

# 2021 February Manga Podcast

Thu, 1/28 9:47AM • 23:20

**Erin 00:26**

Hello, everyone, and welcome to our newest episode of All Things Teen. My name is Erin. I'm a teen librarian at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. And I'm excited to introduce our special guest today. She's a new librarian to the Clinton-Macomb Public Library. This is Hannah. So Hannah, tell us a little bit about yourself.

**Hannah 00:45**

Yeah. Hey, guys. So I am one of the new children's library, children's librarian over at Main. I have. Yeah, I guess a little bit about me, when you're looking for me visually, because you're not seeing me visually right now I've got I've usually almost always got really colorful hair. I have far too many pins on my lanyard. I'm out of space. So, if you're ever looking for me, that's how to find me. But a little bit about me, I am a huge nerd. I love role playing games are my favorite. Uh, I you know, love all kinds. I've been in the GMC. I've been in the player seat. So I love that stuff. Big anime and manga nerd, obviously reading. But that goes a little without saying. And I think the last thing that you really would have to know about me is that I love crafting. And I love animals, you probably two of my favorite things.

**Erin 01:48**

That's amazing. I could tell just..uh, it's funny our first like long conversation ended up being long, just because we just talked about books and graphic novels for so long, and how

**Hannah 02:00**

I could do that love them all day long, literally.

**Erin 02:05**

So I thought because we talked about so much manga. And my last podcast was with a couple other committee members, some great graphic novels, we really focus on graphic novel. So I totally wanted to talk more about manga series that we loved. And I've been trying to play catch up a bit there's like series that are popular that I haven't been reading lately. One that I missed out on, like back when it came out, that I've been reading now is Princess Jellyfish, which I love so much. So if you don't know, I'll just give you a really quick synopsis. It's about a girl who, well, she lives at this boarding house kind of apartment building with all of these other like geeky girls and women and they call themselves

Amars. And they love all sorts of different fandoms. And they don't really like want to conform to society's ideals of like beauty and things like that. Well, they are the main character Tsukimi...she meets this guy one day who is a crossdresser. And he decides that she's obsessed with jellyfish, so they're gonna start a jellyfish fashion line. And so it's it is a comedy, and there's like some light romance in there. But I just love how silly it is and how, even though I mean, some of the jokes are a little bit dated, but some of them are just as hilarious now as like they were when they were written. Have you read that series?

**Hannah 03:33**

I haven't. But I have a couple friends who have it's definitely on my list of things to look at. I've seen a lot of art from it, for sure; with all the fashion and and I think, just really creative way, especially for manga being penciled in black and white. And just like the really cool ways that they've played with fashion in that way.

**Erin 03:54**

Yeah, you would think that maybe the fashion wouldn't translate very well, but it totally does. Like, it's pretty impressive. That not only like I love when manga has like, more than one focus. Like besides just the story so like fashion is like a really big focus and this and it's still really comes across in the art, which is super awesome.

**Hannah 04:15**

Yeah.

**Erin 04:16**

So whatever is like an old school manga series or two that you really, really like,

**Hannah 04:22**

well, if we're gonna talk about I mean, old school. I feel like it's so broad and thinking like, Okay, well, yeah,

**Erin 04:28**

Well, like maybe 10 years ago.

**Hannah 04:31**

Yeah, so my favorite old school personally, probably, was like maybe a little bit older than 10 years. That's fine.

**Erin 04:40**

Yeah, I think Princess Jellyfish is one maybe like 15.

**Hannah 04:43**

Yeah. Okay, so Rurouni Kenshin is one of my favorites. Both manga and anime I think. And uh...

**Erin 04:52**

Can you give our listeners a little bit of a mini synopsis?

**Hannah 04:55**

Yeah. So it takes place. It is historical fiction at takes place during that transition period in Japan when they were moving out of the time period of Samurai and into more of what we think of as modern, I don't want to say democracy, but kind of the modern format of, of Japan's government, and it follows this kenshin whose main character, and he is a samurai who has since then, quote, retired from that work, because he, I guess, to put it lightly, he has some anger issues a little bit, a slight dual personality type thing going on. And so he's trying to kind of live out this this quiet retired life from the war, and is constantly getting pulled back into the politicized, politicized environment that Japan has kind of turbulating through. So he's got a dark past, he's done some bad stuff and he's kind of trying to make up for that and live a normal life and just teach... he finds a dojo, a nice little light romance that goes on with that character. And she's awesome. That's the other thing too is that tension is great, but all of the characters, honestly, I just love all of them. And there's some pretty strong dynamic additional side characters, which I feel like you don't always find in manga and anime, it just focus on those main

**Erin 06:28**

Definitely, sometimes it's really like centralized around like one or two main characters,

**Hannah 06:33**

And they really make sure that they address each character's issues and kind of what's going on with them. And we get characters of all genders and ages. And, and so I really liked that about it as well.

**Erin 06:47**

That sounds great. Yeah, I haven't read that series yet, either. So...

**Hannah 06:51**

Tension is one of my favorite characters. He's so dynamic and good in it, it kind of plays to that trope of like, he can be really, really dark, but then he's really light hearted and fun. And I think that both the manga and anime do a really good job of making that be believable, and as an actual character. So

**Erin 07:13**

Yeah, I like when the character development is like, I mean, Princess Jellyfish, like, character development isn't super deep. And I think that happens a lot of times with comedies. But when it is more like a sweeping drama and historical piece, like I really love when they do like the character development, and you really get a sense of like, who somebody is,

**Hannah 07:32**

Right. Yeah. Tension is one of my favorites. But...

**Erin 07:36**

That's awesome. So let's move on to some of the newer series that we've been reading. Oh, I will give one and then you want to list one that you're giving. And actually, I have three that I can talk about. But what I'm going to mention, which we don't have yet, but should be on order soon, is called, of course, I'm holding this up, but you guys can see this, it's called Blue Period. And it's by Tsubasa Yamaguchi. And it's very...so, much like Princess Jellyfish is about fashion Blue Period is about art. And it makes art very accessible. So if you're, you don't really know a lot about it. It's a really good introduction into art. And so the premises, there's like this main character, and he, he hangs out with all of like the delinquents, and like, they just, they don't care about school, but he does. So he's kind of unique in that he's the one who spends all this time studying, he gets top grades, but he still goes out with them to watch games and drink and, you know, do all these other things. So the rest of them don't really see you have an interest. And he really thought that he wanted to do something after high school involving, like a steady job, like finance or something like that, that you'd be able to, you know, find security and in a good job after college. Well, he starts doing art one day, he has an art teacher that says, "yeah, you should focus on this" and he gets really into this painting that he's made. And he decides that he he really loves art. And so he joins the art club and he starts making all these paintings and he learns about you know, other people in the art club and how difficult it is to get into art school. And it's really interesting. I like it a lot.

**Hannah 09:29**

Yeah, I actually haven't even heard of this one. But the art looks really good.

**Erin 09:33**

Yeah, the second volume just came out not too long ago, we should be ordering both. And I don't know I like that it really takes a like a focus on like careers and after school like what you're going to be doing. I know like when I was in high school I had like, I wasn't one of those people that had my like life mapped out and knew exactly what I wanted to do. Like it was very stressful to me. To figure out what school is going to and then even when I got to college, I was like I had an undeclared major because I wasn't sure yet. So I like that aspect of it. Yes. So Hannah, what are you been reading lately?

**Hannah 10:15**

Oh, man. Okay, so I have found, I think my favorite manga. Like, maybe of all time, I'm not positive yet I have some criticisms. But so The Promised Neverland has almost finished. It's finished printing it printed and printing printed in Japan. And the US is expected to get the last volume, I believe by December 2021. If not, June 2021, I can't remember. But that I think at this point, especially can especially because I know that it ends at 20 volumes. And so it's just a nice little 20 volume series. But I have been absolutely obsessed with it the last volume printed on my birthday. And I literally like had my roommate go out to the bookstore to get it from me that day. So I could read it on my birthday. So excited about it. Yeah, so that has to be my current favorite, but that I've been like, almost the day the next volume comes out. I'm like, all right, I'm putting a hold on it, or okay, I'm getting it.

**Erin 11:23**

I feel like it didn't really garner as much attention when it first came out. But like now it's like super popular and they made an anime of it.

**Hannah 11:30**

I was gonna say I don't know if it was the anime that that that made it popular. I know that I got into it because my friend watched the first season and said, okay, you have this is so good., you have to watch it and I don't do horror well at all. I don't like suspense. I actually get really bad nightmares. Like it actually can cause issues with me. But I don't mind. I can read it. I just can't. There's something about watching and experiencing it. So I was like, okay, I'll tell you what, I won't I won't watch it, but I'll read it. So I read the manga. And now I'm frustrated because she hasn't read the manga and is only watching the anime. So now I know everything and she doesn't I can't even talk to her about it.

**Erin 12:09**

That's funny.

**Hannah 12:11**

I was like I keep telling her I'm like you have to read it. You have to read it and talk to you about it. Because you know if you if you are a fan of it, or you do read it or you watch season one but you're not sure if you should read it. Season one of the anime is literally like where it leaves off. That's like the exposition for the story. Like it's not even in my opinion doesn't even touch on like what the real plot of the story is. So...

**Erin 12:33**

Like a whole season of setup (laughs)

**Hannah 12:36**

I think it was released in February. So..

**Erin 12:39**

Yeah, that's awesome. I like when I want to read a horror manga and I'm kind of the same like I would rather read it then like watch it. Watchng it is kind of weird. I don't know. I'm not a big fan of like watching horror stuff I do saometimes like psychological stuff, but um, so Gigi Ito is like the master of like, Japanese horror manga, and he has some really great stuff like he had one. Oh, gosh, I can picture the cover right now. It's like an eye staring at you from behind, like maybe like a wooden panel or something.

**Hannah 13:14**

Oh, yeah. Yeah.

**Erin 13:16**

But it's super creepy. It's honestly, they...don't read it right before you go to bed. Because it will give you nightmares. Yeah, but if you like horror, then I definitely recommend that. So another one that's getting I don't know if in my series is out now. But I've heard I started reading Drifting Dragons. And this was like a recommendation of another librarian. This is by Taku Kuwabara. And the only criticism that we had with this one is the dragon industry. So it is about hunting dragons. And it does read kind of similar to whaling. So I would say the only difference and why people probably aren't very upset about that, that kind of comparisons and the similarities is the dragons are hostile and they will like ruined villages and they can like burn villages down whereas obviously whales are just like chilling in the ocean doing nothing wrong. So they're not hunting us they're not a problem. So I can kind of see hunting dragons if the dragons are like threatening human lives. But it's really it's it's a really good like adventure story. And it's very cool because they're on they're like on a ship but it's it's a it's a you know, floating ship. It's in the middle of the air and they have to do all these kind of like crazy like evasive maneuvers and stuff to get the dragons. And it's so funny because the main character like his he loves hunting dragons because he loves you dragon meat like, that's like all he talks about. And he he and like the chef, he's like, well, how about you cook it this way or cook it, like that's all he talks about is eating dragon meat. But oh yeah, it says experience the adventure that inspired the new original Netflix original anime. So like I said, I don't think I saw this on an on Netflix yet, but maybe I'll just have to search it because maybe it didn't pop up as like a...

**Hannah 15:27**

Yeah.

**Erin 15:29**

But it's really interesting. It's good for what I like about it is, you know, it's like, ages 12 and up like anybody can read it. And entertaining and I always like a good adventure series now and again.

**Hannah 15:43**

Yeah, I know, I have to get back into some of those because I feel like I've been reading like I said, like, it's been like, *Promised Neverland*, which is honestly, not usually my like, I'm not usually a horror person. I don't know if it's the message that gets I don't know what it is about it that I just love so much. And then I've been reading a lot of more like, realistic stuff, but not as much. Like I think about the things that hooked me into manga and anime when I was a kid were definitely those adventure stories to be like, that's something I gotta like, get back into.

**Erin 16:15**

Yeah. I feel like I've been reading a lot of like high school stuff lately. Like more realistic?

**Hannah 16:21**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Erin 16:22**

Which I didn't want to talk about any of that, like I talked about. So like on our top 10 we have blue flag, which I love. And I was like, okay, well, we were talking about that. Talk about it in another podcast.

**Hannah 16:35**

Yeah. Yeah.

**Erin 16:37**

Well, my last year, he said, I want to mention, and this has been going on for a bit for a couple years, is *Witch Hat Atelier*. And I love this because literally, it says 10 plus on, ages 10 plus, but it's literally for everybody. Like you can be like fifth grade and up and you can read it. And it holds interest for everybody. Like I'm an adult. And like I read this, and I love the series, it's so fascinating, because it is fantasy. It's in this world that they've created, there are witches, and it actually starts about, it's about this girl, *Coco*, she's not magical. But she happens upon this book of magic. And she accidentally, like, I don't I honestly volume was so long ago, I think she turns her mother into a tree. And so her whole goal is now she goes to an atelier, which is a place where like, basically, you have an apprenticeship to learn magic. So you have like a master that you like learn from. And so she went there. And there are like three other girls there that are studying under *Qifrey* for he is the head of the atelier. And when you become a witch, you get to design your own hat, which is very cool. So I love the hats and the art is so cool in the series. It's awesome. And she basically wants to master a magic so that she can learn

how to get her mother back. That's her goal. All the other girls have different goals. Like one is like a well known family of witches, and she wants to be like an archivist in the library and be really high up. And, um, there's so many kind of side plots and stuff going on, like everybody has their own history and past and you learn about it. And there's quests and stuff like that. So honestly, there's so much going on right now. I can't even really explain other than they're now in like the magical like, so the magical like, had like capital basically is this underwater world. And which is fascinating that they and they can it's charmed so that they can breathe underwater. Um, but they're hanging out there. Now I just, there's so much going on. There's like bad guys, of course. And the bad guys in this series are magicians that don't want to be restrained by like the laws they want to be able to use like forbidden magic, and have more power and kind of do whatever they want. And they know that there's something about Koko, she just seems very powerful and they're like determined to to have her join her side. So it's super awesome. I love it.

**Hannah 19:30**

Dude. Yeah, that's that looks really cute.

**Erin 19:32**

It's great, actually. So Lisa, our supervisor, she asked for a manga series her her nieces wanted them for Christmas. And I was like, oh, you should definitely buy this. I was like, it's great. Like, it's like, they like Harry Potter, if you like any sort of fantasy. This is like perfect.

**Hannah 19:53**

A little sprinkle of that. Almost like Fullmetal Alchemist in there tryingit

**Erin 20:00**

So have you been reading anything else?

**Hannah 20:03**

Um, what manga have I read lately? I read so much stuff that you know...

**Erin 20:08**

It's hard to keep track of. Actually, I didn't put things on Goodreads I have, I would have no idea what I read.

**Hannah 20:15**

I really enjoyed Komi Can't Communicate.

**Erin 20:18**

Oh, I love that series it's super interesting!

**Hannah 20:20**

It's realistic, you know? I really I really enjoyed that one. And what's the last...

**Erin 20:29**

My favorite thing about that series is like the the boy who under actually understands her?

**Hannah 20:35**

Yeah, yes.

**Erin 20:37**

Really cute.

**Hannah 20:38**

I know. I'm honestly like, I think for a long time in my life, I tried to fight the fact that I like romcoms. I'm like, No, I don't like romcoms I totally like romcoms I really do. I did over quarantine. I reread Claymore to talk about oldies.

**Erin 20:55**

Oh, I love that so much.

**Hannah 20:57**

Yeah, so that's an oldie.

**Erin 20:58**

I wish we had that. I wonder if there's a way we could get that digitally. Eventually, like, I'd love to have like all of our manga digitally so everybody can access it.

**Hannah 21:07**

Yeah, we were talking about that. Because it's the way to go. Yeah, I got lucky. I got almost all the volumes for free. Someone was getting rid of them. And then I only had to buy like two or three to have a full set. So I said, sure, okay, so I read that because I had access to it. Man, out of the newer stuff? I mean, you know, keeping up with what I would say, the popular classics, like I've been doing, you know, MHA, which, you know, we could sit here and talk about, but it's one of those things where I feel like, you know, either you want to read it and you are reading it, or you've seen it and you're like, that's not for me. So,

**Erin 21:44**

Eeah, I...Well, one series I started to purchase last year, um, and this is like listen to his adult manga, but it's subject matter, it really isn't. It's the Way of the House Husband. And it's just really funny. It's a super fast, quick read. If you're just looking for something silly to read for, you know, 20 minutes. Totally pick this up. It's just, it's basically the plotline is there's a formula you like Who's the Boss, he leaves, and he becomes a house husband, and his wife works full time. So he takes it very seriously. He's very serious about cooking and cleaning. And like, he joins...it's he's always hanging out with all of these other women who are like homemakers. And it's so funny.

**Hannah 22:26**

I love that concept, though.

**Erin 22:27**

Yeah, it's great.

**Hannah 22:30**

I have to check it out.

**Erin 22:31**

Definitely. So most of these titles we do have the library or will be purchasing soon. Thank you so much, Hannah for joining me this afternoon and chatting about manga. I love it.

**Hannah 22:41**

Yeah, me too. I'm always here ever want to chat about manga anime?

**Erin 22:44**

Definitely.

**Hannah 22:45**

We got it. I'm here for you. And for everyone else.

**Erin 22:50**

All right. So hopefully in the next podcast or two, we will be having a podcast about Comic Con and give you guys updates about that. So happy listening