



Toradora! Vol. 2

Yuyuko Takemiya , Zekkyo (Illustrator)

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"A romance of warmth and humor with an uncanny ability to dodge the excesses of the genre while exploiting all the joys it has to offer." —*Anime News Network*

Ryuji Takasu thought that his ill-fated luck had turned around now that he was in Junior High and sitting next to the girl of his dreams, Minori Kushieda. Ryuji was wrong; for after he unwittingly crossed the most feared and fearsome girl in school, Taiga Aisaku, everything went off the deep end!

It's taken time, but Ryuji and Taiga have slowly found some common ground and can at least tolerate each other. The problem is everyone in Ryuji's class is now convinced that he and Taiga are dating—even Minori! To make matters even more embarrassing, Minori has given Ryuji and Taiga her blessing. How's Ryuji ever going to win Minori's heart now?!

A must-have for fans of over-the-top high school comedies like *School Rumble* and *The Melancholy of Haruhi Suzumiya*.

Toradora! Vol. 2 Details

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From Reader Review Toradora! Vol. 2 for online ebook

Esmeralda says

This volume was interesting and sad at the same time. We find out about peoples perception of taigas and ryujiis developing relationship. Also a new character goes in whom is annoying to me in the anime but slowly becomes a reasonable and understanding character. Slowly though like always taiga didn't and won't like her. Good manga loved the anime will also love the manga.

Feliza Casano says

The second installment of graphic novel series *Toradora!*, a romantic comedy adapted from the popular light novel published by ASCII Media Works in Japan, delves deeper into the characters it follows.

Where the first volume introduced the outrageously comedic meeting of *Toradora!*'s protagonists, high school students Ryuji Takasu and Taiga Aisaka, volume two focuses less on slapstick punchlines and more on the characters' developing relationship.

In this volume, Taiga decides to confess her feelings to Ryuji's friend Kitamura without Ryuji's help – only to have him politely turn her down. Her resulting melancholy turns into a bonding experience when Ryuji tells her he will remain at her side as her friend: "The only creature mighty enough to stand toe-to-toe with the tiger is the dragon!"

The dialogue in *Toradora!* #2 is a little strange, probably as a result of its translation into English. It's also a little difficult for English readers to understand some of the puns, especially the tiger and dragon reference: it's a wordplay on "Taiga" sounding like the English word "tiger" and the first character or kanji in Ryuji's name, which means dragon. When Ryuji references the tiger and the dragon as equals, he is making a reference to Chinese myth regarding the equality of the two creatures, which often stand for yin and yang in Eastern mythology.

Aside from a somewhat awkward translation, *Toradora!* #2 comes in on the good side. Zekkyo's art is cute and fun, able to show Taiga's drastic variety of expressions and highlighting the many different sides of the girl that protagonist Ryuji sees.

Overall, this volume earns a four out of five for lovely art, an engaging rom-com storyline, and proficient if slightly awkward translation.

Khaalidah G. says

To start off, *Toradora* is about a second-year high school student named Ryuji Takasu. Because of the thug-looking eyes he was born with, people are constantly scared of him throughout his life, to the point of them giving their wallets when they mistakenly run into him. Following the first day of school, he soon meets the school's most dangerous student, so they call her, whose size is that of a grade schooler, Taiga Aisaka, AKA the "Palm-top Tiger". She has a stare that pierces people to the bone, despite her stature of only about 4 ft.

Perhaps she was the most feared, but when they meet it wasn't a pretty sight. Near the end of the first volume, we learn that these two have a big thing in common, they are in love with each other's best friends! Surprisingly nice Ryuaji, promised that he would help her get closer to his friend, Yuusaka, but in return he had to become her dog servant. (and in time she also would lend him a small hand as well.)

ToraDora's 1st volume also left the story at a cliffhanger, like most first volumes do, an intense excitement was leading to the next. Volume two picks up where Taiga and Ryuaji are confronted about their relatively close relationship, going to school together, talking all day. It got to the point where everyone in school thinks they're dating, when in fact they are plotting together to help each other's love-lives out. Taiga's friend, Minorin Kushieda, along with Ryuaji's friend, Yuusaka Kitamura, congratulates them on their hooking up. Embarrassed and shocked, the two deny everything, unhappy the ones they like were having such misunderstandings. Depression took over as the days passed, Taiga decided that she would put an end to all of the trouble she caused by telling her real feelings. Somethings are said, some hear words they shouldn't have, and Ryuaji ends up telling Taiga that they should stick together and remain friends, as the Tiger and the Dragon. (Taiga is the equivalent English for Tiger in Japanese, and Ryuaji means Dragon in Japanese)

The many misunderstandings undergone through high school is perfectly illustrated in this manga. I loved how the author shows Taiga's vulnerability. Usually she is shown as cruel, cold and uncaring towards others. All her life, she has had a shield to protect herself, to protect her heart. The people around her pretend they understand her just by her innocence looks, but they never do. She actually does have feelings and emotions, the relationship she has with Ryuaji shows this. Ryuaji, naturally a kind-hearted, caring person, sees her softer side and becomes support for the girl. Even from the beginning, he noticed how weak she was on the inside, he wanted to protect her because of it. I think there are a lot of sweet scenes in this volume that strengthens the bonds these two share, showing that people can grow used to each other fairly easy.

I also love the comedy that is included in this story. The fact that the two are connected through each other's friend is hilarious. To think that the two wouldn't have had another reason to know each other, or even approach each other is crazy. They are so compatible, even though the situations might disagree. An example is how Taiga treats Ryuaji. First of all, he gives her dinner every night because she lives alone and doesn't eat anything but fast food, he makes her and himself box lunches for school, and he gives her daily advice on her love-life. And all he gets in return is her constant nagging, her ungratefulness, and her treating him as her personal lap dog. But deep down, Ryuaji can sense her subtle kindness, which is why he can't see himself ever ditching her.

So overall, I believe this was a very enjoyable read. The author, Yuyuko Takemiya, has a very fluent writing style that is easy to understand and holds very important details. All of the characters are relatable and attractive. The artist, Zekkyo, has very nice illustrations that tell the emotions and details excellently. Each scene is realistic even though it is anime. I am looking forward to the volumes to come and hope there are many more surprises! There were many touching moments that had me begging for more, there were funny scenes throughout and the story had a very nice progression. I loved this book!

Parker says

THEIR FRIENDSHIP IS SO GOOD

juan carlos says

Este tomo me gusto muchisimo, ya que siguen los disparates de estos protagonistas que me encantan. Se entiende un poco más los sentimientos de estos adolescentes y además se vuelven más fuertes sus vínculos.

La pregunta que gira en torno a esta historia es: ¿Qué harías si tu corazón esta sintiendo algo más que amistad frente al chico que siempre te esta poyando y que gracias a el no estas con la soledad constante ?

Escenas tiernas, suspiras, ries, y te identificas en esas escenas de declaraciones amorosas. La clásica friendzone, esta presente en estas paginas. Todos estos elementos, muy bien ejecutados.

Sinai C. says

Although I think I'd rather watch the anime at some point, I do think I'll like this series. It has a bit of those cliches, and it's in a school-setting, but I did think that Taiga's character and her emotions were very relatable, and that's when I really started to like this book. Not for any of the additional characters (except for the other main dude) like Taiga's annoying best friend, or her very clue-less crush, but because the emotions she felt, her expressions, everything, I thought they were very accurate on how everyone feels sometimes--like no one understands and no one ever listens. So that gained this book a star. That, along with a speech that I think named the series--Tora (tiger), dora (dragon), where the boy says he'll be a Dragon because only a dragon is strong enough to stand next to a tiger. It was really such a beautiful little scene.

The drawings were cute as well, I LOVE her hair, the blushes, it was detailed and expressive.

I just think that it'll fall into the pattern. The love-square, the mean girl who always acts like the victim, the confessions, the thug-looking boy, etc. It's just...I can see the ending already, but I'll keep on with it. It looks very cute, although not my genre.

Ady Weasley says

Todos confunden la cercanía de Taiga y Ryuji incluso sus mejores amigos, esto hace enojar a Taiga por lo que decide aclarar la situación y declararse a Kitamura.

Me cayo mal Ami, que bueno que Taiga puede ver a través de su negra alma.

Ben Nealis says

The series just keeps getting better. One of the best chapters was the bonus at the end.

Claire says

I love Tiaga and Ryuji they are so cute. What is wrong with a boy and a girl just being friends? It can happen.

Favourite moment:

Orchid says

Review taken from my blog, The Haunting of Orchid Forsythia.

First Sentence:

You too, Takasu-kun.

I'm sure that ya'll remember me babbling about how much I loved the first volume of Toradora 1 (see my review), so I was beyond ecstatic to be able to review the second volume here on the blog.

Story:

Okay, so volume 2 starts off with the biggest misunderstanding...Minori, Taiga's friend, and Takasu, Ryuji's friend, think that Ryuji and Taiga are a couple! Oh, I so knew that was going to happen but even so I burst out giggling because their reactions were absolutely hilarious. Good times.

While I really enjoyed the humor packed into Toradora 2, I felt that this volume didn't really cover any new ground. Sure we saw Taiga and Ryuji's relationship change from that of master and slave (I may have mentioned this in my review of volume one: Ryuji wound up being Taiga's personal slave for almost seeing something that would embarrass her to no end) to one of equal footed friendship. Yes, it was nice to see that evolution in their relationship, but I think this volume could have used a little more meat to the story.

My biggest hope is that the next volume of Toradora will have more sustenance to the story, and that the two main characters will continue to grow. So nothing earth-shattering happening in the second volume, but it is definitely worth reading simply because it will make you laugh out loud.

Character(s):

I really liked the character development that went on in volume 2 of Toradora.

Taiga, it was definitely nice to see a softer, more sensitive side for her. But I also enjoyed the fact that she retained a lot of the fierceness that made her such an interesting character to read about.

Ryuji, I think what I liked the most about him in this volume would have to be how he became just a little more of an assertive character. I still think he's a great character and love how he's become more of a friend/protector to Taiga...he's just too nice to sum up without going on and on.

Artwork:

The artwork hasn't really changed all that much from the first volume to the second, although it does seem like some of the secondary characters had a little more personality and individuality in their depictions in this volume.

While there are not any big changes in the artwork for *Toradora 2*, it was nice to see that it was consistent with the previous volume and that it did not take a nosedive in quality. So not much to report about the art, but I would just like to add that I absolutely love the panels when the characters seemed to be experiencing a doom spiral since they were just a lot of fun to look at.

Final Verdict: *Toradora 2* just as delightfully funny as the first volume.

Toradora 2 earns 4 out of 5 pineapples.

Samantha wickedshizuku Tolleson says

This volume starts off with Chapter 7: A Well Matched Couple.

I'll write more when editing mode hits me.

Cheers Pretties!

Samantha says

Now that Taiga Aisaka and Ryuji Takasu have been hanging out together, people are suspecting that the pair are dating. It doesn't help that both of their crushes, Minori Kushieda and Yuusaku Kitamura, think so as well! Taiga and Ryuji must do something quickly before it's too late and neither have a chance at the ones they like. With the arrival of teen model Ami Kawashima, things start to be complicated.

Finally, Ami arrives! She seems much nastier and more blunt than in the anime, which I do like. I wasn't too fond of Taiga's personality, though; she acts more girly and less tsundere, making her seem more soft than she really is. Her confession to Yuusaku also bugged me a bit. Mentioning Ryuji wasn't too smart, and clearly ruined her chances with her crush. Nonetheless, this was still good!

Holly says

This book has just become one of my favourite volumes of manga.

Book one left you understanding the complicated relationship between Taiga and Ryuji. Taiga likes Ryuji's friend, Ryuji likes Taiga's friend. The first book ended with everyone thinking Taiga and Ryuji were dating.

If you were unfamiliar with *Toradora* and its characters, you could be forgiven for thinking that Taiga is despicable. She is cruel and seemingly heartless. Book two smashes that away within the first few pages and really changes the tone of the story. The first half, maybe two thirds of this book is spectacular as far as I'm

concerned, and concentrates making Taiga and Ryuaji's lives far more difficult than they need to be, through no fault of their own. You completely feel for both of them as their situation, while utterly bizarre on the one hand, is easy to relate to.

The last chunk introduces a new character, Ami who I ABSOLUTELY DESPISE. God DAMN she makes me angry and she's only been in the story a few chapters. I remember I didn't like her from watching the anime but I could not remember why. Apparently my brain chose to block her out completely because she is HORRIBLE.

Mia says

"You call me Ryuaji. I call you Taiga. We are on the same level"

And I'm dead, thank you very much.

A. L. says

I'm pretty sure I enjoyed this volume more than the last(or should I say first?). Possibly because "Ya-chan" *gag* was only in one page.

I liked seeing Taiga's nicer side. And Ryuaji's persistent caring for Taiga was adorable as well. I also laughed a good deal at some of the hilarious faces the characters made.

I have a sneaking suspicion, however, that this series might be a little bit cliché (it's predictable, at least). But, as I don't read or watch very many romance comedies, it would be unfair to assume that. At least (since I don't read other romance comedies), I'm not too tired of this type of story to enjoy it.
