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Author : Hitoshi Ashinano , ??????

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Aaron Reed says

This is a fun, relaxing, gentle manga anchored by the handsomest, most charismatic, whimsical, fun-loving and pensive yet sometimes naïve female character (albeit an android who's on a par with Robin Williams' android in *Bicentennial Man*) in my personal 27-year history of reading manga.

The story takes place in a post-apocalyptic Kanagawa prefecture (now an impoverished country) where nature has evolved in strange ways, mankind is slowly vanishing from the face of the earth, and a handful of mostly female androids will be the inheritors of the earth, but, in this feel-good story that intentionally omits the sad passings over time of some of the main human characters and other tragic events that would have shaped the lives of Alpha and her friends! :-)

Beautifully illustrated and engaging throughout!

HiRo says

Okay, I don't really like slice-of-life, but I found a bunch of manga on my computer I had apparently acquired years ago, and gave this one a try. Nothing happens, nothing at all, but it's also strangely... appealing? This is a rare interpretation of the apocalypse as a slow, sleepy end; a calm, almost bucolic depiction of wilderness overtaking and supplanting modern society. You know, it's armageddon but it's not the end of the world. It's kinda nice. Rising ocean levels make for some great new beach territory. The highways aren't so crowded anymore because everyone's dead. People seem to just give each other goods and services because there isn't much of a flow of currency anymore.

Mostly I think I might get into it for the long haul because lesbian robots maybe.

Gusfina says

--- Yokohama Shopping Blog 1-14---

Plot: Simpel dan damai. Entah mmengapa punya kesan melankolis yang misterius.

Gambar: Saya... lumayan suka gambar tokoh-tokohnya. Rasanya unik^^

Penokohan: Ok

Karena begitu jatuh cinta dengan ARIA , saya jadi tertarik untuk mencicipi komik dengan sajian Mono no Aware. Hasilnya saya sangat tertarik pada komik ini dan Yokohama Chinatown Fantasy . Kemudian, komik inilah yang saya berhasil dapatkan duluan.

Yokohama Shopping Blog berkisah mengenai kehidupan Alpha yang menunggu kepulangan pemiliknya. Kehidupannya diceritakan dengan ringan dan damai. Ah... saya membaca ini saya sadar kalau saya mungkin memang cocok dengan tema Mono no Aware. Saya suka alur ceritanya. Waktu yang berjalan pasti dan bagaimana diceritakan pertemuan dan kejadian dengan damai dan ringan. Kesannya cukup menyenangkan-- ah salah. Saya menikmatinya^^.

Hanya saja, kadang ada bagian yang menurut saya... biasa-biasa saja. Tidak ada impresi yang begitu spesial kudapatkan. Apalagi jujur saja saya tidak begitu suka bagaimana ending cerita ini. Ini subjektif sih (haha), mungkin saja yang lain akan suka. Tapi endingnya dan bagaimana arahnya digambarkan membuat saya merasa... bukannya hangat dan mengerti kalau hidup memang seperti itu-- melainkan malah membuat saya merasa agak ~~hampa~~ kesal. Impresi yang ditinggalkan malah bikin saya geleng-geleng kepala. Benar-benar berbeda dengan saat membaca ARIA. Tapi yah, mau gimana lagi. Setting ceritanya memang berbeda dengan ARIA, dan tokoh utamanya memang bukan manusia. Saya memang yang seharusnya tidak begitu membandingkannya ya (haha).

Overall lumayan kok^^.

[8/10]

lazycalm says

It has the same atmosphere as Paterson.

Paul McCann says

Consider this a stand-in for the rest of them.

Nothing happens, it's amazing.

Liane says

A simple and beautiful manga series that drew to a quiet close a couple of years ago after being published by Afternoon for over ten years. It has stunning artwork, poignant writing and, sometimes a rarity in manga, a well-developed and meaningful story.

The basic plot: humanity is peacefully and slowly dwindling after some unnamed cataclysmic event. Yokohama Kaidashi Kikou presents slice of life stories about the legacy of our race as seen through the eyes of Alpha, (yes she's a robot), who owns an isolated coffee shop near Yokohama, and her friends who live nearby.

Yokohama Kaidashi Kikou (YKK) is usually translated as "Record of a Yokohama Shopping Trip", a title which sounds as exciting as a box of sawdust. But something as ordinary as an excursion out to buy more coffee beans becomes a profound narrative about life, change, time, emotions and relationships...when you put it in the hands of Ashinano Hitoshi.

Unfortunately, as far as I know, YKK isn't available in an (official & legal) English translation, but you can buy the original Japanese editions online (usually much cheaper than if a manga series has been licensed and translated), and find text only translations online as well. There is always the option of downloading scanlations: fan-translated scans of the original manga; but I'd encourage you to support the mangaka by buying the originals if you do download the scanlations.

usagi ?? says

This is a series I would love to professionally translate.

Vasil Kolev says

(I'm going to write a review of the first one, it applies to the whole series)

Probably the most calm and quiet manga I've ever read. It's the best thing to read on a rainy day, listening to something like Rachmaninov's piano concertos (which I've done at least three times).

It's a story of a post-apocalyptic world, but instead of being overly-pessimistic and depressing, or overly-optimistic and annoying it's just normal and human (although the main protagonist isn't human :)). It's also helped by the great style of the artist, and it all adds to the tranquillity of the series.

I've read this a long time ago (a few times) and still haven't found anything that can measure up to it.

Aria says

Waktu lihat judul komiknya "Yokohama Shopping Blog" tadinya saya pikir ini tentang blogger yang nulis soal traveling atau shopping, tapi ternyata isinya beda jauh. ?

Inti ceritanya kurang begitu jelas menurut saya, alurnya lambat dan slice of life. Tapi unik, menarik dan gambarnya bagus banget. Rasanya tenang baca komik ini, feeling-nya dapet banget. ?

Seperti pas lihat langit penuh bintang atau pemandangan, wow... amazing, mysterious and simply beautiful. ?
Ini jadi komik favorit saya. 5/5 ?

D.M. Dutcher says

One of the most amazing views of the end of the world ever. In a futuristic japan, Alpha the robot waits for her master at the Cafe Alpha. Japan is dying: the roads are crumbling, the sea is devouring the land, people are few and far between. Robots are turning feral, and the people are abandoning the country to cluster in cities. This is a quiet, beautiful series about how Alpha and the people she knows deal with it.

What is amazing is that there is not a single scene of violence in the entire series. It is just small, heartwarming moments, piled up on each other. Alpha watches the children she knows grow up to be young adults. She enjoys the small pleasures of life almost like a child herself. She befriends other robots like her, and goes on a voyage of self-discovery. All the while, the world is slowly, gently falling to sleep.

This gives it such an incredible amount of power that no zombie apocalypse could. There are some quietly chilling moments when you can see that no, the humans will not rally. The earth itself may be erecting monuments to them. There are many joyful ones: Alpha befriending people, seeing fireworks, or just singing

on her guitar. The manga-ka is masterful with details: a simple silhouette of Alpha's bare body shining through her nightshirt from the moon tells us more about a child growing into a man than any sex scene. A journey through a dark underground tunnel is made menacing.

She lets the art speak for her. The world is crumbling, but beautiful. Many panels and even pages have no dialogue. The art is simple manga style, but crisp and beautiful.

Unfortunately, while translated scans exist on the internet, no english official version exists. But read the scans, and buy at least one volume to own. It is the end of the world, and the earth is pulling a soft blanket around us as we go to sleep, the robots our night-light to keep the dark away.

Luxtk Ignatius says

La palabra clave para abordar YKK es "iyashikei":

"sanación", en Japonés. Un término usado en manga y anime cuando el objetivo más claro de la obra es imponer un aura curativo o calmante en la audiencia. Los trabajos de este tipo suelen involucrar realidades alternativas con poco o nulo conflicto, dando énfasis a la naturaleza y los pequeños placeres de la vida.

Otra palabra que me viene a la mente son *viñetas*. Viñetas, cortas, inofensivas, como un Relatos del Cazador y un intento de poesía semejante.

Básicamente, este manga tiene un ritmo lento, tranquilo y espaciado. Comparable a tomarse una taza de café en un remoto cafecito en el medio del campo, rodeado de altos pastos en una tarde ni fría ni cálida. La analogía no es casual, 2 de cada 3 capítulos tienen ese setting.

Dos de cada tres lectores la encontrarán como "un embole". Y aquellos que la apreciaron dirán que esa mayoría es de amargados.

La protagonista es una mujer joven, con cierta experiencia y una inocencia divertida. Ah, y es un androide.

Amy says

I am finally getting around to reading Yokohama Kaidashi Kiko ("Yokohama Shopping Diary"), and after finishing the first volume, I must say I'm completely in love.

A little background: the manga is set in the future, after some cataclysm seems to have wiped out most of the human population. The sea level has been gradually rising for some time. Cities have largely been abandoned, and people have returned to a simpler way of life.

The story is told through a series of vignettes that follow the everyday life of Alpha, the owner of a small coffee shop. She happens to be a robot, also. The scenes are poignant and the characters are very likable, Alpha in particular.

But I think where Yokohama Kadaishi Kiko really gets me is in its expression of setting. I have never read a

graphic novel where the silence was so tangible. Ashinano gives us long stretches with no dialogue, characters alone, just moving through the backdrop of post-apocalyptic Japan. His art is beautiful, and it pulls you in. The setting is rich spatially as well as temporally—the images express a very real passage of time, which is contrasted with Alpha's apparent timelessness. I'm curious to see if this temporal dissonance leads anywhere over the course of the series...

Overall, I give Yokohama five stars. I highly recommend it and can't wait to read more.

Eka Wirya says

This represents the whole series (14 volumes)

- Likeable characters
- Peaceful, laid-back everyday stories in the future that are full of weird things. But, the writer can make it so believable and lovely.

Its a very nice series to relax to.

Bryn (Plus Others) says

It is hard to put into words but the atmosphere of this slow-paced manga about life on a sparsely-populated future earth is very soothing. The manga focuses on little things -- watching the sun rise on the New Year, sharing food together, making coffee, slow travel between places. There is no real risk, no threat, and a lot of beauty; I'll be continuing to (very slowly) read it.

Paul says

I'm only reviewing the first volume of 14 from this series, but this is one of the most beautiful works I've read. A very quiet, calming post-apocalyptic setting evokes the "twilight of the human race" in a story infused with distinctly Japanese aesthetics and deep emotions. One of my favorites.
