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After Hours, Vol. 1



Synopsis

The club is hopping and Emi isn't the only one who's not. So she ends up hiding in a corner after her friend ditches her to flirt with a guy! Emi figures the night is a bust, but then someone amazing comes to her rescue. Kei is a DJ, and her effortless self-confidence captivates Emi. Is this just a wonderful night out or the start of the rest of her life?

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Customer Reviews

I didn't expect this book to grasp my attention and draw me in. I'm eager for more.

After Hours is a **yuri** manga by Yuhta Nishio, and released in North America by Viz Media. After reading it myself, I must say I am surprised at how negative some reviews I've come across have been. Well, to be honest, I guess I do kinda get why some of the criticisms are there, I just don't agree with them. It seems that some folks felt the mangaka didn't really understand which genre or plot devices he was going for, and thus weren't sure how they should approach it as a reader. The reason, in part, why I think this isn't really an issue is that I think how the author approached the story has helped to lay the ground for some good future storytelling. Some elements that would make the story just plain work better later on were put in place. It seems that in so doing, he

alienated some critics, who didn't know how to judge the story, via his introductions of different elements such as slice-of-life, romance, tropes about friendship, and such. Though all of these fall into different types of genres or narrative devices, they all work together, in this case, to tell a cohesive story. Personally, I think that part of the reason this manga kind of suffered in the critical acclaim compartment was due to the fact that it came out around the same time as the immensely cute and yet respectful to its subject matter **Kiss and White Lily to My Dearest Girl**, as well as the autobiographical and very serious but funny **My Lesbian Experience with Loneliness**. When compared to those two this one seemed to - unfairly to me - had some reviewers looking askance at it. Now for me, I think it did treat the subject matter respectfully, with enough levity and such to make it enjoyable and still fun. Granted, it sort of rushed some of the pacing and had issues in that it sort of had the two protagonists get close to each other a little too quickly but that is an issue most types of stories - manga and otherwise - have and a **completely** legitimate storytelling technique. It really depends on what the story-teller is going for when it comes to how fast the characters develop bonds. On the audience side, whether this is a problem or not depends on the preferences of the individual reader.

Onto the summary. The story begins when a young woman named Emi goes out to a club with one of her friends, who quickly ditches her - we find out later this happens all too often when they go out anywhere - for a guy she meets. Uncertain what to do, Emi winds up meeting a named Kei, and the two of them hit it off and have some drinks together. Eventually, through a series of events, the two of them wind up back at Kei's place and end up drunkenly having sex. When they wake up, Emi doesn't quite know what to make of the situation but, since Kei isn't making a big deal of it, she doesn't either and the two become fast friends. It is at this point that it becomes clear that a) Kei deeply values Emi's friendship, and b) Emi is seriously crushing on (and later we see is falling in love with) Kei. And that's - where Emi's feelings come to light - where the book sort of leaves off and has the audience wondering what will happen next. Again, I must say that I really don't understand why several reviewers I read didn't like this story, because I loved it. I thought that the tale has a sweetness to it that, with the exception of the cliché "slept with you as a way to meet you" plot point, really drew the reader while being both fun and respectful of the subject matter. What I mean by fun yet respectful is that it gives the audience moments to enjoy and go "awww" over while treating the subject realistically. I mean, you have a girl who seems to be straight start to have feelings for a lesbian woman. And the interactions are so sweet, but at the same time, there is a possible dark cloud. It's very clear that parts of this will not go as well for Emi and Kei considering the views of societies in general everywhere - and that of Japan in particular - when it comes to disrespecting the LGBTQ community. In Japan this isn't any moral viewpoint as

much as at times genuine loathing for these groups on top of disapproval of not conforming to cultural expectations. And this is where I think the different genres and plot devices used *work* to make the story better. With the use of these, the manga was able to introduce all of the necessary elements, and keep the story respectful and serious, yet at the same time light-hearted. Therefore, the reader would not feel overwhelmed by the potential seriousness that might come down the lane. The art was pretty good and showed the characters clearly distinct from each other, had good use of comical and serious designs, and captured the tone of the story just right. I am looking forward to more volumes of this though I do warn readers that, if I'm right, and I might not be, the story might get a bit more serious later on, so just be prepared for that. As for the characters I think that Kei fits the cool older woman vibe, who is very responsible, determined and sophisticated. Emi on the meantime, fits the younger woman character type who is still responsible but not in the same worldly way that Kei is. Instead, Emi is responsible in the manner of doing the right things and just being a very nice and kind woman. On top of these two main women, we meet some of their friends. Mainly Kei's as we only see one of Emi's friend's, whose interactions show the audience both that Emi is falling in love with Kei, and that there might be some societal consequences later on. The other friends we meet are those of Kei, who are part of her clubbing and DJ'ing scene. A scene she pulls Emi into much to Emi's eventual pleasure and enjoyment. They flesh out Kei some more and help to provide a backdrop to, and impetus for further development of, Kei and Emi's fledgling relationship. *After Hours* is a fun and serious manga that managed to handle some deep stuff while just being quite enjoyable and not overwhelming. I think this worked via the same elements others criticized. I don't think myself smarter than others, but I do think - or at least hope so - my opinion is valid and might be discerning somewhat. Highly Recommended. Rating 5/5 Stars.

This story of a young woman who is obviously at a crossroads in her life, but also harboring some secrets, and the stylish hipster DJ she meets when her best friend abandons her at a club, is full of atmosphere and style, with a bit of an edge to it. It seems that this is the protagonist's first time falling for another woman, but what is it that she is hiding? The story is intriguing and fun. I look forward to reading more.

So, in response to other reviews, forget genre, this story is awesome. It's the beginning of the perfect romance. Berwyn characters that have internally accepted who they are, but are searching for the way forward. I was hooked from the moment I read the description, and after reading Volume 1, my only disappointment is that Volume 2 is not out yet.

After Hours is a slice of life manga that isn't interested in going places so much as exploring where people are at the moment. We have the very typical naive and 'normal' main character who finds a wild and crazy free spirit and becomes fascinated with them. Ostensibly, the story is about the DJ/clubbing scene. But really, at heart this is a book about exploring and living life to your fullest. Story: Quiet and shy Emi goes to a club with her friend - even though she isn't really into the scene at all. When an interesting girl saves her from the advances of a drunken patron, Emi is completely in her thrall. After a one night stand, she isn't sure where she stands with Kei but she knows it's where she wants to be - but with someone as flighty as her new DJ girlfriend, she will have a lot to learn in order to just keep pace. Kei is the typical quirky and interesting 'own self' type of main character that typically gets crushed on by very simple/simplistic love interests. Emi is quite dull, somewhat shy, and easily manipulated. With Kei's help, she's going to learn to go outside of herself and experience life in a new and different way. Not much happens in After Hours Volume 1 - it's really all about slowly drawing Emi out of her shell through little life vignettes. Kei gradually brings her to different clubs and teaches Emi how to DJ/use the equipment. Emi goes along quite eagerly - she is falling in love with both the DJ scene and with Kei herself. I'm not a bit reader of slice of life comics and likely won't continue reading the series. I typically prefer a lot more action or humor, drama or angst. But After Hours is a lovely Josei (adult woman) title that should appeal to quite a few people for its charm, message, and warmth. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher

This manga pulled me in quickly, it has solid writing that feels real. When reading through, I noticed how smooth the eye movement is on the manga pages, though there were two or three pages where I got lost. I would also like to see the artwork. I really like the character designs of our main duo, Emi and Kei. They look very appealing, and are nice to look at. They're fairly expressive as well. The rest of the artwork looks good too. There's some great atmosphere and lighting. I would like to recommend this to anyone who wants an ACTUALLY MATURE series. I can't read for the next volume, and will buy the second volume as soon as it's up.

This was a really fun read. I'm so happy to see a more mature take on Yuri. I can't wait for the next volume! Thanks Viz!!!

I bought this at a bookstore near me and now this is my favorite series I can't wait for volume 2 and

see how the story continues

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