



Fruits Basket Collector's Edition, Vol. 8

Natsuki Takaya

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Yuki's childhood was a long period of solitary darkness. Years later, he met Tohru, but what does he want from her? Yuki reveals to Kakeru what he can tell no one else. Meanwhile, Tohru's class is going to put on a play for the school festival, but miscasting makes it rough going for rehearsal. Will there be chaos on stage when the curtain finally rises?!

Later, Kyo recalls meeting Tohru's mother as a child and talking to her about her experiences. Persevering through a rough adolescence, one that lacked any love from her parents, she one day encountered teacher-in-training Katsuya Honda... At long last, the moving story of Katsuya and Kyoko is revealed!! Then, it's business as usual for Tohru and the others, but something is eating at Kyo?!

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From Reader Review Fruits Basket Collector's Edition, Vol. 8 for online ebook

Dakota★Magic in Every Book says

The Cinderella-ish play is one of the best parts of this series and I cackle hysterically every time I read it, haha

Eugenia Argerami says

- Loved the Kyoko background story. It was super funny and super cute. But also super heart-breaking and super soul-wrenching.

- Kyo knows so much about Tohru's mom, and it doesn't seem to be such a big deal. So why won't he talk to Tohru about it? It would be a beautiful bonding moment.

- I ship Yuki and Machi. This better happen.

- I was totally waiting for Yuki to finally snap at Akito and put him in his place right after he got hit. Sadly, it seems to be too early still. Someday, Eugenia. Someday...

- The play made me die laughing. I couldn't tell whether everything was supposed to be like that or not. It looked like some crazy, improvised sketch. Although I am slightly disappointed, because somehow I imagined Kyo turning out to be a surprisingly good actor or something. But I was rejuvenated by Yuki's fairy godmother appearance and the reactions from the crowd.

- I love everyone pointing out Tohru and Kyo's relationship, especially during the play. Whenever they say that they're flirting, or talk about them being alone, it's great. Like for the new year's party where Shigure called Kyo a "beast" and wouldn't leave Tohru alone with him XD

- Alright. I mean, I'm all aboard the Team Kyo train/ship/whatever. But for real. The whole Yuki's-Mother-Figure-Tohru thing was *weird*. Like, friendzoning them would've been okay, maybe after a kiss or something dramatic like that at least, but straight-up saying that he thinks of her as mom was sort of...wrong. It was sort of cute, but still. Finding comfort in her presence? Yes. "Mom"? No.

Helena R-D says

This volume confirmed the suspicions that I had earlier about the plot changing completely and the author going back to caulk over the seam when the change occurred. I always suspected that Yuki and Tohru were supposed to end up together, but that changed around volume 5-6, when the episode with Kyo happened and making some earlier chapters between Tohru and Yuki creepy in retrospect.

Most of this volume (other than the story of Tohru's mum and another layer of complexity between Kyo and Tohru being added) focuses on Yuki and the pain of his past and how he is growing as a person now. It shows the torment that Akito put him through and why he is lonely and has such low self-esteem and is a

victim. It was a heartbreaking, but necessary tale to tell, since everyone else has gotten their turn to explain themselves. Yuki is still a twerp, but he is saved from that by taking responsibility for himself and growing out of the mental cage that Akito helped construct.

It also shows how Yuki realises he needs to grow up more than to look for romantic intimacy with Tohru by admitting he wanted a mother and unconditional love than a romantic partner. It is also the first time that the idea of Kyo and Tohru is addressed...By HIM of all people. That was a nice touch and excuses anything untoward that was hinted at in earlier chapters. I thought that was a better way to go, since he has a longer way to go than Kyo does when it comes to emotional connections with people. Kyo still has his issues, but he is more honest and introspective with himself than Yuki's own morbid self-examination.

As always, the translation and notes are top notch and they add more nuance than the earlier translations. The translations enrich the story and make it feel like I'm reading a brand new story.

Brittany says

Trigger Warning for Child Abuse, Past Mentions of Abuse, Verbal Abuse and Death of a Parent.

When I first picked up this manga series, I thought it was going to be a fun manga but it has turned into so much more and I love that. This manga is about more than people who turn into the Zodiac animals. It's about love and friendship and finding yourself and I love reading it even as it gets difficult. It shows the backstories of the characters so well and I actually cried in this manga. I felt for bad for one of the characters and its heartbreaking to see but to see them gain their strength as time goes on is amazing. I would be aware of the trigger warnings in this as it could be damaging to some who may not be ready or prepared to handle those subject matters. If you can handle it, I would say pick up this manga as it is so good and deals with important topics. Things aren't all doom and gloom though, there are many funny moments sprinkled throughout this to lighten the mood. The jokes are done well and I find that I am loving this manga. I can't wait to read the next volume as it is so good!

Billie Flaming says

This manga is on a whole new level. I almost can't believe it.

We open with Kyo and Yuki's childhood, which is heartbreaking the way everything about the destructive childhoods of the Sohmas. They are so jealous of one another, they really need to sit down and talk about it. But then we go to the class play? Which was super cute and meaningful and full of heart eye from everyone? BUT THEN we get KYOKO'S backstory from KYO, because APPARENTLY THEY KNEW EACH OTHER. I WOULD BE MAD BUT I'M TOO IMPRESSED AND SAD. Because WOW is her story sad. Kyoko is primarily remembered as Tohru's awesome mom, that it's interesting to see what she was before all of that. Katsuya Honda was awesome. (I'm a bit iffy on the teacher student thing, but that's Japan for ya.) I really love the relationship between Kyoko and Katsuya. They're so in love and we're amazing parents to Tohru and wanted another baby and I just wanna cry. And the fact that it's Kyo that knows all this.... it's awesome.

Machi and Yuki are adorable and I love Machi so much.

And Kureno?!? I just. Wow. Akito, you're an abuser and are a horrible leader of this broken family called Sohma.

Kelsey says

I loved reading kyoko and katsuya's life together and heartbroken when kyoko lost katsuya. Such a good series. Favorite quote "We humans are strange creatures. Chance meetings can lead to a variety of outcomes. Some good and some bad."

Mandee says

Finally, the turbulent childhoods of some of zodiac members is revealed. More revelations consist of Yuki's true feelings for Tohru while Tohru and Kyo still struggle to realize what their relationship is. At the Sohma New Year's celebration, Yuki defies Akito and is injured. The bond these two share seems to be unraveling.

Mary says

Oh. My. Word. This one was so good. We got so many things happening. Yuki and Kyoko background. Cinderella-ish play that was so funny. We got to see more in the New Tears banquet. I feel very happy for Yuki right now. Anyway this one was fantastic.

Denise says

Tohru meets another new member of the zodiac who is called Ritsu (the monkey) and apparently she discovers that Ritsu is a lot like his crazy mother at the hot springs! Ritsu is a funny character with a very frenetic energy. Out of the all the zodiac members, Tohru & Ritsu seemed to hit it off really quickly. They both also freak out about the same kinds of things which is kind of funny! Ritsu usually takes it to another level.

Julia says

This was probably the weakest volume so far. I've given others 4-5 stars so this is a 3.5.

I liked learning about Yuki more. He has grown on me.

I didn't like reading about the play. It seemed pointless.

I didn't like reading about Toruh's parents. The mom could have only been 15 when she got married and she didn't even graduate high school. I know not everyone cares about this stuff, but for me it left a dark cloud over everything. He didn't even seem that great. I don't understand the mother's character. When did she become to mature/fair/loving mother we see later? But still a bad ass former gangster? Are there really 12 year old gangsters?

I didn't like the story of that student counsel girl. I guess because I really can't relate. Hopefully we get more info later.

Jennifer says

4 stars

Christina Yoakum says

I enjoyed the play and the progress that is starting to happen.

Julie says

this is definitely one of my favorite volumes. I've reread this one more than the others mainly for the play they do for the school festival lol. You also get to find out more about Tohru's parents which is nice. I'm almost done with my reread. Only four more collector's editions to collect and read.

Lauren says

A heart-wrenching read to start the new year!

Volume 8 certainly explores the darker side of the Sohma curse and especially how Akito has manipulated them over the years. In particular we learn a lot more about Yuki's backstory (which is incredibly sad) and we discover that he has already met Tohru Honda before (Actually that flashback made me cry so much I had to put the book down!) No-one (especially no child) should have to be subjected to the cruelty experienced by pretty much all of the Sohmas. I know Momiji and Kyo also had incredibly sad childhoods, as well as Isuzu and Hatori. :(

Another sad story we learn concerns Kyoko (Tohru's mother) and her husband, Katsuya, and how the latter is taken far too soon from both of them when he dies from pneumonia. I couldn't help but notice the similarities between Katsuya and Kyo which is making me think 'are Tohru and Kyo going to get together?' Hmmmm.

Amidst all this sadness, we do get to experience quite a bit of humour thanks to the Cinderella-ish play put on by some of the younger Sohmas and these scenes made me chuckle quite a lot. I especially loved Kyo's objections to everything! He is quickly becoming one of my favourite Sohmas although I still adore Momiji and Kisa is soooooooooo cute!

The artwork in this eighth volume has really grown since the beginning couple of volumes and I love the characters dearly - I feel like they are extended members of my family <3. Thank goodness then that their journey isn't over yet - I still have another 4 volumes to read! :D Happy days!

WendyDemi says

J'aime toujours autant, bien sur.

Mais ce que j'ai le plus aimé, sont les chapitres sur la pièce, avec Yuki et sur les parents de Tohru.

Je ne m'en lasserai jamais !
