



Boogiepop And Others

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There is an urban legend that children tell one another about a *shinigami* that can release people from the pain they may be suffering. This "Angel of Death" has a name--Boogiepop. And the legends are true. Boogiepop *is* real.

Told in a non-linear fashion that asks the reader to piece together the sequence of events to solve the mysteries alongside the characters, Kouhei Kadono's first *Boogiepop* novel took First Place in Media Works' Dengeki Game Novel Contest in 1997 and ignited the Japanese "light novel" trend. Today, there are over 2 million *Boogiepop* novels in print, a feature film and manga adaptation based on the first book, an original manga entitled *Boogiepop Dual*, and the unforgettable original anime series *Boogiepop Phantom*.

Boogiepop And Others Details

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From Reader Review Boogiepop And Others for online ebook

Aaron S says

There's always a feeling of anxiety when going back to reading something that was extremely influential and inspiring to you as a teenager, especially when it's written for teens. I found myself nervous that it was going to turn out to be pretty weak and it was only because I'd been young and inexperienced when I'd first read it that I thought it was great. Fortunately with Boogiepop and Others that isn't the case. The book still holds up great and in fact does a lot of interesting things that I'd forgotten about over the years.

Boogiepop is basically a case study in unusual writing methods that probably shouldn't work, but are pulled off in a way that the whole thing just comes together. Looking at a plot synopsis, Boogiepop and Others is a pretty standard horror/urban fantasy story: monster serial killer starts hunting and eating people, mysterious unnatural creature is trying to track down said monster, and one of the local students has an alternate personality pseudo-supernatural personality that is trying to protect the school from the killings. It all culminates in a big bloody climax as the various forces come smashing together until only one is left and things go back to more-or-less normal. But where it gets truly weird is in the presentation.

None of the major movers and shakers of the story, the characters who could traditionally be referred to as protagonists, have their own point of views on display. Instead the story is broken up to half-a-dozen different characters who, when you get down to it, mostly aren't very significant. Instead, they each serve as a lens through which the reader can experience bits of the story, get to know the principal characters, and posit their own theories and ideas on what is happening. The whole story can only be understood by piecing together everything you learn from these various viewpoints, as none of them see anywhere close to the total story. But these side characters are not generic bystanders either. Each of them is immensely and instantly relatable, each with their own personal struggles, mental hang-ups, and unique philosophy on life. Considering many of these characters are only around for 30 to 40 minutes of reading time it's really impressive how well characterized they are, and every single one of them feels like they could have been a main protagonist. This is helped by a very strong first-person perspective. Yes, Boogiepop breaks the typical rule of not having multiple 1st person poves in a single book by having six of them, and yet they are all immediately recognizable. By splitting pov like this each character gets to serve as an alternate examination of the book's central theme, the feeling of directionless angst and existential anxiety that comes from being on the cusp of adulthood.

The major characters, who are seen only through the eyes of these viewpoints, are no less engaging. By never letting the reader into their heads they manage to retain a sense of mystery. And by virtue of being very intense and abnormal they make strong impressions on the more ordinary high schoolers who meet them, giving each scene they're in a sense of edge. The titular Boogiepop (despite his dumb name) is surprisingly human and personable for being a spiritual personality that only arises to fight against evil. And "The Fire Witch" Nagi is an immensely cool character, a rich girl with a slew of mental issues who decided to use her extreme estrangement from society for good and do whatever she can to help people in need, despite coming across as intensely selfish and callous.

Lastly I'd just like to talk about the prose. I didn't even remember until I reread it that I had actually intentionally attempted to emulate the writing style of Ogata in my own writing. He has a very fast-paced yet indulgent style. It's carried largely by dialogue to keep things moving swiftly and to put the personalities of his characters front and center. Little time is spent on setting the stage or exposition, but the characters each have a continuous running issue they are thinking about throughout their sections, going back to that central

theme. It manages to have the sort of fast thriller style pace of an urban fantasy action story while also indulging in quite a bit of inner character struggle you'd more often see in standard literature.

Even after more than 15 years since I first read it, Boogiepop and Others is still unlike any series I've read.

Adrian A. says

I'll be honest. It took me a minute to really get into the story. I felt that it was slow to start, but as the story began to build from different perspectives it was like a puzzle being pieced together. By the end, I was shocked and surprised and excited and everything in between. Truly worth the read if you enjoy stories built from different perspectives. Good supernatural type novel.

Gracie says

As far as light novels go (which are definitely not a preference of mine, or even something I would actively seek out to read) the prose in this was at least tolerable. The story, on the other hand, was really REALLY solid. This won't go anywhere near my list of all time favorite books, but I didn't dislike it and it succeeded in making me extremely disappointed in the anime.

Love says

I love supernatural mysteries so Boogiepop was a good match for me. It's also really interesting from a historical perspective since I really have been getting into light novels lately. Boogiepop was more or less the novel that created the whole light novel genre with its opening illustrations and manga-esque story back in the late 90s.

Steffi says

Boogiepop and Others is about a girl who has an alter-ego named Boogiepop. Boogiepop protects the earth from those wanting to harm it. In Boogiepop and others the story is focused around Manticore who wants to conquer the world. Students keep disappearing from the school but no one seems to care or notice except for a few.

Boogiepop and Others was a surprisingly good book. It was told from the perspective of different students. Some of the chapters took place before, after, or during certain incidences. You have to piece together what comes first. As you read on, the story all comes together perfectly. I really enjoyed reading this.

Liz Neering says

Poorly written, overall, but almost required reading for those who want a fuller understanding of the series.

Very insightful into both the characters and the universe, though at times a chore to read.

Esteban Guerrero says

3.5/5

Muy bueno para ser una "novela ligera", no es que sea malo que sea una novela ligera, pero estas son más famosas por su fanservice que por su historia, aunado a esto las múltiples adaptaciones de los últimos años no es que ayuden mucho la verdad.

La historia es buena, y el comoe s contada desde diferentes puntos de vista ayuda a sentirla fresca y mantener el misterio hasta el final, quizás el punto más bajo serian los personajes, que aunque no se sientan genéricos si yas has leído o visto diferentes historias actuales de Japón no son tan originales, aun así creo que son los suficientemente interesantes para llevar la historia.

En realidad es para cuatro estrellas, por eso le puse cuatro, aunque la edición tiene muchos typo/error de dedo, que la verdad si están demasiado presente como para arruinar la lectura, por eso le bajo media estrella, aunque a decir verdad yo lo leí en una versión *cough**cough* pirata *cough* *cough*, así que no sé si esos errores son problemas de la edición original o de la digitalización, así que hasta que no lo sepa, le dejo esa calificación.

Lexie says

The Summary doesn't do it justice, but to reveal too much is to give away some important plot developments. Which is why this review may be a little sparse on the details.

Boogiepop as a series is kind of hard to categorize. Its not that Boogiepop is a separate entity--and thus its own identifiable being--but that Boogiepop exists only as a fragment of another. In this book its Miyashita Touka, an average 1st year HS student with little by way of 'extraordinary' talents. Its made unclear in the anime (at least the English Dub) whether Boogiepop is real or not. He is--its not a mental breakdown of Miyashita's due to trauma (as the English Dub suggests).

Boogiepop is also not magic, or a ghost, or an alien. Boogiepop just is. Throughout this book we see as lives intersect, crash into and separate from each other. Some of the events are repeated, but from the varied viewpoints of the participants so that its given a different spin. For instance a group date as viewed by Keiji is just that--a happy little group date that his underclassmen are having. Later, we see the group date through the eyes of one of the underclassmen--and hear his thoughts in regards to the people he's with, the reasons he's with them and Keiji whom they encounter.

The book can feel disjointed, since some of the storylines extend beyond others by quite a bit of time (some are short, existing only to clarify one or two moments of time, while others extend to 'before', 'during' and 'after' the incident) so you'll jump around in time a lot, and have the sense of de ja vu at times as well. The translation is really well done, so you have a feel of the tone that the original Japanese author was striving for, but for the western audience it might feel too foreign to the casual reader. At its core, the Boogiepop books and movie and anime are about human nature. What makes us human, what defines us and what can be called a human by those definitions.

The book moves slowly more often than not, bogging down in the minutiae of a day to day life of a school student, but frequently what is such a small thing to one narrator is a big deal to a later one. This doesn't make the book go by quicker, but it gives better insight. The action is very frenetic, wham-bam-thank you ma'am sort, but again we get it from several different viewpoints.

Unfortunately the book is out of print, but should be pretty easy to obtain a cheap used copy of. The style is probably something that will take most people a little while to get into and even then, if your attention wanders easily, or you want something with less character centric-ness, this isn't a book for you. Rent the movie.

Note about the Boogiepop Series in general: At the moment America only has 4 out of 15 of the novels (I think), both mangas, none of the short stories or side novel series, the movie and the anime (Boogiepop Phantom). Boogiepop and Others (both the movie and the novel) details the event that instigates the odd incidents seen in the anime, namely the weird light, and runs concurrently at points with the anime events. Boogiepop at Dawn (a novel) is a prequel to the series in general--explaining when Miyashita began acting oddly, and some more background information on Kirima Nagi. The publication order however has Boogiepop and Others before Boogiepop at Dawn.

Harry Landman says

The best supernatural mystery novel I've ever read and (possibly) my favorite book of all time. Everything about it just works in the best way possible. Here's hoping that the 2019 anime is just as good.

Quiet says

As far as translations go, "Boogiepop and Others" is refreshingly coherent and enjoyable to read. But the actual story--- I don't know it really was? There's action and supernatural events and aliens and then 'shinigami,' or Death Gods, but none of this actually explained within the story. What's really going on is a bunch of high schoolers telling their own brief tales and how they were affected by all of these events. Except it doesn't really matter, because there is no content behind these events. It's an overabundance of eclectic scenarios that haven't any personality or coherency behind them.

Not the worst light novel I've read, but still amidst that very low applause for this style of writing. It's nice to see books that incorporate a lot of action into the narrative, but when that action lacks powerful characters to do those things you're mostly just reading a lot of vapid activities that you don't care for whether they fail or succeed.

branewurms says

Well this was certainly an *odd* little book... I'm not really sure how to rate it. It seemed a little... unsophisticated, I guess? I'm not sure that's the word I want, but some bits were just plain silly. And yet at the same time it was really compelling. 3 1/2, maybe.

Jessica says

Told from multiple perspectives, "Boogiepop and Others" follows the mysterious disappearances of schoolgirls from Shinyo High and surrounding areas. As each students' stories overlap, more is revealed, resulting in a final confrontation between Manticore, a maneater in the guise of a fellow student, and the group of Nagi Kirima, Boogiepop, and Echoes, an otherworldly being.

Overall, a quick mystery/horror read appropriate for young adults. Not exceptional, but should be popular with anime/manga fans. I was somewhat intrigued by the character Boogiepop, so I may pick up subsequent volumes to see if more is revealed about him/her.

Daniel says

Pretty lackluster prose hides a truly compelling core narrative and gimmick.

Miguel says

Kouhei Kadono's *Boogiepop And Others* is a sparse book. This sparseness is because of the "And Others" part of the title. Although the henshin hero Boogiepop is ostensibly the star of the show, he has remarkably little to do with the main plot and ultimately serves as a less-visible nexus around which the other characters orbit. Each chapter, following a different high schooler, offers varying degrees of insight into the main plot.

But Kadono is remarkably focused in the ideas he wants to explore, even as his plot wanders. Although Kadono suggests in his afterward that he is the last person who should be writing an authentic high school experience, the setting is the perfect medium to explore the themes of the immense pressure Japanese society (and society in most countries) places on young people, anxiety and mental health, and the origin of evil. Kadono is interesting in his investment in the idea that evil doesn't necessarily emerge from some traumatic history, but rather sometimes as a response to society's repressive forces.

Kadono is responsible for Japan's light novel boom and establishes two frequently recurring tropes for the genre: the high school setting and the supernatural plot. *Boogiepop And Others* is a great example of the light novel dealing with serious and heady ideas.

Chin Jian Xiong says

Kouhei Kadono's Boogiepop Series is viewed in places as one of the seminal works defining this strange thing called the Japanese Light Novel. It can't really be classified as Young Adult, or Urban Fantasy, or Mystery, or Horror, or Slice of Life, or Psychological, or Romantic - though it can be these things at certain times. It's a book that violates multiple standard narrative and genre conventions in order to display a certain type of Urban Malaise, but it also functions as a gripping narrative. The prose is extremely functional, though moments of poetry can peek through at times. It is just as willing to expand upon an otherworldly

conspiracy, as well as the alienations and heartbreaks of a handful of Japanese school kids facing the crunch during the critical exam period. The setting feels symbolic and out of place, and yet there are also random snippets of very contemporary pop culture thrown in the mix.

Yet, this fuzzy haze of blended genres has had its influence on various other works. You can look to Nisio Isin as an extreme and eccentric version of the primary conceits here (in the Monogatari series). Kinoko Nasu warped the basic foundations of the setting to tell his own weird philosophical action-packed take. This is a work that belongs to what I haphazardly call the 'Faust' style ([https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faust_\(...\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Faust_(...))) - a bit gothic, a bit mysterious, a bit weird, a bit introverted, and a bit profound - but mostly passionate.

Personally, it's a type of aesthetic that I really enjoy. That ability to mix genres and focus on both individual character psychologies while expanding out into a larger gripping storyline - all while being entertaining. It's a shame that so little people have learnt to do this outside of Japanese authors.
