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Shy Ayu Tateishi has just made a new friend at school. But this new friend, much to her surprise, is no ordinary classmate. Nina Sakura may look like a normal middle school girl, but she's got a big secret.

She's a witch.

Or, rather, she's studying to be a witch. And, apparently, she's not doing her homework. Her spells are devastating in their ineffectiveness and often result in the most embarrassing situations for poor Ayu.

But things wouldn't be so bad if Nina's sorcery didn't make Ayu look silly in front of the one boy she secretly adores. All she wants is a simple love potion. What she gets, however, is a new best friend who almost flunked out of witch school!

Ultra Maniac, Vol. 01 Details

Date : Published July 5th 2005 by VIZ Media LLC (first published 2001)

ISBN : 9781591169178

Author : Wataru Yoshizumi

Format : Paperback 184 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Fantasy, Graphic Novels, Romance, Young Adult, Shojo

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From Reader Review Ultra Maniac, Vol. 01 for online ebook

Sesana says

What drew me to Ultra Maniac was the art. It's really very cute. The plot is sort of silly, and fun. Nina is a (not very good) witch who wants to help her new friend Ayu with her magic. And hijinks ensue. It's light, silly, and fun, and the romance is very much on the backburner compared to the friendship between Ayu and Nina. Nina is an especially fun character to read, and I thought that her system of magic was interesting, even if it does need a little more explanation in later volumes. I'll keep reading for the fluffy fun of it.

Lottie Eve says

This is a review on the entire series

I have read this manga a long time ago but it was so awesome I decided to review it. I love magical girl manga as they almost always promise to be cute and fun reads. Ultra Maniac did not disappoint! This manga was cute, funny, and quick read that I enjoyed very, very much.

The characters are all very cute, funny, and unique. They all had their own funny personalities. Nina and Ayu were really fun to read about and Nina's magical mishaps and the situations she got the two girls in were hilarious and sometimes just strange. I love the contrasting personalities of Ayu and Nina. Nina is more carefree awhile Ayu is shy and cares about how she appears. The two boys in the manga were good characters and had their own flaws as well. I really enjoyed reading about the growing relationship between the characters throughout the story.

The story was very silly and cute. Ultra Maniac focuses mainly on the friendship between Nina and Ayu and the awkward situations Nina gets them into. This was really surprising to me as most shojo manga I have read is mostly about the relationship between the boy and the girl. There are boyfriends involved still and the way the relationships were done were pretty darn good! I loved how the manga did not have a love triangle like most shojo manga I read and focuses more on the relationship between one boy and girl. The couples were all cute and pretty perfect(although not perfectly perfect).

The art was amazing. The art was not as cutesy as I expected for a shojo but it is still detailed and cute. I was surprised about how different the characters looked from each other as I am used to struggling finding out who is who in a shojo. They all had their own distinct character design and I could recognize the characters easily.

Ultra Maniac was a very enjoyable and cute manga that I would recommend to anyone who likes the magical girl genre.

Rachael Rayburn says

Very cute and fun series. Love the friend/love interest dynamics.

The Unicorn says

After revisiting this series after many years and several read-throughs later (the first being when it was first released in the U.S. in July 2005, and read at least two or three times through before), it still holds up to everything I had wanted in a shojo manga—a visual story about a magical girl being light-hearted, easy-going fun. This is perfect for anyone, especially beginning readers to manga, who wants a female-driven Japanese comic that was not too long (the complete collection contains five issues) or complex.

Lara Mi says

Review for the complete series

Ayu is regarded as the cool girl at school - an image she'd like to maintain. But once she meets the bumbling exchange student Nina, she seems to stumble from one embarrassing incident to the next. Not only is Nina clumsy, but she also turns out to be a witch! One missed spell leads to another and soon Ayu's school life is in chaos.

Ultra Maniac is the only fantasy story this author has written so far. And it's a shame too! This author likes adding some crazy things to her stories which I always find hard to swallow. Adding magic to the story is a simple but clean way to deal with that issue - this was one of her few works where I did not feel as though I had to ignore my disbelief.

Ayu and Nina are both great characters. Nina was particularly cute and the way she always wants to help people is very loveable. I loved how their friendship developed. Ayu was quite stand-offish in the beginning and one can see how she grows to really care about Nina throughout the story - even to the point of giving up something that is dear to her for the sake of her friend.

While the author did a great job with portraying their friendship, I found the romance less convincing. I actually liked that romance took a backseat and that the main focus was on the friendship and magic. Nonetheless, I wish the romance was handled differently. It starts off quite nice and natural - I like how the characters slowly notice each other rather than falling in love too fast. But while the romance was really slow during the first few volumes, it turned fast very suddenly in the final volume. I could see the romance budding, but then it just took off like a rocket and I found it hard to comprehend.

Seeing as the romance was really not the main point, though, I can't complain too much. The magic system was never explored all that much, I think it would have been nice to know a little more about the Magic Kingdom. The comedy is much in the style of Yoshizumi and very enjoyable - the art is also adorable and just nice to look at!

Sharon says

It was cute. There are some parts that make me roll my eyes. Like the suggestion that boys are naturally stronger and faster (really?) and other aspects which are tropes in this genre. (Or at least I've seen them from Watase-sensei.) There is also a sense of not being honest with things, magic as a shortcut and I wonder if they will address that or it's just going to be a comedic bit.

I really like that the leads are girls as friends not fighting over a boy... and kind of wish a boy didn't play into it at all-- but, you know, shoujo. Whatcha gonna do.

(view spoiler)

MC says

Ultra Maniac is a very *fun shoujo* manga that is a tad slow to start but is has a fun enough plot and other good things going for it that this is forgivable.

It's the story of a shy, but beautiful young middle-school girl named Ayu who is head over heels in love with boy named Tetsushi. Because of this, she has remade herself to be the kind of cool girl that she *thinks* he would want. They seem to be getting closer, when a new girl comes to the school and latches onto Ayu as her new best friend.

The girl, Nina, isn't just any old middle-school girl. She is, in fact, part of a magical race of beings, a witch. Think of this as other beings, not a religious thing, or an "in the blood thing. So it's less *Harry Potter* and *Star Wars*, and more *Bewitched* and *Sabrina: The Teenage Witch*. Unfortunately, Nina flunked out of magical school and is attending school in Japan while she tries to learn her sorcery enough to return. To help in this, she has decided to help her new *best friend*, Ayu. Poor Ayu.

No, really. Poor Ayu. Anything wrong imaginable does, in fact, happen. Nina means well, she really does, but every time she tries to help Ayu, chaos results. Unfortunately, Ayu can't seem to separate herself from Nina as Nina is just so naive and kind that Ayu can't bear hurting her. But Nina is making it hard for her to have a chance with Tetsushi, so what can she do?

The series has a tad bit of a slow start in that there is too much time spent the first few chapters on slap-stick and humor as one spell after another intended by Nina to help Ayu just makes Ayu miserable. Only at the very end of the fourth and fifth chapters - the end of the first volume - does the story actually pick up and go somewhere.

So why give this such a high rating? Simple, it is a gorgeous book. The artwork is some of the best I have seen, though the characters look more high school than junior high. The mangaka has stated that this was an ascetic choice to draw them that way. Nonetheless, it is beautiful artwork that somehow is more solid and not the "brush stroke" effect of some other beautifully-drawn manga like *Sailor Moon* or others.

Yet beautifully drawn it is and that is the bonus along with the clever humor and the fact that the plot, even when stalled a bit at first, is intriguing enough. It also helps that Ayu is admirable and Nina is such a nice, sweet person that even when she causes mayhem you just want to hug her and cheer for her.

A fun beginning to this five-volume series.

Tülin says

Ah, when you try your best to help someone, but accidentally make it worse. I reckon I'd have loved this when I was younger. Very cute art style, interesting developing story. Reminds me a bit of Mink, but much better and potentially, darker.

Robin says

One Word Rec.: **BORROW**

Rating: **3 ??**

Yoshizumi, Watasu; **ULTRA MANIAC** [Ultra Maniac]

e/read online; genre: { manga, shoujo }; shelves:

This is a shoujo manga series. I am only placing my actual review for V. 1 & V. 5, as my review sorta covers the entire series. If you have any questions, please feel free to message me.

General Synopsis:

Nina Sakura is a witch. The problem is, she failed at her school in the Magic Kingdom, so she has come to Earth as a transfer student. Soon after transferring, she meets Ayu Tateishi, a fellow 7th grader, who has a crush on Tetsushi Kaji. After their initial meeting, Nina decides she can trust Ayu and reveals to her that she is a witch. As you can imagine, hijinks ensue.

Ultra Maniac is 5 volumes & has an actual conclusion.

Characters:

Ayu Tateishi, the primary female protagonist. Popular, plays tennis & has a crush on Tetsushi

Nina Sakura, the second female protagonist. Witch-in-training

Tetsushi Kaji, the boy Ayu has a crush on

Hiroki Tsujiai, Tetsushi's best friend & (view spoiler)

Yuta Kirishima, a childhood friend of Nina's from Magic Kingdom

Leo, Nina's pet cat, who can also take the form of a young boy

Sayaka Nakamura, (view spoiler)

Mito Kirishima, Yuta's older sister, who becomes a new teacher at their middle school

Personal Opinion:

Well, first off, this **IS** a shoujo manga, so it was cute.

I have to be honest here. Although I enjoy shoujo manga, I find that my individual taste tends to lean more toward the shounen genre. Still, my favorite shoujo series are **Skip Beat!, Vol. 01, Sailor Moon, #1**, & basically **ANYTHING** by **CLAMP**. So I believe my standards are very high when I am judging shoujo

titles. I do hope I have not offended anyone by my rating or my opinion.

When I began this series, I couldn't decide if I wanted to rate it 2 1/2 STARS, or 3. Usually if I think a book is only worth 2 STARS, I tend to drop it if it's a series, but I am reading **Ultra Maniac** in a reading challenge and had decided since there are only 5 volumes, I was going to read the complete series. As I continued the series, I began to become a little more involved and finally decided **Ultra Maniac** deserves to be rated **3 STARS**, which for me means **GOOD, POSSIBLE RE-READ WORTHY = to Buy on DVD**.

I would happily recommend this series to anyone who enjoys shoujo manga. To anyone who wants to something light and easy to breeze through.

Kristen says

Great little series of manga that is rated A for All Ages. About a girl who is a witch and a girl that becomes her friend. There is a lot of mishap spells and a bit of romance. So far, I love the series.

Phoebe Andamo says

The world of cool and calm Ayu was shaken when she met the maniac-like student Nina. She found the portable PC that Nina lost. In exchange, Nina trusted Ayu with her secret. It was the start of their friendship. Nina wanted to help Ayu solve her little problems but it always end up in disasters.

Ultra Maniac has a special place in my heart. It was one of those animés that made me addicted to animé itself *cough**still is**cough*. I was looking for this manga back when the scanlations were limited and not yet popular. I ended up reading a fan-made narration which bore a not really good English translation. I did not know why I searched for this just now.

My favorite anime character, Maya, was not in the manga but it is fine because duh, this is the original. I like both. Since there were many people involve in the process of animation, the characters and plot shifted (e.g. in animé, Nina transferred because she has bad grades in her world, she'll pass in normal school because her magic skills don't need to be graded but in manga, she transferred to train in the human world).

Back to the manga, I love the illustrations of Yoshizumi Wataru. She states in her author's notes that her art improved and got better than her first manga. Unlike other mangakas, she has so many things to say in ample spaces in the chapters. I guess because she has a lot of experiences already.

Brandi says

Wataru Yoshizumi's "Ultra Maniac, Vol. 01" is beautifully illustrated. The protagonists, Ayu and Nina, are both likable and endearing. There is a lot of humour in this volume, which I enjoy, and I hope this carries through to future volumes, which I look forward to reading.

I think fans of the "Pixie Pop" series would probably enjoy this series as well. I know I did, but I'm kind of into all of that too-sweet-might-give-yourself-a-toothache cuteness.

Azzahro Wijaya says

Satu hal yang bikin menarik dari komik ini yaitu nama tokoh utamanya. Ayu sama Nina (Indonesia banget). Seperti biasa, Wataru Yoshizumi kalau bikin cerita di awalnya emang suka bikin kaget. Ayu ini orang yang ga percaya sama sihir, Harry Potter atau apa lah... tapi malah ketemu sama Nina, yang merupakan penyihir gagal. Di pertengahan bahkan sampai mendekati ending cerita biasanya Wataru Yoshizumi munculin banyak karakter baru yang jadi pesaing-pesaing atau musuh dari karakter utama. Memang sudah jadi ciri khasnya begitu.

Komik ini bener-bener lucu, penuh kejutan dan- ya ampun baju yang dipakai sama tokoh-tokoh di komik ini emang bener-bener bagus!!! Selera fashion Wataru Yoshizumi emang hebat!

Irene says

Un clásico que emitieron en España durante los 90, y que gustó mucho.
Va de magia, romance y todo eso :)

Lauren Doolittle says

The first manga I ever read in my tweenage years! Adorably witchy and sweet. A precious read.
