



Swan, Volume 2

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As the only exception to the Japan Ballet Association's scholarship program, underdog dancer Hijiri Masumi trains hard every day with other students who have all won the right to train under the best dance instructors. Because Masumi's technique leaves much to be desired, master instructor and genius dancer Alexei Sergeiev demands that she return to the basics to improve her technique. Masumi practices diligently, so that she will be chosen as one of three student performers in the Japan Ballet Company's special performance in Moscow. Eventually, some of the ballet students depart for various destinations around the world to further their dance careers. As Alexei leaves for Moscow, he reminds her once again to master the basics, because her journey has just begun. Hearing this heartening message, Masumi vows to work hard, and returns to the ballet studio to practice, only to find a handsome new foreign student has arrived. Will this newcomer support her in her quest to develop as a dancer, or will romantic entanglements become an obstacle?

Swan, Volume 2 Details

Date : Published March 1st 2005 by CMX (first published January 2005)

ISBN : 9781401205362

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Format : Paperback 208 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Shojo, Komik, Comics, Media Tie In, Anime

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From Reader Review Swan, Volume 2 for online ebook

Elizabeth says

i can't wait to read the next one :)

Timothy says

As with the previous volume, the art is something that's really is hard to get used to (especially the sudden switch between drama and comedy), but Swan has drama in spades to make this an interesting read and an introduction to ballet.

Dana Al-Basha ????? ?????? says

I think Sergeiev was Masumi's mom first love. I think that is why he cares so much for her. I love when Masumi thinks about Kusakabe-san after eating and while walking while it's snowing: "Love is like the falling snow. It starts when you don't notice it. Falling... Silently... and deeply."

Masumi has won a spot in the company; but can she keep it?

Masumi has survived the rigorous competition and won a place in the National Ballet School. But just as she revolves to work hard and stay focused, a handsome foreign student arrives. Will this newcomer support her quest to develop as a dancer, or will romantic entanglements become a distraction?

Alison (AlisonCanRead) says

I'm increasingly liking this series. It has a more realistic feel to it than the silliness that is prevalent in most shoujo manga series. Still some whimsical-ness, but it's not over the top.

Hijiri has great potential to be a stupendous ballerina. You could argue that her quick rise is a bit unrealistic given that her training in her rural community was significantly lacking. But we see in this volume that Hijiri doesn't just start winning contest after contest. She comes in second in a dance-off between her and Princess Sayoko for a starring role in a Moscow ballet. Don't you think that second is the worst place to finish? I'd much rather win a Bronze in the Olympics than a Silver, because at least with a Bronze you can be grateful that you medaled at all, but with a Silver you'd always wish you'd won.

After the contest was decided, the plot waffled a bit too much. There was a snippet of a romance with a hot Cuban ballet dancer. But despite the synopsis playing up the tension, to call this a snippet of romance is being quite generous. Hijiri also said goodbye to her new friends as they traveled to other countries to train. And then Hijiri gets to go to London to train. On the way, she stops in Moscow to see Princess Sayoko perform. There was too much going on.

I also have trouble telling some of the characters apart and remembering the names. Perhaps it's that the faces are too similar or perhaps the personalities are indistinct. I wish they had a page at the beginning of each volume introducing the characters as many series do.

Regardless, it's a lot of fun to read about the life of an aspiring ballerina. And I can't help but laugh at the crazy 70s hairstyles and fashion. Plus references to Leningrad or the Soviet Union.

scarlettraces says

if i'd had swan when i was 8, life would have been perfect. it's like all the ballet books i read back then, only it also has rapturous double page spreads of ballet dancers caught in ecstatic multiple exposure. plus technically it's shojo sports drama, and i cannot resist that.

Starbubbles says

i was so relieved that masumi didn't have another expectation and get to perform in russia. i think i would have puked a little. still, a very good book, and very fun to read about how nice everyone is. nice change from most of my other books.
