



A Devil and Her Love Song, Vol. 8

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From Reader Review A Devil and Her Love Song, Vol. 8 for online ebook

Mello ♥ Illium ★Harry★ ?Myrnin? Torin Ichimaru says

Synopsis:

The start of her second year in high school brings someone unexpected into Maria's life—Shintaro Kurosu, a brash first-year student who does as he pleases. He takes a strong liking to Maria and sticks to her, making Maria and her crush Shin Meguro extremely uncomfortable. Like it or not, Kurosu's presence is about to change Maria in a surprising way...

My Thoughts:

In this volume, it's the start of the new year and a new character is introduced. He becomes interested in Maria and soon enough, he's also in love with her. In some ways, he's a lot like Maria is. He's very observant and can pick up on what others are feeling pretty quickly. He can practically read Maria and Shin like a book. He doesn't like it that Shin won't make a move on Maria, but he warns Shintaro away from her. Shin ends up telling him why he won't make a move, but Shintaro says that if taking Maria in his arms causes her to remember her past and cry, then he'll be there to work through it with her. Shin stubbornly continues to go about things the way he has been, though despite his feelings.

Later, they all go to Shin's beach house for the weekend and end up meeting Shin's dad. Shin's relationship with his father is a bit awkward, but I think they may be just a little closer now after Shin's father overhears Maria singing Ave Maria and Shin accompanying her. That special moment between them doesn't make Shintaro too happy, though and he makes a move...

I still really love Maria. She's adorable really. She blushes so easily when it comes to Shin. I hope she gets to find out how he really feels soon. She deserves to know.

P. says

The plot is getting beyond Maria just being sharp-tongued and people reacting to it, and that's healthy, although I'm not sure how I feel about the new cast addition. The guy is a creep. Unwitting, maybe, but the friend group should be calling him out on it more. I like that they did on one memorable occasion, and Shintaro recognized that he was inappropriate, but then he continues to harass Maria in the name of "love"

Judy (Geeky Reading) says

~4/5

This series is just so good. And while the last few volumes were good, it was a little muddy with the whole Anna plotline, and now it's really started kicking up again. This volume was just plain fun, along with some good plot development. And gah that ending, but I'll get to that further below.

The first chapter closes up the Anna storyline in a very good way. I wasn't sure what was going to happen with that—if they were going to leave us hanging, if something more dramatic was going to happen and they were going to go find her, or what. What did happen, though, was really nice. I don't want to give it away, but it wasn't what I was expecting, it was much preferred to my other ideas, and it left me very satisfied.

Then the story moves in a different direction, and we're introduced to a new character. First, there's a marathon at the school, and things seem tense between Maria and Shin. Shin is, really, just being dumb and Maria doesn't know what to do or think about it. Then, as Maria and Shin might be moving closer, might be moving farther apart, in comes Shintaro Kurosu. He makes quite an entrance, as well, but I won't give that away. And he proceeds to be very pushy with Maria, upfront with that he finds her interesting, wants to be around her, wants to walk her home, and later, that he's in love with her (and I'm going to ignore how fast that sounds, because even if it is, it kind of works, and I'm okay with it). Him and Shin talk, and Shin tells him some stuff about Maria's past and why he's not making a move on her, and Kurosu straight up tells him that he's not going to hold himself back from being with Maria if he can, and that she'll be able to work through it and he would be there to help her.

So, I'm a little unsure of Kurosu. I like Shin, that's obvious, but he needs to get his mind in the game and stop holding himself back, especially when Maria is ready to be with him, and she needs to work through what happened with her mother. But Kurosu has his good parts. He's very similar to Maria, in that he's straightforward, isn't afraid to speak his mind, sees through a lot of people's acts, but the big difference is that he doesn't think that's a bad thing, whereas Maria believes that she needs to learn how to interact with people better. But I like that he's so straightforward. Also, he's slowly making her get more comfortable with being touched and touching other people, which is very good.

Then there's Yusuke, of course, and I like him. He's sweet and he's nice and he's very good to Maria. And I feel bad for him during all this, seeing as how Maria is his friend and knows he wants more, and he's just kind of stuck watching her love Shin as someone else moves into the picture. I mostly just want him to move past his feelings for her so that he can fall for someone who will love him like he deserves. I know there's Ayu, but I'm not fully bought on her and him being a thing.

Anyway, Kurosu is moving steadily in on Maria. She's still obviously in love with Shin, and rather open about her feelings even while hesitant around Shin, but she's quickly forming a close relationship with Kurosu. Shin inadvertently invites everyone to his family's beach house for the weekend, and the girls and Kurosu (who pretty much invites himself to both things) go swimsuit shopping, in a very nice scene. Then they're at the beach, and we meet Shin's father (in an odd meeting), and Shin and Maria seem to be growing a bit closer.

And then, the end of the volume comes, and it's just really not very nice. I'm not going to spoil it, but it's a rather horrible way to end a volume, and am I ever so glad that I have the next volume ready and waiting so that I can go start it right off, because I would hate to have to wait to see what happens next. And now, I'm going to go do just that.

This review is also available on my blog.

Rach says

Another great volume! I'm so relieved that the storyline with Anna is finally over, and with the bare minimum of time spent on it, too!

This volume really centered on relationships, and how touch plays such a strong part in how close and connected you feel to a person. Maria still loves Shin, and doesn't want to be just friends with him, and unconsciously tries to touch him when she can, though more tentatively than she used to. She obviously feels a bit at a loss in regards to their relationship, and Shin isn't helping things. Flipping back and forth between coolly ignoring her and then helping her during the marathon is just confusing.

I really love the addition of Shintaro to the cast. I appreciate his bluntness and honesty, and the way he persistently tries to connect with Maria. Shintaro is the one who points out to her how wanting to touch someone is not a bad thing, and Maria finds herself growing closer to him despite herself. They are so similar in many ways, and are actually rather suited to one another.

Shintaro is also very observant, and is particularly pointed in his comments regarding Shin and Yusuke's feelings for Maria. How is it that everyone can see that Shin loves Maria except for Maria herself? Shintaro makes a very good point about the stupidity of Shin hiding his feelings -- Shin may think he is doing Maria a favor and protecting her from bad memories, but wouldn't it be better to deal with those emotions together, come what may? And incidentally, didn't Maria start to remember the stuff about her mother's suicide when Yusuke hugged her?

In the end, I have to admit that I love seeing Maria stuck between these 3 guys, and I can't wait to see who ends up winning her. She may be in love with Shin right now, but he's left the door open for either Yusuke or Shintaro to sneak in and steal her heart. Hopefully seeing this cliffhanger-maybe-kiss coming up will be what the guys need to make them step up their game.

Side note, how adorable was Shintaro during the swimsuit shopping scene? His for all the suits, and then, "I forbid you to wear swimsuits!" His confession was so honest and straightforward as well. He's definitely grown on me, and in just one volume, too! :)

Andre says

These stories are ok, and sometimes they have a good laugh or two, but there is really nothing special about. It's ok, if you just want to relax but it's nothing breathtaking or so.

What sticks out are the three main characters: Maria, Shin and Shintaro.

Now there are a few things I want to say about them:

Maria: She apparently is troubled, she seems to have some mind of her own and somewhat comfortable with her body and sexuality, even if she is afraid of emotional intimacy. And here is the thing: Considered what is told about her I really wonder why she is so "shy" and why on earth does she have a thing for Shin (maybe that was explained in earlier stories) and why she keeps up with him and Shintaro, especially Shintaro. She seems to be taken a step back pretty often when with him and it sometimes almost felt like she takes responsibility for his bad behavior.

Shin: The guy has some issues due to his father and I do think he takes the "I want to protect Maria" part too far, but he is basically an ok guy but I think he needs to be pushed in the right direction. So not that untypical for a teenage boy.

Shintaro: Oh boy... the guy already came along as slightly weird in the first few pages, albeit he had some redeeming qualities. However as more of the story progresses the more do his stalker tendencies come to the forefront, he is basically Maria's groupie, and he becomes more and more possessive and controlling. And of course it's all excused because he loves her. Yeah great love, forbidding her to wear bikinis. I have no idea why either Shin or Maria keep up with him in the end, the guy clearly needs to be taken down a thing or two and he is often plain creepy. Plus whenever he and Shin raises their hackles and argue about Maria it's all about them, it's never what she wants. So someone really needs to show these two their limits.

There is not really much to talk about. The language, well the German translation, seems OK if a bit dated. The artwork is OK but they could have been more consistent with hair color (once Maria suddenly has light hair) and sometimes the fonts could have been different to know which caption box it was you were reading.

Anne says

Time just moves on.

Chapter 48: Maria discovered that Anna already left the music school, and then later on, it was revealed through a letter that Anna already migrated to America. The letter was brutally honest to the point of being too harsh; but it was a good thing, in a way. Finally, she was being true to her feelings. Maria even cried in the end because she was beginning to truly understand the pain Anna was going through because of her "self". Because of that, the dark thoughts whirling in Maria's head finally disappeared and she felt much better after.

I'm hopelessly in love with Meguro.

Chapter 49: This chapter primarily focused on the marathon. Maria is starting to notice that Meguro is avoiding her. While he still seemed like before, worrying about her and all that, there was already a gap between them that shouldn't have been there. But really, you can see that Meguro is just playing it tough. When Maria whispered his name in sheer frustration, he was actually behind her. And when they ended up sitting together and later on he held his hand? I was literally shrieking, for goodness' sake.

I really hate people who dishonor love.

Chapter 50: A new year has begun. I really admire Maria for doing everything she could to become closer to Meguro. And you, Megu, acting nonchalant and all that but in the end you'd touch her hand anyway (while blushing, I might as well add)? Really. Kuroso Shintarou now steps into the limelight. I really have to commend the mangaka for weaving different guys than what we usually come across. He's pretty hot, that need not be said. And what makes him stand out is his unexpected personality—despite his seeming oblivion about everything (especially with his droopy eyes), he's actually quite dangerous and mature for his age. I feel a bit annoyed with Maria though. I mean, how could she allow Kurosu to drag her around like that when they've just met?

The thing about guys is, they always want to look cool in front of women.

Chapter 51: The relationship between Kurosu and Maria strengthens. Okay, of course I still ship Megu and Maria; but Kurosu is another story—he's the fusion of hotness and cuteness, if you get what I mean. He really fulfilled his role as her "bodyguard". Because of his attitude, a trio of upperclassmen dragged him to

the rooftop to teach him a lesson. Maria followed him, and then the three arrived as well (Megu, Yuusuke, and Shinpacchi). Megu appeared jealous at the closeness that was harboring between the two, especially when Maria actually touched Kurosu. But really, in a way, it's Megu's fault as well for not being honest with his feelings. He didn't have the slightest notion that in doing so, he was hurting Maria.

I had the feeling she would become the closest person to me.

Chapter 52: If there's one thing that I dislike about Megu, it's when he represses his feelings towards Maria because of her past. He doesn't even try first and observe what might plausibly happen. Instead, he keeps hurting himself and Maria. He confronts Kurosu and the latter tells him he's arrogant and possessive. Megu is being too heroic to the point of becoming infuriating. In this scene, I really have to agree with Kurosu's point-of-view. He really is so hot in his own way, especially when he told Megu that what if he tried making a move of his own because he couldn't hold back anymore? It's so sweet though when Megu interrupted Kurosu and Maria's conversation and said Maria and him are going out on Sunday (a spontaneous decision). But in the end, Yuusuke interfered and there would be an overnight at Meguro's holiday home.

Chapter 53: Gosh, Kurosu is so cute. I actually want to see him as the main character in another manga. You'd feel bad for him though, especially with the fact that he's usually all by himself. And it's mainly because he chooses the people he wanted to be with. When they were shopping for a swimsuit, he was too cute and then *gosh* he confessed. I feel quite annoyed with Maria in this chapter though. In the end, Maria realized that Kurosu didn't necessarily like solitude. He was just waiting for his special person. What a precious guy.

Chapter 54: This chapter revolved around their time in Meguro's villa. In there, they were astonished to see Megu's father. Megu was quite hurt during the encounter; but fortunately, Maria was able to console him by playing some music together. Megu's father was thoroughly pleased and he even praised his son. It ended with Kurosu saying things about Megu. He almost kissed Maria. This sudden behavior was primarily brought about by his jealousy in seeing the two together.

What's interesting about this volume is the emergence of Kurosu. Once more, I have nothing but compliments with the way Miyoshi Tomori portrayed her characters. His presence is a critical point in the relationship between Megu and Maria. The former is still lying with his feelings, holding back so much that in the end, it brings nothing but pain to the people involved. It's nice that Maria is still honest with what she feels (though she isn't very good in conveying them). Overall, I'm glad to say that *Akuma to Love Song* thoroughly improved in terms of characterization and plot. Hopefully the characters would realize that the best thing was to be true to what you feel, and try not to give a damn about what others think for a while.

Luna says

Series total (up to volume 11) 3 Stars,
ended closer to 2 Stars.

My initial impression of this being a story that is slow-building was correct, so much so that by the time I reached book 11 I decided I'm not interested enough to continue investing in Maria's story. (And I only had 2 volumes to go!)

What I liked about this series was that Maria was her own person. She was excluded and bullied because of this but she is true to who she is as a person. Yes she does try to fit in with her new classmates but she isn't being someone else to do it.

Plus I think the art is beautiful.

Where A Devil and Her Love Song ends up falling flat for me is that it really feels too long. I don't mind character development (but truthfully nobody actually changes all that much from the first book) or an author building up a backstory but with Maria's history everything seems to be take double the amount of time it needs to.

After the 5/6 volumes my interest was starting to go and it never really picked up – eventually even my stubbornness just couldn't make me finish this series.

Miss says

i wonder if this would have read more smoothly if i'd read it directly after volume 7? the end to the anna storyline felt super abrupt to me but i think that could be because i don't remember the details of how the last volume ended. i like that it leaves room for reconciliation someday though

so, new character! my feelings: they are mixed. i suspect if their bond was completely platonic i would be all about the shintaro-maria life? the way they understand and mirror each other is something that really appeals to me in non-romantic contexts. i would be perfectly satisfied to have him interested in maria just because her type of bluntness and honesty suits his own, sans ~l'amour~

idk, i liked the volume okay but it didn't give me as many maria feelings moments as i am accustomed. hopefully it is but a temporary lag! 3.5 stars

Kate says

Another new character is introduced after the incidents with Anna. This Shintaro Kurosu is as brash as Maria, but feels no embarrassment over it. He may help Maria overcome her fearfulness of being close with some people, but at a cost that she may relapse and remember her mother's actions. I have to wonder about his back story too. In this volume, it looks like Shin may have to make some effort to show his feelings (which is a difficult thing for him). Hopefully he steps out and becomes more forward about his affections for Maria. Otherwise he may lose her.

Naqib says

i don't get it! i don't get it! i don't get it!!!

why? please explain to me why is Anna and Maria's mother look exactly the same, and have the same name?

initially i thought that anna and maria's mom is the same person.

and. please tell me how does an ex rapist gets to be a pastor? its is just strange. everything is disconnected to me. why did none of her family come and take care of her? her father could take care of one houseful of orphans but can't even take care of his own daughter. how twisted is that? and her grandparents... i can't make sense of this. the plot is chaotic. she had been living by herself for years but never figure out who give her money every month? never figure of who gave her the books? never figure out anything? come on! she is supposed to be smart!!

and her boyfriend. i was like... whattt???!!! he just made me so mad that i couldn't put it into words. when will he start to worry about his injury? i had kinda had figure out that he will be all "you will protect her better than me and trash. and just be annoying" just wait ><

otherwise i like the story. but the drama is tiring.

Katie says

see full review @ Katie's Corner

Eden says

In this volume, Maria and her friends are starting their second school year together. A new character, Shintaro, is added in this volume. He's a grade below Maria and although he doesn't know her, he is already in love with her.

I still love Maria and her friends - they are all great. But, Shintaro is possessive over Maria. Honestly, I think he's a creeper. I hope he doesn't stick around long and I honestly hope Maria doesn't get with him. He's so. . . I just think the stuff he does is disturbing. Why would anyone be interested in being his girlfriend?

Shin and Maria had a nice moment in this volume. I think it was sweet.

And despite my annoyance of Shintaro, I am still enjoying this series.

Kate says

In the comments, the author mentions that she had a new editor starting around the last two chapters of this volume. Is the editor change the reason why I'm actually interested in the story now? I am still afraid that Shin is going to win out in the love quadrangle that's formed now, but I'm still pulling for Yusuke. Heck, even Kurosu is more interesting than moping emo Shin.

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Good volume.

Selena says

Another love interest has been added, and yet I don't seem to mind as much. It's not the typical YA "Oh noes! Can't choose between two guys, one of which is the totally obvious choice (and may mean my doom)!" problem that seems to plague stories these days. He acts more as a romantic rival, which I am perfectly okay with. I might not like the romantic rival as a character, but maybe he'll grow on me as I go.
