



Special A, Vol. 10

Maki Minami

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R to L (Japanese Style)

Her whole life, Hikari Hanazono has been consumed with the desire to win against her school rival, Kei Takishima--at anything. He always comes out on top no matter what he does, and Hikari is determined to do whatever it takes to beat this guy...somehow! At age 6 Hikari lost to Kei in an impromptu wrestling match. Now, at 15, Hikari joins "Special A," a group of the top seven students at a private academy, for the opportunity to trounce the guy who made her suffer her first defeat.

Being No. 2 Sucks! When Sakura learns of Hikari's feelings for Kei, she is determined to get the two together! But getting Hikari to confess is more difficult than anyone imagined. The effort will take Kei and Hikari from a haunted house to a deadly duel to a date with Kei's mom to...Australia?! This is one trip you won't want to miss!

Special A, Vol. 10 Details

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Author : Maki Minami

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From Reader Review Special A, Vol. 10 for online ebook

Jeanette says

I really do enjoy this cute manga series. In this book, Hikari finally tells Kei that she loves him but she doesn't understand what it means to be in love. She feels like she needs to be the best at everything including being in a relationship. Add in meeting Kei's mom and Akira feeling threatened by her friends new love... you have a very fun volume.

Jocey says

Special A is a book about Hikari. She is a student of Special A Academy. This book takes place in Japan. Her main internal struggle is that she is in love with a boy named Kei. Her main external struggle is that some of Hikari and Kei's loved ones don't agree about them dating.

During my time reading this book I made a text-to-text connection. There was a part in the book where no one agreed about them dating. That reminded me of the show Wizards of Waverly Place. There was an episode where one of the main characters (Justin) was dating a vampire. No one agreed with it. Both have to go through hard things. But they learn that eventually everyone will turn around.

I would give this book 5 stars. I liked how it was so interesting. I also liked how you could finish the book really fast. I would recommend this book to someone who likes comics. Also to someone who is reading the series.

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Good volume.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Special A, Vol. 10 (Special A #10), Maki Minami

Alexei says

Come check out my book blog! Teenage Bookaholic

SYNOPSIS: *Please note that this is a review for the entire series, comprised of 17 books*

Hikari Hanazono is not your typical high school girl. While she comes from a modest background, she strives to do her best at anything and everything to top her rival. After losing an impromptu wrestling match as a child, Hikari made it her life's goal to beat Kei Takishima, a wealthy child who is destined to work for the family business, any way possible. She is so determined, she enrolled in the same elite private school as Kei, and worked her way to be number 2 out of not just her class, but the entire school, making her a part of

an elite group of 7 called Special A. For Hikari, it's not enough, as Kei is sitting pretty as number 1.

With her friends, Akira, Megumi, Jun, Tadashi, and Ryu along for the ride, Special A follows the comedic adventures of the top 7 students at Hakusenkan High- as Kei is forced to work for the family business, as Jun learns to love, as Megumi finds her voice, as Ryu discovers the hidden face of love, as Tadashi opens up, and as Hikari continues to fight for number 1!

REVIEW: Unlike YA novels, I do not know my favorite type of manga yet. I mostly pick manga based on what series has the first volume on my library's shelves.... It can be a hit or miss, but this was a hit.

Similar to Veronica Roth, the series has a fast pace to it, constantly creating new drama and plot twists that never let the series grow boring. Some things you could see coming, but others not so much. Either way, I was not bored, and the book did not have any prolonged focus on romances, which can be boring for me. The story was also relatable: a student striving for success with friend drama, as well as personal dramas.

With most manga, I have issue of telling characters apart; just when I think it's Person A talking, it's Person R, a close look-a-like to Person A, and even when I can tell the characters apart (barely), I still cannot remember the long, authentic Japanese names. None of these issues came up in the series. Consistently, the series would use the formal last name AND informal first, which helped me remember the name as Hikari Hanazono, not Ms. Hanazono or just Hikari... something. Also, the art was very well done, allowing me to tell character differences by expression and hairstyle.

This leads me to the art, which was glorious! Much detail was taken in to the backgrounds (as pointed out by Minami in her novels), and outfits. I also enjoyed the sporadic and roaming quarter pages of commentary. How she talks about a pseudo burglary at her place while the gang is in some sort of peril added a sense of nonchalance that fit the series. It's about the adventure these characters take, rather than following the emotion of the drama.

While this all sounds like a great series, a few elements ruined the series for me. First was the panel styling. Many of the panels were overlapping, which led to a choppy flow of reading. Incredibly distracting and confusing, which stole from enjoying the series. Second, the focus could have been turned more towards other characters in the series. It is titled Special A, but the story mainly focuses on Hikari and Kei. I personally would have liked to learn more about what happened to Ryu and his lover before the conclusion, or whether Akira and her old friend could get along. It had more chapters on Hikari and Kei than any one S.A. member. Lastly, I was not a fan of outside girls, interfering with Kei and Hikari. I am not saying I was protective of Kei and Hikari, but I found it rather obnoxious. It was framed like the S.A. were a special elite group, which they were, and everyone else, who wasn't rich at least, was an outsider to the group. It was like the author had to put the characters on a pedestal to make the series work, which wasn't necessary. It seemed almost like the group was discriminatory towards anyone not of wealth, and when I say discriminatory, I mean they behaved like elitists rather than hateful. Hikari was an exception from an early age, mind you.

All in all, Special A was a comedic read that was pleasurable and realistic. It had good momentum until the end, and was interesting to see how the schooling system works in Japan. I would give it more stars if not for the misleading paneling.

I will now conclude with my favorite quote from page 10 of volume 12:

"Ryu: YOU DON'T GET TO PICK! And why a mountain?!!

Tadashi: A MOUNTAIN WOULD BE ANY GUY'S DREAM!!

Ryu: Go eat a s'more.

Tadashi: That's amore.

Ryu: Mahjongg!

Tadashi: GAME!"

Lauren says

This series was amazing! Hikari and Kai's relationship is so comedic and heartwarming. I got through this series so fast and I just wanted to keep reading. All the characters are fun and this series is very entertaining.

If you liked Ouran High School Host Club I would recommend this series.

Yue says

Even if they are a couple now, Hikari is still silly around Kei. Seriously, she is soo funny. I think it was a little awkward to find out that Kei and his mother are practically the same! It results that Kei is very feminine grrrr, I did not realized that. But he is so patient with Hikari and her crazyness, it is very adorable.

Hannah says

Kyaaaaa~ Kei and Hikari are finally dating~ and I finally got to see Kei's mom~ I thought she was super strict and mean like his grandfather but she's just like any mom~ so cute >o<

Anyway, I hope his grandfather won't cause too much trouble. Midori already looked troubled and went to Australia on a Christmas eve just to tell Kei and Hikari about the news.

Michelle. D. says

I love Tadashi!!! He is my favourite character!!!!!!!!!!

Tadashi ♥♥♥ :D

So this review is for the overall series. I give the overall series 5 stars because it was raelly good.

Funny at times, romantic at times, cute at times, sad at times. Also, I really loved the art (It's true! I have some saved pictures from things in the book.)

I would like to say that Hikari is SOOOOOOOO dense. I mean like crazy. I'm not even joking. I'm not going to tell you why but I want to say that when she said that and Takishima was all surprised and some-what happy but then she said something else, I was like in my head, "Wow. She is just so... wow."

One thing I rally love in this book is how Megumi and Jun love Ryuu. It is just so entertaining watching them hug Ryuu. Be protective of you. Huh, it was so cute it was hilarious.

I find it very surprising what Finn is. I was like "HOLY SHIAT!" in the book when I found out. And then with Ryuu and then Hikari. LOL. I hate Finn's father for a reason you will find out if you read the books. :D

I'm not sure if you care but. in this manga there is this one picture of Takishimi and Hikari that I just love to

stare at. It looks very nice and I love it for some reason. I even hang it up in my room. I'm such a loser.

I like Megumi's name. I like the fact that she can sing so good that it is dangerous. I also love how she writes down what she wants to say.

Takishima in the manga I like; not so much in the anime. This is probably because in the anime, Takishimi has brown hair a kinda really deep voice and is really thin and lanky (most of the characters in the manga are thin and lanky. :P. In the manga, Takishimi has blond hair, I imagine him with a slighter higher voice and he isn't that thin and lanky. Anyway....

Miss Number Too. I love how Takishima always finds a way to be number one. Like that one test when he got 105%. LAWLS!

So here's what I thought of the book. It was really good. Funny, romantic(in a weird way?) and entertaining. Even though it is Shoujo, I think everyone should read it. :D

Hannah says

Series Review: Special A is a interesting and cute manga that I really enjoyed. It was funny and entertaining plot and character wise. I most enjoyed the dynamic between the characters. I recommend giving this manga a try.

MarsianMan says

Note:This review is a series review, not really a volume specific review.

One of my favorite mangas. An excellent shoujo (meaning it is a comic aimed at teenage girls) story about Hikari whose life mission is to beat Kei. She goes to a very expensive school (one that her family can barely afford) for the sole purpose of trying to beat Kei. Poor Hikari is a clueless and loving girl who is always #2 in everything while Kei is #1. A good mix of drama, hilarity, and sweetness.

Amber says

As much as I wanted these two together, it now feels like they're stuck. The only movement is this building of Takashima going to London. It's dragging a little. Too many small in between stories instead of tending to the main plot.

Alya Atiera says

[I don't know why but I really ship Megumi and Yahiro. And I'm a bit annoyed with Akira's character. Seriously. And OMG NOT TO FORGET THE PROPOSAL. I so did not see that coming. Hahaha Kei is just, man I don't know... perfe

Kjersten Danvers says

I have never actually read volumes 1-8, because I don't own them, and I've read Volume 9 so many times I have it memorized, so when I begin my rereads, I always begin with Volume 10. I love this series to death. Maki Minami is one of my favorite writers; she manages to capture something so human with her characters, even though this is a manga and everything is often exaggerated for comedic effect.

Paula says

This series was hilarious! I found myself laughing out loud ever so often as I eagerly read the story. This author's work is just remarkable!
