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Milk Morinaga

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Milk Morinaga : Hana Hina After School Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Hana Hina After School Vol. 1:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Caroline It's a really cute love story. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Morgy Very cute if not slow paced. Definitely a worthwhile read for fans of Morinaga's other work. 15 of 15 people found the following review helpful. Milk Morinaga-san Strikes Again By Zeck I'm not sure what's going on with yuri manga at the moment. They seem to be coming out of the woods left and right all of a sudden, with "Bloom Into You", "Kindred Spirits on the Roof", "Secret of the Princess", and "Miss Kobayashi's Dragon Maid" just to name a few, and all of them releasing pretty close to one another, with more on the

way. But for me, the yuri story that started it all is *Girlfriends*, by Milk Morinaga-san. And surprise surprise, she's back again with "*Hana and Hina After School*". And while I can't say for certain if this new story is all the way up there with *Girlfriends* in terms of perfection (it's not finished yet, obviously), I can safely say that it is off to a very strong start. The story is about Hana (the brown hair girl) who is working at a character goods store--a store that sells cute things, from stuff animals to brushes with characters on them. Think Disney Store, but instead of Disney stuff, it's filled with popular kids characters in Japan. She loves working there because the uniform she has to wear is super cute and she adores cute clothes. One day, a tall, slender, literal model walks in the store. She seems completely out of place to Hana, so Hana is surprised when the girl, Hina, asks if the store is still hiring. And so Hana now has a Kohai working under her, even though she's pretty sure Hina is older than her. Hana also notices that Hina seems to know a lot about all the character goods, despite the fact that she keeps insisting that she doesn't like them. But surprises aren't done yet for Hana. The next day at school, the underclassmen arrive, and Hana is downright shocked to see Hina is among them. It turns out that Hina is literally her Kohai not only at work, but at school and in age as well. This leads to a panic moment, with Hana fearing she has to act as a proper upperclassman and ends up quickly driving a wedge between them, but not without good reason. You see, having a job after school is banned at Hana and Hina's school, (This may sound weird, but it's a Japanese culture thing) and if either of the girls are found out, they run the risk of being expelled. So Hana thinks it's best that they pretend they don't know each other. After all, why would the cool, slick, attractive Hina--who is also a popular model for young girls--want to hang out with little Hana? But what Hana doesn't know is that Hina very much wants to hang out with her. Hina has a secret--one which Hana figures out right quick--and that is that she loves all things cute. And we see that it's really hurting her that Hana keeps driving her away. Thankfully, this bump is passed over rather quickly, and we get to see that this friendship is going to quickly turn into something else. Okay, look. If you've read *Girlfriends*, a lot of this story is going to feel familiar to you. Kind of cute, but not popular girl who is by herself is suddenly befriended by the most beautiful girl in school. Check. Girls start off as just friends, with cute girl just admiring her new friend. Check. Popular girl has a secret that she only trusts cute girl with. Check. Popular girl begins to realize that she might like cute girl more than just a friend. Check. Even the art style is very familiar, with lithe and long legs and sharp lines to show off Hina's elegant beauty, and smoother, rounder lines to show off Hana's cuteness. This is pretty much a cliché of a yuri story, but I'm not going to lie--Morinaga-san does it all so well that I simply do not care. *Girlfriends* was amazing to me, and this first volume of *Hana and Hina* feels very similar, but in a good way. Seeing Hana and Hina's budding relationship, reading how Hana slowly starts to find herself wondering about little things that Hina likes, seeing Hina struggle to hide her childish love of all things cute, watching her struggle when Hana does something that wounds her without Hana even realizing it, and her anguish at the end of the first volume as she's worried she's going to drive Hana away is all done so well that I'm fully on board. Bottom line: If you like *Girlfriends*, or any of Milk Morinaga-san's other work, this is a no brainer. She may be telling the same story again with only a little bit of a twist (I mean, they're still both girls, one cute and one beautiful, and they're in high school), but she is so good at telling this story that it really shouldn't bother you.

A brand new yuri series from the New York Times best selling manga creator Milk Morinaga! *Hana Hina After School* is an all-new series by Milk Morinaga, a beloved creator known for works in the yuri genre including *Girlfriends* and *Gakuen Polizi*. *Hana Hina After School* is a romantic comedy about two dissimilar girls who find common ground when it comes to all things cute, including each other. Hana and Hina are two high school girls working at the same shop, but they come from completely different worlds. Hana is petite, uncertain and shy, while Hina is tall, trendy and confident. But they both can't keep their eyes off things that are cute, be it the uniforms at Hana's new school or Hana herself! Hana and Hina may have more than their shared part time jobs to keep a secret...

About the Author Milk Morinaga is a fan-favorite yuri manga artist whose works include *Girl Friends*, *Gakuen Polizi*, and *Kisses, Sights and Cherry Blossoms Pink*.