



## Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 10

*Yuki Midorikawa*

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One of Natsume's elementary school classmates is in town, but the unexpected reunion is for a dark purpose. Shibata knows Natsume's secret, and threatens to expose it if Natsume doesn't do what he says!

## **Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 10 Details**

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## From Reader Review Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 10 for online ebook

### Estara says

This starts with two chapters that were animated in the third series - which is interesting because certain chapters of volume 9 weren't animated at the time - I expect they will be in the fourth series for the anime.

One of the boys who ridiculed Takashi seeks him out, because he has fallen for a girl whom he isn't sure is a yokai. It's one of those bittersweet chapters of love between human and yokai. Takashi doesn't want his normal human friends find out about him yet - even though he now has Taki and Tanuma.

The rest of the volume is taking up with a yokai case where Takashi and Natori are both asked to help - the humans ask Natori to exorcise certain yokai because they may become dangerous after a certain ritual, and the yokai ask Takashi to impersonate one of the local gods so the ritual can go over safe.

It's a race against time and once they realize they're both working on the same problem, there's this worry about doing things which will make the other one despise them. Fortunately it turns out okay, and a lovely final ceremony sees the withdrawal of both local deities from the land.

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### Sarah Hayes says

Natsume's Book of Friends is still the best supernatural shojo manga you aren't reading even though you most definitely should be. It has a lot of things going for it, like gorgeous artwork and an amazing cast of characters, but this particular volume highlights one of its best strengths: the continuing character arc of one Takashi Natsume, the boy who can see yokai. In this most recent volume, he has some true moments of growth related to his relations with both humans and the supernatural which are beautiful to witness, and it's this kind of gradual yet worthwhile development in a protagonist that makes Natsume's story an essential one for manga fans across the board.

You can read the rest of my review over at Nagareboshi Reviews.

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### Anne Skelding says

Completely unintentionally, I got to read Natsume and the Harvest God's story on Thanksgiving! Nicely timed. (I ate too much food, though...)

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### Sophie says

My favourite stories in this series always have either Natsume and Tanuma or Natsume and Natori. It's not even for my usual (slashy) reasons, it's because the dynamic between them is just really interesting. Somehow these stories seem to capture the difficulty of human relationships - how much can you trust

someone? How much can you rely on someone? How well can you know someone? - the best.

I know I tend to use superlatives a lot and of course there are many things I love. But this series really does hold a special place in my heart. It's so beautiful and heart-warming, but never in a naive way. Despite - or because - the yokai, this series feels real.

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### **Sarah Maddaford says**

In this volume, Natsume impersonates one of two mountain gods after helping someone who used to bully him. The former bully is in love with a girl he suspects is a spirit. I was a bit disappointed with how passively Natsume dealt with this one. When dealing with the two gods though, Natsume truly shows his ability to help people by allowing them to make their own choices.

The manga includes some violence including evidence of bullying, fights between youkai, Natsume and Nyanko-sensei, but the worst results seem to be cuts, bruises and talk about eating people (very rarely do people actually get eaten in the series). There isn't any cursing. Nyanko-sensei is a drunkard, who spends most of his time in a Lucky Cat form. The idea that Pestilence and Harvest are gods may make some people uncomfortable, but in Japanese mythology there are many gods especially those that protect certain regions.

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### **Amy says**

The best cover by far! It took me a while to get into this story, but it was heart-warming as ever. The art style improved a lot!

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### **Judy (Geeky Reading) says**

~3.5/5

[Also available at my blog.]

I really, really like this series. It's so sweet, and simple, and maybe has a nostalgic (reminiscent? wistful?) tone to it. It's just really good, and it bothers me that so few bookstores near me (pretty much, one of the, say, five or six bookstores that are near me) carry it; along with a few other series, too, actually. (I swear, ever since Borders closed, it has been much too hard for me to find manga. Way too hard.)

It's been a while since I read a volume of Natsume, and while the books are a bit slow, I still really enjoy them. And it's always nice, getting to see Nastume and Nyanko-sensei again.

While I would really like for there to be a more set storyline for this series, since each chapter tends to be about a different thing, I still enjoy reading all of them. In this volume, there was a two-chapter and a three-chapter long storyline, which was nice.

The first one focused on a boy, Shibata, who Natsume knew from elementary school; a time when he told people that he could see the supernatural and no one believed him. Natsume is wary, and bumps heads with him a bit, but helps the boy when he asks for it. Shibata is a but strong headed, and has fallen for a yokai girl,

whom he wasn't sure was human and needed Natsume's reassurance on. This wraps up pretty nicely at the end of the second chapter, but I'm doubtful Shibata will be a character we'll be seeing much of.

The three-chapter story is about two yokai gods, one of which, the harvest god, is missing. His minions don't know where he is, as he's believed to have been sealed away somewhere, and so ask Natsume to pretend to be him for a bit. At the same time, Natori is trying to find the sealed god so he can set him free (an unusual thing for his job, but he was asked because they don't want the mountain to die).

There are some sweet moments in this, some funny ones, and it's interesting to see how different Natori and Natsume are, even when just interacting with Natori's servant, Hiragi. This one also ends rather well, and there are sure to be new yokai and new problems in the next book.

My favorite chapters are when we get to see other sides of Natsume, like when he's around friends (as we glimpsed in the first chapter, actually), and when we get to see him as a little kid in flashbacks, or just getting to see him growing at all, really. He's getting a bit more strong-headed, and arguing with people more freely, which was apparent in this volume, and that was nice to see. I just love seeing Natsume, really. He's so sweet and kind-hearted, and after being passed around and mentally/emotionally beaten down for so long, I like seeing him getting stronger and more comfortable.

I already have the next volume, and I plan to read it very soon.

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### **Chris says**

This one was great.

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### **Kate says**

Fun volume with Natsume meeting up with old friends/bullies. He hopefully feels that after these adventures that he can rely at times on his friends, rather than go it alone on yokai missions.

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### **Sarah Evans says**

Such a lovely series. I love how Takashi is slowly developing trust in people after a traumatic childhood. And the yokai are always interesting.

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### **Elias Alexander says**

Absolutely amazing.

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**Krista says**

## Rici says

Wieder ein sehr guter Band, wo wir einen alten Schulkamerad von Natsume haben, der diesen in eine Yokai Sachen mit rein zieht. Und dann haben wir erneut eine längere Geschichte mit Natori, der wieder einmal sieht wie sehr natsume versucht das gute zu tun, sodass ich das Gefühl habe, dass diese Empathie langsam auf ihn abfärbt. Guter Band!

**Nicole says**

This is a particularly excellent volume in a great series. It's the culmination of the slow and subtle development Natsume's been going through for the past 10 volumes. It shows off how much he's changed. It's incredibly rewarding to see the lonely kid we were originally introduced to become truly happy and loved by humans and yokai alike.

The first story of this volume involves an old classmate of Natsume's. It shows how much he's changed since he was the sad, bullied, and misunderstood child we've learned about in flashbacks. The second story is about Natsume and Natori working together. This one shows how Natsume has become more comfortable with both people and yokai. He's forged bonds with them, bonds that he used to only dream of.

Natsume's not the only one who's changed. The relationship he has with Nyanko-sensei has developed from a partnership to a true friendship. He and Natori have formed an (albeit uneasy and awkward) friendship, and they've both decided not to let their differences in philosophy change that. Even Natsume's reputation among the yokai has changed and grown to the point where yokai will seek him out for help instead of just trying to attack him.

*Natsume's Book of Friends* is a beautiful series that I think anyone can enjoy. If you haven't tried it yet, then you're really missing out on something amazing.

**Miss says**

I'm starting to feel like this series is a bit stuck on repeating the same emotional beats but as I still find them effective I don't much mind. Plus it was nice to see Natsume reconnect with someone from his past in a way that wasn't completely awful. 3.5 stars