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Makoto Tateno

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#1846176 in Books 2008-12-30Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 8.30 x .70 x 6.00l, .60 #File Name: 1569706069192 pages | File size: 65.Mb

Makoto Tateno : Blue Sheep Reverie Volume 1 (Yaoi) (Yaoi Manga) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue Sheep Reverie Volume 1 (Yaoi) (Yaoi Manga):

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy Annieawesome!1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Blue Sheep ReverieBy kaoruThis book is really entertaining and the story line just makes it even more interesting! I couldn't help but order more of the series!10 of 11 people found the following review helpful. Finally Available In English!By T. LaPonteOriginally published in the shojo magazine Bessatsu (Extra/Supplementary) Hana to Yume (where Otomen is serialized) as "Aoi Hitsuji no Yume," Blue Sheep Reverie's serialization halted after just one volume. Several years later the BL magazine Karen serialized a new title by Makoto Tateno called Steal Moon,

which took place in the same universe as AHnY (and a few years later in the timeline). With Steal Moon's popularity, Blue Sheep Reverie was resurrected, reissued by Karen (with a more BL flavor) and continued past the initial volume (it is currently in its fourth volume in Japan). DMP finally licensed the series and is publishing it as a "side story" to Steal Moon, a classification which, while not only being incorrect, does this wonderful series no justice. Blue Sheep Reverie is the story of a young man, Kai Kouda, who arrives in the town Akatsuki, named "sunrise" in its long-forgotten original language and now referred to by that name in the languages of its many multi-ethnic immigrant inhabitants. Because the town essentially has no police or government institutions (making it a haven for the less-than-desirable), it is ruled by two rival companies, Sarte and Mynah, who are in a violent, yakuza-esque war for control. New arrivals are told they should choose a side and Kai is interested in Sarte, but only because one of its bosses, Lahti Bara, wears a ring Kai believes belonged to his murdered lover, Maria. He is on a quest for revenge, but the world he is about to enter into is far more complex than he would ever have imagined. As this title was originally serialized in a girls' magazine, there isn't much in the way of BL service, and the one love scene is very brief and tasteful. Those who are looking for a lot of fanservice are going to be disappointed in that respect (until volume 2, at least). There is also a much greater focus on Kai's relationship with Maria and she is a steady presence throughout the story, so readers who have a distaste for prominent female characters in BL series might also want to be wary. However, I think her strong presence is one of the unique facets of the series that allow it to stand apart from the pack of stereotypical BL titles that either dismiss women entirely, or demonize them. Tateno began her career as a girls' manga author and it shows in her more positive attitude towards the women in her BL stories. Kai by the same respect is a breath of fresh air in an otherwise stagnating sea of weak, passive ukes (the submissive partner in a BL pair). He is quick-witted, strong-willed and physically impressive. His single-minded goal, however misguided it might ultimately be, is enough to make him stand completely apart from his constantly unsure and wavering counterparts in other BL titles, not to mention the fact that he could take just about anyone in a fight. I've been known to refer to Kai as the type of rare uke that can only be dominated by the strongest of super-semes (such as Ryuichi Asami of Viewfinder). It takes a powerful man like Lahti Bara to awe a man like Kai and draw him near. That is one of the driving forces behind Kai's relationship to Lahti, and not some misguided romantic affection, as many BL series are often reduced to. Kai doesn't "fall in love" with Lahti, he recognizes him as a strong man whom Kai desperately wants to equal as a man, and not necessarily to submit to as a lover. It is possibly this fact in particular that makes this story one of the most unique and impressive to come out of the BL genre in some time. Very little about this book is disappointing. The most unfortunate thing to be said is about the series' title, which is more or less a direct translation from the Japanese. Most BL series have titles that reference some aspect of the romantic relationship of the characters (like Tateno's Hate to Love You), or in the case of action oriented series like this one (or like Tateno's Hero Heel and Yellow), some element of danger. There is nothing particularly "dangerous" about sheep, let's be honest. I do understand its significance, a reference to the misshapen cat's eye ring owned by the murdered Maria and worn by her murder suspect, as an ironic symbol of a "loss of innocence," but as an eye-catch on the shelves of a bookstore it is not something that is going to easily attract the attentions of those passersby who might be interested in the story. Among the smaller criticisms of the book to be made are in the language of the adaptation. First is some of the name choices. Pushing past the unfortunate spelling choice of the original "Maina" into "Mynah" that was presumably made to make it phonetic (Romaji is just as phonetic in my opinion), my biggest complaint is in what I regard as the incorrect choice of "Lahti." While the translators successfully unravelled the mystery of "Bihaan" from the original katakana (an Indian reference to "dawn"), they completely missed the equally culturally-specific reference of "Ratri" (the Goddess of Night in the Rig Veda). I will concede that the translation for Steal Moon clearly missed this reference (only vaguely explained in this book by Yan) and it was probably decided for the sake of consistency to keep the name "Lahti" for the duration of publications of this story universe. Secondly is the awkwardness of the English adaptation. DMP is by far the most prolific of the English BL publishers, but they are also one of the most inconsistent in quality. The translation is pretty faithful, but the adaptation isn't very smooth and makes it harder to enjoy the story when reading. For example, on page 67, when Kai apologises to Lahti he says, "...for the other time," which doesn't fit since when he is addressing Lahti here, it isn't a "different" time (as in, an equivalent situation at a later date), it is a different day and a completely different context from the issue he is referencing. It should be written as something like "for before" or "for what I did." There are numerous incidents like this throughout the book, and they are a distraction. I have to admit that this series has long been one of my very favorite BL titles and finally owning an English copy (to replace my Japanese tankoban) makes me ecstatic. I can't wait for the next volume to be released and I highly recommend this series to all Makoto Tateno fans, fans of Steal Moon and fans of action type BL series.

Kai's lover has been murdered! Searching for the culprit, he comes to a town under the control of two groups, the Salts and the Minors. Once there, to get closer to Iron Lahti, a man with the same ring as his lover, Kai becomes the man's bodyguard. The side story to the near-future boys' love series Steal Moon is finally published!

Kai has traveled to this city with no name for one reason, to find the murderer of his lover Maria and exact revenge.

Maria wore a distinct ring and when the murderer fled the scene he was wearing her ring. While watching the television he saw a man wearing Maria's ring. That man was Lahti Bara, a one-man killing machine in the nameless town. Kai will get a job working under Lahti and take his chance at revenge. But Lahti isn't nicknamed "Steel Lahti" for nothing. He is the public face of the gang Sarte. He is quick thinking, light on his feet, and has a knack for fighting. Kai figures that being one of his posse will be the quickest way to get his vengeance. After jumping Lahti on the street to show him his fighting prowess Kai is taken in by the Sarte group and he does become one of Lahti's bodyguards and even begins training with the man himself. Kai finds out that Lahti is gay and uses this opportunity to get even closer to Lahti. While in bed Kai tries to take the ring and some of the truth comes out. Even though Lahti wears a ring, it's not Maria's. Kai loses face because of this incident but continues to come to Lahti's aid. A surprise is in store for Kai. It turns out that Maria isn't dead at all. She implanted a chip in Kai's head and had used this to alter his memory during the incident. Maria is also Lahti's twin sister. It also seems that Maria is now aligned with the rival gang. It's just the beginning of this intense action packed tale penned by the one and only Makoto Tateno-sama. I thought that the name Blue Sheep Reverie was a very weird name for a manga. It still is a weird name but at least now I know the origins of the name. It seems as though the rings that Lahti and Maria are blue and look like sheep's eyes. This is the "prequel" (in a very rough sense of the word) to another title Tateno-sama title, Steal Moon. Really all that these two stories have in common is Lahti and Kai showing up as minor characters. If you are looking for a hardcore yaoi title you won't find it in this volume of Blue Sheep Reverie. According to Tateno-sama this was originally written as a shojo title but then a boys love magazine picked it up. So yes a woman plays a larger role and there isn't much in boys getting it on. But I have high hopes for the next volume. The series currently has two volumes released in Japan and is still ongoing so who knows what is in store for us. I can't rave enough about the art that Tateno-sama provides for us. But along with her immaculate art style she is an amazing storyteller. I was riveted from the beginning. Each character is unique in their look as well as their personalities. Maria is the ultimate villain. Tateno-sama has the ability to create strong women characters for her stories and Maria is definitely strong character, even though she's the antagonist. Lahti is a character that you can't help feel for even though he is a cold guy. Kai is endearing and he brings a lot to the story. For fans of Makoto Tateno-sama this is a don't miss title. If you've checked out Steal Moon this is a title that you'll want to read as well. Even if you haven't read Steal Moon I recommend it. If you're new to her work just sit back and enjoy her gorgeous men, beautiful women, and all around stunning art. Definitely check out Blue Sheep Reverie vol. 1. --Manic About Manga

After the murder of his girlfriend, Maria, Kai finds himself drawn to a dangerous city renowned for its warring rival gangs. Determined to get close to one such gang, and in particular one man within it, Kai makes a bold move in requesting to be bodyguard to the powerful Lahti. Once inside this circle, however, some deadly wheels start turning as assassins target Lahti and Kai finds himself defending the one person whose life he seeks to take in vengeance. Boys love wise, Blue Sheep Reverie doesn't have a whole lot to offer fans but that doesn't mean it doesn't present much to anticipate. There's a one-time fling, a regret that it was only a one-time fling and some ambiguous interaction that's likely prelude to some more intimates later. Fans of Makoto Tateno will find her artwork familiar, toting the willowy-haired pretty boys and their wistful stares into space. I enjoyed some of her action rendering but felt that some parts didn't have as much detail as they required (are they fighting with a string of pearls?). While there might not be much man on man action, the book doesn't hold back with some other fiery dramatics to keep things going. Rival gang wars and a target on Lahti's head make for lots of dangerous situations. Watching him teach Kai the specifics of fighting and how to better take a life is both interesting and methodical, with a healthy dash of inter-group politics regarding a group's mysterious Four Kings. Some of the book's most climatic moments will be undoubtedly predicted by some readers, putting a little damper on the tension, but the emotional effect on the characters is enough to make even the most cookie-cutter moments at least a little stirring. Though this first volume of Blue Sheep Reverie may not live up to the expectations of some boys love fans looking for more action between the sheets than on the streets, its semi-futuristic plot line of gangs, murder and survival are really what make it a book worth reading. Amidst the dead-girlfriend angst and a world that could stand to be fleshed out more than its explored, it's a story that's still tailored to a boys love audience, and seems keen on catering to it, but one that doesn't lean on the boys love like a crutch. Even if the main plot points are predictable (and I got a serious woman-are-the-enemy vibe), I still anticipate volume two to see where Kai's newly carved paths will take him, and he and Lahti can survive it. --Kuriosity

Kai was once in love, even in the dark city of danger where he lives. But his beautiful Maria was murdered and all he has as a clue to find her killer is the unique ring she wore, one now worn by the head of the powerful Sarte Group, the lethal Steel Lahti! Now Kai will risk body and soul to uncover if Lahti is the murderer. It will mean getting close to one of the most dangerous men alive. But what happens when it's more than just his life on the line, but Kai's heart? Blue Sheep Reverie is a wonderfully intricate yaoi story that blends danger, sci-fi, action, crime, and romance all in one. Kai must find a way to get close to Lahti. To do so he tries out to be one of his bodyguards. But this is a trial where the loser could well lose his life! Kai is not a killer, but to get close to the man who murdered his lover, he will have to become one. Can Kai lose what is left of his light to travel in the dark of Lahti's world? When he gets close to the truth and finds out what happened to his Maria, Kai's world is turned upside down. Now no longer knowing who to trust, everything he believed in lies in tatters around him, Kai is about to become a potential pawn in a larger game to rule

the city. As the battle for control heats up between the syndicate groups of Sarte and Mynah, so too does the intensity between Lahti and Kai. When an old friend crosses his path and pleads with him to leave the road he has chosen, will Kai be swayed to part from Lahti? With dangerous factions getting ready for war, assassins on the prowl, it is far more than love that is on the line in this riveting story. If the names Lahti and Kai seem familiar to you as well as the terms Sarte and Mynah, then you may have already guessed that this is a prequel to Steal Moon. Only being two volumes in length, the series moves through shocks and revelations quickly, but not too quickly. It gives time for the emotional impact to take root in the character and affect the reader, proving to be an involving read. With all its elements of cat and mouse danger, it is a manga that will be a must read for fans of Yellow let alone anyone familiar with Makoto Tateno's gorgeous artwork. --Active Anime About the Author Makoto Tateno is a top-selling yaoi artist, and is the mind behind YELLOW, KASHINFU, RED ANGEL and STEAL MOON.