

YGG MAGAZINE

ISSUE 2 NOVEMBER 2013

Backstory-
TIGER & BUNNY
JUNJOU ROMANTICA

Interview-
CHRIS PATTON

Reviews-
SAILOR MEN
WILD BOYFRIEND
MY BEAUTIFUL SAMURAI

COVER STORY-



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YGG MAGAZINE

Number 2 November 2013



In This Issue —

2. Cover Story — Yaoi Revolution

A bold, new visually stunning approach to Yaoi that is turning heads and quickly winning fans.

6. Back Story — Tiger & Bunny/Junjou Romantica

Who are these characters? What is this anime or manga? Is it yaoi? Backstory gives a synopsis of favorite yaoi anime or manga titles and those titles that fans want to be yaoi.

11. YGG Talks — Chris Patton

Interviews with the people behind yaoi manga and anime.

14. Fiction — Hika by Kuro Bakura

A lonely young man makes a wish to be saved from his misery. The reply may be a dream come true or something terrifying.

16. Fiction — A Soldier's Request by EAB

A poignant story about a promise between star crossed lovers.

18. Panel Topics — Rise of the Stealthy Seme

A place for thoughtful opinions on issues that concern the yaoi community. These are often the same subjects for convention panels.

22. Reviews — Sailor Men/Wild Boyfriend/My Beautiful Samurai

In depth reviews of the newest and classic manga and anime titles.

Start A Yaoi Revolution

Gathering the Troops

I started to get serious about starting a Yaoi publishing company about a year ago. I had done some work in the industry already with other publishers and decided to form my own group. But unlike a doujin circle that centers around one artist, I wanted to work with multiple artists and make a variety of books in both print and digital formats: Comics, novels, art books - the works.

I have a background in magazines. I was an editor and journalist for various periodicals from 1990-2004. I figured Yaoi comics really wouldn't be all that different. So to get started, all I really needed was an artist.

Lehanan Aida caught my eye really early on. She was involved in a few manga projects but what really drew me to her was her more realistic pencil drawings. I thought this non-manga style would be a perfect match for the yaoi novel Orochi no Kishi (on this issue's cover). So I contacted her about her interest in becoming the illustrator for this project. She was very excited about it and we began to plan a schedule.

I own an enormous number of yaoi manga and novels collected from Japan, all in Japanese. The

Japanese native books are much higher print quality than any of the English licensed books so I wondered - why not publish original quality works here in the US? The Japanese mangaka I preferred tended to have a more 'manly' style - Norikazu Akira Sensei for one. Her meaty semes always made me swoon. And what's more her characters are drawn with real Japanese eyes.

I showed these types of styles to Aida and asked her if she could develop characters for me that would look Japanese and have secondary male sex characteristics - you know, like body hair? I showed her a few chapters of the novel and she dove right into it. I was blown away by how well she could not only embody the 'look' I was going for within her distinct style, but also embody the souls of the characters themselves - straight from the words of the book. She nailed 'Mouse' in the very first doodles. There weren't many changes other than hair color and length. 'Sadao' took a little longer to develop because at this point Aida only had a few of the first chapters to go off of. We don't really get to know Sadao's true character until later on. But I described him to her as a powerful warrior-like man with a deep love for

his people. She took this to heart and soon showed me a concept for Sadao that proved to be the perfect match. Yaoi-Revolution's first book was well underway.

The name Yaoi Revolution - serves two key mission statements for our company: a revolution in artistic styles and storytelling for yaoi as well as a revolution in the yaoi comic and novel publishing business model. Most US companies rely heavily on reprint rights for books already created overseas. Not only do they have to pay the Japanese publishers, but they have to pay translators and reprint costs. In order to make a buck at all you have to print in high volume and at very low quality. But I was aware of emerging digital press technology and decided perhaps low count, high quality print was the way to go. We'd publish beautiful high-quality books for the collectors and eBooks for the casual buyer who want to avoid the print and shipping fees. Plus offering print, makes you more 'legit' in the eyes of artists and customers. Not to mention it's very satisfying to actually HOLD a book you've created. I also wanted to hit the tradeshow circuit. And to sell at shows, you need tangible goods.

While Aida was busily drawing

Revolution

her heart out...I started courting printers in my area. You'd think in California (where gay marriage is now legal!) you'd be able to find a printer willing to print cocks. Think again. Everyone was happy to talk to me until I explained the exact nature of the content. They'd get pale and back away slowly. Until I found a local print house willing to work with me - despite the content - and offer me great bulk pricing based on a promise of repeat business. I explained my genre and business model to them thoroughly and they came back with some very competitive numbers. I was very pleased. Plus this printer is only a few miles from my home so I can shoot by any time to pick up books and handle print checks.

About 3-4 months into production I also offered to publish Himitsu Studio's 'Arena' - a yaoi comic series to start off our first trade show season with a bang! Now along with partner Tabe, Aida was double loaded with projects and most likely regretting she'd ever answered my emails...but making great progress nevertheless. I used Google Drive and Docs technology to create and share files between all of us and the system worked very well. I added a Production Calendar to make their

stress levels even higher as they drew like mad women to meet the spring and summer tradeshow deadlines.

Meanwhile I took off into the tech end of the business and developed a website, eCommerce system, social media outlets, etc. to make sure we had sales, marketing and distribution ready to go in addition to tradeshow direct sales. I'd be lying if I said things didn't get sweaty, nasty, grumpy and pissy during the final weeks of production, but the artists delivered an excellent manga in time for Fanime - San Jose.

First Campaign

Arena: Chapter One was very well received by the public. We didn't sell out, but we cleared a decent number of books and had a lot of excited feedback from booth visitors who were both astonished and thrilled there was a real US publisher of international yaoi artists now in existence. And that we had embraced new styles of yaoi - men with muscles, sweat and furry armpits. We're not bara, but we're not traditional yaoi either. It's something new and strongly appeals to men as well as women. This was a happy side effect I hadn't expected. I'd always heard that men laugh their asses off at yaoi - gay or straight. But at Fanime I

was witness to a wide variety of males taking serious interest in the work regardless of whether or not they like to see cocks on a regular basis. The book had a life of its own beyond sex appeal. There was history, detail and character dynamics that drew a wide number of eyeballs. I knew we were on to something...

I'll have to admit I was nervous about launching a novel - Orochi no Kishi - as our second title. I've watched very carefully what sells and doesn't sell at tradeshow. Comics sell well - novels gather dust. But I took a risk and backed up a theory that novels filled with great art (one illustration per chapter) would encourage more people to buy. Novels are very expensive to publish - more than twice the cost of doujin. And there's a hellish number of words to typeset and edit. We were very short staffed and lost a lot of sleep getting it ready in time for Anime Expo. I wanted a cover design that would really grab eyeballs at the shows. I wanted Aida to focus on the tattoo - let the coiling snakes and ripped muscles of Sadao's back tell the story in one image. This was a split from traditional yaoi covers - which always show the 'couple.' We saved that couple image instead for the back cover over the plot summary

text. I lost a lot of hair over this gamble - but I'm thrilled to say it paid off. Orochi no Kishi has sold every bit as well as Arena in the US and other English-native countries. So aside

from the extra work involved, I feel dedicated to publishing a full novel or two each year in addition to the serial comics. But only if Aida agrees to illustrate them!

Making the Cut

What stories I choose to publish has everything to do with the kind of premise and characters being pitched to me. Yaoi and manga as a whole has



taught the world that there are only a finite set of possible story topics: demons, vampires, wizards, samurai, vampire samurai, salarymen, super heroes, uber crime fighters, aliens, vampire aliens...and any mix thereof. I'm personally sick to death of those kinds of stories. Mainly because I find real people so much more interesting. If you can fly away from your problems with magic powers, what's the point? I enjoy real stories about real people set in real worlds. Those worlds can be in the fictitious future or past where the rules of life are drastically different, but at the story's core there needs to be real people I can relate to. I can't relate to invisibility.

Artistically, certainly I'm drawn to artists who draw good solid meaty male anatomy with a keen knowledge of realism. Not necessarily hyper-realism - we still want to be somewhat removed from toe cheese and dandruff, but I don't want girly, wimpy-looking men either. 'No crying ukes! Ukes are men, too!' Is our slogan. And I like it when artists mix up the traditional roles a bit: give that uke a donkey dong and make him older and more aggressive. Or flip it around a bit. Why are we so afraid to uke our semes? They love a little ass play, too! Yaoi Revolution is just that: a revolution against the iron-clad standards. It's doesn't mean I balk at stylistic art necessarily, I think Ninona's 'The Lotus Eaters' is an excellent example of this. Her men are stylized but very real to me at the same time. She brought to me a story and a pair of characters I'd never seen or heard of before. Lope and Aleksander fascinated me, excited me and made me want to know 'what happens next?' Plus it has a lovely European flair to it unlike anything coming out of Japan. If the pitch excites me and makes me want more - I'll publish it.

To that end, I am also on the lookout for other types of books that

I think will appeal to a yaoi-focused audience. Samurai is a perfect example of this. It's a unique collection of full-color artwork by artists from all over the globe. I love their diverse vision and ability to show us male beauty in a way not often seen in the published world. I knew immediately I wanted to re-print and distribute this amazing collection and add to it by offering signed prints and posters. Collectors - that's who we want to sell to whenever possible. Mature customers with mature tastes who want something to own and treasure.

Campaign Plans

It takes roughly 4 to 5 months to see a project all the way from idea to print. So those first two titles: *Arena* and *Orochi no Kishi* were a 24/7 focus for us the first half of 2013. In the second half of this year we will see many more new titles emerging: *Arena: Chapter Two* (Doujin-Spain), *Homecoming: GMO Project* (Doujin-France), *The Lotus Eaters* (Doujin-Spain), *Samurai* (Art Book-various) and a collection of prints and posters to match. In 2014, things get serious...I've honestly got more offers for publishing than I know what to do with. I also look forward to publishing an anthology of WWII stories - 6 in all - written and drawn by different artists and writers. It gives Yaoi-Revolution a chance to work with a diverse group of highly talented people from not only the US but South America, the Far East and Eastern Europe in addition to Europe and the US, which is where our sales are mostly focused.

As for tradeshows - we are exhibiting at BentCon Nov. 8-10 in Burbank, CA and then taking a rest through the holidays followed by WonderCon (Anaheim, CA) and FanimeCon (San Jose, CA) in the springtime. Summer ... who knows. I'm still debating whether or not to give AnimeExpo another shot.

It's huge, but expensive as well. It entirely depends on sales how many shows we will do. But I want to add a show in Spain, France and Japan to our yearly tour as budget permits. We're headquartered in Southern CA so anything from San Diego to San Francisco is always a possibility.

Where do i think the future of yaoi is going? I hope it goes in the way I envision it - greater diversity and open mindedness to what the genre can bring to its audience. And to broaden the audience and test the limits of what "traditional" yaoi dictates. I also see a heavier reliance on smart phone and tablet technology not only for eBook distribution and reading but for social media as well. One of the stats I can follow on our website is incoming links from blog posts and reposts. The viral numbers are staggering. Yaoi is a industry ripe for social media marketing. Word gets around fast and a little savvy SEO and properly tuned pay per click ads produce added audience numbers very fast. Unlike my magazine days of direct mail and list buys - we have created our own opt in/out marketing network. A successful publishing business today can not succeed without it.

We hope to see everyone soon at BentCon and next year on our tour stops (hopefully) around the world. Stop by our site: www.yaoi-revolution.com and join the revolution. Viva Yaoi!!!

Backstory



Tiger & Bunny

タイガー&バニー

Tiger & Bunny (*Taigā Ando Bani*) is not a Yaoi anime. However, the closeness of the main characters in this series is such that many a yaoi fan ships them. *[To ship is to place characters in pop culture such as manga, anime, TV series or live action films in a relationship.]* In the short time since 2011 since the series and origin story film have aired, many doujinshi have been published featuring the leading men in very intimate relationships. *[Doujinshi are self-published manga that began as fan versions of existing titles. The definition has expanded to include original, independently published yaoi.]*

The series takes place in “NC 1978” *[NC seems to be a designation like BC or AD but seems to have no precise meaning.]* in a fictional, re-imagined version of New York City called Stern Bild City, where 45 years before,

superpowered individuals known as “NEXT” started appearing and some of them became superheroes. Each of the city’s most famous superheroes work for a sponsor company and their uniforms also contain advertising for real-life companies. Their heroic activity is broadcast on the popular television show “Hero TV”, where they accumulate points for each heroic feat accomplished (arresting criminals or saving civilians, for example) and the best ranked hero of the season is crowned “King of Heroes”.

The story primarily follows the exploits and misfortunes of veteran hero **Kotetsu T. Kaburagi** aka *Wild Tiger* who is assigned a new partner, a young man named **Barnaby Brooks Jr.** who Kotetsu dubs *Bunny* much to Barnaby’s chagrin. However, Barnaby and Kotetsu usually have trouble working together as they

have conflicting opinions on how a superhero should act while at the same time trying to crack the mystery of the murder of Barnaby’s parents. Their characters each go through an arc where they face self doubt and distrust of one another along with the dangers thrown their way from super villains.

What makes Tiger and Bunny attractive to Yaoi fans?

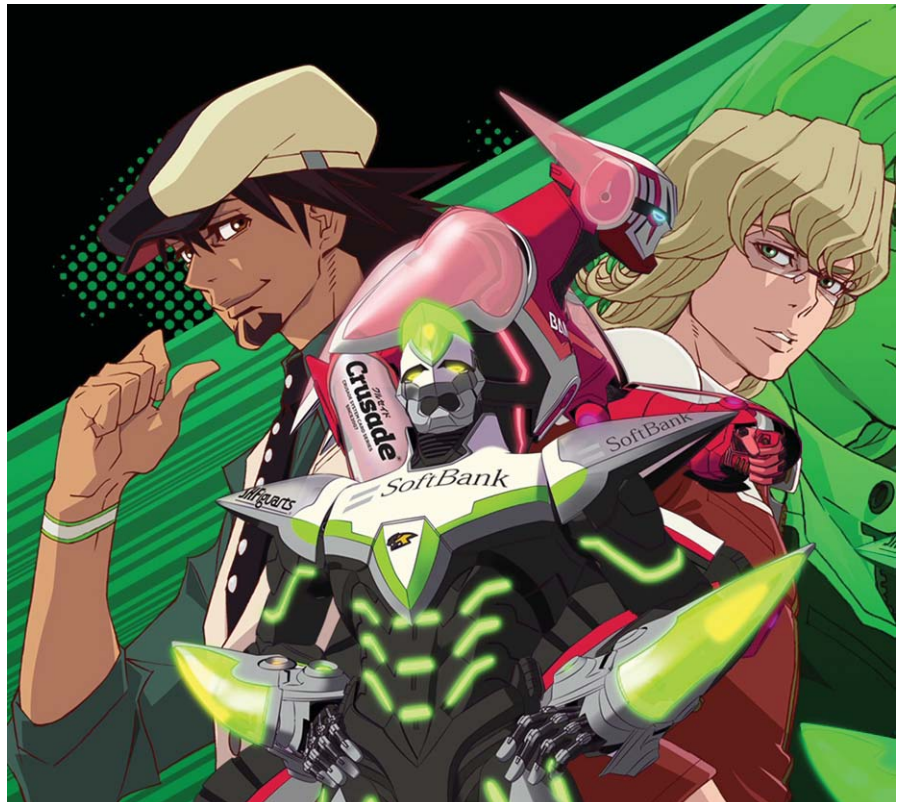
The hero pair is very attractive and they have been thrown together and must work in close quarters with each other. Barnaby or Bunny is pretty enough to be mistaken for a girl. He is quintessentially Bishonen *[beautiful young man who is almost androgenous]* and thus very much a Yaoi character. And then there is the fanservice. *[Fanservice is a term of an image or scene done specifically to please fans.]*



Yaoi fanservice includes lots of beautiful, bare male skin and having the couple in embraces or in bed or other situations that a couple in love would be in.] Tiger and Bunny has enough fanservice to very much keep Yaoi fans interested. Though Koetsu does most of the pursuing of a relationship with Barnaby, He isn't the typical Seme in the relationship. It seems that more doujinshi portray Barnaby as the Seme. [See the Panel Topics section to read about Stealthy Seme.]

Where can I find this show?

In North America, *Tiger and Bunny* produced by Sunrise can be seen for free on Hulu.com. The Films are available on Viz Media's Neon Alley. The Manga is available in English through Viz Meida and in Japanese in the magazine *Newtype Ace*.



Junjou Romantica

In the world of Yaoi, *Junjou Romantica*, a yaoi series by Shungiku Nakamura, is an 800 pound gorilla. It has had two 22 episode seasons and an OVA. [According to Anime News Network, an OVA is Original Animation Video & Original Video Animation (OAV / OVA) are interchangeable terms used in Japan to refer to animation that is released directly to the video market without first going through a theatrical release or television broadcast. In

the beginning OAV was used in Japan. However, due to confusion with Adult Video and Audio/Video electronics this acronym was gradually abandoned in favor of OVA.] In addition to that, *Junjou Romantica* has spawned two wildly popular titles. One has also had two 22 episode seasons and two OVAs. The other had had its own manga, light novel and now a feature film. Finally, *Junjou Romantica* is the first Yaoi series to be licensed by a US company. Starz' Manga has the

rights and is currently running season one on Hulu.com! (<http://www.hulu.com/junjou-romantica>) This is unprecedented!

Junjou Romantica is the saga of three couples and their complicated and often humorous relationships. The each have a title. *Junjou Romantica* is the story of Usami Akahiko or Usagi-san and Misaki Takahashi. Usagi-san is the scion of a wealth family who has found wealth and



fame in his own write as an award winning novelist. Misaki is the younger brother of Usagi-san's classmate (and secret crush), Takahiro. As a favor to Takahiro, Usagi-san agreed to tutor Misaki in order to help him pass university entrance exams. A comedy of errors ensues during which this pair become lovers. Their love affair is never blissfull. It is often hilarious and occasionally deeply touching. Usagi is arrogant and possessive but somehow it's completely endearing and incredibly sexy. Misaki comes close to being annoyingly hesitant to declare his feelings, but he is highly engaging. It is little wonder that fans still clamour for more episodes with this pair and their erotic adventures.

Junjou Egoist is the story of Hiroki Kamijō, a university professor and childhood friend of Usagi-san and Nowaki Kusama, a university student who works as a forist. After a chance meeting in a park where Hiroki is crying over his unrequited love for Usagi-san, Nowaki is moved to keep Hiroki company and then to insist that he tutor him. Nowaki is an absolute hunk who is madly in love with Hiroki. Nowaki eventually wins his love, but their affair is a very rocky road. Nowaki's disastrous non-relationship with Usagi-san has left him vulnerable and scared. If he isn't pushing Nowaki away he's possessive to the point of violence toward anyone paying attention to him. Nowaki's sometimes bizarre behavior





when trying to better his relationship or their lives together never help matters. This makes for some intense comedy and pathos.

Junjou Terroist is the story of Yō Miyagi, a university professor and Hiroki's office mate, finds himself being pursued by Shinobu Takatsuki, the younger brother of his ex-wife. Shinobu became infatuated with Yō and demands that he take responsibility for those feelings. Eventually, they begin the riskiest of the three relationships. Aside from

the incredible age difference between the two, Shinobu's father is Yō's superior at the university. The elder Takatsuki forgave the divorce as he knew his daughter was difficult, but this entanglement with his youngest could cost Yō his career. That makes for some tense drama and some edgy comedy.

There is a sweetness along with the erotic heat and the comedy in *Junjou Romantica* that may explain the popularity. These couples aren't typical Seme/uke types. They are fully

realized characters that are engaging and compelling. What few 'bad guys' these couples encounter aren't really bad at all. They are usually wounded or fearful or lonely and visiting those feelings on relationships that they envy in some way. All of them are salvageable. In fact, some have gone on to their own series where they eventually find a pure romance of their own. That is the very best aspect of this series. It is not surprising that it is the first yaoi to be licensed to run in the US.



Chris Patton

Chris Patton has been a voice actor for decades portraying characters wildly popular shows like *One Piece*, *Neon Genesis Evangelion* and *Dragonball Z*. Buy Yaoi fans know him for Lavi in *D. Gray-man* and for Greed in *Full Metal Alchemist* and *Fullmetal Alchemist: Brotherhood*. Chris kindly took time from his busy schedule to give us an insight into his hectic life and share his views on the changing nature of fanservice in anime. It is a charming and often unvarnished chat from one really cool guy.

YGG: Can you tell us a little about your career as a voice actor. How did you get into it?

CP: It's a long or short story, depending on how much time the person has, or how tired I am. Seeing as how I just got home from my last Convention appearance of 2013, and you don't have endless room for voice actors to prattle on, I'll go with the short(er) version.

I did theatre from the age of nine or ten, all the way into my twenties.

Around age 28, somebody suggested I audition for this little company over in southwest Houston called ADV. They said that they occasionally hired actors to "dub anime", and that it was really fun work for actors who were perhaps a bit adventurous and exploratory. I auditioned. Within about two weeks, I started doing roles for ADV, and the rest is history, etc. Through voicing Anime, I discovered that Voice Over was something I enjoyed in all its shapes and shades, from commercials, to audiobooks, video games, elearning, etc.

YGG: What is your favorite kind of voice part?

I love working in general, to be honest. Proactive actors just enjoy work, and are always grateful for it. That being said, I love playing the sort of pretty-boy hero/ best friend roles, because they sit really comfortably in my voice, and they usually have *lots *of lines, which means more work!

YGG: What is a type of role that you

would like to play but have not?

Oh my God, good question, because after about 185 Anime titles, I'd imagine I'd voiced just about every type there is, but... Hm... I got it! I'd like to play a really dangerous, sexy, scary vampire. That's something I haven't done that I would absolutely love.

YGG: There has been a trend in anime series toward fanservice aimed at females

into Bishonen and yaoi. The protagonists and antagonists have gotten prettier and prettier and the subtext has become more prominent. The reason given for this is that studios have discovered that large audiences of yaoi loving females follow these kinds of shows because of the beautiful characters. The doujinshi was the main clue on that. They decided to cultivate that audience without making the shows outright yaoi.

Are you aware of the fanservice and the subtext for the characters when you work on it? Are your costars aware?

There's a song from the '90s,



gods help us, by 10,000 Maniacs called “Candy Everybody Wants”, and it basically has this repeating refrain that says “hey, hey, give ‘em what they want!”. That’s basically how I view this. It’s sort of a supply/demand situation, isn’t it? And let’s face it, there’s nothing wrong with looking at and appreciating beauty. But, I think it’s when said beauty gets in the way of plot, subtext, nuance, and character development that we get into murky waters. Yes, let’s have beautiful guys everywhere in Anime, sure, but let’s give them interesting things to say, and complex problems to get themselves into and out of.

Am I aware? I’m *very *aware! How could I not be? About 95% of the characters I’ve voiced are these almost impossibly gorgeous “boys” (16-25 year olds, mostly, I’d guess) that could hardly even exist in real life. I sometimes give voices to these dudes and think “well damn, I mean, NOBODY looks like that!” But that’s the fantasy aspect, I’d say. It’s also (for me, as a 42-year old male) a *little *disconcerting to see how sort of

beautiful and sexualized they make some of these guys, because at times, as I stated above, they’re *very *young. But, I suppose the target audience is often very young females who like “sensitive guys”, so it all makes sense. I guess it would be a little creepy to find that lots of guys, say, my age or older, were really into those types of characters... ew. That said, I surely don’t think that’s the case. I think most males aged about 25+ may like a lot of the characters I’ve played, not at all because of their looks, but because of their attitudes or quirks. Gods that was a lot of rambling... I hope it made sense. :-)

YGG: Are you surprised at the yaoi following amongst fans in the US?

No. No, not at all. Young girls are always, *always *going to find young, slightly effeminate, non-threatening boys very attractive. That is something that has always been and will always be. Currently, look at the phenomenon and of Justin Beiber and One Direction.

YGG: Are you ever asked about yaoi subtext when you are at conventions?

I’m asked about it quite often. And I’m quite happy to talk about it. I enjoy it. More than a few of the characters I’ve voiced, even some of the villains, have definitely had a “possibly gay side”, or at least been subtly effeminate.

YGG: Yaoi series have been making prime time routinely in recent years in Japan. There is a feature film planned for one as well. In the US, a yaoi series has turned up on Hulu that was licensed by the Starz channel. Does that surprise you?

It does not. Because finally, America is becoming much more sane on all topics LGTBQ. Yaoi series and feature films, if they’re done well, should enjoy just as much screen time as titles that have nothing to do with Yaoi.

YGG: Can you see a yaoi series coming to Adult Swim?

I certainly can. And I think, if the title was strong enough, that it could be a huge hit there.



HIKA

by Kuro Bakura
from the upcoming novel

Chapter 1

18-year-old Hikaru “Hika” Ishimara hated days like this especially when he’s very depressed. He doesn’t even have the urge to go downstairs or even outside. Hikaru just came out of the closet to his family last month. Ever since then, it’s been like a total hell-hole living with his family. The only people who supports him are his grandmother, older sister and mother but that’s basically it. He has no friends to hang with nor talk to. His dad & uncle disown him because he likes guys. Everyday just keeps getting worst for Hikaru. It’s like a never-ending circle of hate & depression.

“I wish for ONE day, I wasn’t crying, sad or wanting to kill myself. I just want to be loved.” Hikaru thought, as a tear rolled down his cheek. Suddenly, rain tapped heavily on his bedroom window.

“Well, screw the idea of TRYING to go outside today.” Hikaru said, sighing.

He flopped back onto the bed and closed his eyes. Just as he was falling asleep, he heard a big banging noise from his window. He thought it was just thunder. He opened to eyes and saw nothing. As he thought want could it have been that made the loud noise, a hand flopped up onto the

window! It looked like something out of a horror flick (and Hikaru HATES horror flicks). He ran to the window and opened it. Hikaru looked down and saw a male angel hanging from the outer window sill. Hikaru grabbed his hands and pulled him in.

“Are you okay?” he said, closing the window quickly. The angel didn’t say a word but shivered in his soaked clothes. Hikaru grabbed a fresh, clean towel from his bathroom closet and wrapped the angel in it then ran to his closet to grab his robe & a pair of boxers.

“Here. You can borrow these. They might be a little snug on y-!” Hikaru stopped as the angel started to undress in front of him to put on the clothes. He started to drool over the fact the angel had a SEXY body with muscles. “Uhhh...maybe you should go dress up in the bathroom?” Hikaru asked the angel, blushing. The angel walked to him naked, smiling.

“We’re both guys, it’s okay. Im gay, anyway.” the angel said in a sexy deep voice. Hikaru stood back in cosfusement & shock.

“It didn’t matter to me if you were or not. Plus, why did you know on my window and no one elses?” Hikaru questioned him. The angel looked up

at him.

“Yes. For a while now, I’ve been looking at you, studying you and getting the need to know you more. Mentally, physically, emotionally, Your likes, dislikes, what you do all day, I wanted to know everything and still do. When I heard you wish, I decided to take a chance. Stupid, I know, but I thought I may not get another chance like this. Please forgive me and don’t be scared. I won’t hurt you, I promise. I just want to make you happy.” the angel confessed to Hikaru.

“O-o-okay. I trust you.” Hikaru said. As Hikaru was about to walk away, Hikaru remembered something he forgot to ask him.

“By the way, what is your name?” Hikaru asked.

“Kinkade.” he answered.

“Nice name.” Hikaru said. Kinkade thanked him with a smile.

For the rest the day, they talked about everything from hobbies to family. Hikaru discovered that Kinkade was kicked out of his angelic world for being gay, by his father (who was king of the angelic world). It was either leave or be sent the demon world, so he left. He has no friends, family and always has been an outcast. He thought if he let someone into life, they would

leave as soon as they came in. All he ever wanted was to find someone to love him for who he is. After a while of just pure conversation, Hikaru needed to ask him a question that's been burning on his mind since he saw Kinkade dressing in front of him. "Kinkade, how long were "studying" me for? Why? I know you didn't mean any harm but I never saw you before." Hikaru asked.

Kinkade turned to the side Hikaru was sitting. "I studied you for about two years now. When I first saw you, it was love at first sight. I am a year younger than you, but, to me, that doesn't matter. Love is love. Anyhow, ever since then, I hid in many places so you couldn't see me. The only time I didn't see you is when you were getting dressed, sleeping or showering because to me, I rather see you naked when we first make love. Whenever that happens but I'm not in a hurry to do that. Everytime, I wanted to meet you but I just couldn't do it because I was afraid of scaring you. I know you may not understand this now but I hope we still can be friends." Kinkade tried to explain. Hikaru didn't know what to say for a few minutes but then again, he actually didn't care or want to know much more.

"Sure. You seem like a trusty person." Hikaru said, then smiled. That made Kinkade's heart very happy. Suddenly, both of them realized...where is Kinkade going to stay? It wouldn't be a good idea to go back out in the rain. Hikaru was about to say something but then stopped.

"What were going to say, Hikaru?" Kinkade asked.

"Well, I was going to say that you can stay here but my dad and uncle..." Suddenly, Hikaru felt Kinkade hold his right hand.

"I understand but no one and only you can see me." Kinkade said to Hikaru, reassuring him. "But if you want me to go, I understand that too." He said as he got off the ground. As Kinkade walked towards the window, he felt Hikaru's arms around him.

"NO! I want you to stay. I just didn't want you to get hurt. I'm sorry, Kinkade. I-!" Hikaru was stopped by Kinkade's arms, hugging him tight.

"I'll stay then. For you." Kinkade said. Hikaru blushed but felt something as they were hugging. It was feeling that Hikaru hasn't felt in a long time. It was happiness.

"You okay?" Kinkade asked Hikaru.

"Yeah. I'm just happy." Hikaru told him with a smile on his face. Both of

them hugged tighter.

"Let's get something to eat. By the way, can you eat? I know it's a dumb question but..." Hikaru said.

"Don't worry. I know you will have many questions and I will answer them truthfully & to the best of my ability. Yes, I do and can eat all types of food." he answered him.

Hikaru replied with a smile. To know that Hikaru listened made Kinkade happy.

"I hope one day, I can tell him I love him but for now, I'm happy the way things are with us." Hikaru thought. Both of them couldn't be happier at this point but anything can happen.

Coming out in 2014!

A Soldier's Request

by EAB

"Don't forget me Shinji..." Akiro looked down at the placid lake in front of him on his knees praying. This is what Shinji did daily. Prayed for peace, and knowledge, and enlightenment, and here he prayed for his lover never to forget their time together. He knew he would never see his childhood friend again, feel his arms around him, hear the serene vibration of his lovely voice. He buried his face into his hands, weeping silently.

"Akiro... Soon, I'm going to the temple." Shinji told him lying next to him on the grass. He rubbed his fair hands against his stomach not looking over at the long haired man.

Akiro sat up and turned over towards Shinji. He stared at him trying to hold back the anguish hearing his decision brought.

"Tomorrow," Shinji answered before he could ask when.

All these years, looking at him through the veil of his chastity and virtue, all of it, sat at the precipice of this man's announcement. Akiro was content with loving him at far, touching him only innocently, but only if he could love him forever, see him every day.

"I love you Shinji..." Akiro confessed, and hearing the words drip from his lips made his heart race. Shinji looked over at him, his face was

undeterminable. Blank. Empty.

"Shinji...did you hear what I said?" Akiro hulked over him, blocking the sun from his ice blue eyes. He looked up at this man, confessing to him now. He didn't speak, only pulled his face to his own, kissing him gently holding his cheeks in his hands. His face was warm from the sun, and his lovely hair fell down on his cheeks.

"Shin...ji..." Akiro embraced him, what else could he do now? Did this mean his feelings had seeped through unknowingly? Did Shinji know the effect he had on him? From the first day he saw him, the yearning desire to hold him? And then in the same breath he whispered his name, he felt Shinji's tongue slip into his mouth setting his whole being into tremors. He pushed Shinji down onto the ground staring at him intensely. The perspiration from the hot day, and the heat of the moment, crept down the sides of his face.

Again Shinji did not speak; he only stared at the piecing black eyes, to the owner of which had killed hundreds of men. One a soldier, dying without understanding; the other a monk, living for enlightenment. The sweet irony that bound these two together was ripping them apart slowly.

Akiro slipped his robe off his shoulder

exposing the pallid skin. Shinji was not fighting, and he wasn't turning away. Akiro willed himself to believe that he wanted this too, loosening the tie around his robes quickly. He slid his fingertips up Shinji's robes and felt the openness, the warm skin of his member which twitched at his touch. Shinji jerked a little, not fleeing the touch of his best friend, but opening his legs more as Akiro probed the opening between his legs.

All this, the writhing of their bodies as they met, the cringing pain Shinji felt being penetrated by Akiro, the deafening beat of their hearts. Simultaneous fear, and passion, under the blazing sun. The sweat of their bodies making them shed their heavy garb. Each time their tongues met they wanted more, each time their bodies connected they pulled and pushed harder to secure this bond that would soon be broken.

"Don't forget me Shinji..." Akiro breathed heavily as his essence erupted.

Silence.

Shinji didn't speak. Staining this memory would be a terrible sin. Instead he closed his eyes panting lightly, clutching to this man who had pleased him so decadently, and lay in the summer sun, the heat of Akiro,

the call of the locust, lulling him to sleep.

“Here lies, Akiro Takana... Commander of the 1st squad, held the 5th region for 12 days unaccompanied.”

Shinji sat bowing next to the grave of his childhood friend repeating the same words. Chanting?

“He was a strong man, a warrior, a fighter.”

Shinji felt the dull ache settle in his throat as he continued to utter the words undiscernibly.

“He will forever be commemorated...”

Whispering under his breath, Shinji didn't chant as the other Buddhist did.

He spoke the words he couldn't say, 10 long years ago...

“I won't... Akiro,” he breathed.



Art by Kuilàn

Rise of the



With all due respect to Fujoshi and Fundashi with fetishes that can never change, but not all Seme need to be big shouldered with big muscles and even bigger voices. They don't have to be stern or angry or overtly pushy. I know Iason Mink is not all of these things. I'll leave him out of the mix for this argument, so more of you may listen to what I am proposing. More and more mangaka and novelists are realizing this and crafting characters that are so complex and subtle that it is hard to spot the Seme in the room. Conversely, the uke are no longer all timid and quivering. This is very refreshing, and to me a far more interesting read. Who wants to read what is the same story over and over again? It also never made sense to me why such strong and uncompromising characters would be interested in the timid and weak willed. This sort of attraction always smacked of Seme that aren't really the incredible lovers they were purported to be. One might argue – and more than one has – that these Seme are being protective. If that is the case, what IS up with the raping and over all physical abuse? That's real protective. And it's real manly of someone who is often twice as big as the uke. And no, that horse will never be too dead for me to stop beating.

Where was I? Ah, yes. With all

Stealthy Seme

these changes, how do you spot the Seme in a manga or anime? It's still easy enough. It's all in the personality. A Seme is a catalyst for significant action in a story. He's doing stuff, and usually that stuff is ahead of the curb of everyone else. He has irresistible charisma or force of personality that gets even the hesitant to do his bidding. That is NOT the same as being able to bully someone into obeying. This is the ability to make what they want to do so compelling that everyone – not just the uke – feels they must to it. They are self possessed in general. This can manifest itself in a couple of ways. Either the Seme is supremely confident of their personal abilities or they know what they want from life. Sometimes, it's both. The main thing is that the Seme brings order to a uke's life as well as love. Sometimes that is actual protection in some fashion and other times it's personal fulfillment. To bring this kind of order, a Seme MUST have control of himself as a person. Also, a Seme doesn't have to

be the one always pitching sexually. He's brave enough to know what he wants and have it.

And it's time to play 'Whose Your Seme?' Some of these shows are yaoi, some of them have tons of shipping or fans creating doujinshi. Let's begin with fans *Starfighter* webcomic. Everyone and her uncle thinks that Cain is the Seme because of his rambunctious greeting of Abel early in the story. He certainly seemed to be have his way with Abel whenever he felt like it. But Cain does not have enough self-possession to be a Seme. He can barely keep himself in check enough to keep from fighting his fellow gunners at the drop of a hat. Meanwhile, since their first mission together, it's becoming more and more clear which one of this pair has more self control and more control over the relationship. Abel kept Cain from starting a fight with some snots that really needed a punch in the face and then there is this line during the last mission: *I'm not going to*

let them hurt you. Given what they were facing, that's a pretty badass Seme line to me!

I've debated about Whose the Seme a number of times but never more than with the debut of *Free! IwatobiSwim Club*. It is an anime (not yaoi) show with five really hot and interesting male characters who have an intense dynamic between them. The shipping began before there were trailers explaining what the show was about (basically, the adventures of a newly formed high school swim team who are trying to overcome past problems and make it to the national competition). Most everyone agrees that the show's lead hottie, Haruka Nanase (Haru) (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Haruka_Nanase) and the most recently recruited member of the team, Rei Ryugazaki (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Rei_Ryugazaki) are uke. Where I diverge from most is who the Seme are. The popular wisdom had Haru shipped with his closest friend and





Note: In the photo above, Nigasa has Rei gleefully by the collar. That day will come faster than he realizes that Nigasa will want more from him than a butterfly stroke. Rei already has trouble refusing him.

Note: In the photo below, I've aged Nigasa to the age of his older teammates to give an idea of the Seme he is on his way to be. Rei had better brace himself (forgive my crude artwork)



neighbor, Makoto Tachibana (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Makoto_Tachibana) (one of the most complex and compelling Seme I've ever seen) and former friend and rival Rin Matsuoka (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Rin_Matsuoka.) While I agree that Haru and Makoto are a couple (probably for all of their lives – it's a 'till death do we part pairing), Rin is not a Seme. He has no clue who he is or what he wants. He has no self-control. All he could bring to a uke is turmoil and misery. He tried mightily to bring that to Haru as well as his own Kohai, Nitori (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Aiichiro_Nitori.) Fortunately, Haru has a Seme that brings order and peace and love to his life and other loved ones that bring him happiness. And if Rin is not Haru's Seme, he certainly is not the big Seme for this series. That honor goes to the most stealthy Seme of all, Nagisa Hazuki (http://free-anime.wikia.com/wiki/Nagisa_Hazuki.) Though shorter and more cherubic, Nagisa possesses all of the traits of a real Seme. He was not only the catalyst behind the return of the high school swim club, he was also responsible for recruiting a highly reluctant Rei, the vitally important 4th man that allowed the team to move forward. He is responsible for getting the highly reluctant coach to help them. He is always rallying them when they need it most and making things happen through sheer force of will. And he is ever protective of his team. Give him five years, and I daresay that he could go toe to toe with Iason Mink himself as a Seme.



Finally, I think these changes to Seme are wonderful, because it has caused the rise of the Dangerous uke. The uke of *Tightrope* and *Ikoku Irokoi Romantan* and *Tyrant Who Fall in Love* could not have existed if these tropes had not changed. That kind of change is truly a beautiful thing. Observe:



Review



Sailor Men anthology by
Sakira
Digital Manga Guild
Stories include:

Beyond a Kiss: Naozumi sees Junsei one day and is instantly in love. But the path to true love is not smooth. Junsei is resisting all of his advances, to Naozumi takes drastic if funny action.

Characters: 10/10

Very well developed characters that feel real. Junsei's insecurity about his body image is touching and Naozumi's attempts at attracting his love interest is at times very amusing.

Plot: 10/10

Very cute story of one man's pursuit of his true love and his attempt to make it to home base with his love interest. Not really a story that needs a hook or twists to make it complete.

Sex: 10/10

Lots of sex that is very descriptive and very hot. The illustrations are realistic and believable.

Sailor Men: "So Cosplay flips your switch" opens this straight (no pun intended) forward story of what happens when one friend discovers that his best friend looks hot in a pink sailor suit.

Characters: 10/10

Both characters are believable and well developed. Maki's shock at his sudden feeling for his friend Kana and his attempts to adjust to his change in feelings for him is very nicely done.

Plot: 9/10

Basic story of one friend having an AHA! moment and his subsequent actions dealing with it.

Sex: 10/10

Very hot and very descriptive. It is actually the best part of the story although there is one scene where Kana is prepping with undies on. Not very comfortable!

Pure Hearted Lies: Sagami sets out to prank his nemesis Kensuke and is in major trouble when his plan backfires. It's the Public Morals chairman versus the Punk Band.

Characters: 10/10

Very well developed characters that have depth.

Plot: 10/10

The story has the potential being three pages long if Sagami's plan works. But gladly for us this does not happen. Full of emotion and hurt feelings and the realization that water and oil can mix.

Sex: 10/10

Hot make up sex at its best.

Pure Love Tyrant: Hihara meets his school friend father Houji and falls in love. The story is about how he maneuvers Houji into a clandestine relationship.

Characters: 7/10

I don't find blackmail and coercion attractive traits so I have a hard time seeing past that to see any good in Hihara.

Plot: 7/10

The basic plot is boy sees man, wants man, needs to have man by any means possible. By using events from Houji's past he blackmails him into an affair. There is a twist at the end that attempts to smooth over the events.

Sex:

Lots of sex that is described in

detail. My objection is that most of it is forced.

Hyper Sea Love Story: Takumi and Isana head to the beach for what Takumi thinks is a private beach vacation. Not happening! Isana has invited friends. Takumi feels very insecure about his looks feels that he is losing Isana to the girls at the beach. Pulling Isana aside, Takumi using a unique technique to 'punish' his lover. You may never look at Abalone the same again.

Characters: 8/10

The characters come across as being shallow and flighty. I guess a better description would be plastic.

Plot: 8/10

The plot is basic and the only twist comes with Takumi's use of various sea life. Not very interesting.

Sex: 9/10

Very energetic and inventive. I'm not too sure about the application of Abalone as a sex toy but who knows.



Wild Boyfriend anthology by Sakira

Digital Manga Guild

The first thing that attracts me to manga and especially yaoi is the artwork on the cover. From there I scan the book to see if the artwork carries on throughout the book. I am happy to say that for the most part the artwork in this volume is well done. The characters are easy to recognize and that goes a long way to making the stories a pleasure to read.

There are a couple of things that I need to let you know. Two of the stories listed above are not in the book. *Love on Fire* is actually *Love Fighter* and the story *The Melancholy Mr. Himura* is not there at all.

Stories include:

Perfume of Passion: A cute story of Haruto and his friend Ko. Haruto is always being dumped by his dates and latches on to a perfume that will make him popular. Imagine his surprise when he discovers that it attracts only men! After a series of encounters he is saved by the school nurse. Or is he? By the end of the story his best friend Ko comes to his rescue.

Characters 9/10

The not all of the characters were well developed. The nurse for instance makes one appearance and

you have no idea about him. In the later part of the story you can see that Ko and Haruto personalities mesh nicely.

Plot: 9/10

The plot is well developed and flows. I am not fan of noncom but it was handled deftly.

Sex: 10/10

Very hot and descriptive and lots of it. Just what a yaoi should have.

Dangerous Honey: Imagine leaving work one day and finding someone about to jump from a bridge. Then you discover that it is someone who should have the world at his feet. Hmmm just what did Yoshiro do? Subaru is a very needy superstar model who seems to have everything. But when Yoshiro takes him home, he finds out differently. By the time the story ends, you're not sure who got the better of the deal.

Characters: 10/10

Characters are very well developed and I enjoyed reading about them. Subaru is a true diva and is very needy!

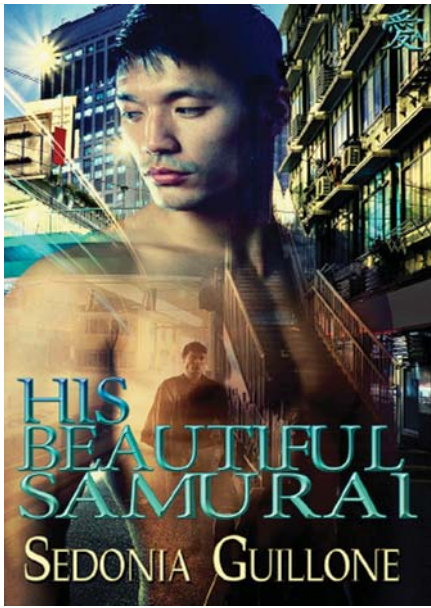
Plot: 9/10

The story is fast past with a very nice and surprising ending.

Sex: 9/10

Very nicely done and hot. Subaru has a mag set of abs!

Review



My Beautiful Samurai by
Sedonia Guillone

AI Press

This novel about a serial killer terrorizing an old neighborhood in Tokyo begins in the Edo period of Japanese history with the intensely felt though thoroughly doomed love affair between two Samurai and its tragic, brutal outcome. Suddenly, the reader is in present day Tokyo where a killer has been killing couples in doomed affairs the exact same grisly way with a katana that could have only come from a swordmaster from that distant era! There are clues from oldest part of that cosmopolitan city that point to a modern day killer with a macabre flair for the distant past. However, one by one their most promising suspects are cleared even as the victims pile up. The press is having a field day with this Ronin Killer. Even lead Detective Toshiro Genjin is beginning to believe that the killer is unstoppable. Adding to the insults from the press, his Captain accepts the assistance of psychic, John Holmes to help solve the case. Toshi knows that there is much more to John Holmes' talent than a parlor trick. From the first touch, both men know that there is something that will not be denied that will further

complicate the case, endanger their careers and put their lives at grave risk.

Sedonia Guillone creates an absolute marvel of suspense and terror mixed with heart pounding romance and toe curling eroticism in *His Beautiful Samurai*. Through well drawn out and full realized characters, she draws the readers into the lives and loves of people from vastly different times and walks of life. All of them ring very true and all of them are compelling. The lives of the Shogun's Samurai from Japan's Edo period are as believable as that of the modern Tokyo police detective. This is very important, because when the more fantastic elements of the case are brought forth via John Holmes, they are also believable. The murderer could be a jilted lover with some knowledge of ancient Japan and access to some really nasty artifacts or in could be something far more frightening. It all works.

And let's not forget the romance between Toshi and John. It is so moving and tender while being white hot at the same time leaves this reader a breathless, heart pounding puddle of goo. These guys are so incredibly strong and stalwart while being remarkably vulnerable. They are swoon worthy with the first touch. The careful construction of these worlds and characters allows the reader to just get absorbed in the place and time and let the story take them over. It was so hard to leave that world for even a moment that I devoured the book in one sitting. I cannot wait to read the sequel!

Characters: 10/10

Each and everyone from Toshi and John to the most minor characters are very well drawn and absolutely believable.

Plot: 10/10

The series of killings from past to present is well thought out. The plot

twists work very well in this carefully constructed universe. Nothing seemed arbitrary.

Sex: 10/10

White hot and tender and emotionally moving and completely character driven. There is no 'insert random sex scene for every X number of pages.' It's all organic to the story and the characters.

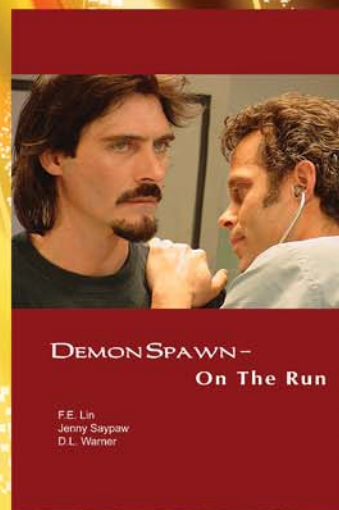
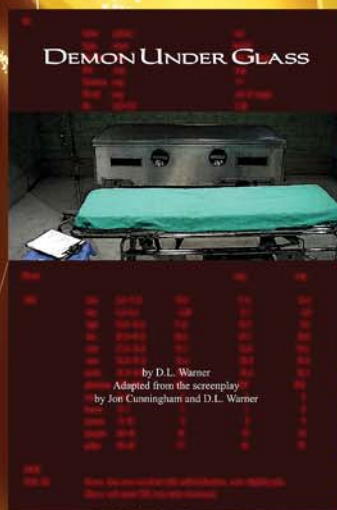
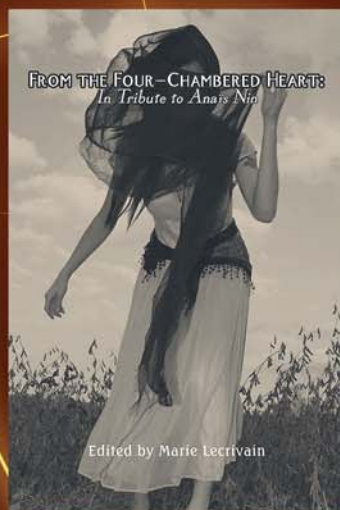
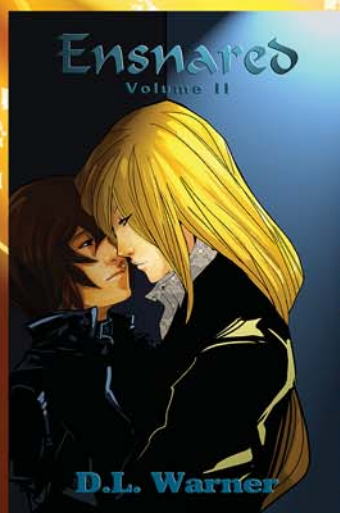
Overall: 10/10

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