



## xxxHOLiC: AnotherHOLiC

*CLAMP (Illustrator) , NisiOisiN*

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Introducing the thrilling first novel set in the exotic, mysterious world of xxxHOLiC! Written by bestselling author NISIOISIN, and spectacularly illustrated by CLAMP, this original story features the ever-excitable high school student Kimihiro Watanuki, the mystifying time-space witch Yûko Ichihara, and a host of fascinating new characters.

Nothing could have thrilled Kimihiro more than stumbling upon the bizarre wish-granting shop of the beautiful but unnerving Yûko Ichihara, who solemnly promises to make the spirits plaguing Kimihiro go away just as soon as her fee—rendered in daily afternoon chores at her shop—is paid in full.

Of course, the thrill wears off as soon as Kimihiro realizes that his payment plan bears a disturbing resemblance to indentured servitude . . . eternal indentured servitude. Still he soldiers on, ready for whatever number of adventures lie ahead. But in Kimihiro's case, three may not be the charm!

His first assignment—to procure a pair of fake eyeglasses—is exceptionally pointless, even by Yûko's standards. Or at least it seems that way, until Kimihiro watches a woman throw herself into traffic. He soon discovers that the doors of bespectacled perception can swing both ways.

Next, when a classmate seeks help solving a mystery involving text messages from the dead, Kimihiro is glad to play Sherlock. But he must turn to Yûko to determine whether the root of the riddle is otherworldly shenanigans, deceit, or murder.

Finally, however ready, willing, and able Kimihiro thinks he is to face the most unusual of circumstances, he still finds himself completely bewildered by the stranger who chases away his darkest spirits, condemns Yûko as a craven charlatan, and offers Kimihiro a way out of his preternatural predicament—and a fortune besides.

## xxxHOLiC: AnotherHOLiC Details

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either. So if that's what you're here for, then it might be good to give this a miss.

That said, Landolt Ring Aerosol--a title so confusing one can only guess it was written by a Japanese person, since they are known to just go with what sounds 'cool'\*--remains quite true to what CLAMP have set out to write in the manga. (In fact, I think one story made it into the anime.) But what exactly is that?

Now I can't say that I actually followed Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle (I liked it but xxxHolic is more up to my speed because of its genre) so I probably missed a lot of the layers close to the end of xxxHolic's original run, but for me it's always been about the mysterious. Maybe that's not exactly the word, but we'll run with it. It doesn't matter if it's yokai or the human psyche. Sometimes things happen that are hard to explain. Maybe 'singular' is the word?

In LRA, NisiOisiN wrote about three different people who wished for something. That's normal enough right? All stories start because someone wanted something.

First story is about a woman who can't accept happiness. (view spoiler)

A pretty straight-forward story with the xxxHolic twist. Fit enough for them to include in the anime.

Second story is about a university student who was being 'haunted' by a friend who died in a train accident. Humans are very complex things aren't they? I quite liked this one. (view spoiler)

Third story is about, well, about Watanuki himself. And I had a hard time really getting into this story because the stranger Watanuki met was just really unlikeable. And he knows it. There's something so repellent about him that even if I didn't dislike him (he wasn't really doing anything for me to dislike) I didn't want to read about him. Kudos to you on getting that across, Nisio.

But the main thing, the thing that I really loved about this whole novel, is actually something that guy wrote. I don't have my copy with me, so to paraphrase: don't think that the world in your eyes is the same thing as the world in everyone else's. I'm a softy, so I cried.

It's that feeling of loneliness, but at the same time, knowing that everyone else is just as lonely as you are makes you feel less alone. For that I'll add that one star.

\*Turns out Landolt Ring does have something to do with the story.

Also, shout out to Andrew Cunningham for managing to give us as close to the original feel of the novel as possible. Not an easy feat considering this is Nisio, who is known for his puns. But even harder because that second story literally can't make sense without Japanese.

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## Lea says

This was quite a bit of a disappointment....I am a big fan of both the manga and anime of xxxHoLic, but this book really fell flat. It was confusing to the point where I couldn't understand it, and the stories were un-engaging and lacked imagination. The only half-way decent one was the second story about the girl and her

dead friend. The writing style was lacking and the vivid CLAMP characters were not used to their full potential. All-in-all boring, I only finished because I am such a big CLAMP fan.

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## **Fallon Willard says**

I hate giving this such a low rating, because I'm a huge fan of the manga. But I had a few issues with it. First of all, if you don't read the manga, I wouldn't bother. This book would ONLY be entertaining to those who are familiar with the story.

The three stories that appear in it are in true xxxHOLiC fashion; strange, creepy, and thought-provoking. The writing itself (though this could also be chalked up to translating issues) is a bit too passive for my tastes. You'll be reading pages regarding subjects that could be settled in paragraphs. Some of it is round-a-bout and difficult to understand, while in other instances you'll think "I get it already!!"

Another sad lacking in this book was the near-absence of some of our beloved characters. Black Mokona, the strange twins, Doumeki, and Kunogi are only passingly mentioned. In fact, Yuko and Watanuki are the only familiar characters.

So in the end, if you're a big fan of the manga, you may pick it up to add to your collection. But you could probably live without it.

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## **Emi says**

Esta novela está basada en el manga xxxHolic de Clamp, uno de mis preferidos de las autoras, así que cuando descubrí que había una novela quise leerla.

Para los que no sepais de qué va xxxHolic, resumiéndolo mucho, trata sobre Watanuki, un chico que acaba trabajando para una tienda muy extraña, una tienda dirigida por una mujer llamada Yûko donde te conceden tu deseo más preciado a cambio de un precio justo. Él acaba trabajando allí como "pago" por cumplir su deseo: que es dejar de ver espíritus.

Ahora la novela: en ella encontramos 3 historias. Lo que lleva a los clientes a la tienda es del mismo estilo que las que podemos encontrar en el manga, sin embargo, aquí se acaban todos los parecidos.

Sobre todo en el principio de cada parte tenía la sensación de que había más "texto de relleno" que algo de provecho. Me refiero a escenas de 4-5-8 páginas que en manga no habrían sido más de 3-4 viñetas.

Y luego están los personajes. De todos los protagonistas y secundarios que aparecen en el manga sólo Yûko y Watanuki aparecen, y están un poco fuera de caracter: leyendo el manga nunca he pensado que Watanuki fuera medio tonto, ni que Yûko fuera cruel y mala por diversión (la manera de hablarle a Watanuki es alucinante).

Reconozco que escribir basándote en personajes que no son tuyos es muy difícil, y es imposible contentar a todo el mundo. En mi caso, la imagen que tengo de los dos protas poco se parece a esta, así que es como si hubiera leído una novela sobre algo parecido a xxxHolic, pero no me ha gustado tanto como el original.

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### **Dan Nguyen says**

I was surprised when I first learn that xxxHolic has a written novel so I decided to pick it up. I really like the morals in each of the 3 stories and I have to say that the description of Yuko-san was, somewhat, more cruel and mysterious in Watanuki's view compared to the Yuko-san expressed in the manga and anime.

But overall, this is another great book written by NisiOisiN and I'm looking forward to read more work from him

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### **Rosa says**

This book was a new way to see the xxxholic series. You got a chance to view the story from the point of view of characters that you never normally would. Additionally it was less comical than usual because you got to see inside Watanuki's head, which gives him more depth than he has in the graphic novel.

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### **Natalie Manahan says**

I wish I could give this a higher rating, but I can't in good conscience. This book is essentially broken up into three stories. The first two are quite good and keep the spirit of what we see in the anime/manga series. The third story is the biggest let down. My biggest issue with it was that it bends the rules of the canon a little too much for my liking. Some fans may not like that only Watanuki and Yuko are the only familiar faces, but for this book I think it works well enough. These two are the central characters and as far as the first two stories go I think putting in Himawari or Domeki would've felt forced. However, I think that with the lack of Yuko in the final story having another familiar character from the regular series put in could've helped it a bit. Overall, I enjoyed this book for what it was despite its flaws.

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### **Eckohns says**

The book is of three separate stories. Watanuki learns of people who have “supposedly” had a run in with the supernatural, and he brings them to Yuko’s magic shop to have their wishes granted.

The way things are handled is very different from how stories are portrayed in the manga. And having read several of NisiOisiN’s other work, I could easily identify his style. It’s more similar to Bakemonogatari, only shorter and even more simplistic.

Also Watanuki And Yuki are the only characters from the manga that appear. Domeki And Himawari are mentioned but not seen. Some of the new characters were likeable enough though.

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Let me start off by saying that I have never read the xxxHOLiC manga, nor have I seen the anime. I'm a fan of CLAMP and Tsubasa: Reservoir Chronicle, but this light novel was my first venture into the story of Watanuki Kimihiro. I'll admit that there were a few moments when I was a bit lost, if only because I wasn't familiar with the original story, but it wasn't really that hard to figure out what was happening once I got further into the stories.

This book is comprised of three stand-alone short stories - the first is about a girl who can't help but break any taboo that she comes across (if the pedestrian light is red, she'll cross the street, if a sign says 'do not enter,' she enters anyway); the second story is about a girl who seems to be receiving text messages from her dead best friend; and the third story was about an obnoxiously rude man who can see demons but also has the power to 'unsee' them if he wishes. All stories feature high school student Watanuki Kimihiro and the dimension witch, Ichihara Yûko, and are tied together through the idea of wish granting.

While I liked the stories well enough, I do have to say that the writing was a bit flat. This may be because it was translated into English from the original Japanese novel, but it felt a bit unattached, as though I were watching an anime with no sound and having to rely only on subtitles. This bothered me quite a bit, but as the stories themselves were pretty interesting, I was able to keep reading - they each had a unique spin on

some oddities of human behavior, which I found entertaining.

I now think that I'd like to check out the original xxxHOLiC manga to get a better grasp of the story-line - the idea of a boy working as an indentured servant to a wish-granting 'dimension witch' in exchange for losing the ability to see and attract demons is rather intriguing. But for now, this particular story collection gets 3 out of 5 stars from me.

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### **Mason Jones says**

This is a very odd one. It feels sort of incomplete, as though not all of the story's being told. Not a problem exactly, but you're left to your own devices to fill in some blanks. It has a surreal kind of feeling, but the characterizations are thin enough that it's a bit hard to care too much. Enjoyable, but certainly not stellar.

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