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Aaron says

Nowhere near as incisive with its invective, and nowhere near as brilliant with its emotional detachment, the experience of Hachiman Hikigaya in **MY YOUTH ROMANTIC COMEDY . . . #2** is less the traumatic underpinning of youth gone quietly awry than it is the raw materialization of conscientious complacency. Hikigaya is still bold, brooding, and filled with hatred for the world . . . only less so. This second volume in this light-novel series views Hikigaya less as a secular individual against the teeming masses, and instead pries open the character's emotional inclination toward the group of so-called friends in his so-called club at his so-called school.

To be fair, **MY YOUTH ROMANTIC COMEDY . . . #2** does retain the pragmatic, loner qualities of young male teendom. However, beyond this boilerplate, the narrative lacks a common voice, and it suffers from abnormally slow pacing. There are, to wit, long stretches of the novel in which nothing happens. The first 50 pages of the book are a good example, with little of consequence occurring beyond characters milling about their classes, shadowed by Hikigaya's paranoid over-explanations (as if it were necessary for him to fill in or re-educate readers on what they *didn't* miss between books).

This second volume is softer and more lumbering than the first. Most prescient is how the author deliberately contrives an array of dull and lingering conversations as vehicles for students to solicit help from the Service Club. The author seems averse to having characters engage directly. Characters often take a more circuitous route: using hints, whispers, midterm exams, sideways glances, and more, to explore or explain their motives. In other words, the author is writing this as if it were an anime program, and not an actual novel. Bad idea.

Many of these roundabout dynamics should have been omitted. The new-to-class truant is avoiding responsibility? Okay. But why pop the character in and out of the story, stringing readers along for the duration of the book? It's such a waste of energy. Instead, just throw her into the mix and let the characters engage and adapt.

The expanded story understandably brings with it the more standard tropes of romantic comedy, but that doesn't excuse the author from abdicating the narrative elements and character dynamics that made the title so loveable in the first place.

Yukinoshita, for example, has a considerably diminished role. The girl's chilly demeanor and frank disposition remain unchanged; and yet, the author's interest in charting her relational growth is in direct conflict with her uniqueness. In **MY YOUTH ROMANTIC COMEDY . . . #2**, while there are moments when her banter with Hikigaya are fantastically on point, there are also moments when her banter is dry, stilted, and severed with a surprise word of agreement (read: evidence she's "getting along").

Is this a consequence of a growing cast (fewer page-time for the primary female protagonist)? Is this evidence of a more coherent interweaving of character motives ("To have friends is to accept the difficulties that come with them," p. 82)? A pessimistic reader will surely fail to reconcile one of these questions with the other.

More pragmatically, it appears the pairing of Yukinoshita and Hikigaya is getting an nudge. Fun, yes. But it could do more harm than good. If Yukinoshita is at her best when fully at odds with Hikigaya, then why mess

with the formula? Yukinoshita isn't made more relatable by being "on the same page" as others. No. She's made more relatable by her breezy indignation of the idiocy of her friends -- that is to say, when she stays true to her own interests no matter the situation (and no matter the consequences).

MY YOUTH ROMANTIC COMEDY . . . #2 is fun. Not as sharp as the first volume, but still quite fun. Yuigahama's affection. Totsuka's insufferable cuteness. Hikigaya's bored exterior. It's all there and it's all quite fun. Hopefully, future stories will be less meandering and will return to the singular, biting ungratefulness that lends Hikigaya his unique voice.

Nicole Westen says

Again with calling Yuigahama a slut, even though she and Hikigaya are supposedly friends now.

jana marie says

Actual rating: 3.5

I thought it wasn't as good as the first book, but I still enjoyed reading it and will definitely continue the series.

Benjamin Arnold says

A good second book in the series. The novels seem to be a little bit less subtle than the TV show though, which is a bit of a shame, as that is something which made the show so good.

Md. Ismail Hossen says

The novel is better than the, already a masterpiece, Series

Justus Stone says

I review Light Novels on YouTube

Click on the link to view my Review of My Youth Romantic Comedy Is Wrong, As I Expected Volume 2

Strider says

This was a nice read. The main plot was about Kawasaki in this volume which showed us a little reality and that not everything can be solved so easily. There are tons of references and if you do not know much about

the Japanese culture they can be off-putting. Luckily I did not have this problem. The characters are complex and changing. The ending was a really strong one, Hikigaya's thoughts can be really deep when he is not thinking about random stuffs.

Cris N. says

I reviewed the first volume of the series some time ago and still stand by everything I said there ([link](#)). The best part about reading Oregairu is the humor and the clever psychological observations that Hachiman makes every now and then, and I guess I can sympathize with the loner aspect too. So it's actually a pretty good novel overall.

What's clear after reading the 2nd volume and also starting up with the 3rd volume is that all the main characters will basically retain their personality and social positions in this series (for the most part, at least). Yukinoshita is a cold "tsundere" type of girl, Yuigihama is the silly clueless girl, Hayama is the popular "cool guy", Hikigaya Hachiman is the cynical loner, and so on. They're pretty much sticking with their archetypes, even though I imagine they'll slowly change over time.

A few observations: In the afterword, the author Watari mentioned that he'd like to marry some rich girl and live a lazy life. That sounds a lot like Hachiman, so he's probably putting more of himself into that character than you'd think. It just so happens that Yukinoshita seems to be increasingly fitting for the role of Hikigaya's future girlfriend because she is a rich girl and she's also a loner. Of course she'll have competition from Yuigihama. That seems to be the way things are going with the romance aspect. Except for the weird sort-of bisexual moments with Totsuka, which are slightly annoying for a straight guy like me, but since it's more of a thing on side, the author probably just put those there to add to the funny awkward moments in the story.

Anyway, the novel is pretty good if you're looking for some light reading that you can get some laughs out of. It's not the best romantic comedy ever, but it's an alright choice. I actually didn't find this 2nd volume as compelling as the first, and I'm still wondering if I want to go through with the third one. Although I am slightly curious as to what will happen so I might go ahead with it.

Sean O'Hara says

Like the first volume, this is more of a collection of loosely linked stories than a proper novel. The final story is quite good and captures the teenage experience in a way most LNs don't, but the rest of the book has a certain there-ish quality to it.

Shadow's Bane says

really good books.

TechVision says

A solid continuation to the "dreadful" life of Hikigaya, and the misfortunes that befall him, as he continues to aid people in the service club, alongside his friends.

Pros:

- Faster development of plot
 - Even further character development; even for side characters, such as Kawazaki Saika
 - Hikigaya is changing; no longer a loner, better able to interact with friends
 - Yui's true feelings are being revealed
-

Love says

I think the reason why I like the SNFU books as much as I do is because of how different they are from other English language light novels on the market. It's refreshing to read a story where no one is reincarnated in an alternative universe or granted super powers. It just a simple (but clever) high school romcom.

Alex Le says

In my own opinion this is still a really marvellous book to read it is very entertaining and also sometimes it has hidden rude joke somewhere in there too.

This book is mainly about a high school loner doing his thing and then one day he was sent to a service club and from there on he has many adventures with his fellow students. You get to see through the eyes of the main character hikigaya hamachi who doesn't really like or love anyone in particular and also he hates the world.

This is a very interesting book because you get to see the world through another persons perspective which is very entertaining. Also most of the time this book will leaving thinking through you right now and past self to see whether or not you are just like him or any of the other characters in this series.

Emir Girgin says

Second half is Kawasaki's story.

Komachi also shows up.

Maid outfits were good :|

elekyu says

T?p 2 dùng gi?y m?ng h?n t?p 1, nh? h?n tui c?m c?ng tho?i mái h?n. C?u Chán d?ch m?m m?i h?n b?n Th?o Aki, tui ??c d? vào h?n.

??c nguyên tác m?i th?y th?c ra Brain's Base chuy?n th? khá t?t, nói chung ?n t??ng v? 8man trong b?n chuy?n th? th? nào thì ??c nguyên tác c?ng hình dung ra y nh? v?y, không thi?u m?t phân không th?a m?t ly.
