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Iqura Sugimoto , Mamoru Hosoda (Original Story) , Yoshiyuki Sadamoto (Character Designs)

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When timid eleventh-grader and math genius Kenji Koiso is asked by older student and secret crush Natsuki to come with her to her family's Nagano home for a summer job, he agrees without hesitation. Natsuki's family, the Jinnouchi clan, dates back to the Muromachi era, and they've all come together to celebrate the 90th birthday of the spunky matriarch of the family, Sakae. That's when Kenji discovers his "summer job" is to pretend to be Natsuki's fiancé and dance with her at the birthday celebration. As Kenji attempts to keep up with Natsuki's act around her family, he receives a strange math problem on his cell phone which, being a math genius, he can't resist solving. As it turns out, the solution to the mysterious equation causes a hijacking of the social networking site through which most of the world's social and business traffic flows.

??????? 1 Details

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Author : Iqura Sugimoto , Mamoru Hosoda (Original Story) , Yoshiyuki Sadamoto (Character Designs)

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From Reader Review ??????? 1 for online ebook

Jenna says

Not a bad read and I did like the drawing style, which looked similar to the manga adaptation of Evangelion. I just couldn't get into it for some reason. The gaming aspect was interesting, but also didn't feel fully formed, perhaps because it was meant to be more a social media tie in than an MMO.

Jessica says

I enjoyed this sweet little read

S.Q. Eries says

In Summary

Although some of the opening plot details are weak, Summer Wars delivers a captivating story. The online crisis of OZ lends it a sci-fi flavor, but it's ultimately a tale of family bonds and the struggle to belong. Its engaging artwork and well-paced plot makes for a fun read, and I'm looking forward to the next volume.

The Review

This manga is based off the 2009 Summer Wars animated film. Though I have yet to see the anime, I was able to follow and enjoy the manga version without any problems.

The story is a blend of cyber battle, romance, and coming of age. Seventeen-year-old Kenji Koiso, after failing to make the Math Olympics, gets an unexpected chance to accompany his secret crush, Natsuki Shinohara, to her great-grandmother's ninetieth birthday celebration in the country. But when he receives a mysterious email with a long code attached, he finds himself plunged into an international crisis involving the world's largest social media site and members of Natsuki's family.

According to the anime director Mamoru Hosoda, the manga adaption includes scenes and footage that were cut from the film due to time constraints. He also states that the manga, in contrast to the film, focuses more on Kenji and Natsuki's relationship, and indeed, it's the relationships that drive the manga. While OZ, a combination of souped-up Facebook and MMORPG, is interesting with its Pokémon-like avatars, it's really the character interactions that draw you in. Granted, the premise for Kenji being with Natsuki is utterly contrived shonen fantasy, but once you make that leap, Kenji's awkwardness among the Jinnouchi clan and the family drama that erupts are completely absorbing.

Sugimoto-sensei does an excellent job of portraying Natsuki's relatives, from the bratty younger cousins to the boisterous great uncles to the bossy eldest aunt. I came from a large extended family, and the complex family dynamics along with Kenji's bewildered efforts to keep track of everyone hits very close to home. That, however, is one difficulty with reading this manga. With so many Jinnouchi folk, it's difficult to keep track of them. When Natsuki introduces them to Kenji, she uses a handwritten family tree, and I had to keep

flipping back to that page as I read.

The pacing is excellent. Sugimoto-sensei keeps up a nice stream of new challenges, characters, and bits of information to keep readers hooked throughout the chapters. There are times, though, that character reactions are a bit extreme. Unlike Sword Art Online, OZ is not an immersive environment but experienced through a keyboard and screen. So when Love Machine goes on his rampage, no one's physically affected, but the way Kenji and his friends react, people might as well have been actually "eaten."

We also get engaging character development with Natsuki and Kenji. Although Kenji does have actual talent in math, he has no confidence and starts off as your run-of-the-mill introvert geek. Meanwhile, Natsuki's the super-popular, confident, athletic and beautiful upperclassman. As the story progresses, Natsuki's issues come to light, and we get to see Kenji man up to support her in her weak moments.

Regarding the artwork, real-world events are drawn using a sketch-type style while the illustrations for the happenings within OZ are very clean and look digitally rendered.

Extras include the first page, title spread, and table of contents printed in color, four pages of Chapter 5 printed in color, special messages from both the Summer Wars director and character designer, and a Summer Wars Character Rough Sketch Collection. Its \$14.95 retail price makes it more expensive than most manga, but the extras, slightly larger pages, and length (280+ pages) justify the additional cost.

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Infinite Scythe says

[aka King Kazma! super cool! (hide spoiler)]

Lily Pierce says

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sohrella says

I would say that the movie did a great job of interpreting the World of Oz!

Ireadsalot says

All my friends have read this so when one of them offered me to borrow the first two volumes, I said yes. I didn't know what to expect going into it. In my opinion it was just okay, hopefully it gets better in volume two because my friends seem to enjoy it.

Emmy says

Interesting so far. Keeps my attention, and I'm curious to see what happens next. Looking forward to watching the movie, too!

Nastasia says

3.5
