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Captive Hearts of Oz Vol. 1

Ryo Maruya

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Ryo Maruya : Captive Hearts of Oz Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Captive Hearts of Oz Vol. 1:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. A story all its own By Connor Meckstroth I personally liked it (coming from the amalgamation that is a man who likes this genre). Dorothy turned out to be an extremely likable character, adding a brand new personality to the archetype that is "Dorothy" without coming off as forced. The backstory to the whole thing is a gripping mystery to me, and although I was initially concerned that it would become a Alice in the Country of etc. I was shown otherwise. Also unlike the afore mentioned it seems to support for relationships outside of the harem more seriously (jealousy in the field?). This leads to the possibility of more complex relationships within the group dynamic, perhaps even... platonic (*shock). The abruptness later in the story was

intentionally thematic, which I can forgive easily, though the introduction of the flamboyantly dressed fellow gives me concern about whether or not they can maintain the potential the source work provides. All in all anyone who actively seeks this genre or interested in messing with Wizard of Oz themes will have a lot of fun with this. It might have diminished return for those who aren't as invested, though this is far from the worst places to start with. All in all I hope this gets enough support to keep going, it deserves that much at least.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. *Pretty Boys in Oz*. By J. Alford While there are numerous anime/manga titles based on the works of L. Frank Baum (including Santa Claus' origin), *Captive Hearts Of Oz* takes a modern day shojo approach to the classic tale, mixing in not only elements from the original Wizard Of Oz book, but others fragments of the Oz novels. Author Ryo Maruya teamed up with artist Mamenosuke Fujimaru who worked on the various *Alice In The Country Of Clover* and its various spinoffs to create this reverse-harem manga. Dorothy is a farm girl who has her house blown away by a tornado to the enchanted land of Oz, where it happens to crash on the Wicked Witch of the East. The Good Witch of the North, Locasta arrives and gives Dorothy the Wicked Witch's magic shoes as she is directed to go to the Emerald City to find the enigmatic Wizard who could send her home. Along the way, Dorothy runs across more human-ish versions of the Scarecrow (here called Hayward), Nick Chopper (Tin Woodsman), and "Leon" the Lion. Once all four of them have assembled, they are joined by a joyful but mysterious jester named Zero. The quintet eventually reach the Emerald City, where Dorothy is greeted by Glinda, Good Witch of the South. All while this is going on, it appears that Locasta is working with the other Witches and the Wizard to have Dorothy follow a certain path, indicating that this has been done by Dorothy more than once who kept no memories of her former adventures. This plus the Witch of the East is not only still alive, but a male, as well as the Witch of the West. The over all story arc seems like a cross between the original Oz story, and *The Truman Show* where someone's life is being directed by outside forces within a self-contained world. Whether this is all in storybook, a dream, or a pocket universe is yet to be seen. The plot moves along fairly well, although it seems to hide too much which disallows the narrative to know where its all going. The artwork is satisfying, and should appeal to bishonen otaku.

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. This *Alice of the Country of* spinoff has a few issues that hurt the colorful cast of characters in this manga. By TheOASG Really, this review could just boil down to a single statement: if you love the *Alice in the Country of* manga, you will love *Captive Hearts of Oz*. But if you've never read *Alice in the Country of Hearts* or any of its numerous spinoffs, here goes. Its easy to think *Captive Hearts of Oz* is an adaptation of *The Wizard of Oz* at first: a girl named Dorothy lives on a farm with her aunt, uncle, and her little dog Toto, and she finds herself in another world thanks to a cyclone. Her house crushes an evil witch, and a bunch of little people and another witch proclaim her a hero. She then sets off down the yellow brick road to meet the wizard. Yeah, yeah, I know this story already! you might be saying. But do you know the name of the Good Witch Dorothy meets? Glinda? Bzzt! Its Locasta. Oh, the scarecrow and friends all have names, the Tin Man has had actual reconstructive surgery, and, behind the scenes, other characters keep talking about following the story. Its obvious the heroine has been cast in the role of Dorothy, but the reasons why she has been summoned and why she has a lot in common with Dorothy Gale remain a mystery. In addition, the manga hints she isnt quite a stranger to this world, and Locasta obviously has reservations about the whole situation. The captive hearts aspect is obviously a major part of the manga, and I am looking forward to the struggle between redoing the story and forging a new path. The characters who know the truth about this Oz are far more interesting than Dorothy's traveling companions. This is only exacerbated by the weak pacing of the story. Hayward the scarecrow gets a rather long introduction with his battles against a couple of crows (really humans with wings). Hayward just doesnt understand Blacks complicated best frenemy relationship. Its almost enough to make you forget this is actually a reverse harem because of all the early attention on Hayward. Then when we meet the Tin Man, his whole life story is spilled right away by another character. As for the Cowardly Lion? He joins I dont know why. He says hi, then hes recruited. It just seems really shallow after Haywards and Nicholas introductions. Its like the author realized the volume is already almost over, and Leon drew the short straw. Im much more interested in why Locasta wants to rebel and all the mysterious beings than some crows relationship with a scarecrow. I also like it better when we see Dorothy with a personality outside of kind otome game heroine. I love to watch her stunned, often horrified, reactions when she realizes she has crushed a stranger or is invited to see the inside of Haywards brain. She also has a great moment where she takes on the role of villain, and although its an act, the scene breathes some life into the character instead of just having her being dragged along by the story. The art seems a bit strange since I am only familiar with Fujimarus work because of all the *Alice in the Country of* manga. Its always hard to adjust when an artist starts a new work, but Dorothy's outfit isnt that different from Alices; her dress shouldnt keep changing from puffy short skirt to flat and long. Something about Toto kept nagging me until I realized his striking resemblance to Dr. Seuss Lorax, something I now cant unsee. I do like the brightness of the manga, giving each panel plenty of space. The color pages in particular make me wish this was a full-color manga to show off Haywards heterochromia and grass-green hair. I also love Locastas outfit, a nice mix of the magical girl style and traditional mage/witch garb. Of course, no good reverse harem is without a bucket-o-good-looking-bachelors, but its easily the man in the hat (whose name I wont reveal) who winds the Most Handsome award. All in all, the story feels a bit unbalanced. Im loving the machinations and struggles of the characters in-the-know, but the manga just cant decide how much and how long to

focus on Dorothy's group. I'm hoping this can be corrected now that the main group has assembled. At the very least, I'll be sticking around for the Hottie of Oz I mean Wizard. - Krystallina

From the fan-favorite creator of the bestselling Alice in the Country of Clover series comes an all-new story of adventure and romance based on The Wonderful Wizard of Oz! Captive Hearts of Oz is the newest manga series by New York Times bestselling creator Mamenosuke Fujimaru, known for her prolific work on the Alice in the Country of... manga series. Based on the beloved classic The Wonderful Wizard of Oz, this original tale of magic, adventure and romance will appeal to fans of Fujimaru's other New York Times bestselling series like Alice in the Country of Clover and Alice in the Country of Joker. Captive Hearts of Oz reimagines L. Frank Baum's original Oz stories in a modern, shoujo style. Each volume in this ongoing series will be released in oversized editions, featuring impressive artwork and several full-color illustrations. Dorothy Gale, along with her beloved dog Toto, finds herself whisked away by a tornado to the mysterious land of Oz. Something about this strange place feels oddly familiar, but Dorothy just wants to go home. Following the advice of a kindly Witch, Dorothy must travel to the Emerald City and seek out the Wizard of Oz, who alone has the power to send her back to her world. Alongside a trio of fascinating new companions, and a mysterious young man known as Zero, Dorothy must follow the Yellow Brick Road on her journey to escape Oz and some of its less than friendly denizens, the evil Witches. Yet even though all this seems to be happening for the first time, Dorothy feels as if they have all met before... Buried secrets and conflicted romance await Dorothy as she travels through the wonderful land of Oz!

About the Author Mamenosuke Fujimaru is a Japanese manga creator best known for her work on the Alice in the Country of... series. Ryo Maruya is a Japanese author who makes her debut release with Captive Hearts of Oz.