



Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 16

Yuki Midorikawa

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Takashi Natsume can see the spirits and demons that hide from the rest of humanity. He has always been set apart from other people because of his gift, drifting from relative to relative, never fitting in. Now he's a troubled high school student who has come to live in the small town where his grandmother grew up. And there he discovers that he has inherited more than just the Sight from the mysterious Reiko.

Natsume's human friend Taki can only see yokai if they walk through one of her spell circles. Although many yokai see her spells as aggressive traps, putting her at risk of their retaliation, the latest yokai to pass through her circle may have something other than revenge in his heart. But is that any better...?

Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 16 Details

Date : Published June 3rd 2014 by VIZ Media LLC (first published July 5th 2013)

ISBN : 9781421567822

Author : Yuki Midorikawa

Format : Paperback 192 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Fantasy, Shojo, Supernatural, Comics, Young Adult, Magic

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From Reader Review Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 16 for online ebook

Miss says

return of the human friends! also a reminder that for all that he's gotten better at friendship natsume is not an inherently trusting soul. i don't know why i find this endearing, apparently i just like everything about this kid. 4 stars

Judy (Geeky Reading) says

~4/5

[Read more at my blog, Geeky Reading!]

This series is just so pleasant. It just makes me happy, honestly. Which feels like a weird thing to say, especially since sometimes the plotlines are sad or even mean. But it always just makes me happy.

There are two main plotlines in this volume. The first one involves Taki, the girl friend of Natsume's. I honestly wouldn't mind some romance in this series (and, oh geez, wouldn't Natsume just be adorable, dealing with that for the first time?), but him just having friends is enough for me. This episode is very sweet, and mostly simple, with the yokai involved simply lost in Taki's house.

The second story features Takuma and Natsume's other guy friends, all of them going to stay and work at a hotel with hot spring that a relative of Takuma owns. There were some threats from some yokai in this story, but I mostly enjoyed seeing Natsume with his friends. There were even some humorous scenes, where they're all joking around. It's nice seeing that.

Natsume also has to struggle with keeping yokai secrets, and being able to see them while his friends can't. It's hard. But Natsume is handling it rather well, at least at this point.

There was also an extra chapter at the end, which was just Natsume helping out some yokai. There haven't been as many of those simply episodic chapters recently, and it was actually sweet to see.

I just love this series. It just fills me with warmth and makes me smile. So I'm looking forward to the next volume, even if there's a longer wait.

Rici says

Hier haben wir ein weiteres Band über Natsume, der dieses Mal eher bei den Problemen von anderen Menschen mit Yokai hilft. Diese Menschen sind zudem Freunde von ihm, was diesem eine andere Tragweite gibt. Und ein Yokai erzählt auch von seine Emotionen gegenüber den Menschen, was auch dann sehr Traurig war.a

Lissibith says

This book managed to have a Taki episode and a Tanuma episode (where Tanuma seems to be coming out of his shell a little bit and occasionally engaging in what passes for sass from him. Hilarious to me :)) And whatever else this volume might have brought me, I'd have loved it for that fact alone. I love all Natsume's school friends and really enjoy when we get to spend some time getting to know them better.

In Taki's episode, her grandfather's wards have made the house a maze that's trapping yokai who only want to pass through. But one of them, once helped, keeps hanging around. And in Tanuma's, he goes to help his aunt at her inn, and invites Natsume, Nishimura and Kitamoto to come along and help. But it turns out there's an extra guest at the Inn, and Natsume has an idea what sort it might be.

The special episode was cute as well, but for me, the school friends chapters are highlights, and this one was pretty good, especially Taki's. Tanuma's, unfortunately, felt a little repetitive.

Abrar Al Mahfoodh says

Another awesome volume, this time with some little secrets hovering around Natsume and his friends. A Yokai falling in love, another disguised as a human to take care of a little kid.. The extra chapter as always was so cute, specially those 3 bird yokai..

Sesana says

This book focused more on Natsume's evolving relationship with his human friends. I like when they show up. A lot of lies flying around this volume, and a lot of secrets Natsume is being made to keep.

Kate says

New adventures for Natsume, who seems to be debating how people interact with the different yokai encountered. He sees his friends Taki and Tanuma having ties to the spirit realm, and how it can get in over their heads at times here. He feels discouraged that the yokai wish to connect with the humans, but know they cannot be seen or fully understood. Natsume seems to be worrying now as to whether something should be done to let both worlds connect, or to keep them both secret and in the shadows. I keep wondering if an ultimatum is coming where this decision may have to be made. I fully wish to see how it plays out in the next volume.

Krista says

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Chris says

That's good.

Miriam says

As if Natsume didn't spend enough time keeping secrets, now various yokai demand that he keep theirs as well.

machinaheart says

(Since goodreads killed quite a long review from me just now, I am too tired to redo it and now you're stuck with the gist of it.)

In SHORT: Magical, personal and quietly brilliant.

In DETAIL:

Themes: Being different, loneliness, creatures from myth and legend, friendship and camaraderie and the meaning of family.

Setting: Rural Japan in all its loveliness! (When it comes to a time period I'd say, roughly the 'here and now'.)

Atmosphere: At once magical and ordinary. The focus on interpersonal relationships in a world where a vast array of supernatural creatures are never far, is the key to making this story so wonderful. It is almost always less about the being's strangeness and abilities, but rather its hopes and wishes.

Characters & Relationships: Every character is incredibly unique and loveable in their own way. What I adore the portrayal of the ayakashi is that Natsume always tries to understand the circumstances of a creature first and only if there is no other way will try to bind it or even kill it. Mostly the ayakashi are shown as having different values or being ignorant of human customs.

Plot: Natsume has to cope with his ability to see ayakashi and with the mysterious "Book of Friends" his grandmother left behind. Not to mention this erratic lucky-cat (that is actually something very different) called Nyanko-sensei. At first the chapters are rather episodic in a monster of the week style (but many really touching and never boring), but somewhere along the line more characters, supernatural and human, appear and as Natsume's friends and acquaintances expand, the plot branches out.

Cover & Artwork: The artwork has a lovely light touch which adds to feeling of otherworldliness and gives it a sense of fragility.

Amanda Kern says

Awesome

Awesome

Awesome. this book was awesome as usual. I can not wait till the next one. and I love I can get them on the kindle

Anne Skelding says

Yokai 1: Our precious pot [of sacred ashes] was taken by a huge, hairy white ogre. We'd like to get it back, but we're so adorable, we need help."

Yokai 2: Indeed, you are adorable."

YES. YES YOU ARE, LITTLE NOT-BIRD THINGS.

I thought last volume was where I'd left off on my previous read, but I remember the events in this one. Love and secrets. And adorable not-bird things.

Amy says

I owned this manga two years ago and I've been re-reading it since now and then. I loved the ambiance of this series, especially this volume. The friendship that Natsume obtained throughout his experience is getting stronger, Taki and Tanuma are really getting more involved in Natsume's life. Seeing Natsume's struggle and dilemma just make me wanted to hug him. He is such a precious character and Nyanko sensei, so cute!!! 5 stars!

28/11/2017

It took me a month to finish this, because I was too busy, one of my favourite series that I couldn't compliment it enough.

Sarah Hayes says

[throws flowers into the air] T A K I ♥

Complete review coming soon!

Edit: You can now read my complete review of NATSUME'S BOOK OF FRIENDS volume 16 at my blog.

