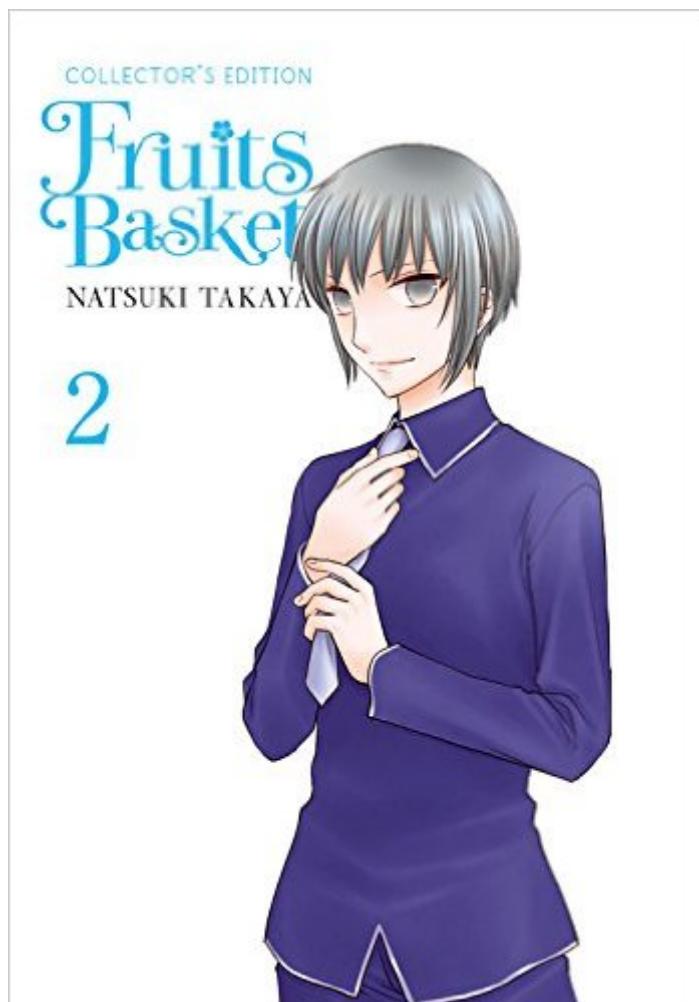


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Fruits Basket Collector's Edition, Vol. 2



Synopsis

When she was living in a tent pitched on the Sohma family's land, Tohru Honda's primary concerns were dirt and slugs. But now that she's living with the Sohmas, she's gotten a crash course in magical powers and ancient curses! And as if keeping the Sohma clan secret wasn't bad enough, Tohru has to work overtime to prevent all the jealous girls from finding out that she's living under the same roof as the school prince, Yuki, and the school hothead, Kyo! What new drama will Valentine's Day bring into Tohru's life?!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

With this new release from Yen Press, the "hole" that has been left by Tokyo Pop's version of Furuba going out of print years ago has finally been filled in. It is wonderful that Yen Press is re-releasing this classic manga for those of us who were never able to obtain copies of it when it came out over a decade ago. My "real" score for this version would be 4.5 stars if I would let me dock a half star. This edition is not perfect but because Fruits Basket is such a strong manga, it makes up for the few shortcomings. The book itself is an over-sized manga, a bit bigger than most that are released today. If you get other manga from Seven Seas or Shonen Jump, you will see immediately that the size of this book is bigger by an inch on both sides. That's a good thing as there is more room for Takaya's art to spread out as intended. I always found Furuba a difficult manga to read as a fan-sub because of the odd panel shape that Takaya uses for much of her layout. It is wonderful to see in print. The book is also not without its shortcomings. The Tokyo Pop

version released previously contained all the authors side notes that had been included in the Japanese versions. Those have been removed in the new Collector's Editions and Takaya explained that she did this because most were out of date and not relevant anymore. If you are familiar with these, you will know that many of the notes were about her gaming habits and eating habits - interesting tidbits but hardly worth saving for posterity. I, personally, do not miss them but some purists might balk that they have been removed. Another thing I do not like about the book is the cover. They used a flat, non-glossy cover on these editions. For a "Collector's Edition" I would have expected better.

Tohru Honda's adventures really get going in the second volume of "Fruits Basket," where the upbeat teen moves into the Sohma household. Natsuki Takaya's storytelling is stronger and steadier in this collection, since she's introduced the main characters and can now get going on the plot. Not to mention the eccentric side cast. Tohru is moving into her newly furnished room, and her pals (wave-reading goth Saki and toughgrrl Hana) decide to stay over to make sure that the guys will take care of their cheerful friend. And when New Year's rolls around, Kyo and Yuki are reluctantly dragged out to the main house for the annual celebration. But when Saki stops them on the road, they are given a not-so-difficult choice -- go to the main house with the other family, or stay home with Tohru? And at the school, the students are planning a cultural festival. Yuki is forced to wear a dress, Kyo clashes with other students, and Tohru encounters two other Sohmas -- the chilly doctor Hatori, and the effusive half-German Momiji, who is instantly pals with Tohru. Tohru is uneasy about visiting Hatori at first, but she soon learns of a different side to the zodiac members' lives, when she hears about Hatori's tragic past. The first volume of "Fruits Basket" was all about introducing the characters and getting them into the same house. But in the second volume, Takaya gets to flesh out the cast with new characters (including the frighteningly perky Momiji) and new storylines, and hints about the more sinister aspects of the Sohma family's curse, and the family head Akito.

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