



Tramps Like Us, Vol. 1

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Life was good for Sumire Iwaya ... until the day she discovers her boyfriend is cheating on her, she gets demoted at work, and her life spirals into the dumps. Things take a turn for the better when she crosses paths with Momo, a homeless guy with a colorful past who puts a bounce in her step and a shake in her hips. It takes two to tango, but when Sumire's first love reappears in her life, will this be the last waltz?

Tramps Like Us, Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review Tramps Like Us, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Ari says

The first volume of my first ????? (j?sei) series! What an introduction to the genre!!! The story of a strong working woman who still struggles with insecurities has a bit of resonance for my own life too! Though i've only briefly worked in an environment like the one Sumire works in, I could understand her frustration and struggles on a pretty basic level and it was terribly funny to watch how she deals with them!

If you've yet to do so, I recommend the live-action drama ?? ? ??? (Kimi wa Petto) if you haven't seen it yet. The humor is very clear in that version—though Hasumi-san could have been more handsome... I thought the actor was average-looking.

Elly says

I love the characters and the story. Now I have to hunt down the rest of the mangas.

Brenna Brumfield says

This series is my most beloved of all manga series- maybe my most beloved of all fiction series. I have reread it time and time again. The basic premise is the main character comes home to find a young man in a box at her doorstep. She takes him in and feeds him until he is up on his feet- but rather than send him on his way she jokingly gives him the option to stay- as her human pet. The last thing she expected was him to agree, and it all went from there. This a quirky love story that is filled with realistic characters. Both the young man, Momo, and the main character, Sumire are very easy to relate to. Throughout the story they face a lot of the trials that hit everyone in their day to day life, work related problems, loss of family, growing up, finding a stable relationship etc. but they are better at facing the world because they both are there to support each other, in a very strange, but lovable way.

To be completely honest this story is a strange one that I doubt everyone will love it like I do, but If you are looking for something unique and entirely different from any other love story in the shoujo collection this one is for you.

Andy says

My illness itself is light and gets better with medicine right away, but fighting with the fear that I might hurt someone I cared for was hell.

...I was drifting aimlessly, I realized...that there are a lot of people who're weakened because of worries or stress or just because life dealt them a bad. When I could help someone like that, the

fear went away. Those kind of relationships were like medicine to me. That's why I planned on leaving here as soon as you didn't need me anymore.

But the truth is... the truth is...I need you, Sumire.

I need you for things like making me dinner and patting my head and yelling at me and praising me and throwing me around...

and drying your tears. All those things.

Tramps like us reminded me of ?????????? 1 Ookami Shoujo to Kuro Ouji 1 except this time around I stuck long enough to fall in love with the plot. {As you can see it earned 5 stars rather than the 2 stars Oookami ungratefully squeezed out.}

The story focuses on Sumire, a hard-working, determined career woman who has climbed the ladder with her talent and quick brains. However, the patriarchal society she lives in constantly judges her and assumes it's all because she was born "with it". Hence, they are quick to judge, gossip and criticize aspects of her life which she has no control over- igniting sympathy towards Sumire early on, but this chick needs none of it! .. and that's why I love her.

Sumire is a strong, witty woman who doesn't follow shallow wimps and orders. She can stand up for herself and fight back, but this doesn't make her a stone cold person devoid of emotions. No, she has as much heart as we all do. Thus, when a homeless beaten up kid ends up in front of her apartment she takes him in - sorta as a joke and sorta cause she cares. In return, this guy has to be her "pet" and is thence forth, named "Momo" {after her childhood pet dog}.

When she says "pet" she doesn't mean it in a sexual sense, rather as someone who will stay loyal to her and comfort her when she's had a particularly stressful day and unlike ?????????? 1 Ookami Shoujo to Kuro Ouji 1 , where Sata treats Erika in a disgusting dog like manner {no matter, how much she lied and how romantic it seemed or how much of a sadist he was.. It was wrong because it sent across a horrible message}.

Sumire and Momo, who happens to be a classical/modern dancer, benefit from living together- they can count on one another to brighten up the day especially Momo, with his cute antics and quirky energetic nature. **Eventually, their loyalty and friendship deepens into something even more riskier which is when all the charades have to end.**

Sylwia (Wish Fulfillment) says

I originally read this when I was very young and I considered this my favorite manga for most of my life.

2017 Re-Read: 5 stars.

What Stood the Test of Time:

- I was expecting this re-read to be disappointing. Our heroine is very fake at work and to her new boyfriend, and she has ridiculous standards for what she's looking for in a partner. I thought that this would be too toxic

to re-read. I'm pleasantly surprised that the narrative makes it clear that her ideals and her behaviors are unhealthy. Even she wishes that she could stop pretending and the narrative shows her becoming increasingly tired the more fake she is. So these toxic ideals are just the setup for conflict and plot, and therefore we can expect that as she grows, she'll become less fake and measured.

- I was also worried that the premise would be too jarring, but the author sets up the premise (a successful career woman allows a younger man to move in with her under the rule that he'll be her "pet", but not in the BDSM fashion), but re-reading this I realize that everything happened organically between these two characters in the beginning, and our heroine's internal conflicts make her exactly the kind of person for whom this kind of plot makes sense.

- I still adore this art style and all of the characters.

- I really love that Sumire told her best friend the truth about what is happening, without hesitation.

What I Disliked:

- There's a little bit of instalove on the point of Momo/Takeshi. I would have preferred to be convinced that he's falling in love and shown how and when and why.

- Sumire was in the right for punching her boss for sexually harassing her so I hate that she took half of the blame for it by stating that she was upset from her recent breakup. Your boss coming onto you is never okay. I understand her being demoted for punching him, but I would have preferred the author not to put any blame onto Sumire.

KimberlyRose says

Review and rating for entire series (14 volumes)

A rare josei gem! I enjoyed every chapter of this amazingly well-spun tale. It is real, heart-warming, and unique! Older woman meets younger man. Both have much to learn from each other. Even the secondary characters are developed with care and detail, with complete personalities, motivations, desires, etc.

The psychology is wonderfully insightful and each character's development alone and together is like a beautifully flowering blossom. (And don't forget a lovely dose of realistic angst!) What a relief to find a long josei series I can fall in love with!

My complaints are a mere two wee squeak: Why can't josei titles have sex scenes (especially when the build up involves INCREDIBLE, SLOWLY BURNING intensity!) that are as explicit as an intense sex scene in a well-done BL? And the English license title is HORRIBLE. *My Pet Momo* or *You Are My Pet?* Sensational!

Lee says

oh no! I can relate with this better than the lovey dovey teeny story *Kimi no Todoke*!

oh no! I already can relate to josei manga!!

soon enough I'm gonna have wrinkles !!

argh! aargh!!

anyway, pass my adult-phobia aside for a while.

ahem

at first I interested to this just because the artwork. Simple with strong strokes. It turns out the story is good as well. The insecurity of Sumire that becomes the base of the plot is well developed. This manga also touch the social issue about Japanese women status in society.

It's highly recommended manga, although the changing PoV between Sumire and Momo sometimes can be confusing.

Deb says

About a 27-year-old office lady who has it all together on the surface but is falling apart underneath. One night she kicks a cardboard box in front of her condo and finds a teenage boy sleeping in it; she takes him home and cleans him up, only to find that he's quite content to stay put--and she's not quite heartless enough to kick him out. She ends up letting him stay...as a pet! A few people find out, but she lets her boyfriend think she owns a dog. Oh what a tangled web these mortals weave...

This sub-genre of manga, josei, has been growing on me ever since I picked up the first volume of *Suppli* Volume 1. I wish there were more English translations, like there are for the shojo sub-genre. Josei readership should pick up as shojo readers grow older and demand something else besides high school romance in their comics; I'm just impatient because shojo and josei are the only comic sub-genres I know of that are targeted at females and I want more.

(p.s.--I have the whole series, or will once the last book arrives, so you can borrow them in a few days)

K.N. says

This series. *This effing series*. I loved this series *so* much and it ruined all traditional, straight-forward, boring romances for me for the rest of my life.

This was the first manga I read that I thought, "This is a real story. This is something special. This transcends the flaws of this medium and makes something unique and beautiful."

Okay, so it's cute and funny and the story-line sounds a little wacky, which it is, but I promise you that it's a fantastic story. The growth that the protagonist, Sumire, goes through feels authentic and uplifting. The master-pet, older woman-younger man, introvert-extrovert elements of the story gave it that extra special sparkle that made this manga different and fun. It deserved to have both the television drama and the film adaptations, but, sadly, both failed to do this series justice. The end of this series is absolutely fantastic, but neither the television series or film translated it verbatim (too risque for Japanese and Korean audiences) which was such a shame because it ended so positively.

I can't state enough how much I loved this series.

Anne Freya says

Tramps Like Us/Kimi wa Pet/You're My Pet. Akhirnya kubaca juga josei jadul yg populer bgt ini. Kutunda-tunda bacanya karena ga gitu selera liat artwork di cover-nya. Tapi akhirnya aku coba baca karena banyak yg bilang bagus, apalagi komik ini menang award, dan sudah diadaptasi ke drama Jepang dan film Korea, so pastinya bagus kan? Dan ternyata memang BAGUS dan LUCU. *tengah malam terkikik-kikik krn berusaha menahan ledakan tawa*

Aku suka dengan komedi romantis seperti ini, kalo lagi ga pengen baca yg plotnya super dramatis dan opera sabun, haha. Dan Momoooooo, duh he's such a cutie pie! XDD I want a pet like him, lol. Ada satu adegan yg keliatan sepele tapi bikin aku iri abis sama Sumire, yaitu waktu Momo bersihin riasan muka Sumire yg langsung ketiduran. Mungkin sepele ya, tapi kadang hal2 kecil yg penuh perhatian seperti ini yg kita dambakan dari seorang pria, bukan hadiah2 mahal atau bunga. Aku sebal ketika Hasumi, cowoknya Sumire berpikir untuk menghujani Sumire hadiah2 mahal supaya Sumire ga bad mood.

Sumire ini adalah tipe cewek yg tangguh di luar, tapi rapuh di dalam. Saking tangguhnya dia, bahkan kekasihnya pun pikir dia cewek yg kuat, pintar, cantik, dan bisa diandalkan. Padahal Sumire itu juga cuma cewek biasa, suka nonton anime, bebas riasan saat di rumah, sukanya yg kawaii, bkn tipe cewek cool dan kejam dan elegan seperti dugaan rekan2 kerjanya, dan cuma Momo yg tau itu. Karena cuma di depan Momo dia bisa jadi diri sendiri. Tapi, Sumire tidak menganggap Momo lebih dari sekedar peliharaan yg cute *lol, please no negative thinking ya*, walaupun Momo diam-diam mendambakan statusnya naik level jadi "manusia" dan "pria" di mata Sumire, lol.

Jadi pet and master di sini murni seperti doggy and tuannya loh. Sumire menawarkan rumah dan makanan untuk Momo, Momo sebagai penghilang stress bagi Sumire dengan segala keimutannya, hahaha. So, no sex or romantic feeling involved, at least for now, hihahi.

Karena Sumire ini sudah kapok diselingkuhi mantannya yg merasa inferior ketimbang Sumire, Sumire akhirnya menargetkan bahwa cowok berikutnya itu haruslah lebih tinggi darinya dan punya jabatan yg lebih tinggi darinya, supaya tidak lagi merasa 'kebanting' oleh Sumire si wanita karir yg mandiri yg tinggi langsung dan cantik ini. Maka, saat Hasumi, salah satu mantannya (note: bkn mantan yg selingkuhi dia) itu kembali menawarkan cintanya pada Sumire, tanpa pikir panjang Sumire pun langsung jadian dengan Hasumi, sambil tetap merahasiakan soal Momo. Tapi lama-lama Sumire pun mulai lelah juga sama Hasumi karena tidak bebas jadi dirinya sendiri. Dia takut ditinggalkan jika Hasumi tahu dirinya yg asli seperti apa, apalagi ditambah adanya Momo. Btw, plot seperti ini bikin aku teringat sama josei manga Hotaru no Hikari/Hotaru's Light.

Sebenarnya nama Momo ini adalah nama anjing Sumire yg sudah mati. Nama asli Momo adalah Gouda Takeshi (nama aslinya Jaian di Doraemon, lol), dan dia adalah modern ballet dancer yg berbakat. Dengan wajah yg cute, rambut ikal lembut dan tingginya 164 cm itu (lebih pendek dari Sumire), Momo ga punya harapan masuk daftar cowok idaman Sumire sama sekali. Tapi Momo secara perlahan mulai melancarkan serangannya supaya Sumire makin tergantung padanya dan takkan mengusir Momo dari rumahnya dan mungkin suatu saat Sumire akan jatuh cinta padanya. *serigala berbulu domba nih sbnrnya si Momo ini, lol* Yah, mungkin bukan hal yg mustahil ya, soalnya Sumire memang makin tergantung pada Momo sebagai penghilang stress. Sewaktu lagi stress berat di kantornya, Sumire yg ingin mengelus2 rambut Momo itu akhirnya mengelus2 kemoceng sebagai gantinya, LOL. Sumire juga paling suka nyampoin rambut Momo kalo dia lagi stres. *hair fetish nih kayanya, hahaha*

Anyway, aku jadi pengen nonton drama dan filmnya nih. XD Untuk cast Sumire dan Momo, aku lebih suka

yg versi Jepang yaitu Koyuki dan Matsumoto Jun, pas banget image-nya. Koyuki itu memang sesuai bgt sebagai Sumire dan Jun, oh Junnnn, kaya dilahirkan buat jadi Momo deh. Kalo cast yg versi Korea tuh Kim Ha Neul sebagai Sumire dan Jang Geun Suk sebagai Momo. Geun Suk memang cocok juga jadi Momo, tapi karena dia lebih tinggi dari Ha Neul kok rasanya jadi 'kurang' aja poinnya, hahaha. Jangan salah, aku juga fansnya Geun Suk loh, tapi memang untuk Momo itu lebih pas si Jun aja. ;p

Ha Neul sih menurutku memang kharismatik juga, tapi kurang tinggi dan kurang elegan? Dan untuk Hasumi, yg versi Jepang kok jelek sih, padahal Hasumi tuh di komik ya cowoknya ganteng bgt dan tinggi sekali. Hasumi versi Korea sih lebih mending, tapi kesan yg kudapat sih cuma cool aja, not handsome, sorry. Nah, versi Jepang itu rilisnya tahun 2003 dan ada 10 episode. Sedangkan versi Korea dalam bentuk film dan rilis tahun 2011.

Anuin says

A very good manga, it has one of the most interesting plots of josei manga I have read thus far. I did not like the actually store as much as other Josei manga I think for the time spent on them actually being a couple was a little short to me I would like to have seen more, but honestly its rare for any manga to give me the amount of time after the confessions that I like haha. Still very good.

Teetee says

This is a great series, surprised me when I picked it up, was better than I thought. Its a story of an older gal who falls for a younger man and the struggles to balance their life dealing with her career and dating someone with the age gap. Really enjoyed it and held onto it for a long time but finally decided to sell in Dec 2017. The last volume is my favorite, great HEA!

Monique says

It only goes to show that when a woman pursues her career, she can't pursue marriage

Sumire is a hardworking, attractive, capable woman who must live with sexist societal expectations on all fronts. Her boyfriend dumps her because she is 'too intelligent' and women at work treat her badly because she's 'too talented' so she 'deserves what she gets'.

Ogawa does a wonderful job addressing everyday sexism in the workplace to juxtapose Sumire's warm and accepting home life with the strange young man she found sleeping outside her condo.

Tramps Like Us is a rather poor title to give this series, as it fails to capture the personality of Ogawa's work. Kimi wa Petto (You Are My Pet), the original title, better convoys the playfulness that is present throughout the story.

Sumire allows the strange young man to stay if he agrees to be her pet. It sounds wrong, until you realize that it's not a sexual thing or a dominance thing, it's Sumire giving this stranger a non-threatening identity. He is 'Momo', accepting and sweet. Around him she can be herself. And while he agrees to take on this supportive role it's clear he has deeper feelings for her.

Sumire uses Momo as a stabilizing, companion figure in her life but Momo hopes to slowly get her to see him not as a companion, but as a man.

The story is strange and enduring. Perhaps it's not for everyone but it hits all the right notes for me. I really enjoy it and look forward to re-reading the entire series.

Ebony says

At the risk of sounding like a teenager (I am not) I love this Manga series. It deserves every star. Five stars all the way. I have read this series again and again finding new enjoyment every time. What I really love about is manga is that the plot is unrealistic but Ogawa makes it seem so real and doable not cheesy, weak, sleazy, and childish. I would recommend this manga to all women in their 20s who put on a strong front but feel weak inside(just about us all right?).

Seregil says

This is one of my favorite manga. I reread it every once in a while :) The characters are amazing and I love how they interact and make each other grow. It's also just the right combination of comedy, slice of life and romance with a touch of feminism.

If you like it check out the jdrama too.
