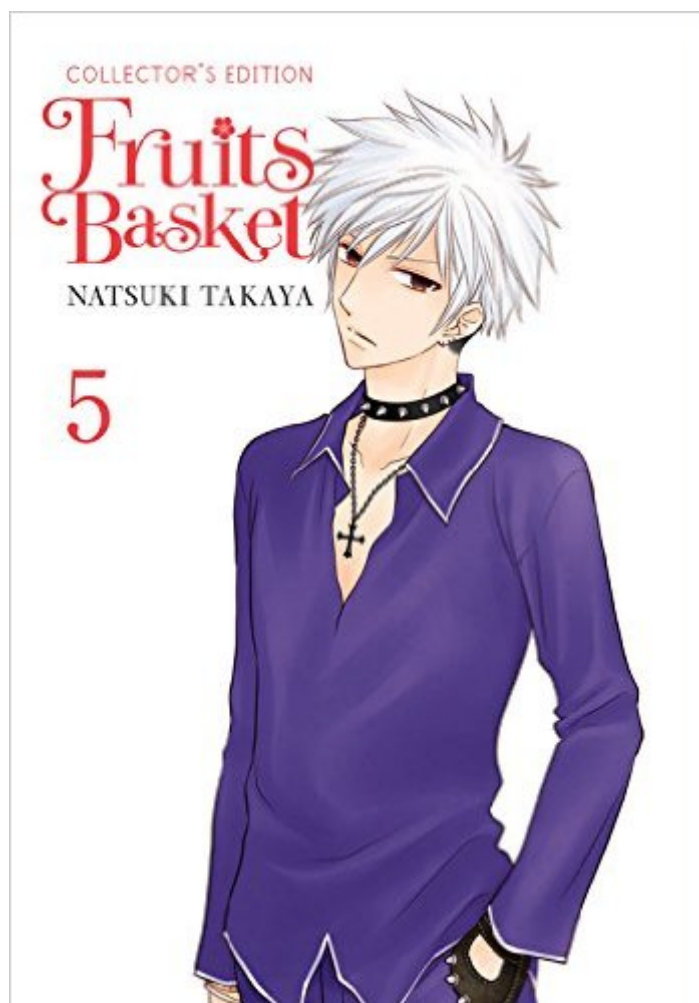


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Fruits Basket Collector's Edition, Vol. 5



Synopsis

As summer vacation inches closer, Tohru spends her days in anxious anticipation, Yuki meets a new student council member on the way to school...and Uo-chan is in love?! Who is the object of her affections?! Once summer break is in full swing, Tohru and the others take a trip to the Sohma family cottage at Momiji's invitation. Even though they're enjoying summer activities like swimming in the ocean and catching stag beetles, Yuki and Tohru have an ominous premonition! Meanwhile, Shigure pays a visit to the main house, where he makes a proposal to Akito--?!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

The fifteenth volume of "Fruits Basket" is one where little happens, yet the repercussions are absolutely staggering. Natsuki Takaya follows up the shocking revelation by giving readers a story that is half tragedy and half comedy -- specifically, Yuki's past and the Cinderella debacle. The first half of this volume takes place in flashback: Yuki is recounting to Kakeru his lonely, unhappy past. He was only a little child when his parents virtually sold him to Akito, a seemingly pleasant child who suddenly became verbally abusive and vicious toward Yuki. The poor "rat" boy wanders through his childhood, desperately wanting a friend, but alone because he believes that everyone hates him -- even the outcast "cat" boy. But a chance meeting with a lost little girl changes his life, as he tries to guide her back to her loving mother -- and now Yuki must finally sort out his feelings toward Tohru. Meanwhile, the school is preparing for a hideously miscast version of "Cinderella," with actors who can't or won't do their parts right, and Ayame arriving to do some rapid costuming. After some

hasty rewrites, the curtain rises on "Sorta Cinderella," a neurotic retelling of the fairy tale -- complete with a goth Cinderella, a surly prince, and Uotani taking out her romantic frustration on the audience. Takaya has always been brilliant at balancing tragedy and comedy in "Fruits Basket," and the fifteenth volume is a good example. She loads down the plot with the story of a boy who is still emotionally stunted by a complete lack of love growing up, and then plops down the most absurd version of "Cinderella" imaginable. Not much actually happens here, except for the play.

This volume starts out with Tohru Honda and the Sohma crew spending time at the new Summer house Shigure rented... without Shigure. Shigure pays a visit to Akito, telling him where all the others are. Yuki also comes down with a fever that concerns Tohru and while everyone is out of the room he promises to tell Tohru something he has kept secret in the future. Kisa and Hiro show up at the summer home. Kisa buddies up to Tohru, which only serves to annoy Hiro. Tohru acts a bit more reserved about her mother after some harsh words from Hiro on the subject. Shigure visits a bookstore run by Mayuko Shiraki, the homeroom teacher of Tohru and Shigure's ex-girlfriend. Their pasts, and that of Kana and Hatori Sohma, are revealed. Hatori also shows up at the book store, much to Mayuko's surprise. Her feelings for him from the past return to rear their ugly head, but she must now deal with the fact that he may have a girlfriend, according to Shigure. Shigure pays a visit to the summer home, where they are gearing up to eat watermelons. In the evening Kyo confronts Tohru on why she has been acting distant and he tells her about the death of his mother. Hatori also shows up to tell Shigure that he has delivered Akito and Kureno Sohma to a nearby guest house. Yuki meets Akito unexpectedly, just before the news of his presence hits the Sohma home. They realize they all must pay a visit, all but Tohru and Kyo, that is. Tohru goes out in the evening to search for Yuki, who has not returned from his walk yet, and under a shooting star Yuki reveals some things that weigh heavily on his mind along with a moment they shared together in their younger pasts, and then shares an intimate moment with Tohru.

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