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*Ayano Takeda , ?? ??*

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# From Reader Review ?????????? ? ???????????????? for online ebook

## ribbonknight says

I loved the anime so this is not an unbiased review. Reading this bright back many familiar images from what was a gorgeous and high-quality KyoAni show.

I came for the Kumiko/Reina and was delighted that the scenes from the anime did in fact come from the book. The scenes with Shuuichi and the feelings for Taki are still there, but the way Kumiko talks about Reina, the way she feels when she's with Reina, idk I just think it speaks for itself.

Many light novels are about gaming, so reading one about people and their feelings was a very pleasant change. This made me think a lot about my own experiences in middle and high school band, too.

I really hope that the other books by this author get translated into English, too. I would love to read them.

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## Chris Joynson says

I'll admit I came to this book because I loved the anime and I wanted to relive/compare to that and boy did this book not disappoint. Yes, the anime had amazing animation and music, but this book proves more than anything that the strength of this story comes from its characters.

Its a very simple story, following a high school band that at the beginning is pretty terrible, but with their new director they begin to improve and soon start to think they might have a chance at the big competition at the end. It's a story that has been done plenty of times before, but its the people involved that make it special. The way the characters are written, the way they interact and develop, it's simply wonderful.

Kumiko, our main character, is my favourite because I completely get her. I get her indecisiveness, her desire to not make waves and just go with the flow and it so heart-warming to see her slowly getting sucked into the band and the excitement, all the way until she herself believes that she can actually do this and even admit as much. This is a story about a school band, but its also a story about a young girl finding out what she really wants.

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## Niquie says

Unlike the usual light novels that get licensed *Sound! Euphonium* is a slice of life story that focuses on band competition and has a female lead.

Please let this be a sign that more female lead light novels will be licensed. Please.

This is the first book of a series, but it ends with enough closure that even if the second book never gets translated it's fine.

I don't really know what to say about this book. Props to Yen On for licensing it, that was a surprise. With all the fantasy killing game harem light novels being brought over this is a breath of fresh air. You just have to be in the right mood to read it or you'll end up like me and not touch it for days.

There's some romance, but it's almost taken for granted. Like, of course, they like each other so no need to focus on it. There was an uncomfortable love triangle introduced, but it gets resolved quickly (thankfully). And while I did like the hints of the couple I wish there had been more development there. Heck, Kumiko and Reina have more development and chemistry. Not that I'm complaining, it's always nice to read stories focusing on friendship, it's just Kumiko was really aware of Reina. Like really. It could be argued she was equally aware of Shuuichi but since he had a lot less page time (it seemed) it just was more noticeable towards Reina. At one point Kumiko wanted to bite Reina's earlobe. Like okay.

I liked how full circle this book was. (view spoiler)

But the best part of the book for me was Kumiko. I have never identified so much with a character. She's indecisive and knows it, and there were times when she'd think something I would think, or feel something I would feel. I definitely experienced moments like this:

*Kumiko was about the only one still indecisively wandering around the classroom center.*

***I want to play this. That one looks cool.** Kumiko had no such strong preferences. She wished they'd just give her whatever instrument they had to spare. Then she wouldn't have to agonize like this.*

I was worried the author would force Kumiko to overcome her indecisiveness in the typical way authors do, but she doesn't (thankfully) and the surprisingly honest conversation that happens between Kumiko and Haruka (?) as a result was really appreciated.

The biggest con for this book (besides having to be in the mood to read about high school students practicing and competing for band competitions) is how hard it was to remember who certain characters were. What made it worse is a character would be referred to by their last(?) name in descriptions, but in dialogue, they'd be referred to by their given (?) name. So sometimes I'd have no idea that Gotou was also Takuya. But that's not a big deal and I feel my constantly taking a break from reading this book had more to do with me not recognizing characters than this.

**Final Thoughts:** This was a sweet unexpected book. Worth reading to learn about musical instruments and how a band club could be like in a Japanese high school. I'm actually curious about how accurate it is. But mostly I'm glad I read it and met Kumiko.

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## Maverynthia says

A slice of life book where there's not a satisfying payoff. It also has lesbian baiting.

Really there just too much technical infodumps that take up a lot of what this book is and Kumiko is very much not a part of what's going on. Everyone else around her is having the drama play out, but she herself is more of an observer.

Also it sexualizes middle school to high school girls and that's gross. Reina has a crush on her teacher as well to add to the grossness. Really Taki, the teacher, is pretty much the male POV character.

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## Terrence says

So I never participated with the series, but I had seen imagery and heard some things. I anticipated some Yuri vibes, and some of the scenes definitely can be read into that way though there's no definite homosexual character relationships going on yet.

Kumiko is not the most likable of protagonists because she has these glaring flaws, particularly her go with the flow / majority attitude. Kumiko doesn't make choices in her life; she follows the guidance of a sibling to the band, then reenters band in Highschool at the persuasion of friends. Her instrument is not her choice in either band either. She doesn't have that self-confidence, not only in herself but in others to help her succeed. Just a very sad character, but she also remains difficult to empathize with since her go with the flow attitude leads her to doing dubious things, like eavesdropping and talking behind a teacher's back.

The rest of the cast is a hodgepodge of some memorable characters, but a lot of similar physical characteristics and cliched girlish conversationalists. The ones that stand out as significant are Reina (childhood friend female who is a musical prodigy), Shuuichi (fellow childhood friend), Asuka (Kumiko's section leader), along with the two newfound friends, Midori and Hazuki. Outside of them, there are a variety of characters that enter and exit the stage, like Yuuko, Kaori, Ogasawara, Aoi, and Natsuki. Again, most of these characters have black hair as a descriptive element, which doesn't do much for the reader, so you kind of have to imagine what they look like on your own to make them stand out from each other (there's no pictures in this book).

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## Nathan says

This novel was adapted into an anime series a few years ago that was a favorite of mine, and reading the original work (newly translated into English this year) reveals just how much of the strengths of that series came from the book.

Sound! Euphonium is equally interested in conveying the emotions & experience of being in a high school musical group as it is in the coming-of-age story of its protagonist, Kumiko --- and it's very good at both. The passages that describe performances, in particular, are flowing and lyrical in a way that reveals the strength of this translation.

Basically, reading this book made me nostalgic for high school orchestra in the best way. It's good!

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## Eressea says

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## **Justus Stone says**

I review Light Novels on YouTube

Click on the link to view my Review of Sound Euphonium Book 1

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## **Benjamin says**

*"There was a moment's stillness - then, as to shatter it, the trumpets' melody. Then, layered above it, the flutes' solo came in. The tubas' thick sound shook the air."*

I will try not to use too many superlatives, but still - descriptions like that are one of the reasons I like reading.

The plot of the book revolves around Kumiko, a high school student from Kyoto, her friends and the whole high school concert band in which they play. In the beginning of the book, the band plays horribly, and its members couldn't care less about it. However, it starts to change with the arrival of a new conductor, which goal is to reach the national concert band competition. The author put an effort in the explanations about the different instruments, the skills needed to play them and the various types of practices (Solfege, Ensemble and so on); it can be easily seen that the writer had some experience in concert band, which makes that book more fun to read.

Kumiko's inner struggles are very well-portrayed, and as a high school student, I can really relate to them. The side characters - especially Kumiko's friends - are also well-thought of, unique and realistic, and they are portrayed better than in the anime. From the shy Midori to manipulative Asuka, each character was round and developed and has his own unique style.

What I liked the most about the book is the writing style. Takeda knows not only how to write an interesting story, but also how to describe its setting and the elements in it extremely well. It was quite surprising, that the parts in which the band plays were as good as in the anime, in which there was actual music!

All in all, this is one of my favorite books. I expected a novelized version of the anime series by Kyoani but was pleasantly surprised. Whenever you have enjoyed the anime or are searching for a good YA novel, I think you will enjoy this book very much!

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## **Kiri says**

DNF: Page 64

And thus I have discovered a new disinterest in light novels. I did not connect with the characters nor the story and it was like pulling teeth to read it. I'd much rather read the manga, if there is one. (When I initially bought the book I thought it was a manga. When I unwrapped it and discovered it wasn't, I gave it a shot.)

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## **Cate (The Professional Fangirl) says**

This took a while to finish because Anime Expo 2017 happened. The anime adaptation is one of my all-time

faves and the source material did not disappoint.

Docking off 1 star because of the not so low key queer-baiting.

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### **Aqua says**

A highly enjoyable read. I hope the sequels and spin off novels get translated by Yen Press soon. I loved the anime and the book did not disappoint at letting me relive the story. Kumiko is an interesting lens to see this world through, as she's a type of main character I have not often seen. She's not strong-willed, independent, passionate, outgoing, brave, or any such thing. She's quiet, lacks self-confidence, afraid to have any real dreams for fear of having them crushed, dislikes conflict and goes out of her way to just go with the flow to avoid conflict, and not all that passionate initially. Because of this initial lack of self confidence, she has a lot of room to grow and I liked her development over the course of the novel. She comes to realize she is passionate about music, really passionate, and finally allows herself to fully embrace a goal even in the face of potential disappointment. But in the end she's still Kumiko and she doesn't change unrecognizably, and still has a lot of room to grow.

I definitely highly recommend the anime if you liked the book. Being able to hear the music performed certainly adds a lot to the story, although I did like the way the music was described in the novel. This novel is the source material for the anime, and they did an amazing job of adapting it. They added a lot to the characterization in the anime and a lot of humor that was not present in the novel.

In regards to the translation, it is mostly well done, with the descriptive passages reading well. Occasionally the characters' lines sound unnatural in English, however, and the translator is inconsistent with the way the characters refer to each other. The translator decided to drop all Japanese words like senpai, kouhai, san, chan, etc., which is fine in general, but this novel is set in a Japanese high school and not a fantasy world, so you lose a lot of cultural and social nuance by dropping these. The characters sometimes use first names and sometimes last names when referring to each other, which is confusing. It just seems like the translator couldn't decide to fully commit to either the Japanese way or the American way in which people refer to each other. For example, Kumiko refers to her euphonium senior, Asuka, just by her first name, even on the day she meets her, which is a bit jarring if you have any knowledge of Japanese culture. However, her other senior and the club president were mostly referred to by their last names (Gotou and Ogasawara). I see a lot of manga keep these titles and just have a little explanation at the end for those unfamiliar with the terms. Overall though, this is a personal preference of mine in translated works and it's not a huge issue.

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### **Rebecca says**

This is definitely one of the better-written light novels to be released in English, with more focus on character development and less awkward description.

Full review eventually appearing on ANN.

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