



CADILLAC ANIME
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ANIME/MANGA REVIEW MONTHLY

Happy Valentines Day

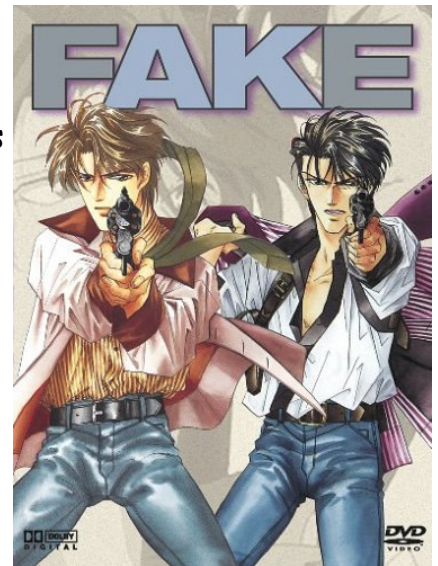


It's February. Can you guess what this month's theme will be? If you guessed Valentine's Day, you're absolutely correct! And what better way to promote the season of love than to promote free love for all? That's right, folks; "*open minds, open hearts*" is this month's motto. And to that end, I'm going to - finally - introduce you to shonen-ai (and yaoi).

For anyone new to the genre, "shonen ai" directly translates to "boys love" and yaoi...well, that's a word made from a long string of words that I won't bother to mention but yaoi is simply stronger shonen-ai. Although, the term yaoi is sometimes used to refer to either.

America first got its taste of this genre in 2003 when the mangas "Gravitation" by Maki Murakami and "FAKE" by Sanami Matou hit the states.

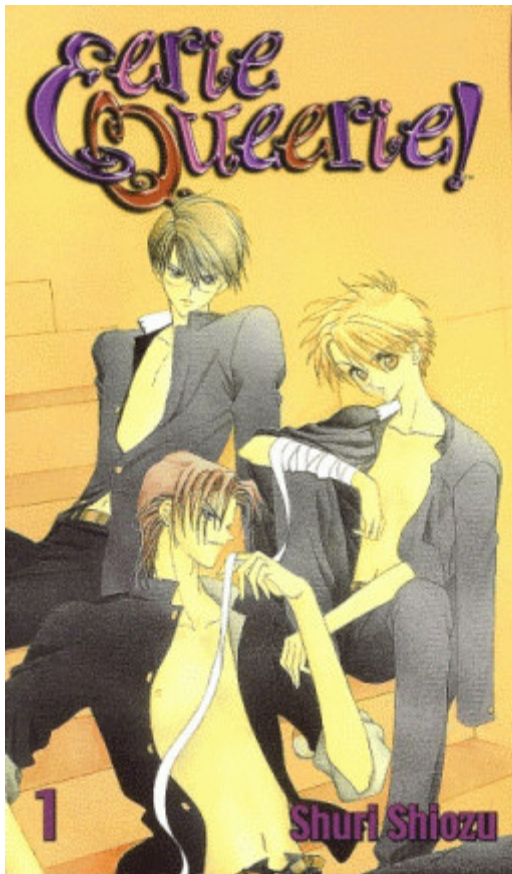
FAKE lasted 7 volumes of manga (with a sequel in current production) and 1 OAV and told the story of two New York city cops with a ninety's type feel to it. The real-world setting, laid in quite well by the various cases the two detectives work, might be hindered by the complete acceptance of homosexuality that only exists in fairy tales but FAKE was still a good series.



Gravitation, a comedy/romance, that stretched 12 volumes with 1 stray volume of a follow-up series and a 12 episode anime, followed the turbulent relationship of rock star Shuichi Shindou and novelist Eri Yuki. I wouldn't call the manga kid-friendly but the anime's much lighter. Ironically, Gravitation showed us a much more realistic view of tolerance than FAKE did (I say ironically, because there's still the giant mecha panda to consider when relating Gravitation's realism). Gravitation

has gotten high praise here in America and it was probably Gravitation's success that opened the door for the slew of yaoi manga to cross the seas in the years since.

There has been so much yaoi manga coming out recently, in fact, that it would be impossible to review all of them without making a Harry Potter sized anthology out of it, but I will touch down on a few notable titles.



Eerie Queerie (originally titled simply "Ghost" - and therein lies the problem I have with stupid Americans and their incessant drive to screw with things) is a 4 volume manga by Shuri Shiozu about Mitsuo Shiozu, whose unfortunate gift for seeing spirits generally lands him in more trouble than he can handle.

For example, Mitsuo feels sorry for Kiyomi, a girl sitting all alone near her memorial, so he doesn't mind much that she follows him around at the library and at school...until Mitsuo discovers that Kiyomi had a major crush on a classmate of his, a boy by the name of Hasunuma, whom she would now like to confess her love to - through Mitsuo. Imagine poor Mitsuo's surprise when Hasunuma agrees to go out with him and Kiyomi has every intention of not letting Mitsuo get in the way. Later, Mitsuo meets the ghost of a woman haunting a classmate of his named Ichi and unlike Kiyomi, she's had six

years to hone her powers. If Mitsuo can make it through this one alive and with his dignity intact, there's still three more volumes to go.

Eerie Queerie (Ghost) is funny and emotional and well worth reading. Its rating is a solid 16 and up.

Sukisho! apparently had it's start as a light novel but is far better known for its series of video games (not available in English) and anime (also not available in English but sold here nonetheless).

Poor Sora Hashiba fell out of a window from the upper level of his school building and lost his memory. He's given a nice warm welcome back though, in the form of his roommate crawling into bed with him. The boy introduces himself as Ran and calls Sora "Yoru", which is confusing enough but the next day, "Ran", now calling himself Sunao, claims he never did anything the previous night and not only that, but Sunao doesn't want anything to do with Sora.



The mind is a complex thing. Sora may have forgotten his past, but *Yoru* remembers. And Sunao may be angry at Sora, but *Ran* is in love.

Sukisho could be considered a mystery/romance and its 3 volume anime is rated 16 and up but Sukisho's most notable quality is likely it's most overlooked. Knowing nothing about the series, it's surprising how many episodes can go by before it actually hits you that...wait, no, I won't tell you. Let's just say that this series is *unique*.

Wild Adapter is one among many in an unnamed category of anime and manga that aren't labeled yaoi but are slashable to the point where you can't exactly tell if they're yaoi or not. Wild Adapter is a thus far 6 volume manga by Kazuya Minekura (author of Saiyuki and Bus Gamer) and holds a solid M rating for violence and language.

Makoto Kubota doesn't seem to really care about anything. When he's recruited for the Izumo group's youth gang, he joins and later when a friend asks him to quit, he quits. Makoto lives his life with no goals, no direction, until one day, when he finds a stray cat alone in an alley and decides to take him home. By "cat", I mean Tokito a boy with a very unusual right hand, deformed by the street drug Wild Adapter which has a nasty side effect of killing the people who take it. Tokito can't remember taking the drug, or how he came across it, or much of anything at all.



The two have an easy relationship. Tokito gives Kubota something to care about and for Tokito, Kubota is literally all he has. Wild Adapter is a violent and thought provoking manga, deep and dramatic; a character driven action manga. The art style is very good, even given the artist's tendency to draw look-a-like characters (if you're coming off a great deal of Saiyuki, it's like seeing Hakkai and Goku in their own manga) and I'd personally recommend it to everyone, yaoi fan or not...you know, everyone 18 and over...

Wild Adapter is unique in that the original story line wasn't animated but a alternate universe story for it was. The 2 OAV animation is titled Ariso Private High School Student Council Executive Committee (there's a mouthful) and has none of the violence and drama of Wild Adapter. The two main characters are students in high school. It's like an animated doujinshi.

Fanfiction time! Wow. I found this little blip just floating around on my computer. Can't even remember when I found it. I don't read Naruto fiction much. Pairing is a mild Kakashi x Iruka and rating is listed as T but I'd say G.

Anime / Manga Review Monthly neither promotes everything nor condemns anything the author has written and takes no credit for this piece of work.

The Reasoning of a Child

by

Redex

To Naruto, Iruka is like the mother he never had, and Kakashi is the weird, perverted godfather that he never wanted.

So it makes some sort of ironic sense that they would be together, in Naruto's twisted, messed up world.

He had never been normal. There was no need to argue for it now, he figured.

It didn't really make that much difference in the end.

Although finding Kakashi in Iruka's house sometimes in the morning, or the kind of blushing glances they shared were disgusting in Naruto's mind, so was Sakura's affection for Sasuke and Shino's bugs.

Naruto knew how much they could love him, and how much he loved them.

He just asked that they love each other that much.

That was what held the village together, wasn't it?

DISCOVER JAPAN and JAPANESE

Manga is the Japanese word for illustrated books/comic books. Anime is the Japanese word borrowed from the English word "animation". A lot of kids and adults all over the world have become interested in Japan and the Japanese language because of anime and manga. You may already know some other Japanese words: futon, sushi, and tsunami. But have you seen "Komatsu" earth-moving equipment at work and known that komatsu means "little pine" in Japanese?

Attend Japanese Juku (After-school cram school—Cadillac-style)

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ages 10 - adult Free Community Room

Limited to 20—call April at 775-6541 to register

Rosemary Rokita will share her enthusiasm for all things Japanese. She has taught Japanese in the summer College for Kids program at Northwestern Michigan College (NMC) since 1995

Classifieds:

Wanted: Trinity Blood Manga volume 4 willing to buy or trade for it. saigirl93@yahoo.com

Wanted: Volume 2 and up of the Manga Yu Yu Hakusho. youcantfathom_me@yahoo.com

Wanted: Ice Master (may have slightly different name), Cold Enchanter, and Warrior of Atlantis Yu-Gi-Oh! Cards. roxiearcher192000@yahoo.com

Brian and Kris are looking to purchase common Yu-Gi-Oh cards. They are willing to pay up to .25 (a quarter) each. See at next anime.

Kis is looking for any Sailor Moon Manga. See at next anime.

What to submit your own fanfic. You can send it to liedekea@cadillaclibrary.org we will read it to make sure it is appropriate for all readers and then if it is included we will email you back.