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Dramacon, Volume 1



Synopsis

When amateur writer Christie settles in the artist alley of her first ever anime convention, she sees it as an opportunity to promote the manga she had started with her artist boyfriend. But when she unexpectedly falls for a mysterious cosplayer, things become complicated. What do you do when you love someone who is going miles away from you in just a couple of days?! Web-comic vet Svetlana Chmakova gives us a funny, romantic, behind-the-scenes look at an anime convention-where sometimes even two is a crowd!

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Customer Reviews

Set at a comic convention, this story shouldn't be as entertaining and fun as it is. But it's a little gem: the plot trips along, and though the art is good, not breathtaking, the Russian-born Canadian artist/author has clearly mastered the now international visual language of manga. The heroine is Chris, a self-willed girl who is taken for granted by her boyfriend, Derek. Chris meets the dark and mysterious Matt, who seems to understand her completely, and hijinks ensue. Sounds corny as hell, but the narrative is smart, witty and moving. The characters tap into the manga archetypes, which makes them breathe and have moments of being larger-than-life. Chris goes through self-doubt to self-knowledge and learns a bit of bravery along the way. It's astonishing to reflect that all the action takes place in the hotel rooms and convention floors where kids sell their homemade comics. Under the noses of adults, these "cons" have slipped into popular culture as a new land of rebels, mentors and wisdom—what road trips and the Haight once were. They're a perfect place for a

growing-up story. Using every visual manga convention to its fullest, this ripping little tale is strong and expressive enough to reveal real emotional depth. (Nov.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

I went out on a limb with this manga. I wasn't familiar with Svetlana Chmakova's work and didn't know if the story would be overly cheesy. But it was discounted so I figured why not. Chmakova's artistic range is impressive. Each of the characters went from adorably expressive to serious without losing the qualities that made them unique. There was no emotional confusion in any of the panels and each of the panels were easy to follow. The story takes place over three days at a comic convention. Christie is in a relationship with a boy named Derek when Matt comes along with a large (proverbial) mirror, and Christie is forced to take a long hard look at how troubled her relationship truly is. The writing was well-done and well-edited, in turns hilarious and poignant. Something else that I loved is that the story isn't toned-down or overly sugarcoated. There's one scene in particular that shocked me because it was truly dramatic and heartrending, but I was glad it was included because it drove home the seriousness of Christie's situation with Derek. But not to worry that the book is overly dramatic or tragic because it's balanced with plenty of lighthearted moments, too. Now that I'm done, I would have gladly paid full price--in fact, I went and purchased the next two issues immediately. This manga was a gem.

Do you like romance manga and anime conventions? You do? Then buy this book or read it online then buy this book. No regrets!

perfect condition :) thank you!

This is an AMAZING MANGA!!! It is three books long. It is short but powerful. Full of life and learning. Definitely a Re-Read for Life!!!

love this book!

It was the most perfect manga I had ever read. I hadn't even conceived of a manga possibly being as good as Dramacon. Prior to reading it, I had decided manga was good for light reading and somewhat silly romances, but, after reading, I knew manga could tell a hell of a story if it wanted to. Christie's adventures at an anime convention are easy to relate to even if you've never been to a

con before (I never have). Her first meetings with Matt made my stomach flutter, as it was easy to see that she could easily fall in love with this guy she had just met. Both Christie and Matt are simply so well-realized. Their interactions feel real and their feelings come across as legitimate. After all, isn't it silly to get super attached to a guy you've just met, when he lives across the country? The other people that Christie meets and befriends also come across as real people, not simply characters fulfilling needed roles. Quite truthfully, this is even better done in the second and third volume, but even in the first volume, it's obvious that Chmakova can write a believable character and their personality in just a few short panels.

When I first heard about "Dramacon", I honestly didn't know anywhere near as much about Anime and Manga as I do now. I did though know through people who were a lot more knowledgeable about such things that it was being panned as being accurate of what a convention was like. Being the newbie I was, I thought they were talking about the Japanese Anime conventions and also an actual Manga from Japan. This was before I knew the term OEL existed. I planned on picking it up because I heard so much good stuff about it from the people who were ahead of me. Well, I picked it up still not knowing it was an OEL. It clicked within a few pages due to the Americanisms that this hadn't come over from Japan. This wasn't my first OEL experience, which occurred before I even knew there was such a term, so... since that had been pleasant, I jumped right into the reading. I found myself drawn into the story line, hook line and sinker. I didn't spend much time to reflect on the content of the story, I found it that much of something I would eat up in a heart beat. Upon finishing it, there were a few things that bothered me. The style was crisp, the characters amazing. It just wasn't one of those manga I would pander to any girl under the age of thirteen due to some things that happen later on in the Manga. While I liked that twist, I think only a select few girls under the age of thirteen would get what was going on. Also, I wouldn't pander this to anyone who didn't know about conventions either because it may in fact turn out to be rather mind boggling. Over all, I did enjoy it and I am planning on eventually getting the next two volumes.

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