



xxxHOLiC?? 2

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A SENSE OF DEJA VU

Things are familiar at Yûko's wish-granting business for Kimihiro Watanuki, between the encounters with spirits of nature and urban legends and the irritation with his schoolmate Shizuka Dômeki-but perhaps they're a bit too familiar. When Watanuki is plagued by recurring images, he must make a choice...but what will he choose, and has he made this choice before?

xxxHOLiC?? 2 Details

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From Reader Review xxxHOLiC?? 2 for online ebook

Orange says

It was an intriguing combination of nostalgia and eeriness. The occasional flashes of wrongness that break up the really sweet return to early-xxxHolic-style stories made for a much greater sense of momentum than the previous volume. There was a lot of emphasis on the series' primary theme of the consequences of one's choices, which provided a satisfying continuation to the stunted ending of the original series. It was especially vindicating that Watanuki's decision to cloister himself in the shop to wait for Yuko was implied to be stagnation and uncertainty rather than a real choice.

I particularly liked the three coins story. It was classic xxxHolic: humans unwittingly manifesting curses/supernatural forces through the strength of their own desires and expectations.

One of the long-standing messages of xxxHolic is that destiny's whims will tie your fate to those of others and thereafter, how you decide to live your life may cause great distress to those who care about you, but it is still your right to choose that path. It was acutely painful to see how Yuko, Doumeki and Himawari acted as Watanuki's guardians, wanting desperately for him to move on and return to the world of the living, but nevertheless accepting whatever choice he makes and protecting him as he carries out those choices.

Mehsi says

Not a super long review due to the amount of spoilers it might give. And I don't want to spoil it for anyone.

This was a wonderful volume again, too bad it takes ages for it to come out and I need to either re-read the previous volume or read my review for said volume.

The story picks up where we left the previous time, with Watanuki tending to Yuuko's needs (and my oh my is she still needy). I loved their interaction (one of the best things from XXXholic is truly the relationship and interaction between Watanuki and Yuuko). Yuuko making a fuss, but also at times being her totally epic self.

However, not everything is as it seems. There are cracks forming in the world. Watanuki knows stuff, we get little hints and certain things are happening that seem to hint to certain things. It is all interesting, at times you read over it, but then read back (because you thought you saw something) and then find out, there was indeed something happening.

The only thing that is kind of weird is how Watanuki acts toward Himawari. Normally we are used to his overly enthusiasticness when she pops up, but in this volume he was quite silent and normal. A bit odd, but maybe has to do with the whole truth about Watanuki and why everything seems "normal".

The art is (as expected) gorgeous again. I love the little details that are in every page.

However one thing, and I believe I also had the problem with the previous volume, is that sometimes quite a chunk of text is eaten by the book. You really have to bend the book (the horror!) to be able to read it at times. I really hate this. I would hope that publishers/printers would know that people need to be able to read text. Look at Vertical, really the first one who keeps attention to that by added a big margins, making the

book wider, but also makes the text easier to read and you don't have to bend the book (and break the spine).

All in all though I would really recommend this series. I can't wait for the next volume to pop out, and in the mean time I guess I will be reading Drug and Drop Vol.1 which is coming out soon!

Review first posted at <http://twirlingbookprincess.com/>

Salimbol says

3.5 stars

Denise says

I'd pretty much toss in five stars or more for CLAMP's works every time, but seriously though, the suspense is killing me! Does anyone have an extra-time turner? I NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S GONNA HAPPEN!!!

Kate says

If there is one thing that CLAMP excels in, it is their gorgeous art. Each volume of their work is a visual feast, and *xxxHolic Rei* is no exception. I've mentioned before that for *xxxHolic*, CLAMP incorporates a wood block style of art, with very little to no screen tone, allowing for a strong contrast of black and white. There are, of course, the lovely curlicues and Yuko and her elaborate clothing are as gorgeous as ever. But, it's also the page layouts and the artistic details to the speech bubbles that contribute to the overall effect of a beautiful artistic work.

I could gush about the art all day long, but the story here is quiet and yet lovely as well. Things are not all as they seem, and we are seeing some cracks in Watanuki's world. While in the last volume, the reader was left to wonder if the story was simply a reboot, there is no question with this volume that this is indeed a continuation of the story from the original *xxxHolic*. There's a sense of melancholy underneath the feeling of well-being. I am most definitely looking forward to the next volume and where the story will take us next.

Miss says

whaaaaaaaaaat

i was at my bookstore today and i came across this? new xxxholic? that somehow no one felt the need to alert me to??????

one of my best friends works at a bookstore! i feel utterly betrayed right now

anyways idk when this volume takes place because the set up is very old school holic (the trio chills together and watanuki shouts at doumeki while taking down spirits!) but there's hints of later holic stuff too so like. ???

i think we might be getting an explanation for the egg now though, so that's cool

anyways. pretty standard early holic stuff which is good because early holic did it more for me than the later twists did anyways. 3.5 stars

Ivy McAllister says

Things are finally starting to come together.

Which means that Watanuki is starting to fall apart. Definitely serves to advance the series (as opposed to filler material that, while charming, doesn't advance the overarching storyline at all). Doumeki and Yuko play their usual parts, but Watanuki is becoming aware that there is something he's forgotten.

Not as lighthearted as previous volumes, but well worth reading--the somewhat more serious subject matter (involving change and transition and choices) is as unavoidable in the storyline as it is in real life.

Cherish says

A wonderful read. I was completely engrossed in the volume that I didn't want to finish it. I am looking forward to reading the next volume.

Doc says

The sequel of the well known series connected to Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicles returns and regardless of the title (it is a reference to the addictions of various things though for the main heroine of the story alcohol seems to be her vice) it is only rated Teen and in my opinion is a good way to become interested in Japanese mythology since this series tends to reference it a lot.

Like other books in the XXXHolic series the stories revolve around Yuko's shop (which is only seen by those in need or invited) which has everything you require but as with all things there is always a price that must be paid. In this volume we get to see CLAMP's version of the Yosuzume which appears considerably younger than she really is and what I guess must be a Yama-no-Kami but has a connection to the yosuzume like an Okuri-inu (Research muahaha) but is called Yamainu or simply Mountain Dog. You will also see some exchanging of coins which has become a popular charm for young people but could there be something more insidious to the ritual? Be sure to get this book and find out. It is easy to read and contains the typically beautiful artwork CLAMP is known for. :)

My personal favorite part of the book involves Watanuke and Domeki discovering the yamainu and how they were able to help him though I also enjoy the parts of the book when Watanuke exhibits a keen insight into things mythical and supernatural as though he were connected to the same wealth of knowledge Yuko

has at her disposal.

Beth says

Better than volume 1. The art continues to be top-notch. and the story continues to lead deeper into decisions Watanuki has to make. What they are, is still something of a mystery. Lots of hints but hard to work out, very much in the CLAMP tradition.

Briard says

What is/was Watanuki's choice? Why can't he remember? Why does everything seem the same but different?

kerrycat says

It's sad to even think about returning to the shop (and Yuko) after the end of xxxholic, but comforting all the same. In the midst of Watanuki and Domeki's childish arguments and Himawari's sweet acceptance of whatever strangeness these boys disclose to her (not to mention Yuko's drinking), is the essence of what CLAMP does best - nostalgia.

Annemieke / A Dance with Books says

One of the things I have always loved about Clamp and their manga is the art style. I love how the characters and the background are drawn. The added wisps help to set the mood, especially around Yuuko. xxxHolic has always been one of the few series where I do not dislike any character. I want to know about them all.

I have to say that I felt that the first story in this volume wasn't as strong as the second one. The second one appealed to me more and it has left us with a cliffhanger wondering what is really happening to Watanuki.

Mosley Allen says

Spoilers!!!!

Yosuzume looks so cute and little! And she wants a high-ball LMAO!

The Yamainu leader and Yosuzume are husband and wife 0.0

Watanuki's face is the same one I'm making in my head!

I want to know what is up with that bird!?!

Ruthsic says

This one left me so much emotional, because while the mystery is deepening, it is also leaving us clues as to what it means for Watanuki. There are so many parallels to the original series, and this volume has two supernatural events involving 'clients' but also has Watanuki's story in the background. For the first one, Watanuki and Doumeki are given a task by a yokai called Yosuzume, who arrived with the rain (for a second I thought it would be the Ame-warashi who would come!) and are led to a mountain spirit called Yamainu, whose power is declining due to a lack of belief and while that is resolved well enough, it ties more into Watanuki and this current 'story' they are in. Frequent glances by Yuuko and Doumeki hint at them being more aware of what is going on, but they are also leaving the decision (to wake up? come out of it?) on him. The other is a urban myth thing that is going around - exchanging 300 yen coins for something amazing to happen, but obviously it sounds like some shady supernatural thing. In both cases, Watanuki instinctively knew what or who the supernatural thing is, pointing very hard to this being the experienced shop-owner Watanuki who knows it, but 'this' Watanuki doesn't really understand how he knew it. The ending revealed a bit more about the very first page of this series pointing very hard (there's an egg, a bird, and a mysterious phone line) that this may be a result of Watanuki's wish to go back to the start or something, when things were simpler, Yuuko was there. (And cue the sound of me crying) On the lighter side, Doumeki and Yuuko still tease Watanuki like before, (that is when they are not staring tensely at him) but there is also more affection shown in the latter's relationship with him; in the light of that reveal it just made me cry even more.
