



## Off\*Beat Volume 1

*Jen Lee Quick (Illustrator)*

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## **Off\*Beat Volume 1** Jen Lee Quick (Illustrator)

Meet 15-year-old Tory Blake, a self-proclaimed genius who is somewhat antisocial and more than a bit cynical about the world. Life is just tedious for Tory...until the day an attractive but secretive boy his own age moves in across the street. Tory becomes obsessed by his mysterious new neighbor and begins documenting his every move. But this pursuit of friendship--and possibly something more--leads Tory to the one thing he wasn't expecting to discover. Jen Lee Quick has crafted a wildly imaginative romantic drama, filled with all the hopes, dreams and anxiety of a teenager trying to make sense of his place in the world.

## **Off\*Beat Volume 1 Details**

Date : Published September 13th 2005 by TokyoPop (first published 2005)

ISBN : 9781598161328

Author : Jen Lee Quick (Illustrator)

Format : Paperback 184 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Graphic Novels, Comics, Young Adult, Lgbt, Romance, Comics Manga

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## From Reader Review Off\*Beat Volume 1 for online ebook

### KimberlyRose says

Although this isn't a fabulous series, the first book is humorous and mysterious, with a likeable, troubled protagonist. The long-awaited third volume, now promised from Chromatic Press, "will begin its serialization in Chromatic's Sparkler Monthly digital magazine in the summer of 2013, with an expanded ebook and print book to follow."

I picked up my dusty volume one to reread and found volume two in a pile of library discards. (Who wants to read an abandoned series?) I'm ready for you, Mr. Volume Three! Bring it! (Finally!)

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### Lillian Francis says

Interesting start. I'm curious to read more.

A few things bothered me...

Why is Tory obsessed with Colin?

Why did it take him nearly a year to do anything about it?

If the year was to show the growth of his obsession then a single page could have accomplished this: 6 panels headed every other month showing Tory see Colin around and sparking his interest.

Tory's behaviour is more than a little stalkerish. Let's hope that aspect calms down in the next volume.

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### Francine says

The visual aspect really pulled me in, but in the end, the story didn't give me enough to want to keep reading. I quite like it, it just... doesn't go anywhere.

When I finished the book, I read the blurb on the back and thought: "Wait... this is supposed to be a romantic story?" Tory's just a stalker. There's nothing romantic about that. He doesn't even realise why he's stalking his poor neighbour, so the "boy's love" angle is hardly relevant.

Colin's supposed to be mysterious, there's supposed to be an obvious mystery surrounding him, but I don't get it. They never give us enough clues as to why Tory decides to stalk him, or why it takes so long for him to start doing so (Colin's lived nextdoors for 347 days(!) before the story begins), and even after the stalking begins Colin doesn't do anything shady or weird. Sure, he's got some kind of medical condition, and a weird relationship with his not-parent: it might be enough to reel Tory in, but I need a bit more bait.

Also, Tory's kind of a dick to Mandy. Why does she like him? Why is she even friends with him? Guess she's into the antisocial type.

On the plus side, the art style's gorgeous, the backgrounds are very detailed and even the paneling is good for a change.

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## ribbonknight says

I'm reading this through my Sparkler subscription, and am loving the series so far.

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## Autumn says

I just. Was so confused. Or bewildered. Perplexed. Something. Throughout so much of this. I almost liked it and then realized I really didn't.

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## Carrie says

Tory starts obsessively documenting everything about the mysterious boy who moves in across the street. I *loved* both volumes of this. The detail, the shaggy hair, the adorable not-quite-friendship, not-quite-romance of it all, the kind of weird guy who lives next door, *all of it*. I think I would recommend for David Levithan fans.

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## Hannah says

I wish I could give this manga 984759874 stars. Really. I also wish Tokyopop didn't put this title on hiatus, because it is so unique to what is out there today. It manages to throw in quirky, adorable, first-time love, with a crazy, mysterious plot. Jen Lee Quick is AMAZING. My proverbial hat tips to her.

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## Sarah Hayes says

Once upon a time, Tokyopop performed a great experiment in which prodigious manga-ka of American origin were courted for their manga-inspired works, an attempt to become the publisher of OEL (Original English Language) manga in North America. Much like the company itself, it eventually failed, but several stellar titles ended up rising from the group, redeeming OEL manga from the role of "lesser manga".

One of these titles, all thanks to the crowd sourced power of Kickstarter, is enjoying a reprint renaissance thanks to a brand new comic press - and that is Jen Lee Quick's Off\*Beat, one of the best OEL manga you're not reading. And now you can, again!

You can read my complete review of OFF BEAT volume one at my blog:  
<http://nagareboshi-reviews.blogspot.c...>

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## Kate says

The first in what I hope is an interesting manga style graphic novel. It seems to have started out slow, but like Tory, we are gathering new information too. Hopefully more is revealed now about the suspicious nature

surrounding the new kid on the block, Colin Brown. I wonder when these characters will come out and just be honest about their pasts. Hopefully more is divulged on Tory's curiosity and Colin's odd health problems in the later volumes.

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### **Jocilyn says**

Off\*Beat v.1 is simultaneously both adorable and highly frustrating. As a protagonist, Tory is a cool kid who always gets Straight As in school. Lately, however, Tory's been utterly obsessed with a boy who moved into his neighborhood. Tory hopes to uncover Colin (a painfully antisocial kid from overseas)'s secret by diligently documenting every scrap of information he can glean about Colin. Tory's information gathering and obsession create some extremely funny situational humor. Volume one definitely has one or two really cute scenes between the two boys as well, such as when Colin awakes in the library to find Tory watching him intently, almost within kissing distance.

In the end though, I became frustrated with how Tory kept blowing off his friends Paul and Mandy and his mother in order to focus all his time and attention on his obsession. It seems like he does care for Colin, but since he doesn't recognize his true feelings, the reader's left with the sense that he's totally self-absorbed. Tory is definitely a protagonist with a character flaw (which is neat to see).

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### **Jfk Teens says**

AJ Recommends:

Off Beat by Jen Lee Quick

As the connection between Colin and Tory grows, they find themselves struggling to protect their own secrets and wondering if their relationship is worth the risk.

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### **Torin says**

Tory starts obsessively documenting everything about the mysterious boy who moves in across the street. I loved both volumes of this. The detail, the shaggy hair, the awesome not-quite-friendship, not-quite-romance of it all, the kind of weird guy who lives next door, all of it. I think I would recommend for David Levithan fans.

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### **Jack says**

A gay friendly Manga, following a high school students mildly obsessive interest in his fellow mysterious student and neighbor. I'm looking forward to Volume 2.

## **Peter says**

Tory is a high school boy who becomes infatuated with Colin a mysterious boy who's just moved in across the way. In this first book he spies on him and tries to get to know him.

In the second book they become friends, There is a strong connection between them for Tory it's just puppy love but Colin seems to think it's a psychic connection.

Colin has some kind of strange secret - is a he a psychic experiment or something? We will never know as Jen Lee Quick never finished the story, and these two books represent only about half of it.

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## **Sean says**

I really liked the characters of this book and the self-discovery of the main character, Tory. Tory is a teenage genius who documents every aspect of his life, including the strange boy who moved in across the street. Colin is a anti-social, somewhat depressed looking kid who is strangely connected to the top-secret Gaia Project. Further more, Tory has become obsessed with finding out anything and everything he can about Colin...and the Gaia Project. Only, the further he gets involved the more confusing his feelings become and more danger he seems to be in. A very well written graphic novel with excellent artwork. Look forward to the second book.

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