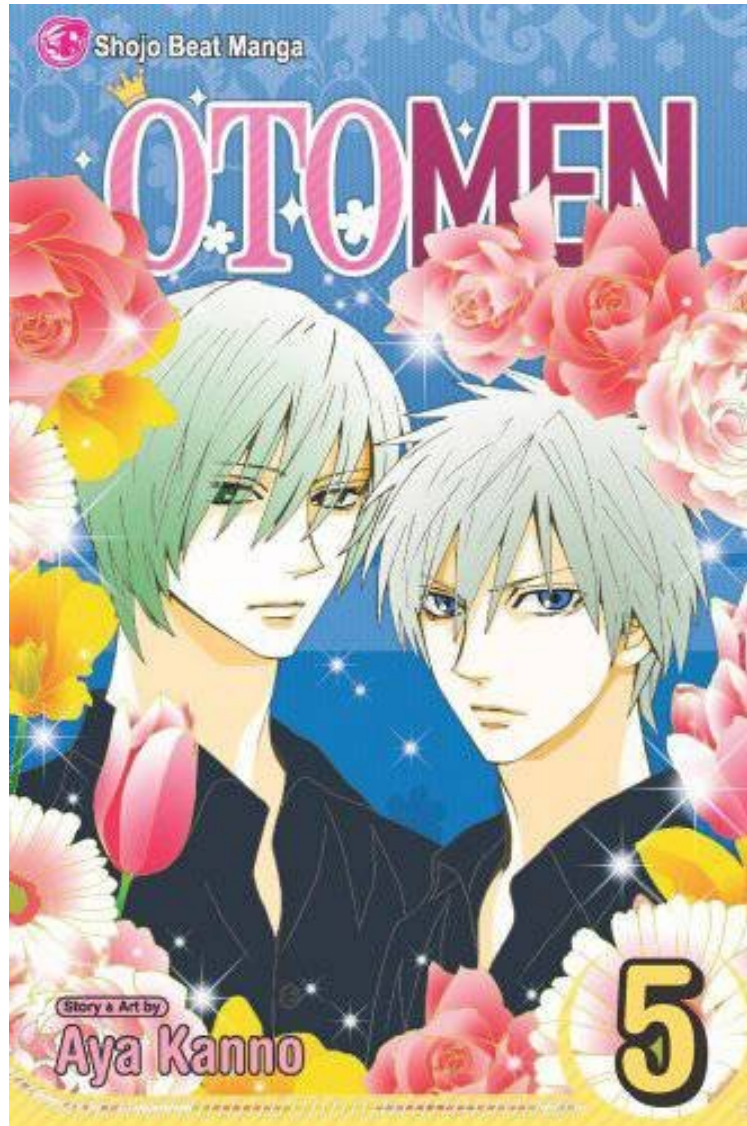


Otomen, Vol. 5

Aya Kanno

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Aya Kanno : Otomen, Vol. 5 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Otomen, Vol. 5:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amusing romantic comedy with a touch of gender-bendingBy Johanna Draper CarlsonThe first story in Otomen Volume 5 features one of those shojo standards, the embarrassing school contest. Somehow, martial artist and eccentric beauty Ryo has been selected by her grade to compete in the Ideal Woman Contest. Since the areas of evaluation are cooking, flower arranging, tea ceremony, and kimono dressing, she doesnt seem to have much of a chance especially since her competition is the perfect girl, whos won the

contest the previous two years running. Just to complicate things further, that girl has a crush on Asuka, since she thinks hes the ideal man. She doesnt know about his girly habits, which ironically make him perfectly complementary to Ryo. I know these competitions are ridiculous, but they bring into sharp relief the core struggles that define the characters. I see them as exaggerated symbols of the conflicts that the teens face: is Ryo a desirable woman even though shes physically skilled but cant cook? Of course she is, and the validation of her peers, even through unexpected avenues, affirms that. That her classmates have no question about her ability to win is a comforting reassurance, as is the way shes praised for having both beauty and strength. I also found it hilarious that, as a throwaway gag at the festival, theres a Bespectacled Butler Cafe, playing on a couple of fan obsessions. Its a very specialized eye candy. More thought-provoking is the way that, in the first chapter, Ryos competitor only smiles once, and thats when shes pretending to be a good sport. The rest of the time, she glowers or looks stern. Is that a comment on how males are attracted to women they think are too good for them? Or a fantasy that they would be the only one to see her softer side? I much prefer looking at the happier Ryo. (Especially since the other girl has the weird idea that a clumsy person who cant cook cant be loved by anyone.) Enjoyable as that story was, my absolute favorite chapter of the series so far is the one where friend Juta, whos secretly a manga artist, wins a major award for his series Love Chick. The problem, of course, is that he works under a female pseudonym. But the story is about a lot more than just that although that part is pretty funny as Juta gets more and more desperate. Juta acknowledges his idol, the author of several romantic series that inspired him from a young age, and several of the characters talk about how meaningful manga is to them. Its both touching and hilarious. (Review originally posted at ComicsWorthReading.com.) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing! By MonsterVeeRocks10 Sadly, I could not find this Volume in stores. But with my limited patience, I went along and got the Kindle eBook and enjoyed the book thoroughly. Plus, I was running out of room to place my manga anyways. Would definitely recommend this series to any of my friends who would enjoy a cute, comedic and romantic story such as Otomen. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Love this book By CustomerLove the story line and Love the author. I cant seam to put these books down. I give this 5 stars

Having Girly Hobbies Doesn't Make You Less Manly! R to L (Japanese Style). Having Girly Hobbies Doesn't Make You Less Manly! Asuka Masamune is a guy who loves girly things--sewing, knitting, making cute stuffed animals and reading shojo comics. But in a world where boys are expected to act manly, Asuka must hide his beloved hobbies and play the part of a masculine jock instead. Ryo Miyakozuka, on the other hand, is a girl who can't sew or bake a cake to save her life. Asuka finds himself drawn to Ryo, but she likes only the manliest of men! Can Asuka ever show his true self to anyone, much less to the girl that he's falling for? Ryo is chosen to participate in a contest where flower arrangement and tea ceremony skills are tested--but she sucks at those things! To top things off, the previous champion wants Asuka for herself! Does Ryo have a fighting chance?

About the Author Aya Kanno was born in Tokyo, Japan. She is the creator of Soul Rescue, which has been published in the United States, and her latest work, Otomen, is currently being serialized in Japan's BetsuHana magazine. Blank Slate was originally published in BetsuHana magazine.