

xxxHolic, Vol. 14



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3.5/5 From 331 Reviews

Clamp

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30 of 31 people found the following review helpful. BittersweetBy AmaliaLet me first say that this review is going to be spoiler-heavy and opinion-heavy. I mean, really. Turn back now if you don't want spoilers. There, you've been warned.The first thing you should know about xxxHOLIC is that, after Volume 17, it is utterly incomprehensible without reading Tsubasa: RC. Tsubasa doesn't suffer from this problem; CLAMP decided to take time off from xxxHOLIC to devote to Tsubasa, and so the major events that should have been put into Holic (spoiler: Yuko dies, Watanuki gives up all of his memories) occur in Tsubasa...not HOLIC.That means that after Vol. 17 of HOLIC, you're lost at sea without Tsubasa. I don't think this was a wise decision on CLAMP's part, but it's understandable that, after revealing what happened to Yuko months prior in Tsubasa, CLAMP wouldn't rehash it again in HOLIC. Still, I don't think it's where it belonged, but remember that Tsubasa was publishing weekly: they were full steam ahead with the plot at that point, and there was no way to keep from moving forward.But, now we come to volume 19, the last one in the journey. We discover a number of things that have left fans very, very bitter:1. Domeki, who has been implied to harbor feelings for Watanuki (see Vol. 18, and Watanuki's rather mean speech about "not being a cat" after blowing smoke in Domeki's face...and after having sex with the spider that ate his eye) is long dead. The Domeki we see here is his great-grandson. That means everyone Watanuki knew...are all dead. Domeki marries Kahone, it seems, for the soul purpose of providing offspring to keep Watanuki company, and this is utterly heartbreaking.2. That egg? Not being put to any use. All that build up...nothing. This shouldn't be too surprising for people familiar with the mythology of the Phoenix: a single bird lays two eggs - from one, the bird is reborn (Tanpopo)and from the other, nothing is ever hatched, and no one knows what's inside.3. Finally, Watanuki can leave the shop....but he decides to stay. End manga.....Well, not quite.And here's where my opinion comes in. Let me first say that I have read, and own, every single one of CLAMP's works, including artbooks, Clamp no Kiseki, etc. I'm a big fan, and so I've picked up on a lot of stuff they like to spread out through their manga. To "get" xxxHOLIC's ending, you need to read between the lines, and here is where those final pages - the black background, the bird (Watanuki) taking flight, reveal themselves. xxxHOLIC is more than the story of Watanuki; xxxHOLIC is the story of Clow's beginning, and Clow is the man that Watanuki will become, completing the circle of events started by Clow in Tsubasa. (For those of you who didn't read Tsubasa, Clow has a wish that Yuko, the woman he cared for deeply, wouldn't