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Paradise Kiss, Part 1



Synopsis

Yukari is a spirited high school senior in the process of studying for her college entrance exams. Sadly the prospect of subjecting herself to a meaningless dull life leaves her feeling depressed about the future. In a bout of frustration, Yukari begins to ignore her courses and she begins to hang out with a group of fashion design students. But what Yukari doesn't know is that this circle is known as Paradise Kiss, and they are run by a pair of young designers already making their mark on the Asian scene. Furthermore, while her life is going to soon change, it will not be due to the elite political or commerce based future her family may have hoped for, instead her life may eventually be set in a world of high fashion, with her strutting down the catwalk as the face of Asian fashion!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Ai Yazawa's "Paradise Kiss" tells the story of studious high schooler Yukari Hayasaka and her dealings with fashion industry obsessed teenagers. Yukari is an attractive girl but her dedication to her studies makes her socially awkward. All this changes when she meets the students starting a fledgling fashion label "paradise kiss". Their unofficial leader is George, a brilliant designer with an eye for beautiful things. When the Paradise Kiss kids invite the bookish Yukari to model for their clothing label she meets George and discovers her interest goes beyond clothes. Paradise kiss is a realistic look at romance, teen challenges and the Japanese fashion world. Ai has a wonderful sense of dialogue. Her characters speak and react realistically and her art style truly captures the

colorful, creative and sometimes over the top world that is the modern Japanese fashion scene. The real reason to buy this book is Vertical's packaging and new translation. The book has been lovingly reproduced in it's original Japanese tankubon size complete with color pages. Vertical's translation is a vast improvement over Tokyopop's somewhat clunky and confusing dialogue. Vertical's decision to release this series in 3 omnibus volumes versus the original 5 volumes actually works (and saves some money also). If you already own this series you will want to upgrade and get this version. The scans are crisp, the larger artwork is gorgeous and the story itself is arguably Ai Yazawa's best. A MUST BUY!

If you love Mana, you'll love Isabella. If you love funky Kogaru-Lolita fashions, you'll love Miwako. If you've ever wanted to design beautiful clothes or model or just look at a really cute goth boy, you'll love the others. The art is brilliant! (& very similar to I.N.V.U.) This story is also hilarious^.^ If you love this book, I recommend Under the Glass Moon.

Ai Yazawa's intricate details from emotions to the fabrics used for dresses make her readers feel that they are truly there. Yukari aka Caroline is a "typical" Japanese school girl. She goes to school, studies, tries to get good grades to avoid getting into trouble from her parents. After school, she attends cram school for a few hours and then returns home. She likes a guy in her class and watches him secretly from a distance, imagining a life with him but having no courage to express her emotions to him. Yukari doesn't know what she wants to be when she grows up but she knows that she has to achieve high marks in order to satisfy her parents. She is just existing for the sake of existing.... until she meets George and all the characters from the Atelier who remind her what it is to truly live without fear. Enjoy the series and watch Yukari grow from being a dull person living a "meaningless" life develop into a person full of passion, and gains courage to deal with the real world. Enjoyable lines: "My first kiss tasted like an aphrodisiac filled with the fragrance of cologne." "I could smell the strong smell of George's cologne. . . It was more intoxicating than the champagne." "I despise white... it pretends to be innocent but takes on the colour of all hues." I read this series about 4-5 years ago, and am currently revisiting it hence the inspiration for my review. I love the development of Ai Yazawa's characters. The reader can actually relate to them and feel their every emotion. This manga is not intended for kids and isn't really childish. I also do recommend Ai Yazawa's other manga, Nana, if you are looking for another great manga to read.

Continuing from volume 3, the Parakiss cast of George, Isabella, Miwako, and Arashi finally finishes

the dress and the accessories for the fashion show competition (in the last minute of course ^_^). Yukari (aka Caroline) begins her run-way career premiering 'the dress' and it is just breath-taking! Wonderfully detailed and just beautiful. We learn the reason as to why Isabella has become who HE is. A line is hinted in volume 3 of where George plays an important role in encouraging his ideals of dressing up as a girl. Along with this high climax we are introduced to a new female fashion designer character in which George knows. His relationship with this Ms. Aso is not quite understandable and vague, so far we know that George is impressed with her. Unfortunately this puts our protagonist, Yukari, back into her jealous side. ^_^; So far George has eyes for Yukari but we all know he'll go for any opportunity...or will he? Ahhahah

If you are a fan of shoujo or fashion, I highly recommend this series! What I love about Ai Yazawa's works are the gorgeous, unique art, including LGBT characters and her ability to give each character, even supporting ones a lot of depth.

Totally awesome! My wife and I just watched Nana and couldn't wait to branch out into the rest of Ai Yazawa's oeuvre. I've just started reading, but can already tell it is going to be just as awesome as Nana. The fashion is fun and the characters practically leap off of the page. - Nick

This is a great shoujo/fashion manga by the talented Ai Yazawa, packed full of an amazing attention to fashion...It is a fashion manga after all, it's focus point being on the less sociably acceptable styles ie: Gothic Lolita or in the case of Arashi and his family, punk. Not only are the outfits portrayed in the story fabulous, the story it's self is solid. The drawing ranging from simple and elegant to technical and elegant (this goes back to the detail payed to the fashion aspects). Paradise Kiss revolves around the life of Yukari aka Caroline, who after being hunted down by Arashi, on the streets, to be the model for a fashion show, gets swept up in the world of the Yaza School for the Arts student designer group Paradise Kiss. Paradise Kiss consists of George (Yukari's love interest, also the head of Parakiss because he designs the clothes), Miwako (who's sister also attended Yaza School for the Arts and is now the top designer for Happy Berry), Arashi (Miwako's Boyfriend), and Isabella (a stately drag queen, who cooks a mean feast). Yukari who was frustrated with her school and her demanding mother, breaks out into the modeling world...but soon finds things aren't as easy as they seem at first glance, especially not her tangled relationship with George. I can't wait until the next issue comes out in the US, too bad I have no clue when that will be. The Tokyopop website says Paradise Kiss is OT (older teen 16up) but the books say T (teen 13up),

so *shrug*, there's a little profanity and a little nudity so you be the judge.

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