



Book Girl and the Corrupted Angel

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With college exams approaching, Tohko Amano - president of the literary club, closet book-eating goblin, and shameless procrastinator - does the unthinkable and declares club activities suspended! Unencumbered by the demand of his taskmistress to deliver handwritten improv stories, Konoha finds himself helping his oft-estranged classmate, Nanase Kotobuki, in the music room after school. When one of Kotobuki's friends goes missing before Christmas, though - vanishing amidst rumors of her being an "Angel of Music" - Konoha finds himself swept up in a mystery unfolding as if from the pages of Gaston Leroux's seminal work...

Book Girl and the Corrupted Angel Details

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Marsha says

This installment takes its theme from Gaston Leroux's *The Phantom of the Opera*. As usual, the plotline is so Byzantine, with various characters giving vent to outbursts of emotions or being so icy, as to baffle the average reader.

The story features the usual gang of misfits: Konoha Inoue, suffering from panic attacks when he thinks of his school chum Miu; Tohko Amano, the bibliophage; Nanase Kotobuki, whose antagonism towards Konoha is revealed to be something completely different; and the sly Maki who still wants Tohko to pose for her...but settles for another bargain, one to be demanded later.

I really can't figure out guilty characters from these books. The main draw is the sprightly bizarre appetites of Tohko. In this book, she's apparently having trouble with her grades so Konoha offers to help her by giving her decent "snacks" (the pages he writes for her). Unwilling to bother her when she's studying for tests, Konoha largely leaves Tohko out of his troubles and his investigation.

So this novel centers on his burgeoning relationship with Kotobuki, who's been so inexplicably hostile to him from day one. Of course, anyone older than ten could have figured out that her anger was really a cloak for the fact that she's crazy about him and is upset that he doesn't feel the same way. This novel gradually peels back her fury to reveal a hurt stemming from forgetfulness of an earlier acquaintance that he's long forgotten.

The mystery involves escort girls, a missing friend and a mysterious singer whose haunting voice is so pure and perfect that lesser artists kill themselves out of despair. Winding its way through the story are the usual dark-font snippets dropping tantalizing clues and cryptic messages. Yep, it's one lunatic stew, all right.

This isn't what I'd call great storytelling. At times, the prose is lurid and given to extremes or description. Konoha is especially given to sudden mood swings, panic attacks or blackouts. The whole novel has a surrealistic air, mystic, dreamy and ethereal. The mystery itself almost seems beside the point.

If you have a bent for the surreal, this series may be right up your aisle. If these books are meant to make people curious about the original novels they reference, then they work very well. As straightforward storytelling...not so much.

Mike says

The stories in each volume of *Book Girl* are relatively self-contained, but this book really builds off of previously established characters and plot lines. At least read book 3 first, better yet to start at the beginning.

With Tohko's college exams on the horizon, Konoha is left strangely devoid of literary club activities and somehow ends up helping the music teacher alongside Kotobuki after school. Then one of Kotobuki's friends goes missing...

As always summarizing the premise of a literature eating goblin in school form and her trusted club mate embarking on adventures that parallel great literary works makes Book Girl sound like a much lighter series than it is. The events, themes and tone of these books are incredibly dark and troubling. Heavy and tragic subjects are the norm here, not the exception, and The Corrupted Angel continues the upward trend in intensity.

Kotobuki is a wonderful supporting character, and it was great to see her featured in a story that wasn't just fantastic and gripping in its own right, but also tied to numerous established plot threads, explored several relationships between established characters, and added amazing depth to Konoha's personal backstory.

The framework literary story here is established immediately as Phantom of the Opera, and it's used perfectly to enhance both the story and suspense as things unfold. It starts more subtly creepy than previous books which just serves to increase the tension and eventual impact as things get worse. The parallel storytelling here is just phenomenal. This book had me guessing all the way to the end, and then threw in some more mind-blowing revelations in the epilogue for good measure.

It's the little touches and the fact that compelling, flawed characters are firmly at the center of every book that makes this series so impressive. I also like that it progresses forward in time. The looming separation of Tohko's graduation adds an interesting complication to everything.

I'll refrain from further detail to avoid spoilers, but I can't recommend this series highly enough. Book Girl and the Corrupted Angel is yet another intricate, compelling psychological thriller with tons of layers and an incredible atmosphere of tension and emotion.

Ricardo Matos says

Yet another great book. A bit different from the previous ones, the overarching story takes centre stage and the book that is used as the basis for the story is just there as background.

The author keeps building up Konoha's story, and I'm really curious to see how it ends! 4 books to go :)

Merpati98 says

I'm sorry, but no matter how many times the other characters said they love Kotobuki Nanase, how adorable she was really, how cute she was, I couldn't like her with the way the author presented her. I couldn't even understand why they love (big word, because if only like I could understand) that much.

It's not that I think she was a bad person. I don't hate Kotobuki. I thought she was pretty cute sometimes. But the thing is... Kotobuki's positive trait wasn't her cuteness, wasn't her honesty (let's get real... she was not a hypocrite type, but she was definitely not the honest type either. Whatever reason you have, telling someone you hate him when you actually didn't feel that wasn't honest).

Kotobuki's strength was actually her bravery. She was not a coward; she had big faith, someone who was so

pure and dazzling. Even though she couldn't convey her thought properly, it was not because of cowardliness. It was just her clumsiness (which was pretty cute as long as the author didn't overdo it).

But no one, no one pointed that charm of her except Konoha. Even he was only said it once or twice, because he was a coward who couldn't face the truth. And the author had overdone the tsundereness of Kotobuki particularly in this volume.

It is really a disappointment considering the author had taken the inspiration from the Phantom of the Opera, only to mess up the story with bad characterization. From the beginning until almost the last of the story, I almost couldn't hold back my sudden growing hate to the characters.

Konoha became a coward again (after the story where he said to Akutagawa about facing their problems together), and I know he had girlish face, but it didn't mean he had to act that girly, right? I didn't know how many times he was running away in this story just because he felt scared of something/someone (I wonder why he didn't cry, "kyaaa" for the effect).

Next, the other characters for this volume were just too frustrating. There were too many characters the author put without digging deeper into their personality. They were like passing characters you didn't have to pay any attention (Mariya-sensei, Kagami-sensei, Sugiko? Sugino?, etc), even though they (some of them) were the core characters for the plot/conflict.

The only character I like in--for--this volume was Mito Yuka. She was a lovely girl, really. And with the way the author wrote her, she was definitely more likeable than Kotobuki ever be. That's why I would really like it if the angel just concerned himself with Yuka. I didn't think he was close enough to Kotobuki to know her real loveable self. And even though he was thinking about Kotobuki, it was only because Yuka really care for her (which I thought need more reason than what the author had wrote), not because Kotobuki herself.

I can't help but think the author almost desperately, wanted the readers to like Kotobuki. She almost forced it down our throat of how great, how cute, how adorable she was without really showing it. I don't care what your character's thinking about her! I want you to show me how nice person she was actually! Not only a tsundere who throwing around word hate-hate-hate every time she felt nervous!

You didn't even reproach her for that particular flaw of her! Yeah, she regretted it (but she only looked like the kind who loves to play victim with that behavior). And I didn't think Konoha had to feel guilty for what she's done. He wasn't the one at fault. Don't spoil character too much, please. The author had done that to Konoha sometimes; and now Kotobuki too. It's a relief Tohko-senpai was still as likeable as always.

The plot for this volume isn't the greatest, but it isn't that bad either. Although for me, the only saving for this book is the reference to the Phantom of the Opera, and that is the only thing worth to read. Or maybe precisely because of that the author messed up the story for this. The Phantom of the Opera is just too much for the author to take.

Giang Nguyen says

Akutagawa... vâng, chính là vì b'n này b? "mèo cào" mà mình ph?i d?ng l?i vi?t chút review. T?t c? nh?ng hành ??ng kh? nghi, h?i han này n? ch? có th? liên quan ??n m?t ng??i - Miu mà thôi. Hi?n gi? thì không bi?t

k? ho?ch tr? thù c?a Miu th? nào, nh?ng cá nhân mình th?y h?i n?n khi ngày ??n t?p ?y càng g?n. ?ó có th? là lý do vì sao su?t m?t th?i gian dài mình b? b?ng "Cô gái v?n ch??ng" không mu?n ??c ti?p.

Tooko... nhân v?t yêu thích duy nh?t trong tác ph?m thì "t?m th?i" m?t ??t di?n vai chính. Kotobuki thì v?n ti?p t?c dây d?a l?ng nh?ng, tình trong nh? ?ã m?t ngoài còn e. Xung quanh ??a nào c?ng nh?n ra Kotobuki thích Konoha mà con bé ?ó b? ??ng kinh hay sao, ??c m?y dòng miêu t? c?a tác gi? mà mình c?ng th?y m?t v?i nó, c? li?c Konoha th? này, dòm Konoha th? n?, l?i ph?n ?ng Konoha th? kia. N?u ?ây th?c s? là ki?u d? th??ng mà con trai thích thì th? gi?i lo?n bég nó r?i. Mà mình chán c? h?i b?n gái c?a Kotobuki n?a, c? Konoha c? lên trong khi th?ng nhóc ch? có tí khái ni?m yêu ???ng gì v?i Kotobuki. N?u m?y ??a là b?n thân th?t thì làm ?n v? ?? thông t? t??ng cho con nhóc ?ó ?i. Cho ??n cu?i cùng, m?c dù n?i dung liên quan ??n "Bóng ma trong nhà hát" nh?ng t?t c? nh?ng gì mình nh? ???c là n? l?c ?áng th?t v?ng c?a tác gi? ?? v? nên m?t Kotobuki "d? th??ng". H?t nhân v?t này ??n nhân v?t kia khen con bé d? th??ng, ??n c? Omi c?ng "??c" g??ng ép ?? thích Kotobuki.

Mình th?c s? chán t?p này t?i m?c sau khi ??c xong ch? mu?n ?i ??c bình lu?n ch?e thôi, ?? g?p ???c nh?ng ng??i v?n có common sense ?ánh giá tác ph?m này.

??c xong quy?n này mình b? ?au ??u, không ph?i ki?u ?au nh? búa b? mà ki?u ??u óc l?ng l?ng, ch?ng ??c bi?t ngh? gì ngoài c?m xúc tiêu c?c cho tác ph?m. Cái tên Raoul c? xu?t hi?n trong ??u mình, dù mình ch?ng ??c bi?t có c?m xúc gì v?i nhân v?t ?ó c?. Nói chung ??c m?t quy?n sách mà m?t m?i th? này thì ??ng ??c n?a cho r?i. T?p sau mà Tooko xu?t hi?n v?i th?i l??ng không t?ng lên thì mình s? drop luôn series này. N?u mình khó ch?u hay không hài lòng v?i các tác ph?m khác thì có th? drop gi?a ch?ng, nh?ng v?i Bungaku Shoujo thì mình không th?, ch?c ch?n s? ?em cái tâm tr?ng mu?n ??c cho xong ?? ??n ???c cu?i truy?n. Mà càng nh? th? thì càng ?c ch? th?n kinh.

???? says

This book focuses on Konoha and Nanase's character development, though I was most intrigued by Omi's narration in Epilogue--as if he was making a prophecy of where this series is heading. What would Miu's message to Nanase trigger now that Konoha is slowly recovering from his traumatizing past? Time to pick up the next volume and find out.

Sarah says

I love that we finally got some focus on Nanase and what makes her tick. Another wonderful installment to this series.

Yuki says

#booksiboughtonsummervacationcuzijustcantresistthetemptationduh no.1

Like

- Great improvement on characters' development. It's nice to see that Kotobuki isn't just a(n) asshole

tsundere.

- The illustrations. Takeoka did a great job.
 - As usual, Amano provided good summaries and analysis of The Phantom of the Opera.
 - Straightforward about mental illnesses.
 - WTF happened between Asakura and Inoue? I've wasted so much money on this series I can't give up now.
- So far we've learned that Asakura is a douchebag and Inoue is terrible at flirting.

Dislike

- Mito's alias: When I saw the translation "Trà Hoa", I really thought that her name was ??, which made me have a tiny flashback of Aomame in 1Q84. But when Amano made a reference to La Dame aux Camélias, I finally realized that her name is either 1. ??- Tsubaki or 2. ??? - Camelia. Why translate it into Vietnamese? Most Japanese names have meaning, how about you also translate other characters' names? Also, I'm not the best when it came to Vietnamese, but wouldn't translations like "S?n Trà" or "Chi Trà" be more accurate if you *really* have to translate it? (**EDIT:** Just found out that the name "Trà My" means Camelia in Vietnamese. That could be a good idea since at least you could tell that it's the name of a flower.)

-

Mùi m? hôi và d?u g?i ??u kh? thoáng qua m?i, cánh tay nh? nh?n c?a cô nàng ôm ch?t l?y vai tôi.

Fuck. It's becoming a love story isn't it.

- Mentioning Inoue's chest pain too many times using the exact same words just make him looks like an emo wannabe, not someone with depression.

-

Ti?ng ca t?a nh? mang theo m?t ?ôi cánh vô hình r?c r? ánh sáng kéo lên th?t cao và v?t ngang qua **phía bên kia b?u tr?i.**

nh? mu?n t? do v? cánh bay v? **phía bên kia b?u tr?i.**

We know the singer is good, but you don't need to remind us right on the next page using the same simile.

- (view spoiler)
- (view spoiler)
- No fanboys or whatsoever of Inoue decide to investigate his past.
- (view spoiler)
- (view spoiler)

Conclusion: An okay read. Nomura has followed the rules of writing a mystery, however there are still plot holes. The ending is great though, I enjoyed reading it.

Nh?t Anh says

Câu chuy?n l?n này h?t s?c ?en t?i. Tôi cho 4 sao vì s? ph?c t?p c?a nó và nh?ng d? âm mà nó ?? l?i. Nhân v?t ph? l?n này r?t tuy?t v?i. Omi ch? xu?t hi?n trong 1 t?p nh?ng di?n bi?n l?n phát tri?n tâm lý c?a c?u ta

Savannah says

This book is a shadow to *The Phantom of the Opera*. As a third-year Tohko is busy studying for exams, leaving Inoue to his own devices. Kotobuki's friend from a music school goes missing, and Inoue agrees to help her, this time without the nudging of Tohko. Before she went missing, Kotobuki's friend told her about an "Angel of Music" that helped her gain the lead in her school's opera. As Kotobuki and Inoue go deeper into their investigation, the question arises if her Angel of Music was really an angel, or a Phantom. Inoue discovers dark secrets, worrying if Kotobuki should be told or if she would be better off not knowing her friend's true self, just as he had done with Miu.

This is by far the best of the series so far. The book is played out parallel to "*The Phantom of the Opera*", type-casting characters into place along the way. Tohko doesn't make too many appearances, the story centralizing around Inoue, Kotobuki, and Inoue's past with Miu and Kotobuki.

Sean O'Hara says

This is the bleakest *Book Girl* installment yet. I've inured myself to the sociopathic characters, existential despair, and death, but this time Nomura pulled something different -- something that makes even the child abuse in the second book seem mild.

The story opens with everyone's favorite book-munching goblin decreeing a temporary hiatus for the Literature Club so she can study for exams. Given that the club has only one other member, this isn't too much of a hardship for anyone. But before Konoha has a chance to enjoy his freedom, he and Nanase Kotobuki are drafted by a music teacher into helping him clean his office. This is rather bothersome for Konoha, what with Nanase's habit of declaring her undying hatred for Konoha any time they have to speak more than five sentences to each other.

But then one of Nanase's friends, Mito, who's enrolled at a prestigious musical academy, goes missing and she asks Konoha's help in finding her. But Nanase's not going to like what she learns.

The last book ended in a way that suggested we'd learn more about what happened to Konoha's childhood friend, Miu, but that's largely shuffled aside in this volume, though Nomura promises she'll get to it next time. Instead the focus is firmly on Kotobuki -- and about damn time. It's obvious to pretty much everyone except Konoha that Nanase, despite her protestations, is in love with him, but she's been shunted aside in previous books and not been able to develop her relationship with him. This time she gets more screen time than even Tohko, who spends half the story studying. Too bad her chance at getting close to Konoha comes at such a bad point in her life.

The mystery this time is pretty weak. There's one good twist which Nomura did a good job of concealing, but the identity of the culprit is a little too obvious, as is the trouble Mito is in. The latter is handled well, though, since the nature of that trouble is pretty shocking -- while American young adult fiction merely pretends to be dark and gritty while the underlying story is rather juvenile, the plot of this volume dark to the core. A girl like Katniss from *The Hunger Games* would be left a puddle of despair by what Mito goes

through, even before she disappears.

I don't entirely understand why I love this series so much. I've had major complaints about the story and structure of each volume, and yet I find myself looking forward to the next volume more than any other series I'm reading, save Eiji Mikage's HakoMari novels. There's something about Konoha's broken down soul, Nanase's sorry inability to express her feelings, and Tohko's blithe belief that there's redemption for everyone, that makes me want to find out what happens next, even when the plot is a clunky mess.

Dat Nguyen says

Finally a story for Kotobuki Nanase (my favorite character) but actually her role is pretty faded and hard to be considered as the main character.

Anyway, the story is really good despite the unnatural love scenes involved between Nanase and Inoue, still a good book of the series.

Sarina says

If there's one thing that's missing in this novel, it's the titular book girl. Tohko only appears in a few scenes, and really only has an impact in the last third of the book. The rest has to deal with the relationship between Nanase and Konoha, and I have to say, I was really bored and kind of annoyed with it. Nanase doesn't really seem to be that interesting. Yeah, she's kind of grown as a character, but it's something we've seen before in countless other tsunderes in anime and light novels. She's just not that engaging of a character. What I do like is the mystery, or really the characters in it. This novel is based on Gaston Leroux's "The Phantom of the Opera", and it really pulls off some very clever twists with the source material that I legitimately did not see coming. The villain's motivation is nothing short of terrifying and pitiable, like the phantom himself. Konoha's whining about Miu is toned down a bit too, and I could tell that he's really starting to make a connection with the people populating his present, instead of dwelling on the past. And it's about time! I thought the ending, twists and all, was good, if a little sad. There is one character that easily relates to Konoha, and it's a well-thought out comparison. I am also a huge fan of what they did with the characters and their "Phantom" roles that they've been assigned. The author really plays with those tropes and shows how easy it is to move from one character type to another, especially given a more realistic conflict setting. I did think that this version's "Christine" was kind of boring, and was basically just a plot device. At least in the original Phantom, she had a bit more of a character to her. My major problem with this fourth book though, is that it focuses on a relationship between Konoha, who really seems to be developing a thing for Tohko, and the uninteresting and cliched Nanase. I just don't like tsundere characters. Their development is very predictable and I've really only seen a few examples pull it off well, like in "Steins Gate", or "Madoka". In addition to having multiple character motivations and a full range of emotions to work with, those examples work because they're shown in a visual medium. Writing a tsundere is very hard to do in a novel, because you can't really rely on visual facial expressions, which is what makes a tsundere enjoyable to watch: how they can switch so quickly and genuinely between hating and loving someone. I just never really liked Nanase all that much. Plus, with all of the ways this series shows how bad emotional damage and a lack of communication can be, there's something very jarring about seeing Nanase bitching at Konoha all the time and then subsequently getting romantically flustered with him. And I'm just tired of it. They need to give her something to do besides just being a character archetype. I'm kind of hoping that she has some interaction with Miu, who we might see in the next novel. I don't know. This book, while it has its problems, is still very

good, and I can't wait to read the next one.

Bill Johnston says

This is more about the series as a whole, and as this is the first volume that I haven't seen many reviews for, and the volume where I'm stopping, it seems an appropriate time for a review.

"The Book Girl is a goblin who eats books" says the back cover of each volume, and is a poor way to introduce the story. The Book Girl Toko has no superpowers. She just reads a lot. She isn't even the main character. Her sidekick and the only other member of her book club, Inoue, is the main character.

Each volume alternates between anonymous epistles, Inoue's PTSD-flashbacks, and a dark, violent, scooby-do-like mystery where supernatural elements are revealed to be metaphorical or deceptive. Wisely Nomura doesn't try to maintain the illusion of these supernatural elements possibly being real after the second book, where the scooby-do motif is already wearing thin.

She does a good job slowly creating a school full of damaged, self-centered, yet pitiable characters, and in crafting mysteries whose suspects and resolutions are not entirely predictable. She improves from volume one through volume three, and I was looking forward to reading more.

Volume four, though, *Book Girl and the Corrupted Angel*, was disappointing in a number of ways. The Book Girl doesn't appear much because she is graduating soon, so she will be leaving the series (it won't be much of a Book Girl series after that, will it?). Her sidekick Inoue who has always reluctantly gone along with her investigations now has to act on his own, which is out of character for him. The pacing is off; in earlier volumes I was racing through eager to read what was said, but in this one there were places I was more trying to race past, trying to get to what mattered. Finally, in this volume Inoue gets together with the girl who has liked him all along and who he was oblivious to. There nothing better to kill a series than resolving romantic tension.

For all these reasons, I think it's time to stop reading this series. It was good until now, and I'll re-read them again someday, but I only foresee more volumes detracting from what I've read already.

Selena says

Wow.

I didn't see that ending coming. Did *not* see that coming.

This installment of the Book Girl series centers around *The Phantom of the Opera*. A female opera student is missing after having sent Kotobuki texts regarding her "Angel of Music." Now the search is on to find the missing diva. Twists and turns abound, reflecting the mysteries within *Phantom*.

In this volume, we revisit old friends and meet new characters. Our favorite Book Girl is largely absent in this volume due to studying, but being the nosy character she is, she pops up when needed and interferes in

her own way. In fact, her absences make her appearances even more memorable.

If you've read the previous books in the series, I highly recommend reading this one. If you haven't read the previous ones yet, read those before trying this one.
