



Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 11

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Natsume and Tanuma are spending a rainy day helping Taki clean up a storehouse full of her grandfather's stuff. But old clothes and books aren't the only things sealed away. The friends accidentally release a very angry yokai. Is teamwork enough to stop the yokai from going on a rampage?!

Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 11 Details

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From Reader Review Natsume's Book of Friends, Vol. 11 for online ebook

Krista says

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Cathy says

Natsume continues to grow more as a character and develops a deeper friendship with Taki and Tanuma. The relationship between the yokai and Taki's late grandfather made me tear up. Despite being invisible to Taki's grandfather, Shin'ichiro, who wanted so desperately to see them, the yokai cared for and was fond of him.

Judy (Geeky Reading) says

~4-4.5/5

[Also available at my blog.]

This book was just... so... it was just so good, okay?

I have said this before, and it's possible I will say it again, but I love Natsume. I love him so much. He's just so sweet and heartwarming and I just want to hug him and be his friend and I love him. The more I see him the more I love him. And this volume had pretty much everything I wanted it to have, all of the things I wanted to see.

In the first two chapters, Natsume and Tanuma help Taki clean out a storage room and accidentally free a dangerous yokai. Tanuma and Taki tag along as Natsume and Nyanko-Sensei work to capture it, trying to help as best they can. They have some troubles, and make some observations, but it works out in the end, and Natsume even gets a different look at his gift or curse of being able to see yokai.

Like I said before, I love seeing Natsume with his friends. He doesn't have very many, those two boys from school that we're seeing more of, and these two, and Mr. Natori, not including all of the yokai. He's slowly growing in friends and in himself, and that's really nice to see.

In the following three chapters, Natsume hangs out with the two boys from school (whose names still haven't stuck with me, sorry; I'm still getting Taki and Tanuma's down) and Tanuma. They decide to go up

in the mountains to find a soda well/fountain/spring/thing. During this, Natsume starts thinking about his parents. He gets phone call from someone, telling him that his parents' house is being sold, and so he starts thinking about them. Memories that he tried pushing away start coming up, and then he decides to go see the house before it's gone. On the way, he has to go visit some relatives who have the key, bringing up memories of his stay with them, back when he was a 'weird kid' and tried being open about his gift.

This is the first time we've really gotten to see Natsume interacting with a family that took him in for a short while, and it was super upsetting. He gets all these memories of his stay, and hears them talking about him, and the daughter of the family is just kind of terrible to him, all the while trying to deal with a yokai that's living in their house. I feel so bad for Natsume, whenever we see a scene like this, and I just want to give him a hug. But he dealt with it rather well this time, maturely, even while the daughter was being a jerk.

After that, he finally gets to the house, which is a tiny, beaten down place. He doesn't remember as much as he'd have liked, except for one memory that has stuck with him, but he's finally accepting what happened. He's finally okay with thinking about it all, instead of pushing it away and trying to ignore it.

The volume ends with him thinking about his parents, finally getting to see the soda spring with his friends, and taking a picture with his aunt and uncle, even requesting to take another. It's a very sweet, warm, nice ending.

It was really nice seeing Natsume struggling with what he wants and trying not to be a bother. Like when he loses a photo of his parents but doesn't want to bother his friends with finding it, and when he wants to go look at the house but is afraid of what his aunt and uncle will think. I just love seeing him grow, seeing him realize that he has friends and they don't mind when he has to go chasing yokai and they understand when something is important to him.

I love this series. Natsume is one of my favorite protagonists, and he is probably my favorite part of this series. If I didn't like anything else about this series, and I do like just about everything, I would read this just for him. He just makes it that much better for me.

I hope to get the next one soon, but I know after that it might be a bit of a wait, because of how close we are to Japan, which sucks. So many series of VIZ's have been catching up with Japan lately, and that is not cool; I do not like such long waits between volumes that I love.

LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says

In the first part of the volume, Natsume and Tanuma help Taki clean up the creepy storage places at her home (her grandpa's old home? my notes are unclear). In the process, they awaken a dangerous doll yokai that Taki's grandfather accidentally sealed. In the next part of the volume, Natsume realizes that he's finally emotionally capable of looking at his parents' photo again. He also decides that he wants to visit his parents' old home one last time before it's sold. In order to visit the house, though, he first has to go to the family he used to live with to get the key. This requires dealing with an increasingly dangerous insect-eating yokai and the family's daughter, who was always jealous of the attention Natsume was given when he lived with them.

I always forget how warm and gentle this series is. Even when it breaks my heart, it does so softly. The art style doesn't really appeal to me - too light and scratchy (or wispy?) - but it works fine for this series and I love the characters and stories enough that it doesn't matter.

I absolutely *love* volumes like this one, that deal with Natsume's friendships. He's gradually learning to trust his human friends and ask them for help, and to accept help when it's offered. The bit where Tanuma had all his and Natsume's friends stop what they were doing and look for Natsume's missing photo was wonderful.

I also enjoyed the flashbacks to Natsume's past, and the brief glimpses of the Fujiwaras just being all domestic and kind. This is a "fuzzy blanket" sort of series, the kind of thing I want to wrap myself up in.

(Original review posted on A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions.)

Becky says

This series just never fails to deliver. So beautiful and pure.

Rici says

In diesem Band findet Natsume im Haus seiner Freundin Taki Yokai, die eher spielerisch wohlgesinnt sind als auch einen, der seine Körperteile sucht und sich dann rächen will. Er will natürlich nicht, dass ihr etwas passiert und hilft diesen Yokai zu vertreiben. Gut fand ich, dass die zwei Freunde, die Natsumes Geheimnis kennen, nun schon erkennen was es für eine Last ist und das man darüber reden muss. Weiterhin haben wir eine Geschichte über Natsume früher, und wie schwach er sich noch an seine eltern erinnert. Traurig und mitfühlend wieder.

scarlettraces says

i really noticed the brushwork in this volume, particularly the second story, where Natsume visits his childhood home and is able to sort through more of his past. i don't know that Midorikawa-sensei's art is getting better, because that would be hard, but her mix of delicacy and forcefulness serves this story especially well.

Isel says

I had forgotten how much Natsume tends to hurt me.

machinaheart says

(Since goodreads killed quite a long review from me just now, I am too tired to redo it and now you're stuck with the gist of it.)

In SHORT: Magical, personal and quietly brilliant.

In DETAIL:

Themes: Being different, loneliness, creatures from myth and legend, friendship and camaraderie and the meaning of family.

Setting: Rural Japan in all its loveliness! (When it comes to a time period I'd say, roughly the 'here and now'.)

Atmosphere: At once magical and ordinary. The focus on interpersonal relationships in a world where a vast array of supernatural creatures are never far, is the key to making this story so wonderful. It is almost always less about the being's strangeness and abilities, but rather its hopes and wishes.

Characters & Relationships: Every character is incredibly unique and loveable in their own way. What I adore the portrayal of the ayakashi is that Natsume always tries to understand the circumstances of a creature first and only if there is no other way will try to bind it or even kill it. Mostly the ayakashi are shown as having different values or being ignorant of human customs.

Plot: Natsume has to cope with his ability to see ayakashi and with the mysterious "Book of Friends" his grandmother left behind. Not to mention this erratic lucky-cat (that is actually something very different) called Nyanko-sensei. At first the chapters are rather episodic in a monster of the week style (but many really touching and never boring), but somewhere along the line more characters, supernatural and human, appear and as Natsume's friends and acquaintances expand, the plot branches out.

Cover & Artwork: The artwork has a lovely light touch which adds to feeling of otherworldliness and gives it a sense of fragility.

Estara says

This lay on my TBR pile for ages - not because I didn't want to read it, but because I needed a certain mindset to do so. There's a lovely episode of Taki, Tanuma and Takashi and the fact that love doesn't necessarily die just because the beloved person dies.

But most of the volume is taken up by the furthest retrospective we have had of Takashi's life so far, from the death of his father through various foster families to the childless couple he has found a home with. He needs to decide whether the last house that his father and him lived in can be sold.

Because Midorikawa excels at shades of grey, you totally get the girl in the flashback who is incredibly insecure in elementary school and doesn't want her kind father to spend any attention on a weird boy who jumps at shadows and who frankly scares her. She clearly sabotages his stay with her family.

So here's Takashi returning and getting almost the same reception but able to say goodbye to his childhood home and find some traces of the love his father bore him (he hardly remembers his mother who died long before).

This time the feeling was right, not to mention I had another two volumes lying by to recover and so I had a cathartic cry until my eyes were swollen.

Sarah Maddaford says

Finally seeing Natsume's few memories of his parents was rather sad, but at the same time, it makes the scenes with the Fujiwaras all the better. I also really enjoyed the chapters with Tanuma and Taki because Natsume had to admit it was hard for him to let even them into his world, but he tried anyway. He's opening up to everyone in his world more and more. There weren't as many youkai in this volume, but the last one was very youkai intensive so I think it was good to have a reflective tone to this one.

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.

Elias Alexander says

This volume really had me emotional going. So strong story line. Poor Natsume.

Chris says

Another really good one.

Lissibith says

This manga is definitely not for everyone, but I continue to find the sketchy art style and wistful storytelling focused on friends, family and love to be endearing. I also love when the story focuses as much or more on the humans around Natsume than the yokai, which this issue does beautifully.

Miriam says

Two of the best stories so far, both scary and tender.

We learn more about both Natsume's and Taki's families.
