down the path, out of town, and into the wild forest. A sneaky little presence had been following me for quiet some time. I wrinkled my nose, more than a little annoyed. Persistent little jerk, I thought. It's either somebody out to kill me, or a creep who's found true love.

Not that I would blame him for falling in love with me, mind you. I'm sexier than a buffet table after a thirty-day starvation diet. I clenched my fists and took a breath. Time to kick some butt.



HACK/AI BUSTER



GRAVITATION



GUNDAM SEED



SLAYERS

CHRONICLES OF THE

THINK YOU KNOW TOKYOPOP MANGA?

DOWN

1. *Battle Royale* arena
2. Earth "gero"
3. *DearS* zero
4. Chivalrous dragons
5. Demon Lord disappointment
7. Cheers
8. My Dad, president of ____
11. *FLCL* eye accessory
15. Homeplanet bravo
17. *Kamichama* catchphrase
20. *Cowboy Bebop* home "system"
21. *iD_eNTITY* exclamation
23. One woman one shots
25. Detective prodigy
26. Television accessory
27. Jing's profession
28. Not a real manga
29. Horoscope investigator
32. *Off*Beat* obsession
33. *Paradise Kiss* studio
38. *Northside/Southside*
39. Doll top of the line
41. Number of TOKYOPOP titles with "Dragon" in the name
42. *Ai Yori Aoshi* sweetheart
43. Shape of relationship in *Crazy Love Story*
47. Jing's pet
49. Possessor of the dragon voice
51. Petshop "lion"
52. *BT*X* machine
53. Rave companion



ACROSS

6. ROCK
9. *Initial D* driver
10. Kimono sash
12. Their circumstances
13. Norse Armageddon
14. Sleeper epic
16. What happens when you're making other plans
18. Japanese for "good"
19. *Kill Me*, ____
22. Foreboding road sign
24. She's got game
30. *Suikoden* true rune
31. *Magical Shopping Arcade*
34. Vedic king
35. *Love* ____ *Money*
36. Free range
37. *Pita-Ten* suffix
38. Manga celebration
40. Western etc.
44. CLAMP's almost Alice
45. Winter candy
46. *Battle Vixens* original title
48. *Culdcept*'s woody mentor
50. Rides a horse with no name
51. Brother of a vampire is man's best friend
54. Big city onmyouji
55. Third generation thief
56. "Retrievers"



Get a clue! Visit:
www.TOKYOPOP.com/crossword
 for all the answers!

CROSSWORD

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE WITH THIS
ULTIMATE CROSSWORD PUZZLE!



HAPPY PUZZLING!



Goth Loli goddess Mitsukazu Mihara has garnered an impressive level of fan devotion in Japan, largely due to the intricate and inspired Gothic Lolita fashions worn by many of her characters.

A master of the manga short story, Mihara-sensei began her career as an illustrator, gaining recognition and acclaim for her distinct illustrations in the *Gothic Lolita Bible*. Going on to create such noteworthy titles as *Happy Family* and *IC in a Sunflower*, Mihara-sensei took storytelling to a new level with *Doll*, a six-volume anthology series about a world where humankind coexists with an intelligent race of androids called "dolls."

Gothic Lolita enthusiasts and sci-fi lovers—Mitsukazu Mihara fans are passionate, dedicated and intelligent. And with the release of Mihara-sensei's *Beautiful People* in February and *Haunted House* and *R.I.P.: Requiem in Phonybrain* in the fall, they're about to grow significantly in number. Get on board while you still can.

Manga magazine sat down with Mihara-sensei at the Otakon convention in Baltimore, where she discussed fashion, fandom and some of her surprising influences.

~Tim Beedle



AN INTERVIEW WITH
MITSUKAZU MIHARA

WHAT

Manga: Welcome to Otakon, Mihara-sensei! Is this your first time in the United States?

Mitsukazu Mihara: Not only is it my first time in the United States, it's my first time traveling abroad. I'm having the best time!

Manga: What are your impressions of Otakon?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I love it. All of these amazing cosplayers—I could sit and watch them all day long. This is something you just don't see in Japan!

Manga: In Japan, the vast majority of your fans are Gothic Lolita

devotees. What attracted you to Gothic Lolita fashion?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I just love the spirit of Gothic Lolita culture. When I first started drawing manga, Gothic Lolita was just taking off and I wanted to incorporate the trend. I think we've grown together. Actually, though, my first works were not Gothic Lolita—they were inspired more by punk.

Manga: Let's back up a bit. How did you begin your career as a manga-ka?

Mitsukazu Mihara: When I was first starting off, I was very much inspired by the work of Yumi Tada

MIHARA- SENSATIONAL: FIVE FLAWLESS FABLES

New to the work of Mitsukazu Mihara? For those looking to sample the best of the best, we offer a few suggestions.

1. "A Maid Servant" (*Doll*/Vol. 1) When Tokiko's fiancé leaves her for another woman, Tokiko assumes it's because she's ugly. But when someone starts defacing Tokiko's doll, we soon learn that ugliness has many forms.

2. "Beautiful People" (*Beautiful People*) Telling the tale of Mimi, a strong-willed

A DOLL!



(Yukikaze, Ludlow Garage, *Sitting in the Balcony*). I actually became her assistant. While working for her, I was scouted and asked to enter my work in an amateur manga competition and was very surprised when I learned that I won! I then went on to submit my work to Shodensha, who accepted it. I've been extremely lucky in my career.

Manga: Other than Yumi Tada, who are some of your influences?

Mitsukazu Mihara: Kazuo Umezu (*Orochi, Scary Books*) and Junko Mizuno (*Hansel & Gretel, Pure Trance*). I also really love Tim Burton.

Manga: Really? He's an influence?
Mitsukazu Mihara: Oh yes! He's my biggest. *Edward Scissorhands* is my favorite film of his. I find the way he balances dark themes with humor and heart to be inspiring. And I can't wait to see *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *The Corpse Bride*!

Manga: What about the science fiction aspect in many of your books? Your stories in *Doll* and *Beautiful People* remind me of the work of Isaac Asimov and Ray Bradbury. Are you a fan?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I'm a very big fan of science fiction. *Blade Runner* is

one of my favorite movies. I'm also a fan of Asimov's robot books. In fact, the dolls in *Doll* actually follow the Three Laws of Robotics, even though it's never explicitly stated.

Manga: Let's talk about *Doll* for a moment. Aside from being a great piece of science fiction, there are a lot of social and psychological issues brought up in it. Did you intend for it to make so many statements?

Mitsukazu Mihara: Yes, there were many issues I wanted to write about. Domestic violence, for one, remains a problem in Japan, and I felt *Doll* could be a good place to address it.

woman who achieves beauty through plastic surgery, Mihara-sensei reveals where true beauty lies, while serving up some of her most intriguing character design work to boot.

3. "Grave" (*Doll*/Vol. 4) Mihara-sensei gave life to the dolls, but in this story, she gives them death. "Grave" takes us to

the SG Corporation's press room, where retired or illegally remodelled dolls are scrapped. A fascinating look at mortality, "Grave" is chilling...and life-affirming.

4. "Haunted House" (*Haunted House*) A very black comedy. "Haunted House" tells the story of Sabato, a hapless teenager whose attempts at romance

are continually ruined by his outrageous family. Boasts detailed gothic art and plenty of dark humor.

5. "Home" (*Doll*/Vol. 6) An emotional story that serves as a denouement for the entire *Doll* series, "Home" is only fully appreciated when read after the stories that preceded it.



Doll is fearless in its subject matter, tackling controversial issues such as spousal abuse, gender inequality, bulimia and sexual objectification.



However, it was never intended to be at the sacrifice of the story. Telling a good story comes first.

Manga: Your stories often cross into the fantastic or the surreal, but the characters and their emotions always feel real and relatable. How do you pull this off?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I take my inspiration from my own life and I only write about what I know. Now, I'll often take familiar things and exaggerate them for effect, but I have to stick to what I'm familiar with. For me to do it any other way would weaken the story.

Manga: How does Gothic Lolita fit into it?

Mitsukazu Mihara: In *Doll*, Gothic Lolita fashion symbolizes eternal beauty. The perfect Gothic Lolita never ages—she remains young. It's as if she's not human, but a machine—or a doll.

Manga: Do you have a favorite character in *Doll*?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I like Ichiro, the Remodeler. Of all the characters, he's the most like me.



Manga: What has your experience been like working with an American entertainment company, as opposed to a Japanese company?

Mitsukazu Mihara: It's actually easier to work with TOKYOPOP than with Japanese companies. Most publishers are not as concerned with quality, but TOKYOPOP pays extra attention to keeping the integrity of my work. I am extremely happy.

Manga: What are you working on now?

Mitsukazu Mihara: I have a couple of projects I'm working on: *Doku Hime* and *Shigeshoshi*.

Manga: Do you have a message for your fans in America?

Mitsukazu Mihara: Thank you for all your support! I'm so pleasantly surprised and grateful that the American fans "get it" despite all of the cultural differences! The fact that Gothic Lolita is so popular here in the States pleases me very much!

WE INTERRUPT THE MANGA TO BRING YOU THIS VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT:

pause

read left-to-right

If you've just soaked up the hottest manga from Japan, you need to turn to the front of our manga mag for some of TOKYOPOP's originally created manga and other cool articles.

read right-to-left

If you've been enjoying the unforgettable left-to-right reading experience, we invite you to jump to the back of our manga mag for more cutting-edge manga...this time from Japan!

Of course, if you're blown away by what you've been reading, then e-mail your friends, call your loved ones, and write the president—tell them all about the Manga Revolution!

And make sure you log on to
www.TOKYOPOP.com
for more manga!

The sound effect in
the middle panel
on page 125

—kaa—
means "blushing."



We see Ritsuka's opinion about Soubi change, and this may turn out to be a mistake later in the manga... <<

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



<< Ritsuka has amnesia, and wants to make memories in a very tangible way—for instance, he takes photos.

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"Sentouki" (previous page) can be translated a lot of different ways—"sento" means "fight," "ki" means "machine"—such as "battle machine" or "battle unit." We decided upon "fighter unit," or "weapon."



Note how Ritsuka's attitude totally changes when Soubi tells him he knew his brother. <<



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<< Ritsuka goes into kitty mode—he's hissing. We felt it necessary to translate the sound FX.

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

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Soubi knows a lot more about what's going on than Ritsuka does... <<

HEAD RIGHT-TO-LEFT



Soubi has bandages around his neck—and we'll find out why later in this volume.

Ritsuka has bandages, too—tragically, his mother hit him. She is kind of crazy, constantly asking, "When is Ritsuka coming back?"

<< Ritsuka runs into Soubi. Ritsuka freaks out a bit: he looks young, but doesn't have cat ears—he's an adult.

The sound effect in
the bottom middle
of the right-side page
is a heartbeat



Loveless may look pretty—Kouga-sensei's art is gorgeous—but it deals with dark themes and dark issues. These are incredibly damaged people, and despite the age difference, they have a lot in common. <<



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<< "Double life": Two years before the story starts, something happened—we don't yet know what—that caused Ritsuka's personality to change. He became cold and isolated, and instead focused on his grades.

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READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

More on "adults": The teacher is 23 years old and still has her ears. <<



There are many things
 Soubi does that we should
 not emulate. Take the
 smoking: It's dirty and
 disgusting—your teeth
 yellow, your breath turns
 gross. It's unhealthy to
 the max, and on top of
 that, no one wants to kiss
 you! Kiss an ashtray if you
 don't believe us!

<< Characters who are "not adults" in the world of *Loveless* have kitty ears and a tail.

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READ RIGHT TO LEFT



This is the first time we meet Soubi, the second protagonist. He's an ambiguous hero, at best—it's not entirely clear which side he's on, as we'll see... <<



When 12-year-old Ritsuka discovers a posthumous message from his older brother Seimei indicating he was murdered, he becomes involved in a shadowy world of spell battles and secret names. Together with the mysterious Soubi, the search to find Seimei's killer and uncover the truth begins!

But in this world, where mere words have unbelievable power, how can you find true friendship and happiness when your very name is Loveless?

Part haunting mystery and part psychological drama—with a little shonen-ai mixed in—Kouga-sensei's luscious, gorgeous art effortlessly accentuates this eagerly awaited series.

~Lillian Diaz-Przybyl



OH, BROTHER, WHERE ART THOU? LOVELESS

Yun Kouga is the fan-favorite artist of several hit manga series, including *Earthian*, published by BLU. Check out www.BLUmanga.com.

Dragon Head was
also made into a live-
action film directed by
Hiroyuki Okiura, who
fans may know from the
groundbreaking Japanese
anime *Jin-Roh*:
The Wolf Brigade.



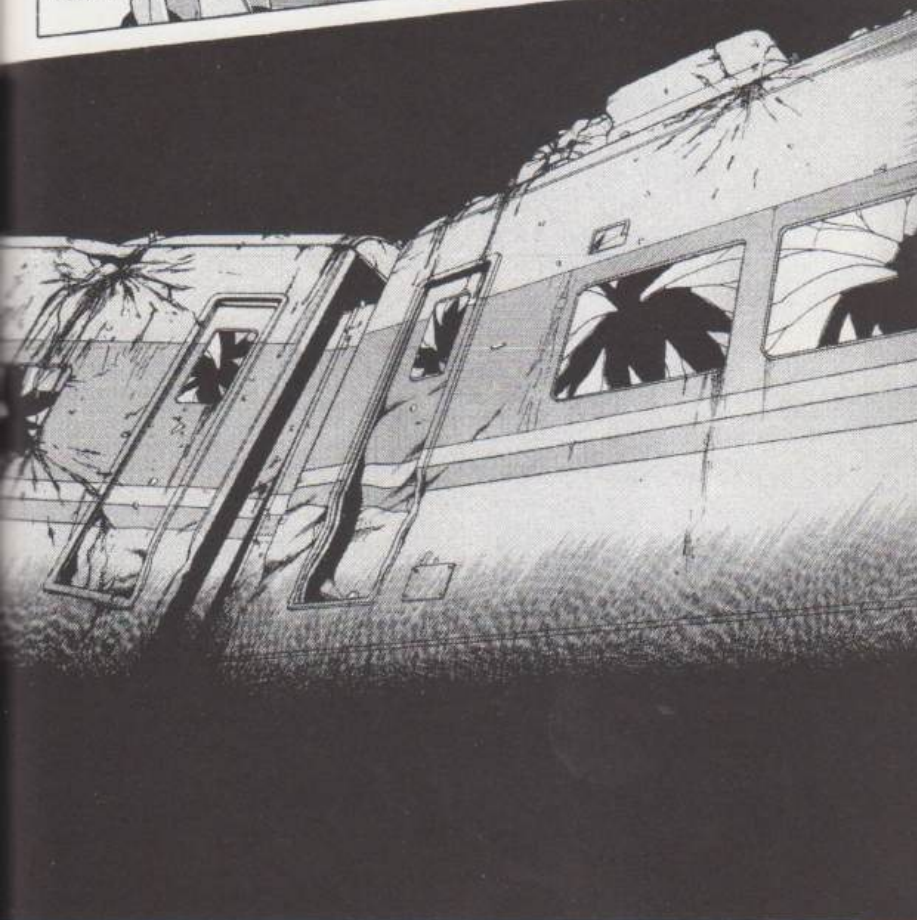
However, another survivor might have other plans. And if Teru *does* find a way to the surface, what horrors will await him in Mochizuki-sensei's intense and terrifying series? <<

READ RIGHT TO LEFT



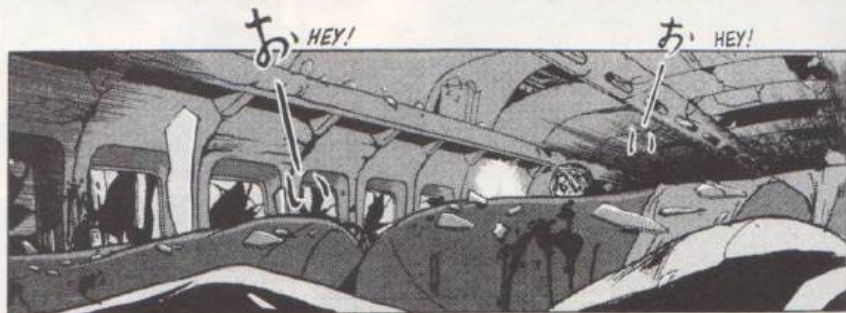
I...I GOTTA
GET OUTTA
HERE...

GOTTA
GET
HELP...



<< As Teru peeks out of the cabin's window in this truly awesome spread, he sees that the entire train has been destroyed. His only hope is finding a way out of the tunnel...

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Teru is seriously freaking out. He's desperate to find a survivor. However, someone should tell Teru to be careful what he wishes for... <<

Chapter 2: Alone

EVERY-
ONE'S
DEAD!!



HEY!



HEY!



SOMEONE ANSWER ME!

HEY!



One of the many cool things about *Dragon Head* is that events unfold almost in real time, adding to the tension. And as for staying cool, notice all the sweat pouring off Teru's face. And trust us. There is *a lot* of sweat in this book.

38

<< Can you imagine seeing all of your classmates dead, their bodies bloody and broken? Could you stay cool and collected enough to save yourself?



With only a lighter to guide him, Teru comes to the grim realization that he might be the only survivor of the train crash. <<



Imagine you're riding on a train, coming home after a class trip. The cabin is dark, since you've just entered a long, winding tunnel. You're sharing laughs with your friends, making fun of your teacher, trying to impress the classmate you have a crush on...

THEN SUDDENLY THE TRAIN VIOLENTLY BUCKLES AND ROCKS!! IS IT AN EARTHQUAKE?! Before you even have time to ponder such a question, the train derails, knocking you unconscious...

When you wake up, the train is in ruins, it's pitch-black, and all your friends and teachers are dead... You crawl over the debris and the bodies in search of survivors...and a way out!



~Paul Morrissey

Simply put, *Dragon Head* is the best "survival horror"

manga I've ever read. It

knocked me on the floor.

It's gripping, intense, and

loaded with suspense. Our

protagonist, Teru Aoki, leads

readers through a twisting

tunnel full of carnage,

despair, and madness...

THE END OF EVERYONE IS JUST THE BEGINNING.

DRAGON HEAD

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Their target, of course, is Mikogami Misao, the Girl of Water with power over the demons...and as we'll see later, it will be left to Ishigami Kamuro, the Man of Earth, to stop them...or all Hell will break loose. <<



<< In *Kami-Kaze*, warriors can have senses of humor as big as their guns, as in this *Battle Royale*-esque scene, which demonstrates the ruthless lengths to which they will hunt and kill.

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...with nothing to do but watch as the hunt turns excessive. <<

CLAK

WAIT!!
MIKO-
GAMI!

Chapter 5: Outcast-Existence

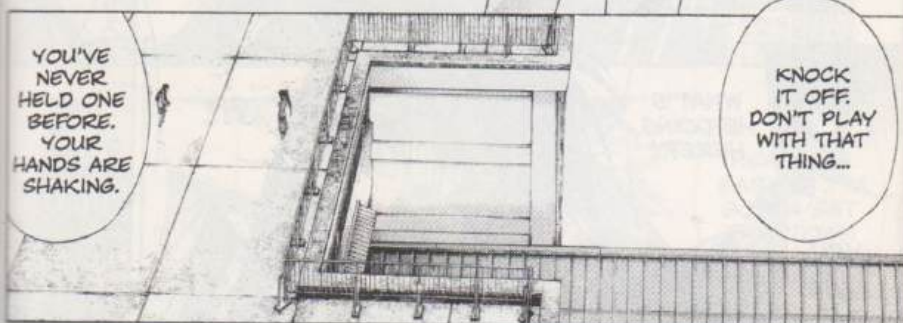
<< Trapped atop the roof, with big guns blazing all around the school...

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



Part of what makes the manga a page-turner is that we make discoveries at the same time as the characters do. A common flaw in action and suspense writing is that the reader is often one step ahead of the characters.

The tension mounts, as the Girl of Water doesn't know what to believe—she traps her so-called friend. <<



<< Shiki-sensei creates a lot of tension and drama in both the art and dialog—who do you believe?



The Girl of Water, who does not yet know the extent of her powers, appears in the top panel with one of her school friends—who has been ordered to capture her! <<



The warriors who converge on the school use an array of weapons, ranging from enormous, imposing guns to deadly malformed hands.



WE GOT PERMISSION TO GO AHEAD WITHOUT THE COVERT ACT.

WE DON'T NEED HELP FROM RIKIMARU'S GROUP.

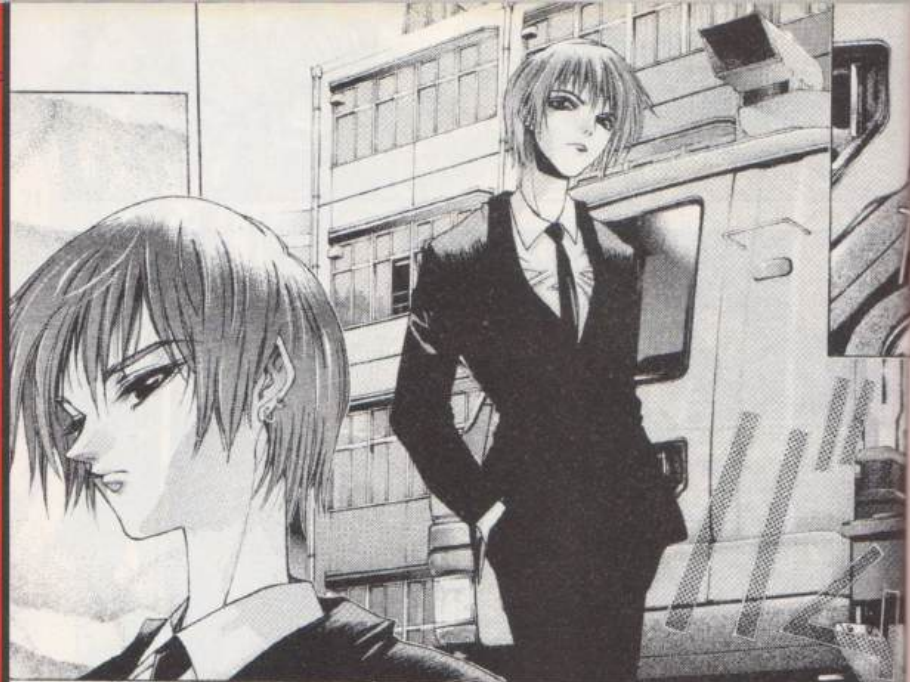


LET'S KEEP IT TO WITHIN SCHOOL LIMITS.

HEADS UP, BABIES! I'M GONNA SET THIS TOWN ABLAZE!

<< A word of caution: *Kami-Kaze* is not for the faint of heart, as heads go flying and explosions erupt in the blink of an eye.

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Enter the supernatural warriors... Ladies beware: There's no sense losing your head over a cute boy, especially when he's a warrior on the hunt for the Girl of Water—who just happens to go to your school... <<

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



Released in Japan from 1997 to 2003, *Kami-Kaze* has a huge worldwide fan following.

Shiki-sensei's supernatural action-horror epic is a thrilling search for the legendary Girl of Water, whose blood can unlock the transdimensional prison that holds the fabled 88 beasts...and unleash them unto our world!

Intent on tracking her down, a host of supernatural warriors descends upon modern-day Tokyo, all thirsting for the imminent destruction of mankind. All, that is, except one rogue swordsman, who is inexplicably duty-bound to protecting the Girl of Water at all costs.

~Luis Reyes



NO ONE GETS OUT OF HERE ALIVE...

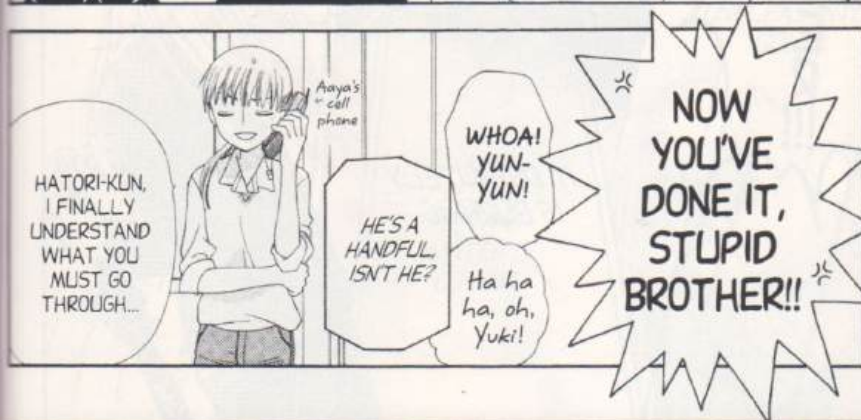
kami•kaze

Fans of Satoshi Shiki's artwork may know that the manga-ka also created the character conceptual designs for the *Daphne in the Brilliant Blue* anime.

Fruits Basket™

Every week we receive
hundreds of your letters
and art (and the odd Band-
Aid), and from the bottom
of our hearts, you bring us
great joy. We wish there
were a way to respond
to each and every one of
you. Until then, please
keep the mail coming and
spread the word about the
Manga Revolution. *Furuba*
fans are the best fans in
the world!





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<< Even more from: "38 Reasons for Kyo and Tohru to Be Together": "#38: Kyo loves Tohru, Tohru loves Kyo. End of story. Any questions? Hmmm, didn't think so!"
~Simonne P., Springfield, MA

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

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PROOF THAT,
EVEN THOUGH
IT'S SO SMALL
IT SEEMS LIKE...

...IT WILL GO
OUT WITH THE
SLIGHTEST
WIND...


...THE
WARMTH
IN MY
HEART...

...IS PROOF
THAT THERE
REALLY IS
A LIGHT
THERE.

...IT DEFINITELY
IS BURNING.

"I've read many manga books, but *Fruits Basket* is by far the best series. The characters are great and the way you draw the zodiac animals is so adorable. PS: My friend Sandy says, 'Hi.'" ~Lauren M., Sherman Oaks, CA

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



COME BACK
SAFELY...


EVEN IF
THE RAIN
STOPS...



BUT...



...AND
TELLS
ME THAT
WINTER IS
COMING.



...THE WIND IS
UNPLEASANTLY
COLD...

or "I'll be home" "So, please, for the sake of the
"Together" "I'll be home" "I'll be home" "I'll be home"
"I'll be home" "I'll be home" "I'll be home" "I'll be home"
-Snoopy, Springfield, MA



The red bird is a symbol of the Fruits Basket series. The bird is a cardinal, which is a common symbol of love and passion. The bird is shown in a stylized, cartoonish manner, with a large head and a small body. The bird is perched on a branch, and its wings are spread out. The bird is facing left.



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<< More from: "38 Reasons for Kyo and Tohru to Be Together": "#32: Kyo can cook!!!! Ooooooh!! / #33: Kyo cooks with Tohru!!!! Ooooooh!!"
 ~Simonne P., Springfield, MA

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The kindness of *Furuba* fans: "Sorry if you got a paper cut from my letter. Here's a Band-Aid."

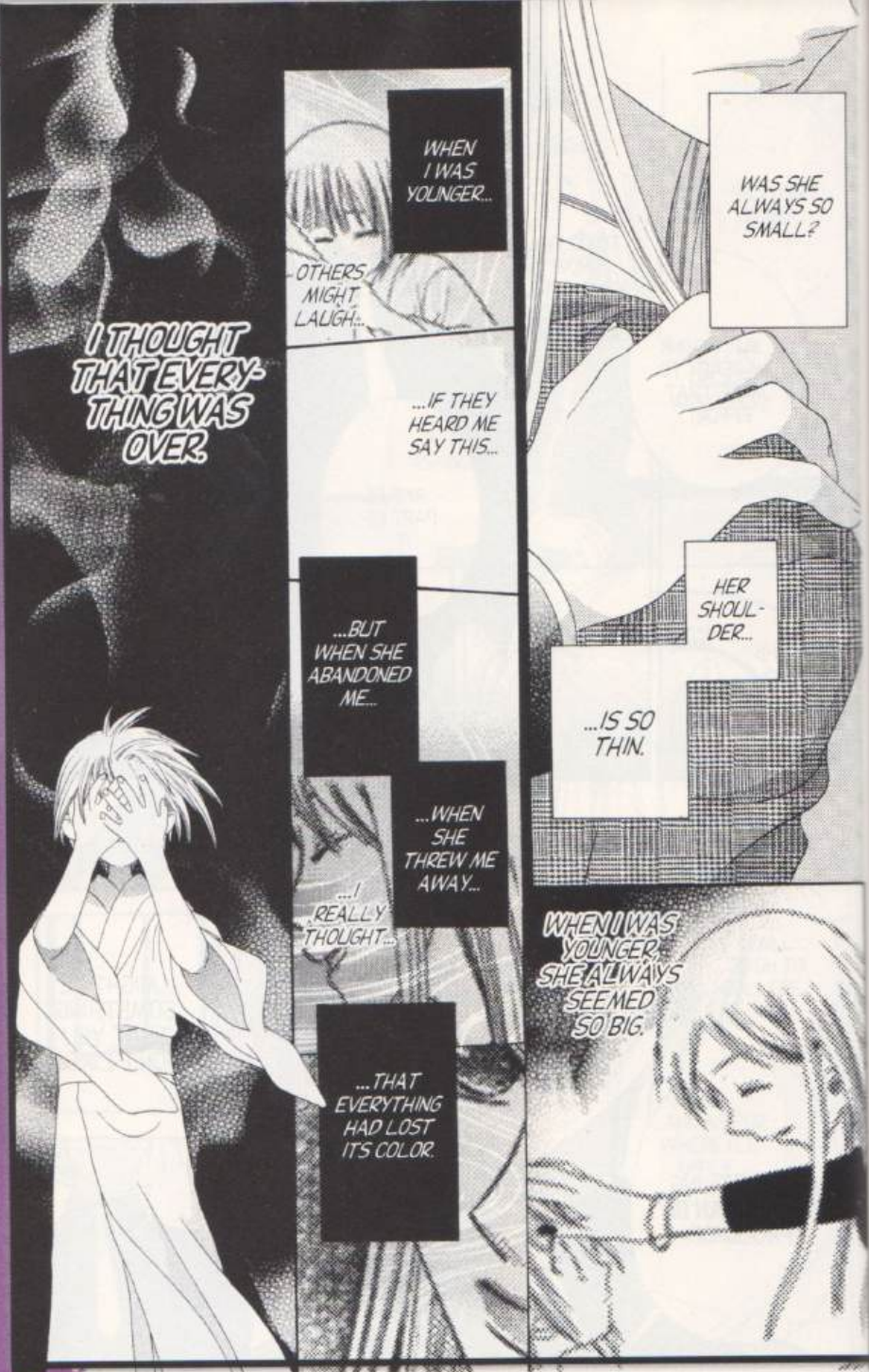
~Judy W., San Diego, CA, with Band-Aid inserted into a *Fruits Basket* fan letter <<

READ RIGHT TO LEFT



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READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



The authors of *Fruits Basket* have created a world of love and friendship that is as beautiful as it is heartbreaking. With its stunning art and powerful story, *Fruits Basket* is a must-read for anyone who loves manga.



<< From "38 Reasons for Kyo and Tohru to Be Together":
 "#12: Kyo gets embarrassed when Tohru was told that
 when he was little, he got so scared, and he cried...
 That's a cute sign of love!" ~Simonne P, Springfield, MA





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<< "I discovered *Fruits Basket* in 2004, and I fell in love instantly. It really makes you think about who Tohru is going to end up with. I wish I had a choice like that!"
 ~ Kansas P., St. Cloud, FL



READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

"I've been reading this manga forever, and have come to the conclusion that it's entirely too good. Not to mention the guys are perfect!!"
~"Toboe S." Somerset, KY <<





"I've been raising this manga's readers, and have come to the conclusion that it's actually very good. I see an aspect of the guys are perfect!"

— Volume 3, Chapter 10, 11/06



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<< "At my friend's birthday, we played Truth or Dare. I was asked, 'If you could go out with anyone in the world, who would it be?' A huge smile sprang to my face. I answered, 'No doubt, Kyo-kun.'" ~Kelsey H., Seatac, WA

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

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READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

"Thank you so much for writing *Fruits Basket*. You've opened my eyes to a whole new world of books!"
~Heather L., Vadnais Heights, MN <<

!!?

THIS
BUSINESS WE
CALL RAIN
IS TRULY A
PROFOUNDLY
MYSTERIOUS
THING!

NOW,
NOW,
EVERY-
ONE...

AFTER
HINDERING MY
AWAKENING, IT DID
NOT EVEN GRANT
ME THE FAVOR OF
ALLOWING ME TO
FIX MY HAIR!

BUT THERE
IS NO LONGER
NEED FOR
WORRY, YUKI!!

I, WHO AM
NUMBER ONE IN
AFFECTION FOR
MY YOUNGER
BROTHER, HAVE
NOW HUMBLLY
ARRIVED!!

I APOLOGIZE
FOR MAKING
YOU WAIT!





OPEN

BECAUSE
OF HER, I
THOUGHT...

...I NEVER
WANT PUT
THINGS INTO
WORDS
AGAIN!



"Thank you for everything, my dear brother. You've made my life so much more meaningful." - Kyo Sohma, Fruits Basket, Vol. 1

...WORDS
ARE MEAN-
INGLESS.

THEY'RE
POWERLESS.

SHE WON'T
LET THEM
REACH HER,
AND THEN...

...THEY
DIE.

AGAINST
HER...

WHAT IF
YOU ARE A
TOOL?

WHAT
ON EARTH
IS YOUR
PROBLEM?!

GIVE ME A
BREAK! I DON'T
NEED ANY
MORE IDIOTS.
AYAME IS
ENOUGH!

THE HEAD
OF THE FAMILY
LIKES YOU-
WHAT MORE DO
YOU NEED?!

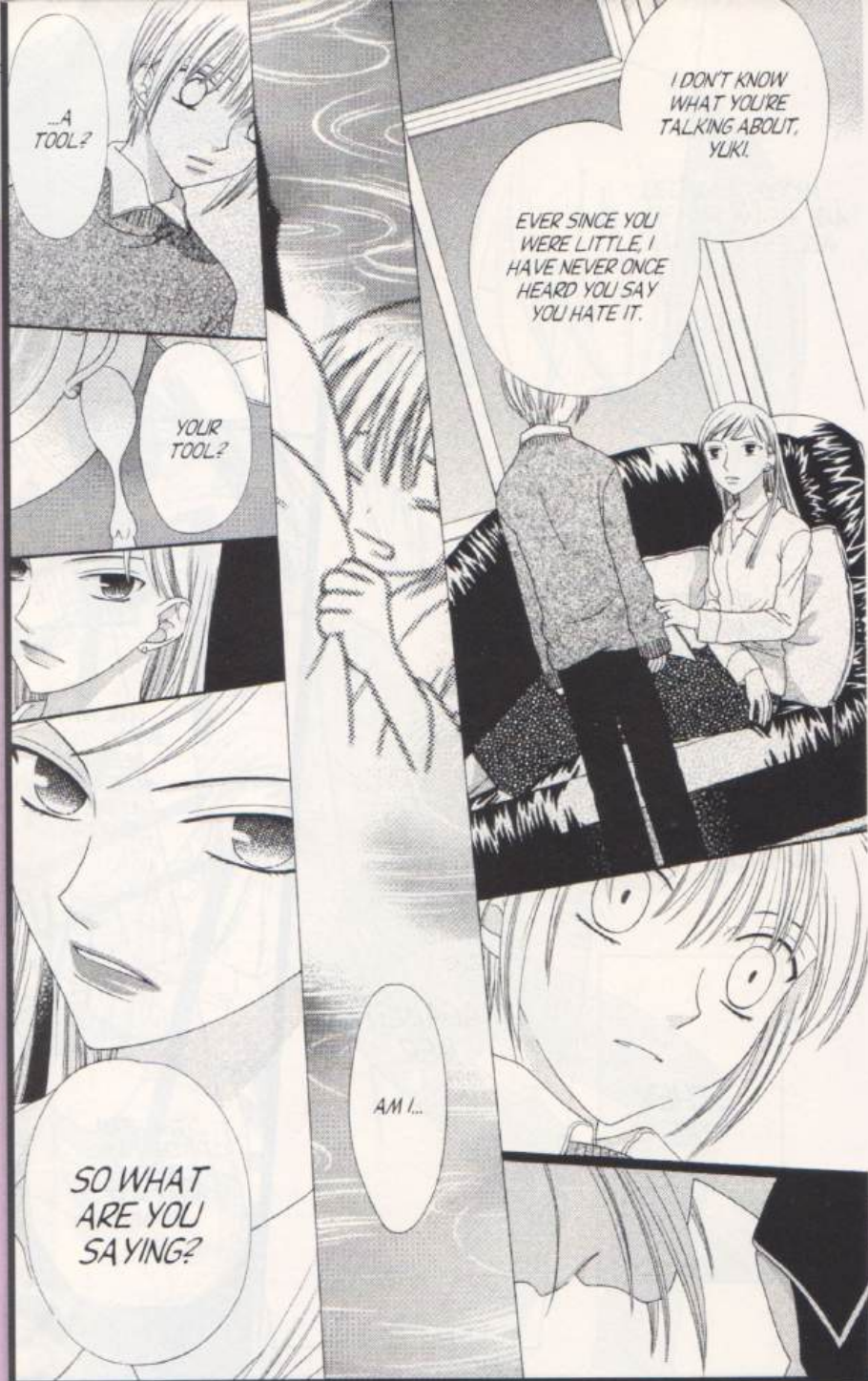
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<< "I love Momiji the best. he's so cute! But I can't find any store that has volume 6. I'm very disappointed. Anyway, bye bye!" ~Purum L., Bayside, NY

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

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READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



<< "I'm a new but HUGE fan of *Fruits Basket*. I love Kyo so much. And Akito, even though he's so evil—LOL—and Hatsuharu, and Hatori, and Shigure, and Yuki, and I could go on but I won't bore you." ~Amy W., Suisun, CA

WHEN WE
FOUGHT OVER
WHETHER OR
NOT HE WOULD
APPLY TO THIS
SCHOOL...

...HE WOULD
SULK AND GIVE
ME THE SILENT
TREATMENT.

NO I
DIDN'T...

BUT IT'S
WEIRD...

I HATE
IT HERE
WITH THE
SOHMAS.

YOU
SUDDENLY
SAYING SUCH
THINGS.

THAT'S
NOT IT,
MOTHER.

I JUST
WANT TO
GO TO GO TO
AN OUTSIDE
SCHOOL.

I ALWAYS
HAVE...AND
I ALWAYS
WILL.

IT'S NOT
SUDDEN.

NOBODY
PUT ME UP
TO THIS.

"I hate Family? I don't even like the name of the series
but I'm interested because I won't read any more
Fruit's Basket... I'll wait for it" - @suzuki_hellfire



HURRY!

WINTER 2006



YOU
THOUGHT YOU
COULD CHOOSE
YOUR OWN HIGH
SCHOOL. AND
YOU PICKED
THIS UNDISTIN-
GUISHED
PLACE.

MY GOD,
YUKI.

YOU
REALLY
NEVER
HAVE...

I'M DECIDING
FOR YOU.

IF ALL YOU
WANT TO DO
IS DISOBEY
ME, THEN BE
QUIET.

IF YOU DON'T
GET YOUR ACT
TOGETHER SOON,
IT WILL CAUSE
PROBLEMS FOR
ME, TOO.

MS.
SOHMA...

...HAD A
WORTHWHILE
THOUGHT OF
YOUR OWN.
HAVE YOU?

BUT IT'S
TRUE, ISN'T
IT?

YOU
CAN'T DECIDE
ANYTHING ON
YOUR OWN,
CAN YOU?

MS.
SOHMA...

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<< "I love *Furuba!* I can't wait for the end of the series,
but that makes me sad because I won't have any more
Fruits Basket to look forward to!" ~Jordan L., Dallas, TX





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FRUITS BASKET

Hajimemashite and konnichiwa! I'm Takaya. Rin is the one on the cover. Actually, I get the strong feeling that it would have been better for her to be on 14... Volume 14 focuses on her more, and she's not even in this one! (laugh)

But...well...it can't be helped. At first, I thought of giving Rin short hair, but then I said to myself, "When I think of a horse, I think of the mane blowing in the wind." And so she got her long hair. I regret it a little. The ink! the ink!

Anyway, this is the celebrated 13th volume. Please enjoy it!



HAVE YOU HEARD?

YUKI-KUN WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO GOT IT POSTPONED.

Oh!

THAT'S RIGHT, IT IS!

TODAY'S THE DAY OF YUKI-KUN'S CONFERENCE!

I WONDER IF IT WILL BE HIS MOM OR HIS DAD WHO COMES WITH HIM.

LIWAH! I'M SO CURIOUS!

I WONDER WHAT THEY LOOK LIKE? DO YOU THINK THEY LOOK LIKE HIM?

"What I like best about *Fruits Basket* is that it teaches many different lessons in life, and I also like your taste in comedy."

~Miko L. (Shoren's sister), Daly City, CA <<

read right-to-left

"KEEP HAVING
HIM BE YOUR
FRIEND."

"AREN'T
YOU LUCKY,
YUKI?"

"THE HEAD OF
THE FAMILY
LIKES YOU?"

"SEE
YOU
LATER."

close

shaa

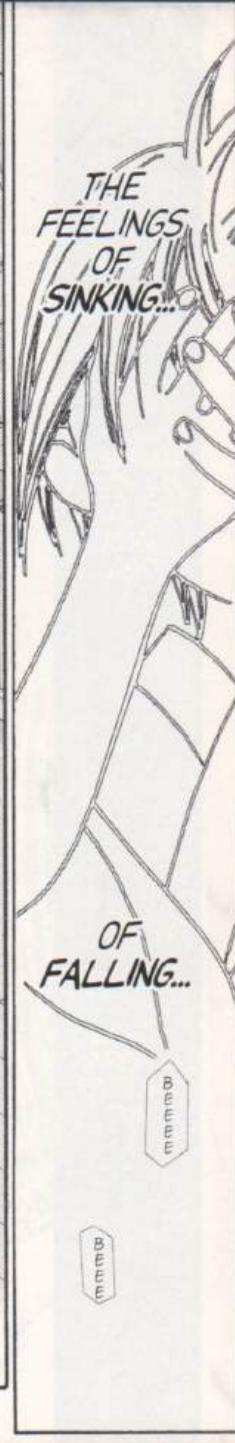
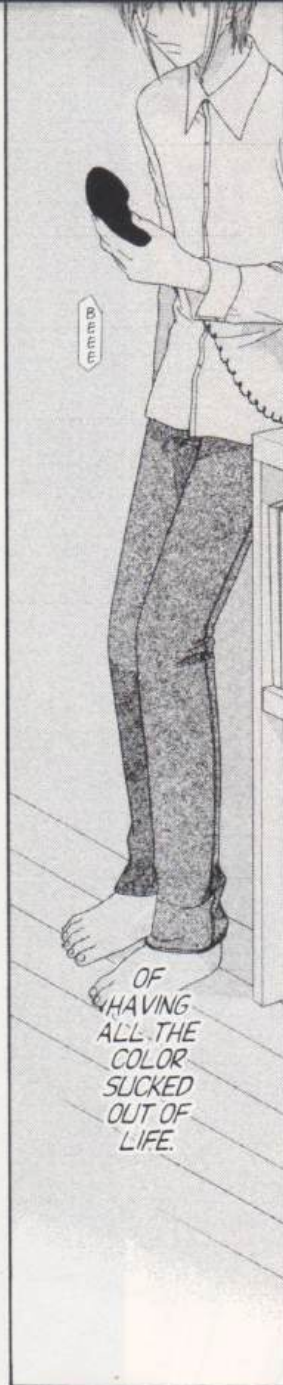
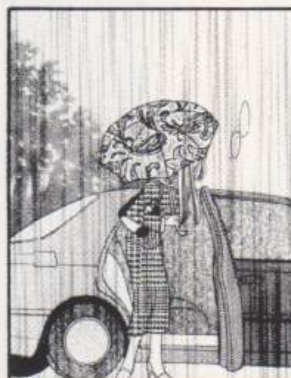
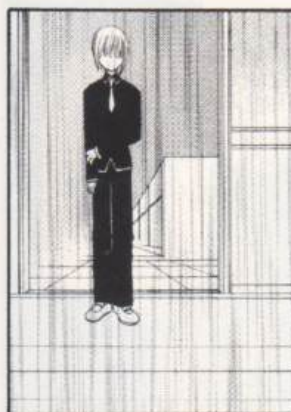
<< "I can't tell you how much I loooovvvve *Fruits Basket*.
Normally, I wouldn't like romance stories, but *Fruits Basket* is so breathtaking."

~Shoren L. (Miko's sister), Daly City, CA





<< "Dear Ms. Takaya, I've fallen in love with your manga *Fruits Basket*. I myself want to be an anime/manga artist. How did you get started? I'm so interested in how you made your dream come true!" ~Sally H., Newnan, GA



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READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

IS THAT
ALL YOU
WANTED
TO TALK
ABOUT?

AND ALL
THE FEEL-
INGS FROM
BACK
THEN...

VERY
WELL.
I'LL SEE
YOU
THEN.

...CAME
FLOODING
BACK TO
ME.

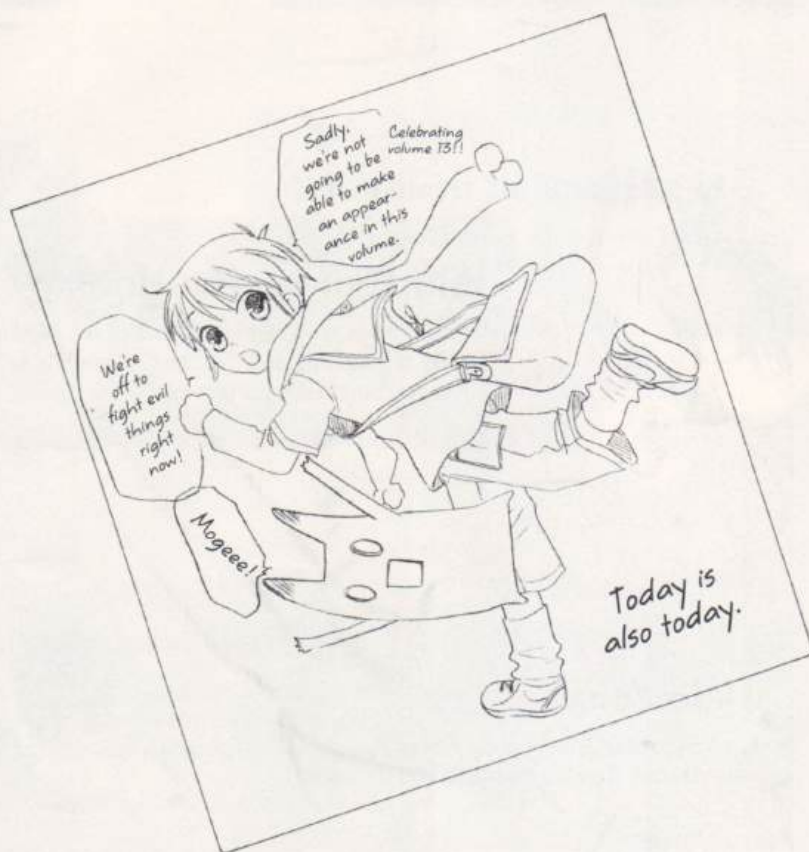
...HAD THE
SAME
CHILL IT
ALWAYS
HAD.

I'M
VERY
BUSY
MYSELF.

IT'S NOT
LIKE YOU
HAVE ANY
CONFLICT ON
THAT DAY,
RIGHT?

EVEN
THROUGH
THE
RECEIVER,
MY
MOTHER'S
VOICE...

Filler
Sketch



<< "I LOVE *Fruits Basket*. My friends and I at school drool over all the characters. We even started our own Yuki fan club! We call it the Yuki Yakuza, and I am the L.L. (Lovely Leader)." ~Chelsea F., Middletown, DE

Fruits Basket Characters

Hiro Sohma, the Ram (or sheep)

This caustic tyke is skilled at throwing verbal barbs, but he has a soft spot for Kisa.



Ritsu Sohma, the Monkey

This shy kimono-wearing member of the Sohma family is gorgeous. But this "she" is really a he!! Crossdressing calms his nerves.

Akito Sohma

The head of the Sohma clan. A dark figure of many secrets. Treated with fear and reverence.



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Momiji Sohma, the Rabbit

Half-German. He's older than he looks. Mother rejected him because of the Sohma curse.



Hatsuharu Sohma, the Ox

The nicest of guys, except when he goes "Black." Then you'd better watch out.



Kisa Sohma, the Tiger

Kisa became shy and self-conscious due to constant teasing by her classmates. Yuki, who has similar insecurities, feels particularly close to Kisa.



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<< "Thank you for understanding my *Fruits Basket* fan art. Two pieces of my fan art have been published in *Fruits Basket*. You gave me the courage to keep drawing."
~Na-young K., Spout Spring, VA

Fruits Basket Characters

Mabudachi Trio



Shigure Sohma, the Dog

Enigmatic, mischievous and a little perverted. A popular novelist.

Hatori Sohma, the Dragon

Family doctor to the Sohmas. Only thing he can't cure is his broken heart.



Ayame Sohma, the Snake

Yuki's older brother. A proud and playful drama queen...er, king. Runs a costume shop.



Saki Hanajima

"Hana-chan." Can sense people's "waves." Goth demeanor scares her classmates.

Arisa Uotani

"Uo-chan." A tough-talking "Yankee" who looks out for her friends.



Tohru's Best Friends

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READ RIGHT TO LEFT

"I would like you to know that I am a huge *Fruits Basket* fan. I appreciate all the hard work you've done to make this manga a hit!"

~Stephanie C., Warrior, AL <<



Tohru Honda

The ever-optimistic hero of our story. An orphan, she now lives in Shigure's house, along with Yuki and Kyo, and is the only person outside of the family who knows the Sohma family's curse.

Yuki Sohma, the Rat

Soft-spoken. Self-esteem issues. At school he's called "Prince Yuki."



Kyo Sohma, the Cat

The Cat who was left out of the Zodiac. Hates Yuki, leeks and miso. But mostly Yuki.

Kagura Sohma, the Boar

Bashful, yet headstrong. Determined to marry Kyo, even if it kills him.



STORY SO FAR...

Hello, I'm Tohru Honda and I have come to know a terrible secret. After the death of my mother, I was living by myself in a tent, when the Sohma family took me in. I soon learned that the Sohma family lives with a curse! Each family member is possessed by the vengeful spirit of an animal from the Chinese Zodiac. Whenever one of them becomes weak or is hugged by a member of the opposite sex, they change into their Zodiac animal!

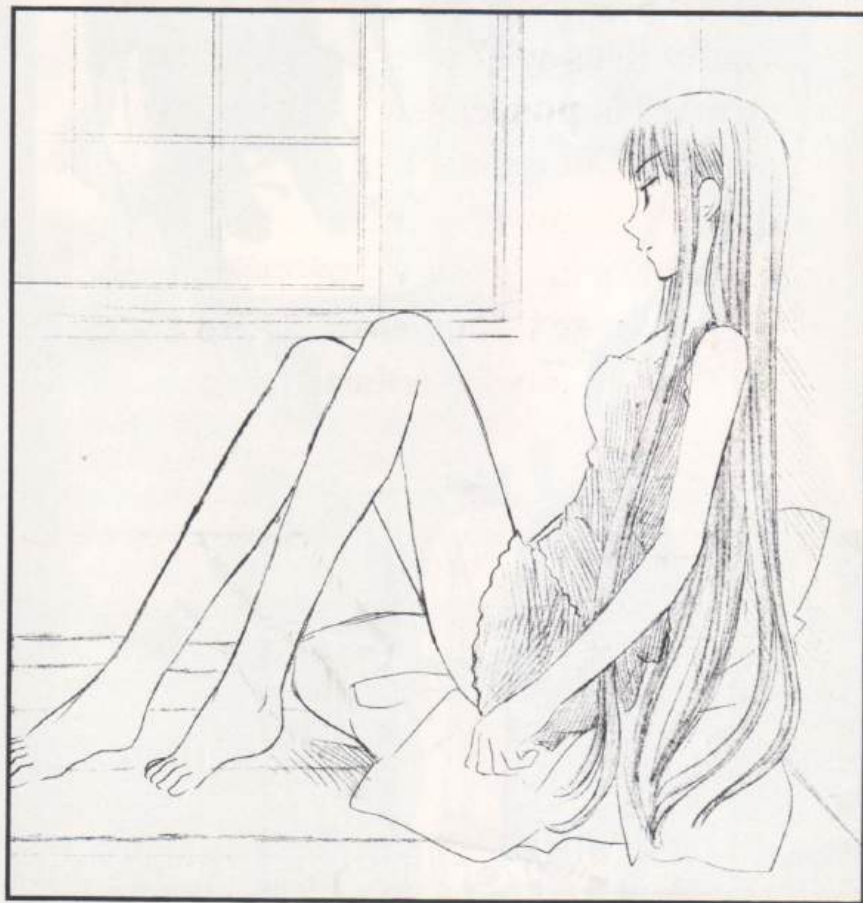


"...I'd also like to give a shout out to Takaya-sensei: 'Left-handers rule!' (Sorry, couldn't help it). My last comment is that I wanted to say a warm welcome to *Fruits Basket*'s new editor, Paul Morrissey." ~Danielle P., Visalia, CA <<

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT

Fruits Basket™

Volume 13

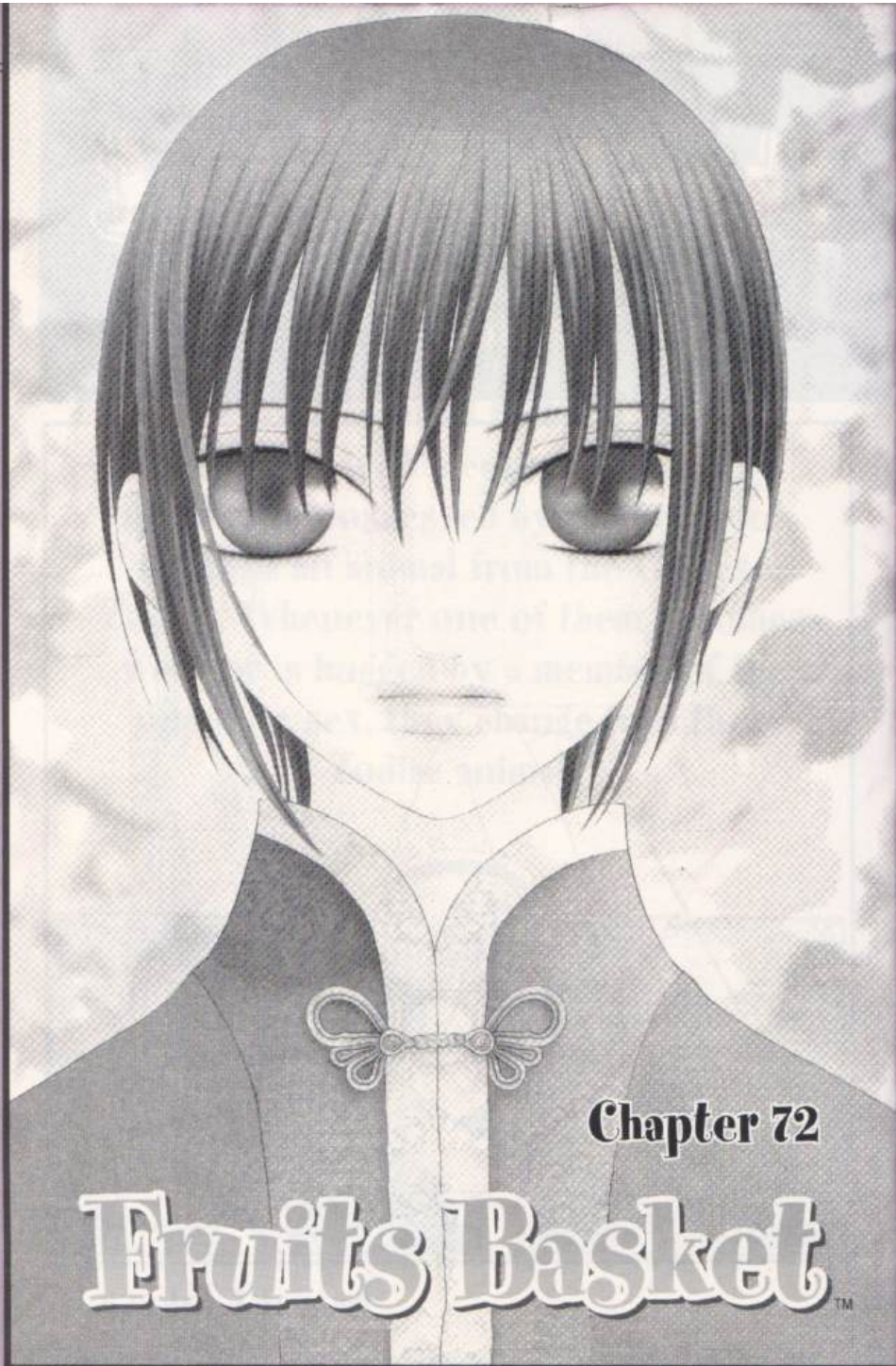


Natsuki Takaya

<< "I am so glad you were able to translate *Fruits Basket* into English—I thank you so much! I own seven volumes of the *Furuba* manga and I hope to get the anime for my birthday....



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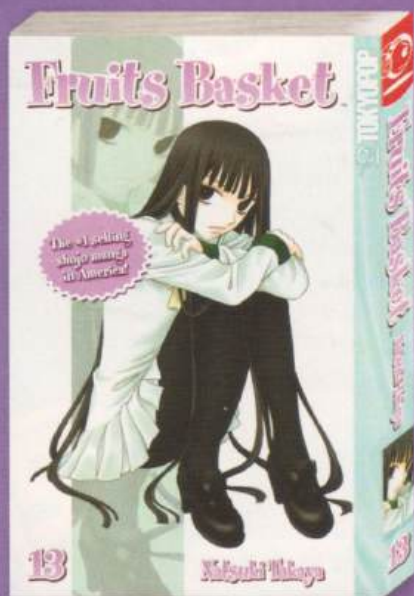


Chapter 72

Fruits Basket™

Okay, I lied—I just want to make sure you all know that *Fruits Basket* volume 13, from which this preview is taken, will not be in stores until April. ~P.M. <<

READ RIGHT-TO-LEFT



As we met to discuss what we could say to add value to the following *Fruits Basket* preview, we kept staring at (and tripping over) the boxes and boxes of *Fruits Basket* fan letters. And then it hit us: Rather than fill up the following pages with our keen editorial insight, we'd turn these preview pages over to you, our fans and our friends.

So as you will see, we are reprinting *your* comments and letters about why *you* love Natsuki Takaya's *Fruits Basket*—we certainly couldn't say it any better.

Enjoy...I know I did!

~Paul Morrissey



Tohru Honda was an orphan with no place to go until the mysterious Sohma family offered her a place to call home...

FURUBA JUST 4 U

FRUITS BASKET



Letter from Japan

Financier extraordinaire Emi Honda gives us a blow-by-blow account of what *really* goes on during a daily commute in Tokyo!

Hello there! My name is Emi and I work with the TOKYOPOP finance team. I have a unique perspective about the Manga Revolution, partly because I may have the longest commute on the planet. For the past year, I have been working out of the U.S. and Tokyo offices. I see a lot of cultural differences, a few of which I would like to share with you—take a ride with me!

In Los Angeles, CA, where the TOKYOPOP U.S. office is located, I spend a lot of my commute in the car. It's like another office for me—I even eat my breakfast sometimes when I'm driving. But in Tokyo, I commute by the packed train. During rush hour, a station attendant has to squeeze and stuff passengers into the train car to close the door. Sometimes you're so squished that you do not need to hold your bag, because it is stuck between people! It is still tolerable during the winter season, but can you imagine it during summertime...? Phew!

You might be surprised that a lot of people, young and old, read manga on the train. I notice a lot of cute high school girls in their uniforms, with upper thigh-high skirts like you see in manga.

There are even some girls with caked-on tan-looking makeup. Those girls are called *ganguro*, which means "black face." This style has swept Japan. It's like a modern-day minstrel show, but also sort of a rebellion against the stereotypical geisha image. (One *ganguro* told me, "I want to be different—like the rest of my friends.")

On the way home, you might see a drunk person on a train. Some of them just sleep, but some of them can actually sleep while they are standing! (Unfortunately, the train moves fast, so you'll want to watch out for someone falling on you, or, worse, becoming sick!)

There are many more stories about my commute. But it's all part of a vibrant, unique culture. I love the beauty and imagination of Japan. I love its inspiration and passion. Next time you come, make sure you visit the "real" Japan—after you enjoy reading TOKYOPOP manga, of course!

~Emi Honda

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