



## Kizuna Deluxe Edition, Volume 01

*Kazuma Kodaka*

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## **Kizuna Deluxe Edition, Volume 01** Kazuma Kodaka

Beautiful Ranmaru and sweet, serene Kei fell in love at first sight when they were just boys, and now that they're finally old enough, they're moving in together! College should be all about new experiences and freedom...but what will the couple do when their home-sweet-home is invaded by the brash and spoiled Kai, Kei's half-brother? Is their relationship strong enough to weather a sudden storm of sibling rivalry?

## **Kizuna Deluxe Edition, Volume 01 Details**

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Author : Kazuma Kodaka

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## **From Reader Review Kizuna Deluxe Edition, Volume 01 for online ebook**

### **scarlettraces says**

there really isn't much to say about a classic like Kizuna, except that you can't call yourself a fujoshi if you haven't read it. this is a nice edition, although the colour pages would have been nice if they were, you know, in colour. i'm pretty sure the fans would have paid a higher premium for that, June. and i'm glad Kodaka-sensei got better at drawing three-quarter profile noses. those early ones really bothered me.

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### **Ashley says**

This is one of my all time favorite mangas - I own the Japanese and both English translations (DMP's translation surpasses BeBeautiful's by leaps and bound!). One of my favorite chapters through out the entire series occurs in the first volume and features a young Sagano and Masanori - no matter how many times I read it, I find myself tearing up a little bit.

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### **Sophie says**

First things first: this book looks sooooo pretty. I absolute love the cover design. As for the content - I read the German translation first, but I'm glad I "just" borrowed it, because I'm not sure I could have justified buying both versions of this. In any case, I still think the first volume (which is the first half of this edition) is nowhere near as good as what comes after. The second volume, however, is one of the high points of the series already. Enjouji's and Ranmaru's relationship is just one of the loveliest I have ever read about, and there is so much love and angst and drama it maches your heart ache in the best of ways. I love this so much.  
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### **Carlos Compton-Jimenez says**

My first yaoi manga in book form, and I'm definitely not sorry I bought it. Lovely stories, the drawing is beautiful, and the scenes that make your nose bleed are excellent. On to the rest of the series!

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### **Snow says**

reviewing for ICv2

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### **Charlene says**

My daughter started me reading Manga and I'm hooked. This series is one of the best. Yes it is Yaoi but the story and the characters are very good. Can't say that about all manga but there are real gems among them.

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### **Blak Rayne says**

This volume is a compilation of the Kizuna- 'Bonds of Love' series. Well written. Great artistry. Excellent plot with developing characters. A true love story at it's best!

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### **Carissa says**

This book is both a book I enjoy, and a book I hate. It has a lot of really funny and sweet moments in it, however they are constantly overshadowed by the looming appearance of terrible yaoi tropes. They often show up in the story and make it uncomfortable to read, however this is a problem in most yaoi manga so it comes with the territory. If you can ignore those really problematic moments, it's a fun series altogether.

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### **Sugar says**

Review for the whole series with slight spoilers!

This is a wonderful series! The characters are extremely likable, the dialogue is everything all together: witty, mushy and serious, the art is good, the genre is slice of life but what a spicy, emotional and eventful life that is, and last but not lest, there is an abundance of those steamy scenes to make every yaoi fangirl's heart burst. I enjoyed the intense romance, the conflicts, the humor, all the various interlaced relationship, etc etc. What more is there to want?

A slight con for some might be the lack of a consistent plot for such a lengthy series, instead it has a couple of more prominent story "arcs" but, overall, the manga just follows two couples in their path in coming to terms with and discovering who they are what they want and during everything, finding endless love. I didn't mind in the least and instead found the steady and strong focus on the actual couples, not necessarily the plot, absolutely ideal for this series. Don't forget to check out the side story present in several volumes – hot assassin romance.

Kizuna is quite an old series which started in the early 90s and ended a couple of years ago so the art changes considerably from one chapter to another. There are significant modifications to the drawing style of characters and other. So beware of that if it's something that might bother you. I haven't read the series in its original format but the deluxe editions are more than terrific – easier to enjoy since the volumes don't end quickly, are more compact and there isn't twice as many to buy.

Characters:

Kei – a sneaky, smart, trickster, naughty, slick – guy with a face of a fox. He just comes off suspicious, always with an ulterior motive, unreliable and just plain bad boy, so I agree whenever someone in the manga mentions that he has the face of a criminal. Nevertheless, you can't judge a book by its cover: Kei is loyal, kind, loving, to everyone that matters and then some. He loves to tease Ran, annoy Kai, love Ran, get rid of

Kai, worship Ran, insult Kai, adore Ran.... He's a fun guy who's absolutely utterly fully in love with Ran, and definitely not your typical seme. Kei is just likeable whatever he does.

Ran – beautiful, graceful, charming Ran. Next to Kei a complete opposite. He was portrayed as quite feminine, at least visually, and via his position in his relationship with Kei, but I had no doubts he was all man. His skill in kendo was nothing to trifle with. I loved it when he was moody, flustered, acting unconsciously cute, mad at Kei, beating Kei, screaming at Kei, and of course loving Kei. Ran's an adorable uke but he stays a man and that's what makes him real. Not to mention he and Kei are sooooo sweet and squeelworthy together!

Kai – my favorite character by far in this manga. Such a brat, sassy, snarky, moody and violent, but I simply adore Kai! Why? I don't know I guess I enjoy these cute pretty boy tsundere characters pulverizing everything in their path yet being sweet and soft like cotton candy inside or with certain people. This certainly explains Kai's absolute adoration for Ran and utter contempt for Kei which I found utterly cute and it made for some hilarious moments and dialogue. Whenever Kai shows up at Ran and Kei's apartment, talks about embarrassing topics, clings like a koala to Ran,... Nevertheless, it was quite evident in dire situations that Kai cared a lot for his older brother. His relationship with Masa was quite complex at first glance but, it in all honesty, they themselves were the biggest obstacles in the HEA. Constant doubts, insecurities, angst, etc. Well what fun would it be if the situation was solved too quick and painless? Their age difference made me quite iffy but since there was no cradle robbing involved then Go Kai and Masa!

Masa – big and strong like a bear but a tender loving heart for Kai. At times he frustrated me and I wanted to just scream for him to take the bull by its horns and just ACCEPT his relationship with Kai, but then again I fully understood his hesitation and issues regarding making that step. Regardless, I liked him with all his guilt and absolute devotion to Kai included.

I'm not going to go into other characters, but I was really positively surprised how most secondary characters managed to shine and have a place and personality of their own.

Overall:

One of the best yaoi I've read. The problem with such a manga genre is that they usually only focus on sex, are too shot, not enough plot or character development, sometimes lacking the latter entirely, and having nooky be the only main even – sometimes for a multitude of chapters, but Kizuna just manages to come out more than satisfying in all these aspects (ok, maybe a proper meaty plot aside). Plus, the series is just pure fun! I recommend fully.

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## **Sarah says**

As always, this review is for the entire Kizuna Series, with notes specifically about Volume One. My overall rating for the series is 4.5 stars.

REVIEW IN PROCESS.

I first read Kizuna at University when I was still reading all of my friends manga series and didn't have any of my own volumes. I don't remember much of my first impressions, except that I loved the series. It has stayed in my heart these many years not only because it was my first Yaoi, but because of the art, story, and characters. It is the series that I compare all other "Mature" series that I read. Kodaka Kazuma has developed a story that stands with time; it doesn't matter that this is a love story between two men, I am straight and I want a love and relationship similar to Kei and Ranmaru. They are best friends, see the others weaknesses and bad points, yet love, support, and fight for each other.

The art, despite being an "older" - I'd say Classic - style, is beautiful. The growth that Kodaka shows throughout the series is impressive; it adds and reflects the growth and depth of the story and characters. In this re-reading I particularly noticed the growth and maturity in Sagano Kai in the last volume. There is the normal maturity that young men gain in their late teens and early 20s, but also evident are the surety, self-confidence, and knowledge of who he is, what he wants for himself, the future, and the Sagano family are there as well. It is seen with Kei and Ranmaru as well. I was particularly happy when Kei's hair got cut.

The story follows Samejima Ranmaru and Enjouji Kei from high school through their years at University. However this is just a time frame; the story is a complicated mixture of the Japanese Yakuza, homosexuality in Japanese society and culture, and overcoming the obstacles we all face in our early adult years with who we are, what we want to do, and where we are going in the future. During high school Samejima Ranmaru is the undefeated White Oni of Kendo. In an act protecting Enjouji Kei from an enemy of his estranged Yakuza Boss fathers', Ranmaru is injured and is unable to hold a shinai again. The story moves to its present day where Enjouji and Samejima are living together and attending University. However, they are dragged into the dealings of the Sagano Family several times despite Enjouji's lack of connection to The Family. The second half of the series focuses on Enjouji and Samejima's future. Not just professionally, but also within their relationship and acceptance of that relationship.

Being a Yaoi title, it is no surprise that the cast of this series is primarily male. Each is vastly different from the next, all are strong characters and are well developed. Their actions, deeds, words all match with the character's history, family, loyalties, and where they are in the story. However, we do see several women: mothers, sisters, colleagues. With the exception of Ranmaru's sister, the women are not developed greatly or showcased with any regularity. These women though are strong women that were developed well for their uses within the story. Ranmaru's sister is the only one we see with regularity, see her age and mature, is given an extremely strong mind and is a lovely foil to her brother and Enjouji and his brother, Kai.

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