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Chika Shiomi

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Author : Chika Shiomi

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From Reader Review ????? 2 for online ebook

Melanie says

I had initially thought that this story would be so much better if it happened entirely in the Edo period and focused on Yumurasaki's story, but the twists and turns of the reincarnated characters is so good that I can't really think of it as two separate stories. There was this small "plot twist" in Mahoro's past identity that made everything in the story so much better! We already know what was the end of the characters in the Edo period, now I'm curious to know how the events led to that ending!

Annie says

fly through read.. complete in one sitting.. the story continues as a talented 17 year old author who's producing top rate reads of historic Japan slips in and out of a trance and finds himself in actual historic Japan.. As time goes on, the past seeps into the present.. Thx for this, Mere!

Jason says

The twist about halfway through was really effective, as I had been thinking right along with Yukari that Mahoro was the one and Satomi was the other. There's some really good storytelling going on here...

LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says

Katsuhiko Satomi has arrived at Yukari's house in order to take over the housekeeping duties while his aunt is waiting for her back to heal. Yukari immediately notices that he seems familiar and figures that he knew him in his past life. But who was he? Takamura, the man who may have killed Yumurasaki? Or perhaps someone else?

The question continues to plague Yukari as he is once again transported into the past. This time around, he witnesses new sides to Takamura and Kazuma that make him wonder about everything he's assumed so far. Meanwhile, Satomi and Mahoro struggle against their past selves, who hate each other intensely.

This volume was definitely better than the first. The way Mahoro and Satomi kept being taken over by their past selves was a bit odd and over-the-top, but I loved the various revelations about their identities.

Yukari continued to be somewhat bland, but it was revealed that this blandness was connected to the way his past life had mixed with his current one. He held himself aloof from everyone because a part of him still approached life the way Yumurasaki had. I thought that aspect was interesting.

Considering how menacing Takamura was in the first volume, I was more than a little surprised by the way he was suddenly presented, in this volume, as more of a romantic figure, amusingly lovesick over Yumurasaki. He still had that edge of menace from time to time, but this time around it was never directed

towards Yumurasaki, but rather always towards those who might hurt her. While I enjoyed the scene where Yumurasaki turned down his offer to buy her freedom, it was a reminder that, if he'd really wanted to push things, she probably wouldn't have had much of a choice.

Two more volumes to go before the end of the series. The past has already happened and presumably can't be changed - Yumurasaki is going to die in a fire, potentially after some kind of battle. The question, now, is who was responsible for her death, and will the events of the past lead to people in the present killing each other?

Extras:

Several author sidebars about the time Shiomi hurt her back, and two pages of translator's notes.

(Original review posted on A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions.)

Judy (Geeky Reading) says

~4/5

I was surprised with this volume. While I enjoyed the previous one, this one was even better. It had me all caught up and excited in the action.

Yukari continues going to his past self, trying to figure out what the connection to his present is. He lets Satomi stay with him, take care of the house in place of his aunt.

Yukari is pretty much just along for the ride, entertained by life and the people around him, practically trying to take a back seat and let it all happen. But he's getting more genuinely interested in the people around him, even while not realizing. He seems to be interested in Mahoro, the feelings slowly developing for him. They're developing much faster for Mahoro, though.

Unbeknownst to Yukari, Mahoro and Satomi are having flashbacks, almost black-outs while their past selves take over. This is surprising for them, and for each other, as they have lingering hatred and betrayals. I was surprised with the twist thrown in about their identities, and the apparent betrayal hinted at from their pasts. I also love it, and am so excited about it.

This volume surprised me and really pulled me in, as I was hoping it would. And now I'm super excited to get the next volume.

[Read more at my blog, Geeky Reading!]

Laura Martinelli says

Oh Shiomi Chika, I've missed you. *Rasetsu* and *Yurara* were both fantastic series (although I'm in dire need of a reread for both, and especially back-to-back), so I was incredibly excited to see that Viz was licensing a third series from her. (There was also a good while back *Queen of Ragtonia*, but I think the first volume

flopped horribly—which to be fair, it wasn't that great—and I never saw anything else of that series.)

While the first volume took its time info-dumping its gender-bending, pretty complex storyline, Volume 2 wastes no time in laying everything down and immediately shit gets real. (view spoiler)

I do wish that Yukari had more to do in these first two volumes. I do like the twist that he is a damsel in the modern day, whenever he passes out and slips back in time (and therefore influencing everyone's past lives in the process). But there's really not that much to Yukari himself. Yeah, I like that he's kind of a jerk and sitting back and thinking "Oh, this shall be an interesting encounter. Let me observe," but I really want him to do something more than just expositing as both himself and Yumurasaki. (Yukari's sole contribution to this volume is admitting to Shizuka that he's inhibiting Yumurasaki from the future and hijinks in not being able to perform her duties as a oiran.) Both Kastuhiko and Mahoro are developed way better than Yukari is, and I want things to start getting to the point where Yukari realizes that he can't just sit back and watch this happen all over again.

The first volume is a little slow, but considering that there was a lot of set-up involved, I give it a free pass on the pacing. But Shiomi *brings it* in volume 2 and literally begins exploding everything. I really want to know what's going to happen next, and I cannot wait for volume 3 to get released. (Also, I want to eventually read Canon someday, because that sounds really interesting.

Also if you have not read Shiomi Chika, go read *Yurara* and *Rasetsu* because they're both really good.)

R says

Awesome!! I love this Manga and love the historical context involved. The illustrations are beautiful.

S.Q. Eries says

In Summary

For Yukari to investigate Yumurasaki's death isn't particularly gripping when s/he's already been reincarnated, but when the hostilities of the past invade Yukari's present life, the story gets a lot more compelling. In addition, Shiomi-sensei throws readers for a loop by blowing apart some of the assumptions of Volume 1. The story occasionally takes on the flavor of a horror flick when the Kazuma/Takamura feud reasserts itself in the present, but Yukari's interactions with the past now actually take on meaning and purpose.

The Review

Things get more interesting for Yukari with the arrival of his temporary housekeeper Katsuhiko Satomi, but they get really interesting for Satomi and Mahoro. Before, Yukari merely saw hints of previous lives manifesting in their reincarnated souls. Now, old grudges actually impact the present when Satomi and

Mahoro meet.

Possessed is probably the most accurate way to describe what happens to the two. Not only does their old hatred consume them, the skills of their previous lives manifest despite neither having trained in swordsmanship or magic. However, Mahoro and Satomi are only vaguely aware of what's happening. One moment they're literally trying to kill one another, and the next they snap back to their senses, embarrassed and apologizing profusely. These moments of possession occasionally have a comic effect, but for the most part, it's creepy, especially with Shiomi-sensei's illustrations of black magic in the background.

Yukari's forays to the past also take on a different tone. Before, his episodes in Yumurasaki's body were merely amusing, but that changes when he returns to the Edo period and finds himself in bed with witch doctor Takamura. (Ummm... yeah. Yumurasaki's a courtesan, and even though all the vital parts are covered, it's pretty obvious what Takamura's trying to do in that scene). Yukari confesses to Takamura that he is Yumurasaki's reincarnated soul, and being a magician, Takamura understands that it's true. The interaction that follows not only causes Yukari to question his original preconceptions about Takamura, it helps him understand himself better as a reincarnated being.

Another character whose image gets shattered in this volume is Mahoro. The narrative reveals chilling details about her background. She's definitely not the person Volume 1 led readers to believe she was. Yukari remains ignorant of what Mahoro's truly capable of but given the irrepressible hate between her and Satomi, I doubt that will remain the case for long.

Extras include a bonus one-page manga, translation notes, and author bio.

For more manga and book reviews, drop by my blog [Keeping It In Canon!](#)

Dilushani Jayalath says

This without one of the most beautiful stories i've read. I love the pace of the story and the characters are awesome. I accidentally stumbled upon this book and I'm so damn happy that I did.

I love how the characters are intertwined with the past and we see the glimpses of the Edo era. Without doubt my favourite is Mahoro and I love Yukari as well. A very interesting plot that makes you want to read more. Unfortunately I can find the English translations only to this point so i have to wait but I really want to know the end. It isn't one of those looooooong manga that get on your nerves cuz I can't stand this suspense. The art is beautiful too

Overall one of the best I've read this year :0

Dasha ~Made of bad materials, yet well put together~ says

Y'know, by book two, I've come to realize that this series is pretty great. It could've been a boring Shoujo romance Manga, but it's actually a historical paranormal mystery.

I mean, the main characters have attempted to kill each other like two times in this story. If that isn't defying genre expectations, then I don't know what is.

Crystal Oros says

It's like reading two story's at once, I'm enjoying the overlapping of past and present

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

4 stars

Love Chika Shiomi's beautiful art. Love the paranormal elements in her stories. She is an auto read for me - love her stuff!

Aleece says

As soon as Satomi and Mahoro meet they instantly hate each other and give off threatening auras that each cannot control. They seem to become their past selves for brief moments while they glare at each other only to recover and have no idea why they were acting that way to begin with only to realize that for some reason they hate each other. This volume reveals who is who from the past in the present but Yukari has yet to discover who is who.

This was a a good second volume and started to piece together the past and the present and hopefully in the next volume Yukari's killer from the Edo period will be revealed or maybe hinted at more. I am looking forward to the next installment and I am really beginning to become attached to some of the characters. I really enjoy the beautiful artwork and I love that the differences from the Edo period and the current day really stand out and show off the two different time periods so well.

I received this advanced copy from VIZ Media through Edelweiss in exchange for my honest review.

Read3r'z Re-Vu says

In this volume we meet the main character Yukari and the two other characters Mahoro and Katsuhiko who are friends with Yukari.

Yukari is a 17 year old famous male author in the modern day. Yukari was born with memories from his past life. In his past life he was an Oiran (a beautiful, renowned high class female courtesan) from the Edo time period.

The two characters Mahoro and Katsuhiko are also reincarnation from the same time period as Yukari. These two characters don't have their memories, but during the Edo time period they knew each other in the red light district.

– Meredith

Yukarism volumes 1-4 is a fantastic manga series about past lives, love and an ancient curse binding three incredible characters from the Edo period Japan to modern day. Story building, back story and characterisation are amazing. The story explores themes about belonging, self-sacrifice, acceptance, connections and love. The drawings are beautiful and intricate, I loved it so much that I was inspired to draw a large fan-art poster for Meredith (see below, it's obviously not as beautiful as the actual drawings!). Recommended if you're after a manga series that is short and sweet (some manga series can span 10+ volumes). If you like endearing characters, magic, intricate drawings and a heartfelt story about love transcending time, this is a great read to sink your teeth into!

- NJ

Anna says

[ah yes, Mahoro was acting like a future serial killer/possessed as a child, but nobody seems to have bothered to do anything? And then one day a switch just f
