



Dramacon Ultimate Edition Manga

Svetlana Chmakova

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Celebrate the world of Dramacon with this ultimate collector's edition! The hardcover complete collection features previously unpublished chibi comics, a new cover, creator interview, early story concepts, and more!

Dramacon Ultimate Edition Manga Details

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Author : Svetlana Chmakova

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From Reader Review Dramacon Ultimate Edition Manga for online ebook

Jennifer Green says

Happy that I borrowed this one for my daughter from the library, as I didn't realize there was a little bit extra added to the story post convention.

Elli says

Ich liebe die Mangas von Svetlana Chmakova. Der Witz und die außergewöhnlichen Zeichnungen sprechen mich hierbei besonders an... Vor allem die Stellen, an denen man die Mangaka direkt in der Geschichte wiederfindet... Eine Art Running Gag, der sehr viel Spaß macht. Bei Dramacon habe ich mehrmals laut auflachen müssen und ab und an hatte ich sogar Pipi in den Augen. Ich hoffe, dass man von ihr noch ganz viel zu lesen bekommt. Die Charaktere wachsen einem sofort ans Herz. Die Leidenschaft der Charaktere für ihre Interessen ist unglaublich mitreißend und macht ebenfalls Lust, tiefer in die Materie einzusteigen... Ganz klare fünf Sterne von mir :]

S. J. says

Dramacon Ultimate Edition - If you're a manga fan and have been/want to go to a Con, READ THIS! *5+ Stars**The Gush*

I was an avid manga reader the day I picked this book up. I had been to a total of one con, a small one, with some friends and had even dabbled in cosplay. Yeah. So I knew a bit what to expect from a book set in an Anime con...and I wasn't disappointed. Far from it, I was amazed and brought immediately back to all my fond memories of that time with friends. Svetlana Chmakova has captured the good, the bad, and the ugly of so many fans trapped in a small place dedicated to their mutual love for a weekend. More, she captured the spirit and the heart; which I would have considered impossible before reading this. And, just as an extra, she gave us great characters and a neat plot to boot.

Characters:

One of the great things about this series is that not a single character is wasted. Each one, even the minor ones are there for a reason, whether to illustrate a type of person one will see in a con or to provide an integral part of the story. All of them are interesting and, if you've been to a con, most are recognizable to you.

Christie:

The main character, she is a young woman who grows from an 11th grader to a freshman in college through the course of the series. She is a writer, a lover of all things manga/anime, and a child thrown off the deep end into her first con. She discovers the wonder, the problems, and the pain that can happen during such a highly emotional event. Yet she comes back for more. She has dreams of writing manga and is part of the artist alley crowd - which opens the reader into another part of the con world, one they might not themselves get to experience. She's a typical manga heroine, kinda spastic and off the wall but so very lovable and you

root for her every time she has a frame. She's not beautiful or super smart, she is (like the author/artist tells us in a cameo) the every man, the one we are to relate to and she does it beautifully.

Matt:

The main guy in the story. He is a rough, sarcastic young man roughly two years older than Christie who feels an instant connection to her. Around her, he is different, better and his sister instantly tries to push them together. It is mainly to Christie he shows a different side of him and though they fight like anything, they also work well together. He is an old hand at cons and acts as a sort of guide - though not without leaving a few scars from cutting comments. He is a deep character, with some bad history following him around, but you can't help but love him.

Bethany:

Christie's second artist on her manga, she is a very good artist who has a driven mother who sees working as an artist as akin to being a Hobo. However, this is her love and she dreams of doing it for a living, even if it is hard. She is the newcomer to cons in the second book and falls in love with the heart and energy of the gathering.

Lida Zeff:

The final major character that has to be mentioned is this older lady who serves to introduce Christie and the reader to a manga creator doing the circuit of cons who also gives a glimpse into the hardships and the rewards of working with manga.

Plot:

I don't want to give too much away here as I'm writing this in the hopes that it helps someone decide to read this series. This is a compilation book holding all three of the volumes that make up the series. Over the course of three novels, Christie meets Matt; experiences her first con and comes back for more; deals with all the hardships and joys of being a dreamy eyed young person; and deals further with pain, loss, cosplay, new friends, love, and growing up. Surrounding this personal tale (which is very good), is a larger one of what one experiences at an Anime con, both the good and the bad. This is, I feel, a must read for anyone about to go to their first con, is thinking about going to one, or someone who has gone to one or more and wants to nostalgically relive it.

Writing/Illustrations:

The writing and drawings in the series are in a word: perfect. The dialogue is wonderful, entertaining, often hysterical, and always relevant. Her illustrations are even better. At times, one hardly needs to read the words at all. They tell the story all by themselves, often times bringing tears of laughter to the reader's eyes. My favorite part is in one frame where Christie is standing between her boyfriend and Matt as they nearly come to blows. Something they say sets her off and she incinerates them with her fury. Two towers of ash, surrounded by flame frame her, one with wide comic eyes (the boyfriend) and the other marked only by shades (something that is integral part of his character).

It is hilariously funny and wonderfully executed (with her boyfriend even coughing after like his lungs are singed a few frames after). Another is a scene of Christie storming down the middle of the anime market flames billowing all around her. People all around her are staring at her and the comments make this scene.

One small boy points and asks his mother if they can buy those; the mother's face is priceless. A group of young people are amazed at her cosplay and wonder where she got it with one cynically quipping she must have got it from Japan while another critic that it needs more color. This not only lampoons manga staples but also works them into a real life situation with such ease, it's all part of the con atmosphere. This is a sheer delight to read and shows the creator's wonderful talent.

The Rant

Very little, though I have two minor complaints. First is the language. When it is used, it is completely unnecessary and slightly jarring. Also there are couple of inserted conversations that come completely out of thin air, happen, and then are never mentioned again. The problem is they are about really charged issues and just ring wrong. Finally, the age tag on this is not right. This is set for 13+ and I just could not in good conscience give this to the average 13 year old. I would suggest 15+ and that depends on the 15 year old. Most of this book would be good for most ages, but there are a couple of very...adult situations that while not shown in any great light are there, mentioned, and important to the story. This is just something one should be aware of.

Conclusion

If you are an older high school student or older, a fan of manga, and either a) are going to your first con, b) want to go to a con, or c) have been to one or more and love to remember - this is the book for you.

Amanda Miller says

I love re-reading this. It's just really good.

K.I. Tremaine says

Cute and very, very resonant to anyone who's ever been at a convention, Dramacon is a wonderful story by a fabulous author.

Lilia Visser says

Quite adorable. Worth the reading.

Sasha Winters says

So impressive that someone from Russia can write a manga. One of my favorites!!

Kelsey Joy says

Dramacon was a staple of my middle school existence. It was about nine years ago that I picked up the first

volume, but after reading it again fairly recently, I was reminded of why it has a special place in my heart.

Dramacon is overall a very fun and engaging read, with plenty of humor, as well as a healthy dose of drama. The characters are multifaceted and believable, and the ratio of happy moments to sad ones was well done. (Basically, I had a lot of feelings, but not *too* many feelings, at least not all at once.) I found myself rooting for Christie every step of the way, from when she first stepped into the convention (all nerves and excitement at her first con) up until the very end (as a seasoned convention-goer, and overall having grown up a bit.) The supporting characters were no less compelling; I particularly liked Bethany and Lida Zeff.

In short, Dramacon was one of my favorite books when I was 12-13, but even at 22, I've found it still has a lot to offer.

-Kelsey Joy

Amber says

Each book in this three-volume series follows Christie's adventures at the annual Yattacon, where she meets the mysterious, sarcastic, and sunglasses-wearing Matt. Despite an immediate initial attraction to each other, both Christie and Matt must overcome obstacles in order to be together, not the least of which is working up the courage to admit that they want to be together.

The art is well drawn, and helps to push the story along at least as much as the dialogue. Definitely recommended for fans of romance, and anyone who wants to read a sweet, light story with the hope of a happy ending.

Katie says

Very cute. I actually read this during downtime on a con weekend. This captures the atmosphere and insanity of a con very well. The romance uses some common tropes but it's sweet and will make you smile. And I teared up over the resolution of Beth's part in everything.

Ann says

Svetlana Chmakova is just too good!! A delightful read.

Whatchyareading says

The first thing you need to know about this super cute trilogy of a manga series is that each book takes place one year after the previous at the same anime convention.

Christie is the main character as we see things from her perspective. Sometimes the scene focuses on another character, but it's primarily Christie.

In the first volume we meet Christie as she attends this very popular anime convention for the first time with her boyfriend, who has been to a con or two before. Christie and her boyfriend, Derek, have a table at the artists' section of the con for their indie manga. (Derek draws and Christie writes.) But Derek's a huge flirt and doesn't act like a good boyfriend should and during the weekend of this con, Christie meets someone who she instantly connects with, Matt. But Christie and Matt live on different sides of the country and Christie has a boyfriend.

What's a girl to do?

Like I stated before, this series is super cute. I loved Svetlana's depictions of Christie and all the people she meets at the con. I especially loved Matt. (Hubba-hubba) If I met a guy like Matt in real life, I'd start thinking about attending college near him (if not at his college). Short of pulling a Felicity, I would at least get his email so we could "stay in touch". Seriously, Matt is uber-cute and adorable. I heart him.

The storyline is an interesting one since we have to be quickly filled in on everything that has happened in the past year, but I think Svetlana does a great job in getting readers up to speed without just summing it up. I am sad that this ended at three volumes since I would have loved to continue seeing Matt, but I can understand why it did. And it was nice to see a realistic storyline in that the characters didn't immediately fall in love and forsake everything for each other. They were awkward and nervous and didn't always say the right things, just like everyone does at one time. (Or all the time, in my case.)

I feel I should warn you about the second volume. If you fall for Matt as hard as I did, you won't like it. I don't want to say why, but every time I think about it, I start glaring and frowning. But the third volume redeems the series, so don't be put off by the second. It ends well! I promise.

So, if you're looking for a cute getaway and love anime/manga enough to know what cosplay is, this is right up your alley and you should get to reading!

Even if you don't know a thing about anime or manga, I think you'd still enjoy this series. It's a great starter for people who are interested in the genre, but aren't too sure about what to read first. Plus you don't have to read R to L, like traditional manga. This is an original English-language manga and reads L to R.

Reviewed on WhatchYAreading on December 30, 2010.

Sleepymeis says

I picked up this book at the library. The book was huge so I was planning to read it at home only, but it was so good, I packed it in the school bag to read on the bus. I made my bag heavies but it was SO worth it! I loved it, it had romance, comedy, people in pretty outfits and accessories. One thing that i didnt quite get... everyone in the book (characters and author) kept saying the main guy was a jerk and had horrible attitude, but I dont think so though. I rather enjoyed his quick, witty, sarcastic remarks :D

I wonder if I'm the only one...

Sereneblaze says

I find it's a bit hard for me to review comics. Mainly because the story and art speaks really well for itself. So there's not really going to be much inside depth to this review.

The story follows Christie LeRoux, an amateur comic writer, at her first anime convention with her boyfriend that has wandering eyes and sees no problem in flirting and two friends who are a bit overly eccentric. Christie is floundering in this new land of Yatta Con and then she runs into Matt.

The story itself takes place over the span of three years. It's a very cute and funny story but it doesn't skimp on the bad and ugly of the anime con world as well as some of the other things the characters are facing in their lives. All the characters are fairly likable even when they mess up. And this ultimate edition also has a bonus chapter that make you want to buy it even if you're like me and had been collecting the single volumes as they came out *sigh*

Anyway, really good and enjoyable read. Definitely check it out.

Evelyn says

This omnibus contains 3 volumes plus extras.

I **ADORE** this series! The first time I read it, I missed soooo much stuff because I wasn't that deep in the anime/manga pit. But rereading it now, I picked up on a lot of references.

Anyway, normally I don't go for relationship drama stuff but this series did it right.

Volume 1: Boyfriend drama

Volume 2: Fan drama

Volume 3: Family drama

And the stages of comfort that come with repeated convention attendance is spot on.

Volume 1: n00b! Panic! Awe!

Volume 2: I got this!

Volume 3: I'm finally home among my people!

The characters are perfectly written and they match the feel of the story with enough humor to balance out the serious parts.

This series has 3 volumes.
