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K-ON!, Vol. 1



Synopsis

When their high school's pop-music club is about to be disbanded due to lack of interest, four girls step up to fill the membership quota. Unfortunately, lead guitarist Yui Hirasawa has never played an instrument in her life. Ever. And although she likes the idea of being in a band, standing in front of the mirror posing with her guitar is a lot easier than actually playing it. It's gonna be a while before this motley crew is rocking out, but with their spunk and determination cranked to 11, anything is possible!

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Customer Reviews

This quick review is for those that already watched the Anime version and want to read the manga in english. The manga covers the first eight episodes of the show, but right before Azusa is introduce. The translation is very well done which is a great start. The characters are called or refer to as in their original japanese counterpart or as close to. For example, the characters will be refer to as "Sensei" "Onee-Chan" "Nodoka-Chan" and nicknames such as "Rit-Chan" and "Sawa-Chan." The Original Japanese symbols are present during character expressions and for sound effects along with the translation next to it. At the end of the manga there is a quick music 101 theory on how to read notes. There is also a small glossary that tells the meaning of each character's name and where the names came from. There is also a reference guide to some of the cameos and objects that appear as you read along. The original format of the manga is retain which shouldn't be a surprise. There are also full color panels for each chapter which is real nice, and a bonus comic at

the end and a guest comic strip. Overall this is a must have for fans as the english version is faithfully produce as close as the original japanese version.

After having imported and watched the anime, it's nice to see the manga that started it all. This is effectively equivalent to the first 8 episodes or so of the series, with few changes; Mugi is a little more shamelessly into the pairing of her fellow bandmates, we get a little more fanservice, and a lot less filler. So, is this good? Certainly. It's a wonderful distillation for fans of the show. As much as I like it, however, it's not sufficiently spectacular to merit five stars; it is an interesting, amusing comedic 4-panel manga, but without my appreciation of the anime, I'm not sure I would find it as compelling. That all being said, it's still recommended.

Very well. K-On...well, there's this club. In Japan, they call it the "light music club"...here, it's the "pop music club". There's only four members...and one of them doesn't really get how to play music. So that's the basics of it. To be more in-depth, K-On is a manga about a group of girls who join a club to prevent its closure. But with only three members, they're unable to maintain their status. To make up for this, they rope in Yui Hirasawa. She's not the brightest bulb and a bit on the clumsy side, but they get her a guitar and off they go. The manga documents their activities together. Before I read the manga, I had already watched the anime. The whole thing is very light-hearted and not that plot-focused. If you're going to understand K-On!, you have to be aware that this is not the sort of thing you read to see the story go anywhere. Each chapter is self-contained and there is no overarching storyline. K-On!'s main strength is it's strong characterization. Those who enjoy K-On! to its fullest are the ones who get attached to the characters. Once you get in the proper mindset, K-On! is a funny and cute series that really pulls the reader into its world. It exemplifies the concept of "feel good". Unless you're trying to be a grump, by the end you will feel cheery. K-On! is probably my favorite Japanese franchise in years. The author (kakifly) has a strong talent for characterization. This is not a story about conflict and resolution, it's a slice-of-life. That said, I don't think I've read anything that does the genre better.

I've been a big fan of the anime for a few years and own both all of the blu ray and most of the dvd releases state side of the series. I finally broke down and bought the manga I had been eyeing for a while. The manga is released by Yen press who, in my opinion, has done an OUTSTANDING job of the release. They have less pages then I'm used to BUT the size of the book and the quality of the paper/color is definitely worth it. It's rare to find manga releases with such white, crisp paper, even

rarer to find them with all the color pages intact from the original Japanese release. The only time I've ever seen a release on par with this is the Dark Horse Card Captor Sakura omnibuses. As many of reviews have said that this a four panel comic, very slice of life and no real overarching storylines. The anime follows it fairly close and still is a wonderful story to read. This is one of those series and books I'd give to a child or someone fairly inexperienced with reading manga. It's much like Azu Manga Daioh in both silliness and sorta plot. It's about a bunch of high school girls going through high school (sounds like azu manga daioh right?) but with the added fact that they all join a club called K-on which is translated as the pop-music club (in the anime bandai/sentai translated it as the LIGHT music club, not much of a change). One of the girls has no real experience with playing instruments or music in general and she's an airhead for the most part but it's a wonderful read to watch said girl go from an airhead that really doesn't know what to do with her life to realizing she enjoys this and actually ends up pretty good. If you like Azu Manga Daioh or slice of life manga I couldn't recommend this release enough. ALSO Yen has picked up the rights to the two spin off mangas of K-on so we'll get to see them go to college and what the other members do in high school.

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