

Story & Art by
Miki Aihara



Shojo Beat Manga

Three in One

Hot Gimmick, Volume 2

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R to L (Japanese Style). "This comic hooked my little sister and me faster than we could say, "Oh no she didn't" --Becky Cloonan, artist of "Demo, American Virgin," and the creator of "East Coast Rising" Miki Aihara turned the manga world upside down with her salacious, outrageous, and funny hit series. If you think being a teenager is hard, wait until you read "Hot Gimmick." Hatsumi's troubles with school, life, and love are so full of twists and turns, it'll make your head spin. With more (love) triangles than you can throw a geometry book at, these Tokyo boys and girls are really messed up

Hot Gimmick, Volume 2 Details

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From Reader Review Hot Gimmick, Volume 2 for online ebook

Chantal Connors says

Amazing, new obsession <3

Deanna Pina says

I have to admit that this series was a guilty pleasure for me. I couldn't give it more stars simply because most of the male characters are abusive in one aspect or another. Around the middle of the series, I ended up wishing the main character's sister was the protagonist since her romance with the nerd guy was cute. Luckily, I have B Gata H Kei.

Laura says

I've become a manga fan only recently. It's definitely a guilty pleasure, and most of the time I don't have too many opinions about the manga I read. This is probably because I haven't finished a series until now. Well, I actually have but I'll be writing a review on that one as well. Anyway, it's hard to have an opinion on something that hasn't resolved yet. Since this one has, I'll give my opinion.

The thing I enjoy about manga is the visual aspect. I love seeing it all laid out on the page for me. I think I've read enough of it at this point to form an opinion about the art. I like the art in this one. Sometimes the art in manga can become too "scratchy." That's the only word I can think of to describe it. This one is a little more defined. There's no rough edges. I like that and I've noticed that in Aihara's drawing in Honey Hunt as well.

As far as the plot and characters go, it's not as strong. I feel like there's this juggling act with all the boys in the series. Hatsumi never knows what or who she wants. She's so indecisive and she lets Ryoki walk all over her. I spent most of the series wishing she would stand up for herself or Ryoki would get a grip. It never occurred to me that their relationship was meant to be funny until the last volume. I never found it funny until the end, and I'm not sure that's a good thing. Azusa just wants revenge and toward the end I could honestly picture him standing over a girl tied to a railroad and twirling his mustache as he switched the tracks. Shinogu was the only character I truly liked. I mean, his situation was pretty messed up and weird, but I liked his character. He was caring and sincere and I felt sorry for him most of the time.

As far as the ending goes, it was pretty weak. Hatsumi and Ryoki have a pretty good ending, but I wish I could say that for the other two. I expected more out of the story for Azusa and Shinogu. I was unsatisfied by their lots. All in all, it was entertaining, but nothing special.

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Alana says

This entire series is a hot mess that I enjoy reading. It's like watching a tire fire.

Kereesa says

Hatsumi is just a regular girl in a whole lotta trouble. Ryoki wants her to be his girlfriend, but then decides she can be his slave again? Azusa's back, and stirring up even more trouble. And Shonugu is acting strange! In this second volume of Hot Gimmick, all our favorites crazy boys and girls are back, and the relationships are hotter, and so are the secrets!

I really enjoyed this second omnibus volume to the series. The humor, the characters, the easy addicting quality of it, everything was there for me to fall in love with it as fast as I did the first time around. And while I adored this volume, I lot of it felt was setting for the third volume in this series. Maybe it's just me, but a lot of this volume in the series felt like set-up and/or development set-up. That's not to say it wasn't amazingly awesome, but I wasn't as impressed as I was the first time I got into this series.

So the plot was a mix of actually events happening, and, as I've previously stated, set-up for the next two omnibuses. The parts where things actually happened, and I was going OMGWHAT were great, and kept that suspense/addicting factor rolling as we get closer and closer to the truth behind the big conspiracy in this series. While I don't always love set-up, I have to admit the mangakan does a good job here in making her set-up also be about character development. Which is good, because this series really hinges on those absolutely honest, actual realistic characters.

Development wise, the changes in characters between the first and second volume of this series really showed how a lot of them are growing as people, and, in the case of a few of them at least, showing us how they are actually likable. Akane, for one, really became more of an actual character than just a useable plot point (like I felt she was in the first volume of Hot Gimmick). She pushed herself out of that typical hotter/more experienced younger sister role, and made herself into a character we can love, relate to, and cheer for.

Ryoki, however, was where I felt the mangakan decided to pursue the most change. As you've probably figured, for the most part in this series, Ryoki is kind of a sadistic bastard. He's mean and somewhat abusive to Hatsumi. But at the same time, he's obviously deeply in love with her, and remains conflicted between that caring adoration for Hatsumi, and the way he was raised. I won't spoil it for you, but Ryoki didn't get much love as a child-something I think messed him up quite a bit. Don't get me wrong, there's not a sudden change-redemption style-that turns Ryoki from a douche to a lovable nice guy, but that change, that beginning of change is there as he learns to be a better person and boyfriend through Hatsumi's influence.

Development people. That's the important part.

Hatsumi also kind of undergoes some change, though I find it more applicable in the third omnibus volume of this series, in that she gets more of a backbone, especially in relation to Ryoki, and starts to stand up for herself a lot more.

All in all, this second volume to the Hot Gimmick series was fun, crazily addicting, and beautiful to read and 'watch.' Wonderful art, complex characters, and a conspiracy-like plot, really what more can you ask for?

4.5/5

Olivina says

I feel that I should explain. I can't possibly defend this series. All the people who have called the main relationship abusive and disturbing are right on the money. And yet. And yet. I need to find out how it ends! I'm not proud of myself right now.

Starbubbles says

this series really gets better as it progresses. "vol.2" covers books 4-7, which is honestly a real deal. though keeping the binding from getting a seam is another story. how does hatsumi attack all of those guys?! geez! almost makes me jealous.

Daniellesof2014 says

Hatsumi has herself a boyfriend but is it for real? Azusa seems to be sure but Ryoki doesn't like it. His slave is supposed to listen to him, that's how slaves work. But wait a minute Ryoki started to help Hatsumi, strange but how far will his kindness go? Will it form a relationship? Will it reach Hatsumi first before Azusa's plan comes into action?

This book reminds me of Twilight because it's like Bella, Edward and Jacob. Edward and Jacob hate each other but Bella loves both of them. That's similar to Hatumi because Ryoki and Azusa like Hatsumi and hate each other, in return Hatsumi likes them both but she can't seem grabs what's happening to her where as Bella does.

I give this book 5 stars because I found it very interesting especially towards the middle because it looks like nothing is as it seems in this book. It was a very surprising turn in the story.

Grace Viola says

The struggles of high school. I can't help loving this series of manga. I can relate a little to Hatsumi. A girl a little socially awkward but wants the best for everyone. I didn't have boys falling for me but I sure did dream. Some of those dreams match up with this story. Having a someone demanding my attention or someone so sweet watching out for me. It isn't all fun but I still love the idea of it all. Plus more love interests keep coming out of the woodwork. I can't wait to see where volume 3 takes us.

Mandy says

Still not done with this series. I usually get tired of some series' at certain points, but after finishing this latest

omnibus, I'm definitely going to pick up the next instalment. My favorite thing continues to be all the drama over the little things. Maybe it's because I don't read enough of that, or I read stories where the world is at stake or whatever.

Not here. Here, it's all about what the neighbors will think, the gossip that could start that could ruin lives, or the way Ryoki acts when he's around Hatsumi, acting all mean and still not recognizing the fact that he actually likes her. The interesting thing was that I didn't even realize he was hitting her until Hatsumi pointed it out. The drawings were always done so comically that I didn't think those spots were meant to be taken seriously, but that's certainly not enough to deter me from enjoying this series.

Really love this, will continue to read, 5 stars :)

Vicki says

I adore this series!

I was very impressed with this next installment for exploring more into the lives of the minor characters. And of course, my favourite thing - character development! The tiny seeds were planted in the first issue and now they're growing! Some folks are nicer, some less nice, some are reevaluating their viewpoint, some are still just trying to hold the status quo.

Lovely! Gorgeous! Exclamation marks!

Russell Grant says

The most twisted relationship manga ever not so surprisingly gets even more twisted in this volume. Great stuff.

Neko Neha (BiblioNyan) says

It doesn't stop being salacious in this volume. The second big edition expands on the characters interpersonal relations with one another. At times I found the growth (or lack thereof) between everyone to be slightly frustrating, but I will admit that it was portrayed beautifully. A great continuation.

tia says

Why do I keep reading this? I am staring at book 3 right now and kind of hating myself...

Sarah Marie says

4.5 stars upon rereading. Review to come.
