



Bakuman, Vol. 12: Artist and Manga Artist

Takeshi Obata (Illustrator), Tsugumi Ohba

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By the creators of Death Note! The mystery behind manga-making revealed!

Reads R to L (Japanese Style), for audiences rated teen.

Average student Moritaka Mashiro enjoys drawing for fun. When his classmate and aspiring writer Akito Takagi discovers his talent, he begs Moritaka to team up with him as a manga-creating duo. But what exactly does it take to make it in the manga-publishing world?

With their new series Perfect Crime Party doing well in Weekly Shonen Jump, Moritaka and Akito sets their sights on beating their rivals in the magazine. But just as their dreams seem within reach, some surprising news will deal them an unexpected setback.

Bakuman, Vol. 12: Artist and Manga Artist Details

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From Reader Review Bakuman, Vol. 12: Artist and Manga Artist for online ebook

Lila Cyclist says

Waaahhh... Kenafa Takagi menduaaa... Ga relaaa... Seperti kata Kaya, di chapter lanjutannya (yah, sudah spoiler duluan), harusnya Ashirogi Muto tetep berdua, ga boleh jalan sendiri2. Tapi yah, mereka punya skill dan bakat sendiri2. I think it is high time for them to try something. But, still, I can't see them have separate wayyy...

Another new thing is, Moritaka is going to have his own manga. Yeayyy... Ganvatte, Saikou!!!

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

4.25 stars

review to follow

Scott Lee says

This volume re-focuses on Muto Ashirogi, and Takagi and Saito shine in my opinion. This does come at the cost of the wider supporting cast. Hiromira and Iwase actually get the most screen time, with Aoki getting a few pages--mostly from Hiromira's twisted dream perspective, Eiji appearing in maybe two pages and Fukuda getting only a couple panels. What makes it work is the only dynamic story here is Shiratori--Muto Ashirogi's assistant--pursuing his own one shot and first series. A bit more time is spent with the other artsier assistant whose name I can't remember at the moment as well. I'd like to see the cast come back, but obviously the volume works pretty darned well for me.

Paul Spence says

Moritaka and Akito's newest series Perfect Crime Party does well enough that they can start working on other things, such as beating their rivals. But some unexpected news sends them back to try to come up with a second series. But as each of them works on their specific talents individually, will it break up the team of Muto Ashirogi?

Now that Moritaka and Akito have a series running in Jump again, the story can go back to their personal lives, as well as those of their rivals and assistants. While I do enjoy seeing process of making a successful manga through Moritaka and Akito, I've really come to like the other manga artists and assistants, and I do enjoy seeing what's going on with their lives and titles.

The artist we see the life most of in these two volumes is Shun Shiratori. He is an assistant to Moritaka and

Akito. His mother, who wears the pants in the family, doesn't approve of Shun working on manga, so he runs away so he can work on creating his own title. Moritaka and Akito get involved to the point that Akito ends up as the writer for Shun's manga. There is a lot of drama created from this, not just from Shun's family life, but also between Akito, and Moritaka and Kaya. It all comes down to a simple lack of communication, and Akito is so clueless that he doesn't see what he's doing to Moritaka and Kaya. A few words could have avoided the whole situation, but would have made the volumes just a little less dramatic and a lot shorter. Though I think it was Akito who deserved the punch more than Moritaka.

Hiramaru has always been fun to follow. Like, Eiji, he is a "genius" creator, but hates the work, so he is always trying to get out of it. His editor is constantly having to trick or bribe him into getting his chapters done. It's a lot of fun to see how his editor is going to manipulate him. One way he does this is by using Hiramaru's feelings for Miss Aoki. Promises of helping him get through afternoon tea with her gets Hiramaru to write a romantic one shot that becomes popular enough to submit for serialization, but when the day finally comes Hiramaru turns the tables on his editor and meets Miss Aoki alone. The ensuing chase is really funny, and when he finally decides to confess his feelings to Aoki, it's great to see Fukuda, Moritaka, Akito and Kaya show up to cheer him on.

I also enjoyed seeing Eiji finally create a manga that isn't a hit. His attempt at a romance doesn't break the top 5. It was good to see him finally feel what it's like, even if it was only for a one shot. Another thing I like about Bakuman, is the teasers for titles we get to see. Moritaka's romantic one-shot looked cute, and Hiramaru's romantic one-shot looked very funny. An entry for a contest that Akito and Moritaka are judging is shown at some length, Classroom of Truth, and is a title I would really like to read! It's really too bad so many of these will never really be serialized.

I haven't gotten tired of Bakuman yet. Ohba does a great job of keeping the story fresh, and balancing between the manga creation process and the lives of the artists. Just concentrating on one or the other too much would ruin the charm.

Miss says

One of the things Bakuman has going for it is its ensemble cast. I've always liked ensembles for the wider variety of stories they let you tell. And you know what's the mark of a story that's utilizing its ensemble cast to its fullest potential? Mixing up the character interactions. Right now Bakuman has a large cast but they tend to talk to their own particular groups exclusively. Which fine sure, I obviously talk more with my close friends or colleagues than everyone I know but still. Mix it up! The plot has a golden opportunity right now with the Readers Fest competition. Mashiro wants to compete, Miss Akina's looking for an artist. Instead of overloading Akito with three mangas running concurrently why not pair them up? They've barely interacted so far so it would be new ground! And there's already story tensions built in vis-a-vis her rivalry with Akito.

I'd also vote for Miho VA-ing Akina's series on the same grounds but Ohba already shut that one down. :(Obviously Miho's career has to be dependant on Mashiro's. I mean it's not like the readers could possibly be interested in learning more about her outside of her role as the love interest? Or that any of them are disappointed in the relatively narrow track this series has taken wrt to the manga industry when just bothering to expand her character would have let us see another side of production with voice acting?

Man every time I try to review a Bakuman volume my critiques always basically boil down to it would be 1000 times better if Ohba could pretend to care about the girls for more than two minutes. So many wasted

potential storylines! It's like a case study in the ways sexism is actively debilitating to stories, like I can't just take off my feminist glasses because my basic interesting-storylines glasses see the same thing. 3 stars

Mal says

beware of a small spoiler

"???? YO? GI?? ??, T??T'? ??? IT T?? G??? I? O???"

ooooh, slam dunk quote ~

I'm honestly so excited for what is coming next. Shiratori is a precious bean and I want the world for him, Otter No. 11 is being canceled and I'm so ready for Hiramaru to do something new, and it's slowly all coming together and the color pages for the manga give me life and just I mean *look*

Hollowspine says

Takagi and Mashiro are doing well with their series Perfect Crime Party, but of course, they're competing with Nizuma who has two series. Although their series has finally topped +Natural, they still feel behind Eiji who is doing two series and while keeping Crow at the top.

Things start to get crazy again when Shiratori, one of their assistants, asks Takagi for some help with some storyboards he's working on. After a couple revisions with Takagi as editor the piece is accepted by Hattori, but quickly determined to be a result of Shiratori and Takagi's working together.

Mashiro feels left behind when Takagi starts to work on this second series as writer, so he tries to up his game as well, working to get his drawing down to only three days on PCP, while also improving the quality. I love how dedicated both artists are to their work, throughout this manga, that has been very inspiring to read about.

Then Hattori tells the pair about a One-shot competition in Jump, and it seems the perfect chance for Muto Ashirogi to try for another series themselves. But with Iwase, Aoki, Hiramaru and Nizuma to compete with can they reach the top, or will the tension drive them apart...

This volume introduces another conflict between Takagi and Mashiro, timing has never been on their side, and as usual Takagi takes on another series before Mashiro is ready, then they find out they should do another thing...so it seems its all or nothing again for the pair. The teaser also showed Takagi punching Mashiro...so that may not be the best sign.

I just hope that Mashiro doesn't end up teaming with Iwase in the competition since she is looking for an artist.

Ohba and Obata again work together perfectly to create this wonderful series. It captures an inside view of the manga industry and also is an homage to many other great series and shows how great an effect a comic

can have on a great range of readers. Not just children, but adults, not just boys, but girls, everyone can find something to admire.

Lisa says

<3 <3 <3 to becoming better writers and artists but I want Moritaka and Akito to stay together!

Montserrat Esteban says

La serie va avanzando y vemos como van tomando más responsabilidades y más trabajo

Manu says

Es un manga basado en manga. Por lo tanto te muestra las estrategias que lo llevan a ser lo que es. Llegué al punto de ver esas mismas estrategias aplicadas en el mismo bakuman: la heroina linda, el factor romance, la resolución de un caso o pelea como se ve en sus discusiones y muchas cosas más. Me siento como una aprendiz de los mismos Tsugumi y Takeshi, mejor sensei no pude tener. Lo unico minimo que tengo para criticar es que Kaya no trabaja. No tiene por que depender de Takagi, ella misma puede mover el ojete.

Variaciones Enrojo says

Reseña de Andrés Accorsi para su blog:
<http://365comicsxyear.blogspot.com.ar...>

Como siempre, no me pude aguantar y me leí el nuevo tomo de Bakuman (el Vol.12) ni bien lo compré. También como siempre, me reí, me emocioné, me divertí, aprendí, me sentí identificado y me maravillé con la calidad de los dibujos. La obra magna de Tsugumi Ohba y Takeshi Obata no afloja en ningún momento, siempre tiene nuevos giros, nuevos personajes que cobran protagonismo (en este tomo la rompe Shun Shiratori, el chico de familia cheta al que la mamá no lo deja ser mangaka porque “queda mal”), nuevos conflictos y mucha data acerca del backstage de los mangas más exitosos de Japón. La explicación de cómo y por qué las editoriales intervienen en las negociaciones con los estudios que quieren llevar los mangas al animé, por ejemplo, es algo que yo desconocía por completo y me resultó fascinante. Lo dicho: Bakuman no decae ni por casualidad. La magia está intacta y ahora que los Muto Ashirogi ya son profesionales asentados en la industria del manga, Ohba y Obata les encuentran nuevas aristas para explorar y para mantenernos totalmente enganchados con esta historia de sueños, pasión, talento y amistad.

Douglas Coote says

Another top notch volume. It's funny to think that Mashiro after six years of working as a pro would have to learn drawing techniques from an assistant, but sometimes we plow ahead doing what we know even if it isn't the best method. I simply like the highly charged drama in this series where being a mangaka is treated as not only a noble profession, but a vital one as well.

Rated five stars because I found the emphasis on excellence in craft an inspirational message.

Amanda Setasha Hall says

This had good plot, but there's so many words and characters in this series now, it's hard to keep up with. I constantly have to look at the first couple of pages to figure out who is who (pretty sure there's about 30 active characters in this series).

I want to enjoy it, but it's a lot to take in. This series is only 20 volumes so I'm going to keep reading to give it a shot.

Robin says

I find this series so interesting because never would I have thought that a manga about manga could ever be interesting, and yet it is. The characters are interesting and the story itself is really informative. Sometimes the series is a bit of an info-dump in terms of "LOOK AT ALL THE THINGS HERE!" and the panels can get cluttered and difficult to follow, but overall it's a pretty solid series.

Gabrielle says

The series is getting better as it goes, with the previous volume the story took 6+ months in its storyline. Also I like the dialogue and the twists and turn of each character's story. This volume did a great job building up to the next volume, I cannot wait to read it.

Ben Truong says

Bakuman: Artist and Manga Artist continue where the previous tankobon left off and contains the next nine chapters (98–106) of the on-going manga series.

Things are going well for Ashirogi Muto they were saved by cancellation, because their gambled paid off – they managed to beat Aiko Iwase manga, which was drawn by Eiji Niizuma and was a couple shy of beating Niizuma main manga. They got so popular that they were offered a Dramatic CD with Miho Azuki as the main female voice actress and a novelization of the manga and unbeknownst to them there were at least two studios who offered to make their manga into anime to *Shonen Jump*. In the end, Ashirogi Muto was told that they will never get an anime, because of the many complaints they are getting for their manga.

Ashirogi Muto's manga is called *Perfect Crime Party* or *PCP* for short. This manga is about three elementary school children who decided to form a Perfect Crime Club, performing seamless acts of crime – rather pranks. These so called crimes were mainly benevolent in nature for the most part, like using their crimes for the betterment of the school. However, due to the fact that it can easily imitated by children, parents and teachers complained and to have an anime would only further encourage such bad behavior.

Disheartened, they were so close to achieving their dreams and to have Moritaka Mashiro getting together with Miho Azuki. Feeling for his friend, Akito Takagi said that he could rework the series to make it more anime compatible, but Moritaka Mashiro and Akira Hattori nixed that idea. They will continue their manga as is and hopefully one day they could make another manga that would be anime compatible.

Another story has Shun Shiratori – an assistant to Ashirogi Muto comes to Akito Takagi to read the manga proposal that he has recently produced. After a couple of revisions, Ashirogi Muto decided to pay it forward and have Akira Hattori look at it. Hattori really liked the proposal, but noticed that it seem to be influenced by Akito Takagi, which they confessed that it was.

Hattori said that he would happily enter this proposal into a contest, but the by-line would be written by Akito Takagi (not Ashirogi Muto) and drawn by Shun Shiratori. In the end, because of Akito Takagi name attached to the proposal, they were ineligible for the contest, but they decided to print it in Shonen Jump with a promise for serialization if it does well, but Akito Takagi must be the writer. Eventually, Akito Takagi agrees to write for Shun Shiratori with Moritaka Mashiro's blessing, but his main priority will always be towards Ashirogi Muto.

In this tankobon, we get to learn more about Shun Shiratori. He comes from a very wealthy family and is somewhat sheltered, so he does not know basic things like how to run a washing machine or how to cook rice. While a talented artist, his mother disapproves of his decision to become a manga artist because she does not find it respectable – she only cares about appearances. With the help of Ashirogi Muto and his older sister Hitomi, his mother reluctantly allows him to follow his dreams and to live on his own.

As for the tankobon – I feel like a broken record for saying this, but to put things as succinct as possible: Tsugumi Ohba is too verbose and Takeshi Obata's art wonderful.

All in all, *Bakuman: Artist and Manga Artist* is a wonderful continuation of the on-going series. It seems like Ashirogi Muto is trying to do two series simultaneously, like Eiji Niizuma – one on their *Perfect Crime Party* and another one that would be anime compatible. I'm not sure if they could do that or if the editorial department would allow it, but it would be interesting to see them try.

Ricardo says

5 / 5

Este manga me hace sentir tantas cosas que no puedo explicar con palabras. Qué forma tan buena de explorar la lealtad y la verdadera amistad.

Kate says

I really enjoyed returning to see how our main characters handle the tight spot of keeping their series successful. They also now have new goals to spread out, and become better at writing genres (for Akito) and drawing faster (for Moritaka). I just wonder if all this added work pressure is going to cause problems later for them down the road.

Taruia says

This series is starting to become pretty formulaic and staid. I agree with other reviewers about the treatment of women in this Manga but I am not sure whether this is a (a) Manga thing or (b) a Japanese cultural thing. I actually suspect it is a little bit of each. Kaya does some inking, makes tea and sweeps the studio, and at home cooks dinner. Which is fine. But is that it? I think the story arc with Shun Shiratori is fine, but the supreme stereotypical depiction of his family is oddly done, and doesn't really fit within the entire series somehow.

Connor says

I feel like a lot happened in this volume which I loved. I really like Shiratori as well as Peace of course. I feel like his character is really interesting now.
