



Backstage Prince, Vol. 1

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Drawn into the exciting world of kabuki theatre, young Akari spends her time after school assisting the internationally famous actor, Shonosuke Ichimura. In the real world, however, this prince of kabuki is actually a high school cutie by the name of Ryusei.

Akari is totally clueless about kabuki--and boys--but she's eager to learn about both. Her first encounter with Ryusei doesn't go very well, but with the help of a cat named Mr. Ken, the two teenagers quickly become prince AND princesses of kabuki. Love was never so dramatic!

Backstage Prince, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Kanoko Sakurakouji (??????)

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From Reader Review Backstage Prince, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Oh Shoujo manga, how I like some of your series and some not but at the same time, its fun reading this genre. Yes the story sounds familiar and yeah it has some cliches here and there. But still I found this to be okay but has its moments. The art was good. Same art style reminded me of Black Bird (same artist). Good volume.

Jaylee says

I have mixed feelings about this. Elements of it were precious and made my heart happy. But overall it's just drama for no reason. Most of the couple's issues could be fixed by communicating, and honestly the main guy is kind of abusive? He yells at her a lot and pulls her around physically - both of which are shown in the manga to cause her stress/pain? And she's "the only person he turns to when he's stressed" or whatever... it's kinda creepy? Like idk, the relationship is not entirely healthy and it mixes with the happy parts to make me feel kinda meh about it.

The last bonus comic about how he met and adopted his cat, though.... WAHHH ALL MY HEART FEELS.

Mayu says

De Kanoko me gusta su serie Black bird, por eso quise leer este tomo, Príncipe secreto. Pero no me esperaba que esta historia pudiera ser tan sosa, aburrida, boba. Me costó muchísimo leer este tomo, es más, estuve a punto de dejarlo a medias.

Y bueno, recuerdo que él era un mago importante, ella su asistente, y había un gato de por medio. Entre la pareja protagonista no había química ninguna, menos sensualidad o romanticismo. Los personajes no me transmitieron nada, solo fueron dos adolescentes de instituto trabajando en la magia. Incluso la forma de vender ese mundo de retos, secretos y trucos de magia fue de lo más aburrida.

Una pena que Kanoko hubiera creado esto pudiendo darle más vidilla a una historia gris y sin chispa. ¿Dónde se dejó la creatividad, la sensualidad y el romanticismo de Black Bird? Sin duda en Príncipe oculto no se lució nada.

Skye (Skye's Scribblings) says

Find this review and many more at Skye's Scribblings!

This is a review of the entire 2-volume series. I have posted it for both volumes.

Genre: Young Adult Contemporary Romance

Rated: Teen (minor sensuality)

Format Read: Paperbacks (purchased)

Why I Read It: I followed the series when it was serialized in the Shoji Beat magazines years ago, and when it came to my attention again this year I couldn't help but purchase the volumes for my collection.

Story: Since there are only two volumes, it's a simple plot - average girl falls for and is loved by famous, unsocial boy, but the prestigious family and public do not approve and cause uncertainty and angst for the relationship at every turn. Each of the seven chapters encompasses a story of resistance and perseverance of their love - after much drama, of course. While a common storyline, setting it in the world of kabuki added an original flavor, although we really only skim the surface on the subject as our viewpoint character Akari doesn't understand any of kabuki and tends to fall asleep during performances. Ah well.

Characters: Akari was highly insecure both about herself and her relationship with Ryusei, and it could get a little annoying at times. As I said before though, it was necessary for the drama, and thankfully it didn't last long. She was otherwise very strong and very good for Ryusei, and even though everyone else seemed to think she wouldn't fit in with the kabuki world, she totally did.

Ryusei was needy and possessive, which is apparently how Sakurakouji-sama likes her boys (see also Kyo from her award-winning *Black Bird* series). It worked well with this story though, and insecure Akari found it amusing instead of smothering so everything worked out. His antisocial personality made for an interesting twist, and I wish we could've delved a little into the reason behind it.

Romantic Relationship: While an absurdly immediate case of instalove, one has to take into account that it is only a 2-volume series. The "I love you"s had to be exchanged almost immediately so the drama could get to pulling them apart. Akari's insecurity and Ryusei's neediness were a little on the extreme side, but hers moved the drama and his the resolution so it worked.

Art & Setting: The characters have soft features and are on the pretty side of beautiful, which makes them more realistic and relatable. The backgrounds are mostly simple backdrops with the occasional detailed shots that are quite impressive and almost feel more like photos. It definitely had the feeling of a play that the story was going for.

Conclusion: A short, quick and sweet story that I enjoyed in the Shoji Beat magazines and shall continue to enjoy in the volumes.

Read It Again?: Many times more

For Fans Of: Sakurakouji's other series, *Black Bird*

Megan M says

With nothing new or original to add to the genre, this book is just... fluff. The pacing is awkward, with the main couple "falling in love" in the space of about 30 pages. The drama is fake - whine whine whine, my boyfriend is so popular and other girls like him whine. And Ryusei Horiuchi is an ASS. His excuse is that he hates people - well, I can see why people hate him back. He is always glaring and playing judge to

everyone else in the manga. He is controlling and overly involved, especially towards his assistant/girlfriend, Akari.

Overall, just poor storytelling and med artwork.

Teetee says

Short but good series.

Nor Kaidah says

I think this story will be a good romance story

Theresa ? says

So I finished this book this morning . . . and this is what my face looked like.

BOTH of their faces!!! One face was all dead-like because yup. Another typical and cliché SHOUJO MANGA. (Don't tell me there's clichés in beautiful things like manga, too!)
This romance ZOOMED PAST at light speed. Something like that can't be realistic, right?

The other face is tearing up because...okay, those of you who read my reviews know very well that I

DESPISE CLICHES.

I do, with this huge, huge passion! What do we learn from them?! AND WHAT'S ORIGINAL ABOUT THEM?! CLICHES ARE LIKE COPYING OTHER PEOPLE'S IDEAS AND CLAIMING THEM AS YOUR OWN! That's CHEATING!!!!!!!
(Whoa, calm down Theresa...)

Anyway, I know. I shouldn't be freaking out over just a review. But seriously, come on. Romance doesn't happen that fast.

My darlings, let me show you exactly why this very book is a cliché cliché.

1. SUPER HOT GUY.

Why does the guy have to be super hot? Huh?

Well, I guess the story does express that some hot guys are jerks because they think they're the fo-shizzle.

And a lot of girls don't trust hot guys because they think that hot guys are jerks because they usually are. But you shouldn't judge someone's looks because they might be hot and seem jerky on the outside, but on the inside, they're cuddly teddy bears.

OOOOOHHHHKAY, so the hot guy is okay in this case. BUT NOT IN OTHER CASES.

Like for example, a very hot guy falling for a very hot girl. (Or vise versa.)

THAT WILL JUST MAKE PEOPLE THINK THAT HOT PEOPLE WILL ONLY FALL FOR OTHER HOT PEOPLE, or that only hot people can fall or be fallen for.

And this, my darlings, is

NOOOOOT. TRUUUUUUUUUE!

Romancey love can happen to anybody, okay? Somehow, in someway. THERE ARE A TRILLION POSSIBILITIES.

Anyway...

2. This romance went by VERY. VERY. VERY FAST.

I don't know. The two meet.

And then there's that minor drama you get.

And then all of a sudden

BOOM.

Boyfriend and girlfriend.

I don't know, there was something curious about this story. I mean, some of it, I really do like.

Akari sees.....I forgot his name. Ichi.....something. Let's call him Ichi.

She sees him, and he glares at her because he doesn't like people, but of course he keeps it to himself because...mysterious, secretive anime guys are cool.

And she's like.....oh. Awkward.

And her friends are like, TSK! GIRLFRIEND! That guys a jerk! (When they were JUST swooning over him.)

THEN she goes into a kabuki club and sees him. And she learns more about him, who he REALLY IS.

And Ichi notices that Akari isn't like other girls. She's different from other girls. She doesn't go, "Oh-em-GEEZAY! WHAT A JERK!" when he glares.

And she takes his fits and his irritation with a smile. She doesn't take things totally seriously like a lot of girls do.

And that's how he feels that she's...something he needs.

THIS PART OF THE STORY IS WHAT I LIKE.

I gotta tell you guys a story really quick....that I sorta told in some of my other reviewy reviews, but here it goes.

Once upon a time, one of my friends told me about her ex-boyfriend because I asked her about them. I didn't know they broke up.

"It's okay," she said. "I'm the one who broke up with him. He always found something to be upset about. He could never be happy. URRRRGH, it was just so irritating."

And yeah, I kind of understand that. I mean, if you're a happy person, and you want to be around somebody who's also happy, but that person is always down about something, it brings you down too! Sadness is contagious, you know!

But...then I started thinking...What a poor guy.

He just needs someone that will make him happy when he's upset, or who will comfort him instead of backing away!

I thought I could help, maybe. NOOO, I wasn't trying to snag the guy for myself! Trust me, he kind of looked scary at times. His mutual face was a glare, and he was this sorta huge guy. He did look like a really scary dude that people wouldn't want to mess with.

He was just...that one quiet guy that just sat in the corner and looked at everyone who glanced at him like this:

But, I got the blallals to march right up to him from behind and say, "HEY! DUDE! Are you okay?"

I say that to a lot of my friends that have broken up with someone. They either seem okay with it, or they seem down. But I try to perk them up! Let them know if there's anything I can do!

He looked at me like..."Who is this crazy, little, Asian chick?" but he didn't say that out loud. (He didn't have to.)

But he said, "I'm fine."

"Really?"

"Yes."

"Do you promise?"

"I promise."

I kept doing that to him a couple of times. I thought it was probably starting to annoy him.

But then...about a week later, the day came when he asked me for my phone number.

And THEN we started talking. And I got to know the guy better.

And then I started thinking about what my friend said about this guy and I realized....

SHE WAS ABSOLUTELY RIGHT!!!!!!

He did sort of find things to be upset about. He was always doubting me and saying, "Theresa....you're going

to be just like everyone else. You're going to forget about me, or get upset with me somehow, or get annoyed at my depressingness.....Theresa.....you should just leave now before you hurt my SOUL...."
I'd always get super annoyed, and say, "YOU KNOW WHAT, YOU PUNK?!?!?! I'm NOT going to abandon you! I'm going to stick with you RIGHT TO THE END! Don't worry, I'm here for you!"
And then he'd respond with, "Okay." With the dot-dot curve smiley face. :) As if nothing even happened.

GAAAAAAAAAAAAAH. That guy.

But I realized why he kept talking to me. He never really talked to anyone else. He was always that depressed guy sitting in the corner with nothing to say.

He said no one ever really tried to talk to him, or care about him. Especially a stranger. And I was just that one really weird girl that appeared one day and asked him if he was okay, when I didn't really even know him.

And besides, his smile looks a lot better than his glare. And it feels absolutely AWESOME when I'm the one making him smile.

And we're still smiling together, right now. ^_^

So yeah. I understand what this story is, and I understand Ichi's situation, and Akari's situation.

And then the adorable thing about this story is...Akari didn't want to give up on Ichi when he made her upset. Because love will survive through anything that the world will throw at it! That was absolutely MOVING! FIST POUNDING! HEART CLENCHING!

Hunh. Now that I think about it...This book is not as bad as I thought it was.
I guess the only bad thing about it was

3. WHY DID THE ROMANCE GO BY SO FAST?!?!?!?!?

She suddenly realized she loved him.

He suddenly realized he loved her.

WHAT HAPPENED?! What the heck?! Love doesn't happen that fast!

Maybe the author is like me, and wanted to hurry and get to the romantic parts. (I'm writing a story and I really can't wait until I get these two characters to kiss....URGH. It's torture. I want to write a kissing scene SOOOOOO BAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAD, so it's tough making a romance that takes a long long long time for the two characters to realize their true feelings for each other!)

But yeah. I've always thought that love stories had to be REALISTIC in order to teach someone something. Or at least, part of it has to.

I mean, Twilight was NOWHERE NEAR being realistic. And it taught me only one thing:
Vampires are only vicious when they're not able to sparkle.

SPARKLING VAMPIRES?! Those aren't scary! Come on! (Why...do I always rant...about Twilight in reviews for books that don't have anything to do with it?!)

Anyway, if you don't mind such a fast and quick romance, where (view spoiler), please...come and welcome

yourself into this book.

As for me, it just feels like the whole story for me was in one book, so continuing this series? I'll have to think about it.

THREE SPARKLY SPARKLY STARS.

Courtney says

High school student Akari's story starts when she accidentally slams her book bag (giant hardcover dictionary inside) into the stomach of one of the hottest guys in her school. Her victim, Ryusei (better known as Shonosuke Ichimura) is a famous kabuki actor. Feeling guilty about the situation, she winds up working as his assistant until he recovers, despite knowing nothing about Kabuki.

This is a cute little romance. Akari and Ryusei are opposites, personality wise. Akari is very cheerful and friendly, and Ryusei is grumpy and dislikes people (other than Akari, and his cat).

I think the romance is believably done - it's not insta-love, the characters get to know each other for a while before getting together. The characters don't get together until after Ryusei's healed from the giant bruise Akari gave him, which I'd think would take a while.

Dana Mohamad says

Extremely fast-paced for a manga.

Amanda McCoy says

Great manga, the characters were believable and it gave an interesting little peek into the world of Kabuki. Actually after reading this manga I started watching Kabuki and now I'm a huge fan! I just wish this series was a bit longer.

Starbubbles says

I enjoyed this moderately. I would be lying if I didn't say that I expected a little more. More humor, or romance, or sparkle... I'm not so sure as to what, but somewhere and at times, it was lacking. While I don't expect manga to add something to their respective genre, or always be thought provoking, it reminded me of marshmallows. It was fluffy and sugary, but eat too much and you'll get sick. It's a shame I don't like marshmallows outside of smores and rice krispies.

Anyway-

I got through the first chapter and was confused when the next chapter wasn't book 2. haha! Since when does

shojo have the relationship start on like the second page?! I think it would have been better as a flashback. That way the focus could have been rightfully placed on their struggles as a couple and not how they became a couple (as what you would expect in a normal shojo). That would have made it a standout without changing much. I can't think of too many that not only focus on making a relationship work, but start in one.

I felt that grump-pants Ryusei was more relatable than what would be expected from his character type. I have run into more than my fair share of people who claim to hate people and/or have an extreme inability to state what they actually mean. It's called working in service. geez, will I ever escape? I can also understand trying to keep people away because it's easier. I didn't interpret his antisocial behavior as so much hatred as it was a defense mechanism.

I was also disappointed to learn that much of what was being portrayed for kabuki was not all that accurate. I'm not saying liberties cannot be taken. Of course liberties can be taken, this is a fictional work. But Sakurakouji gave the impression that it wasn't researched, or at the very least, not well. If that was the case, then someone like me could have done the same job. I know of its existence. I can look up names and famous stories. If only I could tell a story, or was able to draw. So, maybe I couldn't do it. Forget I said anything.

Side-note:

Doesn't Sakurakouji draw sexy guys in kimonos? Normally I wouldn't think so, but yay!

Macy says

Review of first volume only

So I've seen the cover of this manga for years, and I thought it would be good.

Basically, Akari, an average-looking high school girl, falls for this overly-handsome kabuki actor. They start dating, of course. The plot is pretty standard for shojo manga. I thought him being a kabuki actor would be more interesting...however the author never really elaborates on his job.

Art: 5

The art was cute and pretty normal for a shojo. Nothing really special seems to go into it. The author never puts much detail into the backgrounds either.

Storyline: 5

Again, the story was like any other shojo. The author did try to make it a bit more interesting with the whole kabuki thing, but fails in the process.

Characters: 6

The main couple, Akari and Ryusei, are adorable despite coming together a bit too fast. I can't hate them, even though they are full of cliches. Ryusei being the hot and brooding hero, who has no interest in girls, except Akari. The heroine being completely average from looks to grades. The other supporting characters aren't really developed, and are also just cliches.

Overall: Average just like it's heroine

The series doesn't seem bad *yet*. It has some potential though I doubt it'll get any better. The series is only

two volumes after all.

So if you're a fan of shojo manga, give it a try.

Miss Ryoko says

Meh... the library doesn't have the second volume so I won't know how it truly ends, but I'm sure it's annoying. Akari is a super obnoxious female character. I don't know how Ryusei can stand her hot and cold behavior ("oh I love you! But wait, I'm not good for you! *runs away*) UUUUUGGGHHH!!!!!!!!!!!!!! And how many times is she going to talk about how their time spent backstage is their little secret? Okay, I got it the first 40 times you said it. Ugh

I like the general premise of the storyline... if the female lead wasn't super Bella Swan and annoying, it would have been better.

Brittany says

This book got me hooked on manga, and for that I owe it everything.
