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*Akiko Higashimura , Yuko K. (Traduction)*

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Tsukimi Kurashita, fan hardcore de méduses, s'installe à Tokyo avec le projet de devenir illustratrice. Elle emménage dans la résidence Amamizu qui a la particularité de n'être habitée que par des filles otaku, et bien évidemment, d'être interdite aux hommes ! Alors qu'un soir, Tsukimi sort pour rendre visite à une adorable médusette enfermée dans un minuscule aquarium, son destin va être bouleversé par sa rencontre avec une fille bien trop « fashionable » pour être vraie !

(Tsukimi Kurashita, a jellyfish hardcore fan, moved to Tokyo with the vision of becoming an illustrator. She moved into the residence Amamizu which has the distinction of being inhabited only by otaku girls, and of course, be forbidden to men! Then one night, Tsukimi went out to visit a lovely jellyfish locked in a tiny aquarium, her fate will be upset by her encounter with a girl too "fashionable" to be true!)

## Princess Jellyfish, Tome 1 Details

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Author : Akiko Higashimura , Yuko K. (Traduction)

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## From Reader Review Princess Jellyfish, Tome 1 for online ebook

### Phong Nh??c says

L?n ??u tiên bash gai kính ?? ?ng h? gai không kính ??y. Nh?t là khi tr??c nay gai kính là gu c?a tôi. S? cho 5 sao khi nào mà Tsukimi và Kuranosuke thành ?ôi. Không thành ?ôi thì ch?t v?i tôi. (????)

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### Amanda at Nerdification Reviews says

Rating: 5/5

This is a strong start to a great character driven manga. Tsukimi lives in a boarding house full of female otaku. All the members are passionate about their hobbies, shut-ins to some degree, and despise fashionable women and men. Their home is their safe haven--until that world is shaken up.

I love the way this story is showing the different sides of the 'be yourself' argument. A person should know what they like and don't like, what they are passionate about, and what realistic limitations they deal with. But there is a difference between living a life you love, and living in fear. These girls have been largely living in fear, but now its time to take charge of their futures, with a little help from a new friend.

Check out more from me here:

<http://nerdificationreviews.com/>

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### Dar says

Enjoyed this a lot - the otaku girls are like me and my people! I will have to keep reading the series to find out if they keep their geekiness or if they are prettified out of it by their new friend.

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### ???? ???? #BookDiet2019 says

*[This review covers manga volumes 1-15]*

It just occurred to me as I start writing this review that *Princess Jellyfish* (*Kuragehime*) is a josei manga that I feel was sort of what *The Big Bang Theory* would be like if the genders were reverse, and the group of scientist geeks were instead female otakus, while the hot girl next door is a cross-dressing pretty boy and a son of a politician.

Basically: IT'S A ZILLION TIMES NERDIER AND MORE AWESOME. That's guaranteed. Spanning for fifteen volumes, this josei manga is incredibly entertaining as it is endearingly eccentric filled with balls-out fun as it both pokes fun and celebrates otaku culture through a female perspective. If Tina Fey was a Japanese otaku, this would be something she would have written, and the lead heroine Tsukumi Kurashita has the kind of social awkwardness and geeky passions that are as oddly charming and sweet as Geek and

Sundry founder and gamer Felicia Day's.

When I first encountered this manga, I was so pumped up to get to it but I had to schedule it for this year instead of the last. The wait was more than worth it! I thought it was going to be a more mature version of the *Perfect Girl Evolution: The Wallflower* series by Tomoko Hayakawa which was my favorite shoujo manga as a teen; I wasn't wrong.

I eventually got over PGE since IT WENT ON FOR SO LONG WITHOUT THE SHIPPABLE TWO CHARACTERS OF THE SERIES EVER BECOMING AN ACTUAL FUCKING COUPLE, DAMMIT! At this point in my life, I would trade my collected hard copies of *Perfect Girl* for copies of *Princess Jellyfish* instead because the latter is better written and has less slapstick comedy and ship tease.

The plot revolves around a group of otaku women living in a place called the Amamizukan which is an apartment that prohibits men. They even fancied it to be a nunnery of some sort because these women (who call themselves Amars which means 'nuns') don't interact socially with people who don't share their hobbies and interests that lean on odd fixations of varying degrees.

One of these women is the our protagonist Tsukumi Kurashita who looks exactly as the trope of what the token geek girl is supposed to be; average-looking with glasses and who only wears plain sweats as her daily clothing. She lives with fiveother women who all preoccupy themselves with interests that may be perceived too niche. I don't want to give away too much details of their said interests, but they are definitely a wacky bunch, and their quirks are the source of this manga's hilarity and conflict.

The sixth housemate in particular is a mangaka who never even shows herself in the story, but is more or less the only one who has an actual professional job. But because of social anxiety, this mangaka is confined in her room, and the other women communicate with her by writing a message on a piece of paper and slipping it on her door. The Amamizukan women are also uncomfortable interacting with people who are 'fashionable' and 'beautiful' while also avoiding formal work, wasting their allowance from parents on their weird preoccupations.

Tsukumi's own fixation is that of the many species of jellyfish which she also draws almost daily. She meets a very pretty girl one night who helped her buy a jellyfish she later named Clara. This pretty girl just inserts herself into Tsukumi's apartment and her life--but not before the shocking revelation that she is a he and a certain politician and his mistress' youngest son named Kuranosuke Koibuchi. He identifies as a straight man who is just very, very, very fond of women's fashion, and dresses up as one because it has something to do with his abandonment issues with his mother. Tsukumi was at first adamant not to be involved with him since her apartment prohibits men after all.

That being said, these two unlikely friends certainly clicked especially when Kuranosuke later discovers Tsukumi's hidden talents in making unique and enthralling dresses via use of her jellyfish designs. Soon, Kuranosuke involves everyone, the Amars, to help him and Tsukumi make dresses for his friends at a theatre troupe. What started as a spur-in-the-moment group activity slowly and surely turned into an aspiring clothing line/empire which Kuranosuke hopes to bring into fruition with Tsukumi as the designer and him as the model while the rest of the Amars women as the seamstresses.

Much of the manga's plot shows the process of how Kuronosuke and Tsukumi struggle to sew the high-fashion dresses and advertise them to potential clients, all the while to earn enough money to buy their apartment back which is under redevelopment; a project approved by Kuronosuke's own father as facilitated by her older half-brother Shu. Mangaka Higashimura knows her fashion stuff to a fascinating tee, and we get chapter breaks about her daily life as a mangaka and fashion trend lover as she illustrates tales of her adventures through amusing anecdotes. She is absolute gem when she does this!

*Princess Jellyfish*'s cast is amazing! They are all memorable characters with depth and humor. From the kimono-wearing Chieko who collects dolls, Mayaya who is an avid history buff obsessed with Records of Three Kingdoms and often quotes and reenacts the text, Banba with her natural afro, predilection to trains and food quality, and to Jiji who is sexually attracted to older men and anything associated with classic and antique things. Tsukumi is also the adorable introvert who is really quite pretty whenever she is forced to wear make-up and nice clothes (even Mayaya who actually is transformed into a model for their spontaneous clothing line fashion shows even though she's quite stressed about it whenever it happens). I really adored these characters because, hey, I'm one of them. I obsess about my geekeries and I'm very passionate about them to the point that I'd rather lock myself up and just read books, watch shows and write stories all day long.

Kuronosuke and Tsukumi are definitely great in their leading roles and both have unresolved issues with their mothers. Kuronosuke's mom had to give him up and send him away to live in Japan, and his love for women's clothing is just an extension of his mother's own interest in fashion. Meanwhile, Tsukumi's mother passed away and left her only with memories of their time at the aquarium where she fell in love with the jellyfish for the first time. Both of them are so lonely but are creative in their own ways. Kuronosuke is very intriguing as a crossdresser because he has no shame about it even if he is still a heterosexual man. Tsukumi meanwhile definitely lacked confidence but through Kuronosuke's vision and fiery ambitions, her potentials as a designer were brought out. Kuronosuke was also able to bring out the other Amars women from their shells by giving them the opportunities to do professional work, inspiring them to dedicate themselves to something that could be both enjoyable and profitable all at once. Kuronosuke became a positive force for these other women.

The Amars women don't even care about fashion or doing actual work but thanks to Kuronosuke always driving them to be better, and Tsukumi's amazing talent, they all start to achieve things together as a unit. Tsukumi herself immerses herself in her creativity too, as inspired by Kuronosuke who just looks so damn good in the jellyfish dresses Tsukumi makes. I cannot for the life of me fathom that a boy could truly be mistaken for a woman.

The great thing about this series is that the romance is more or less a subplot that isn't always utilized to

move the story forward. The author herself seemed to be very fond of fashion trends and its industry both local to her homeland Japan and foreign, and that's what this manga covers eighty percent of the time especially starting from volume 6.

That being said, the romantic subplot was well-written enough to hold interest especially since it involves a love triangle between Tsukumi and the brother, Kuronusuke and Shu. His older half-brother is a 30-year old aspiring politician who also happened to be a virgin. He is conservative yet surprisingly sweet, romantic and thoughtful. He initially doesn't recognize Tsukumi without her make-up which made me think he only liked her because of physical reasons but then when he did find out what Tsukumi normally looks like, he still found her alluring and it's so funny how much he tried to pursue and court her which often lead to disastrous misunderstandings. Tsukumi definitely likes him back but is so burdened with low self-esteem and experience that she hardly shows her reciprocation; at least until Kuronusuke and Shu's personal driver/friend/ladies' man push them both forward to admit that they have feelings for one another and would like to be in a relationship.

Kuronosuke's unrequited side of things is definitely complicated. For one thing, he was more driven to pursue a career in fashion, and he only wants what is best for both his brother and Tsukumi. It took him some time to admit that he even likes Tsukumi and it was probably too late since it was also around the same time Tsukumi realized she has feelings for Shu. I personally ship her and Shu a lot even if Kurosuke and Tsukumi have more interactions. The conclusion to this romantic subplot has yet to be seen, considering this manga is still ongoing and had just released its 16th volume which I have yet to read. Tsukumi still has plenty of stuff to accomplish, and her relationship with both brothers has a lot of room to grow from.

*Princess Jellyfish* is not really a coming-of-age story about self-acceptance but more about the pressures and choices that women like Tsukumi have to face every day just because society deemed their hobbies and interests as abnormal or inappropriate. The Amars women are actually comfortable with their lifestyle and only avoid other people because such people have no appeal to them whether for conversation or a long-term relationship. The portrayal and representation of gender fluidity in Kuronusuke's character were also commendable. Higashimura shows great understanding and acceptance for people who cross-dress or have unusual hobbies, whether male or female, and she demonstrates it deftly and sincerely in her writing of this cast. Higashimura also respects the Amars women enough to showcase their quirks as something that don't necessarily have to exist for comedic effect.

I could tell as a reader that she is neither pandering nor cynical about how she portrays both the otaku and the fashionable people, considering that she's a combination of both worlds in real life, going by her autobiographical chapter breaks. This is definitely the manga's selling point. It doesn't try too hard to be edgy and charming, but rather it oozes with both qualities in earnest amounts because Higashimura speaks from the heart as someone who is passionate about her interests and is not afraid for the world to know just how much and how far she would go pursuing them.

My enjoyment of *Princess Jellyfish* isn't over yet! The manga is still ongoing after all, and there is both an anime series and a live-action film that I could watch, and I'm certainly looking forward to doing that soon enough! In a nutshell, Akiko Higashimura's *Princess Jellyfish* has my seal of approval!

**RECOMMENDED: 9/10**

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### **Alison says**

Loved this! Just pure goofy fun. Love the gang of girls and their wacky personalities.

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### **Peach Pettes says**

One of the best Josei mangas in my opinion! Love every elements in this manga!

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### **Mr. Twinkie says**

I took this because I wanted to try reading all the books on my local library manga-shelf and it was one of the first books on the shelf due to "Akiko" beginning with an A. So it was totally random that I decided that this book should be the first on my big Manga-quest.

It was a bit difficult to get through in the beginning but to my surprise the characters started to grow on me. I am perfectly aware that I am not the targeted audience for this type of book, so I kind of walked into it with more of a curious mind than with the expectation of getting something extremely funny.

It did turn out to be quite entertaining even when I think that the style is too much over the top for me to really be enjoyable. I prefer a more low-key tone in story-telling. The story is basic with themes like identity, being insecure and sexuality, yet it provides us with some fun twists and situations that makes you go on with the story even though the characters reactions are pretty predictable.

Overall, it was entertaining but I am not sure I will continue this series. After all, I feel that I also want to find manga-books that are more my style. Still, I don't regret reading it and if you are into Josei-manga (comics for women) it is fun read. At least, I was still having a chuckle-time reading this.

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### **Lucie Paris says**

Impressions:

The story is pretty wacky, fantastist and whimsical but I have a great time going over the mangas. It reminded me of the characters of "Ouran High School Host Club" by Bisco Hatori in a very different context but with the same crazy sense of humor. Between panic attacks, the fossils attacks, the rants of the different characters and the sublime makeovers, you get attached to the inhabitants of the residence.

Decked out nicknames when they were younger, all these women were retired on themselves and have become secluded crazy adults.

One feels the message of the mangaka: have respect for differences.

If those girls have lost confidence in themselves, yet their personalities are rich, colorful and passionate.

What makes them great for those who really know how to watch and does not focus solely on appearance as

the girls 'trends' of Kurako who criticize and judge without knowing. Under the 'nerdy' and unpopular side of our characters, true beauties are hidden. It just take time to discover. This is what Kurako is doing with great openness.

In the background, there is also a love story born gently pointing its nose on the horizon ...  
A nice manga full of crazyness and humor.

#### **Anime / Manga**

If you do not read ... It's a shame but you can watch this anime online. It is very nice and faithfully follows the manga.

But if you want to know what will happen in season 2, you will either take it out or you will have to read the manga.

There are six volumes already available on the web. Breaks in bookstores in France on October 12 published by Delcourt and Akata.

Read in English on the site <http://www.mangafox.com/manga/kurageh...>

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#### **Yvonne Innes says**

The beginning really had a lot of potential. I was definitely hooked. The cross-dressing element was a bit tiresome and not that original, but I tolerated it because the relationships between the characters were evolving into something interesting and complex. I cared.

So I hung in there through several tomes until I realized that the story no longer held my attention. The overall plot had stayed the same; however, the emphasis was no longer on its characters but rather on the technical machinations of their dreams. They had all become more like robots, and their interactions were no longer natural. Passions had become almost exclusively slapstick.

I don't mind being educated in a particular industry and its economic challenges, but not at the expense of the story itself. Everything else which I found wonderful was relegated to the back seat. That may explain why the producers of the anime altered the ending so much. The premise was great, but it needed some sort of satisfying conclusion.

I will probably not read further, as I no longer see the potential for a satisfying ending. In some cases, stories are much better when they are not dragged out.

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#### **Binta Sama says**

Les filles moisies ????

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#### **Gulen says**

Dün ak?am 1Q84ü okumak istemedi can?m bunu okudum e?lenceli idi:)Otoku bir k?z?m?z var, Tokyo'da kendisi gibi kad?nlarla beraber bir evde ya??yor, denizanas? sever bir insan kendisi :) sonra hayat?na giren

bir yabanc? ile ya?am? alt üst oluyor. Biraz perfect girl evolution tarz? ki ben severim o tarz? ve fazla uzatmam??lar, daha iyi olmu?..

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### **Diana-christie says**

This was hilarious!

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### **Andy says**

What did I think? Hmm.. How about I go with this was : **INCREDIBLY AWESOME?: Jellyfish Princess was a gigantic , hearty laugh.** It was simply wonderfully funny.

Tsukimi who happens to be obsessed with jellyfish lives with 4 other nerdy geeks - Otakus (Cheiko, Jiji, Mayaya and Banba) all isolated in the building complex- Amamizukan. They call themselves Amars (nuns) and are socially unresponsive. They do not interact well with other people and are extremely hilariously nervous around men. Basically all five of them have untied after their common dislikes: they loathe attractive people (being "bellow average looks wise"), social interaction and the prospect of formal work. The characters literally turn into solid stone (as if they looked into the eyes of Medusa) when directly intimidated with any of the above. This was a bit annoying at times but after a while it grows onto you and you start seeing the funny side.

Enter Kuranosuke a.k.a Kurako. He is the devilishly hot illegitimate son of a wealthy politician who happens to have a rather queer hobby: cross dressing. Kurako (his alias around the amars) is fashionably equipped with the latest styles and trends so at first the group of Otakus are reluctant to welcome him. Of course they have no idea he's male except Tsukimi who finds out earlier on. Together these band of uniquely strange people work together to stop the closure of their apartment building.

PLUS THERE'S THIS INSANELY CUTE JELLYFISH CLARA:

*This and other reviews can be found at:  
Andy's Scribbles*

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### **Cam \*tactile seeker\* says**

Over-the-top, irreverent, hilarious, sweet, melancholic, smart, original.

I really enjoyed this manga from Higashimura sensei, I wonder why it took me so long to finally deciding to open its first volume.

Tsukimi (beautiful name, written with the kanji of "moon" and "sea"), developed a passion for jellyfishes when she was a little girl and her mother took her to an aquarium.

There, in front of a particularly pretty species, whose tentacles form reminded her of a princess' gown, her mother explained her that every girl, once grown-up, could become princesses.

All grown-up and every day more obsessed with jellyfishes, Tsukimi is now a *fujoshi* (female otaku) and aspiring illustrator who's just moved to Tokyo and lives in a women-only apartment, where all of her amazing house mates hate men and fashion, to the point of having a fit and/or turning into stone (literally) every time they happen to cross their path with either fascinating men or women.

The house has strict rules about the access of men and fashionable people in general, and all the residents define themselves proudly as "nuns".

Tsukimi life starts to change when she meets a kind, friendly and gorgeous young woman who's actually... a guy, Kuranosuke.

I finished reading this first volume with such an enthusiasm! I love how different Tsukimi and all her friends are, compared to the other "beautiful" women in the manga.

They're fantastically unique and I can't wait to see how Kuranosuke presence will affect their lives.

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### **Yue says**

Excellent first volume. I loved everything about it:

- the heroine: Tsukimi. She looks a bit like Yankumi but her personality is like Sawako. Awkward, super shy and with the funniest expressions. She is always flustered, she is awkward around people, especially around beautiful people (like Kuranosuke). I love her outfit, with glasses and ponytails (so much like Yankumi!). I love that she is a jellyfish-otaku, so original. And the way she rolls on the floor! So funny.

- Kuranosuke: a cross-dressing hero, but he is so cute, both in man outfit and girl outfit. I like how he, out of nowhere, is interested in this weird group of otaku girls, and how he manages to win them over (with meat!) since the girls avoid: 1) fashionable people, and 2) men (although the girls are not aware yet that "she" is a "he").

- the amars: the group of otaku friends that live together with Tsukimi. All of them are crazy and awkward and all of them are fujoshis \*\*high five\*\*.
- the art: it is so cute and funny. Lovely.
- the mangaka: looks like she is a crazy woman, I loved it. I giggled over her notes as much as I did over the manga. Another weirdo, who loves jellyfishes.

The manga is funny, silly, but with so much heart. Tsukimi is not a stupid girl, and neither a cry baby. She does cry, however, at the end of the first volume, but it is because of her dead mother (which was very sad).

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