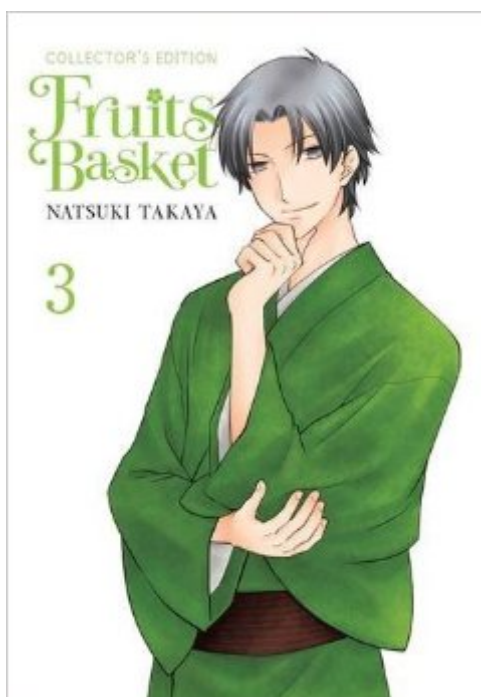


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Fruits Basket Collector's Edition, Vol. 3



Synopsis

Spring is in the air, and with spring comes break! When Shigure takes Tohru, Yuki, and Kyo to the Sohma's vacation home to make the most of Golden Week, the inevitable game of cat and rat is already underway, with sparks flying between Yuki and Kyo. But leave it to Tohru to smooth things over! The peace doesn't last, however, when another Sohma (or two?!) drops in! And even a vacation can't shake the rainy day that awaits the group upon their return. When a face from Kyo's past makes an appearance, he lets a shocking secret about the cat out of the bag...

Book Information

Series: Fruits Basket Collector's Edition (Book 3)

Paperback: 384 pages

Publisher: Yen Press; Col Tra edition (July 26, 2016)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0316360643

ISBN-13: 978-0316360647

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.2 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.1 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (114 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #21,171 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in [Books > Teens > Literature & Fiction > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga](#) #49 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Romance](#) #80 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Fantasy](#)

Customer Reviews

Fruits Basket heads towards its end at breakneck speed with almost too many events to take in as the story of Tohru's confidant and closest male friend reaches its climax and the volume ends with not one but two huge cliffhangers. With zero hour approaching for Kyo, some readers might be wondering why Kagura hasn't been around as he prepares to face a terrible crisis. Unfortunately, her appearance turns into an unseemly, ridiculous catfight between herself, Tohru and Rin that really doesn't fit in at this late stage. The rest of the volume, thankfully, makes up for it. Few characters in Fruits Basket deserve a happy ending more than Momiji; but as the series nears its end his mother is still lost to him, his hope of being a violinist is still on hold, and his chance to connect with Momo before her adulthood is slipping further away every month. In fact, it isn't that much of an exaggeration to say that nothing has gone right for him in the whole series except for meeting Tohru; and considering that their comfort level with each other is through the roof he

wouldn't be human if the hope didn't dawn in him that maybe, just maybe, he doesn't have to be alone anymore. But Kyo needs Tohru too, Kyo's will is fading fast, and Momiji wouldn't be Momiji if he did anything to try to deny Kyo his motivation for fighting his impending confinement. So we watch with sadness but not much surprise, knowing that a situation has arisen through no one's fault in which someone has to end up hurt, as The Most Foolish Traveler leaves what might be his last chance at happiness for a long time to the "Monster" who might need it even more. It's then that Momiji does two things that act as catalysts to the remaining storylines.

In spite of an amusing coda to the Yuki/Ayame story in which Yuki (gasp! shock!) voluntarily pays a visit to Ayame's apartment, this volume of Fruits Basket - in which Kyo's fate and Kyoko Honda's ghost loom large and one of the series most foreshadowed and anticipated moments arrives - is rather somber in tone. As it begins, we find Tohru reeling in guilt as she realizes that her beloved mother is no longer the most important person in her life. It's not an easy episode for Kakeru either, as he realizes that he can no longer put off telling Yuki about his uncomfortable connection to Tohru considering the likelihood that he'll be seeing more of her in light of her place in Yuki's life and the fact that Yuki and Machi are inching closer towards dating. The part of the volume that will probably have the longest effect on the characters, however, is the middle. With Yuki having gracefully bowed out of the picture and Tohru having virtually confessed her feelings for Kyo as the last volume ended, it would seem that a difficult situation has been averted. But as readers who have followed the subtext of the series will have realized, Tohru has three princes - and it's now that prince number three becomes an issue. As school begins again, the girls are gossiping about a mysterious drop-dead gorgeous boy with non-Japanese features who's caught their attention. When one girl confirms that he's a Sohma our suspicions are heightened, and when he heads for Tohru and her face lights up at the sight of him as they walk off hand in hand, we know it can only be one person. Momiji Sohma has finally caught up with his other three cousins - and big time.

Out of the entire "Fruits Basket" series, the penultimate volume is the most important. And the twenty-second volume is when Natsuki Takaya truly mingles transcendent love and joy with the bitterness of a troubled past. Assorted plot threads are quietly wrapped up in preparation for the grand finale, even as Takaya finally deals with the biggest problem that faces the Sohma family. Things will never be the same after this. After years of bitter hatred and estrangement, Kyo finally has a messy, painful confrontation with his biological father, only to remember something about his mother's suicide and how she was driven to it. But his relief is short-lived -- Tohru thinks she's been

rejected by him, and doesn't want to see him. Cue excessive teasing by Yuki, Arisa and Hana. At the same time, Arisa grapples with her feelings for Kurenno, and a repentant Akito arranges for the cursed Sohmas to gather in one week. And when Tohru is finally released from the hospital, Kyo pursues her across the town to tell her how he really feels about her. And their important meeting will change the Sohma clan forever... as well as the curse. There are a lot of different changes in the twenty-second "Fruits Basket" -- at least one character's "happily ever after" is shown, surprising details of the curse are revealed, and the very heart of the Sohma family is changed forever. I won't say just what happens, except that it means that the series is really almost over, because there's few places left for it to go after what happens here.

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