



The Young Lady's Chauffeur

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It is the Taisho Era at a certain girl's school. There one young lady embodies the ambition and is the envy of every girl. The crimson ribbon adorning her marks her as the top student. She is none other than Yoshimura Sayaka. Always at her side is the chauffeur her family employs, Narutaki Shinobu. Are the two in love as rumored amongst the female student body!?

The Young Lady's Chauffeur Details

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From Reader Review *The Young Lady's Chauffeur* for online ebook

Rod Brown says

I read both volumes of this two-book series back to back, and, oh my, is it so very poorly done. The dialogue is awful, the placement of word balloons and captions is annoying, the art and themes are absolutely generic, and the story is just dumb. The creator writes repeatedly in the behind-the-scenes sidebars that the original Japanese editor was constantly rejecting her ideas and dictating changes. Now I have to wonder if that editor kept the series from being even worse or was the reason it is so bad?

Kimikimi says

Setting this in the Taisho era makes this series very interesting and vibrant. The romance itself has no surprises but that's not really necessary to enjoy it. I loved the costuming.

Holly Letson says

This one is a real page-turner, however not much is accomplished by the end of the volume. Narutaki makes his feelings for Yoshimura extremely well-known, but she never seems to grow to really see him that way. I feel like a romance could blossom between them in later volumes, if she would stop worrying so much about social classes/statuses and would just follow her heart. I hope that that will end up happening.

Silence says

The Heiress and the Chauffeur was a bit of a mixed bag for me. I liked the premise (forbidden love during Japan's Taisho era), because hey, it sounds like a Japanese Downton Abbey. I can get down with that. Sayaka and Narutaki's relationship feels genuine enough, although there isn't a lot of context to support their deep connection. I even liked that Sayaka isn't all wimpy even though she has an injured foot and her parents are gone. She has a lot of girl power that we don't always see in shojo manga, and it is refreshing when the protagonist isn't a spineless husk. I even liked the illustrations... but it still didn't wow me.

Maybe it's because of the whole master /servant dynamic, but I felt that their relationship was a little off. Part of the time Sayaka clings to the notion they have a sibling dynamic, and the other half is spent defending his place and role in her life in a more romantic way. It felt wishy-washy, and slightly creepy. I know this is a thing in manga, but it's not my cup of tea. I'm also not sure that it adds anything to the plot. Sayaka is presented as a very steadfast character, making it feel unnatural to watch her flounder with her emotions. You can find this and other reviews at: <http://owlsandvowels.org>

I also had a hard time with the pace. Characters seem to flit in and out of the school without a real sense of purpose. There is very little in the way of introductions, world building, or dramatic tension, which made it hard to connect with the cast.

However, I do feel that it is important to note that this is the mangaka's debut series. There is a very real possibility that she will find her stride once she has had a chance to strengthen her skills and build up content. Ultimately, *The Heiress and the Chauffeur* has the potential to become a unique and dynamic manga, but I fear it might take a few volumes to work out the kinks.

I would like to thank Edelweiss and the publisher for providing me with a free ARC in exchange for a fair and honest review

Jamie says

Review in Progress

Reasonably cute. I love the artwork. Very well done. Sayaka is naive and her views of others and how society works is broken. I love that she doesn't want to see a difference in her relations with Narutaki. He is amusing and very obviously cares for her but she is oblivious. Each chapter beginning is the same and I didn't care for the repetition. And each time was several pages long. So it took away panels that could have given more unique story depth. I look forward to seeing where volume 2 will take this. Also, cute short story at the end with more great art!

Mary says

"I've loved her from the moment we met..."

Set in the Taishou era, Sayaka Yoshimura is a lady of new money. Her father neglected her after an accident killed her mother and left Sayaka crippled for life. The only solace she had was in her childhood friend and family servant, Shinobu Narutaki. Only he was there for her when no one else was.

But the social class forbids anything more between them than business. Sayaka has no idea of the feelings her chauffeur holds for her and most of her knowledge of the world is very limited. Her father hasn't seen her in a year and what she needed to learn from her parents is now something she must learn on her own.

In a society unforgiving to those who can't meet the "norms", what can Sayaka accomplish without the aid of Narutaki? Crippled, of unpopular background, and with little knowledge of the customs required of her, how can she uphold her lineage's honor?

Narutaki is the only one willing to risk the punishments in order to make sure Sayaka can succeed in her life. But problems arise when Sayaka begins to realize just what it means to breach social conduct-even if it's nothing more than a simple glance.

I loved it. It was simple and grounded in a time where honor meant everything. Prejudices and racism and social class was what everyone fretted over, and while this manga doesn't go too in depth with it, it definitely did a good job highlighting these issues.

Sayaka views Narutaki as a brother figure and trusts him implicitly. There was a moment where she had to take responsibility of whipping him to punish him for stepping over the line. It was disgusting but I liked how she found the act despicable and how she tried to take responsibility.

Highly recommended for a short, 2 volume series that will make your heart ache with FEELS.

*I own all the manga I read/review.

Jillian says

This was a great by-chance find for me.

The series is complete after volume 2, so after flipping through the first volume in B&N, I grabbed both to enjoy a nice, short series (for once).

You know how there are some manga-ka whose art is for the most part really nice, and they're really recognizable (Tanemura Arina, Hino Matsuri, Watase Yuu) but there might be one or two things about it that bug you (for me, Hino's characters having really tall heads, and Tanemura's characters' tiny chins from the side)? Well, throw all that out, because this hidden gem has the most amazing artwork.

The girls are beautiful and the guys are gorgeous--from every angle. Like, the art loses nothing no matter which way Ishihara draws them. That's like, huge. The profiles of the characters are really nice, and the hair and the eyes and the backgrounds and just everything.

Story-wise, it's a cute story of love between an upper class girl and a servant. Sayaka is a nice character, in that she's good to her servants because they're like her family and she's just not a terrible person, and she's intelligent and hardworking. Narutaki is fun and doting and does his best to protect her, even though that sometimes gets them in trouble. Many of the supporting characters add a good bit of humor and drama (but not excessive or overdone).

Definitely a recommended read, especially since it's so short and accessible.

Sean says

He's a bit older than her but otherwise just pure iddy fluffy femdom romance. If you're not into that you'll probably be bored and squicked. Also there's the typical "female friend who has a crush on the protagonist but eventually respects the love protag has for her male love interest" subplot, sigh.

Sarah ~Sehrenity~ says

A lovely story involving class division

Gusfina says

--- Romance for My Lady 1-2 ---

Plot: Ok.

Gambar: Saya... jujur saja suka dengan protagonis perempuan dan semua baju-baju umum untuk masa itu di buku ini.

Penokohan: Sifat protagonis perempuan nyaris sangat saya sukai kecuali di bagian betapa 'lamban' dirinya (roman).

Mumpung saya telah membaca Strange Dragon sampai buku dua, rasanya saya ingin membeberkan pikiranku mengenai buku itu. Pertama, buku itu merupakan karya kedua Ishihara sensei yang saya baca dan kedua, saya lebih suka Romance for My Lady untuk satu, dua dan beragam hal.

Komik ini romansanya tidak sekilat Strange Dragon dan punya duduk cerita sendiri yang membuat ceritanya dapat dinikmati dengan alur nyaman. Keduanya memang sama-sama di jalur plot komik perempuan, tapi penanganan di Romance for My Lady terkesan lebih kuat. Tokohnya kuat (kedua protagonis dan temannya) dan ada sesuatu di gambarnya yang membuat saya lebih suka komik ini dibandingkan Strange Dragon^^. Satu-satunya yang menjengkelkan adalah protagonis utamanya agak lambat dalam menyadari perasaan protagonis yang satunya. Tapi yah, kalau dibandingkan Strange Dragon, hubungan mereka terasa menaiki tangga satu per satu, tidak langsung chapter pertama sudah jadian (haha).

Sebelum saya lupa, cerita tambahan di komik ini juga lebih menarik daripada di Strange Dragon. Yah, ini sudah bicara selera sih... lagipula dari awal saya memang sudah selalu berbicara selera.

[8.3/10]

Diana Lynn says

I like shojo manga just as much as the next person, but this volume was way too vanilla for me. That being said, the artwork was beautiful. The chauffeur is total eye candy and so is the bandit in the cute little after story. I've read much better elsewhere is all. Since there is only one more volume, I'll probably finish the story and hopefully it gets better.

Sesana says

Absolutely not for me. The historical setting is little more than window dressing, and the central relationship didn't feel at all romantic to me. There's a weird imbalance of power and feelings and I just couldn't get into it.

Lynn says

Today's post is on The Heiress and The Chauffeur volume 1 by Keiko Ishihara. It is the first in a duology. It

is 192 pages long and is published by Shojo Beat. The cover has the two main characters on it looking at the reader. The story is told from third person close of the two main characters moving one to the other as the story goes. The intended reader is someone who likes cute shojo stories, historical romance, and pretty art. There is no foul language, no sexuality, and very mild violence in this volume. There Be Spoilers Ahead.

From the back of the book- At an all-girls school during the Taisho era in Japan, rumors swirl that heiress Sayaka Yoshimura is having a forbidden love affair with her chauffeur, Shinobu Narutaki! Sayaka scoffs at the rumors, but could a romance between master and servant actually be brewing? Sayaka wears a crimson ribbon that signals she is at the top of her class, and her classmates all revere her. So when Narutaki ignores decorum and breaks school rules to protect Sayaka, will she stand by him or dismiss him as the school demands?

Review- This is a very cute story. Sayaka is a cute heroine and Shinobu is very sweet. They were friends as children and now they are young adults with all the expectations of that on them. The stories in this volume are mostly about Shinobu being seen as less than because he is servant and is from a poor background. Sayaka is very modern because she believes that people are not where they come from or how much money they have. So she gets into trouble with her opinions but she gets rescued by Shinobu a lot. But it is a very sweet, cute story and I look forward to the next volume with them.

I give this volume a Five out of Five stars. I get nothing for my review and I bought this manga with my own money.

Lucille says

Ah, forbidden love is always the sweetest kind of love. <3

Carrie (The Butterfly Reader) says

The art is stunning! Then again, I won't pick up a manga unless I like the art. That being said, the story was boring... nothing really happened... the whole manga goes by and no one makes a move. They just keep close to each other, she whips him... just... this manga is not for me. Even if there is only one more. I just can't do it.
