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Welcome To The Ballroom 1



Synopsis

See the acclaimed hit anime from Production I.G and the makers of Haikyu!! and Miss Hokusai, now streaming on Anime Strike! Battle Manga Action + Competitive Ballroom Dancing!(?) Feckless high school student Tataru Fujita wants to be good at something - anything. Unfortunately, he's about as average as a slouchy teen can be. The local bullies know this, and make it a habit to hit him up for cash, but all that changes when the debonair Kaname Sengoku sends them packing. Sengoku's not the neighborhood watch, though. He's a professional ballroom dancer. And once Tataru Fujita gets pulled into the world of the ballroom, his life will never be the same.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Welcome to the Ballroom is Tomo Takeuchi's manga debut.

Loved the first volume didn't expect much from but was very wrong volume 2 can't get here fast enough

Must Read

The art is sooooo fabulous!!!! And the story is so wonderful. I love this series sooooo much. It's so worth the read.

Just a few years ago it seemed as if the anime and manga publishing worlds were blowing

everyone away with the sudden explosion of sports stories and the sheer variety of activities covered. By now many readers feel wiser and more worldly. Ah yes, Japan has stories on every sport! but every now and then a new title comes around which makes you pause and think "Really, competitive ballroom dancing? Welcome to the Ballroom isn't even the only currently serialized ballroom dancing manga in Japan and, bucking recent trends, is a shounen manga, aimed at teenage boys instead of woman. This difference in demographic can be seen immediately in the art style; while none of the characters are drawn in an overly cartoonish, gonn style, leading man Tataru Fujita is certainly the plainest of the bunch. Sadly Tataru isn't a very engaging main character so far. It's hard to tell if he was intentionally written a little blank in order to let the reader project onto him or if creator Tomo Takeguchi truly believes that any teenager could be as aimless about their own likes and dislikes as Tataru is. This feels especially jarring given Tataru's slow slip into the world of dancing; he's obviously partially drawn in by his attractive classmate Shizuku who practices at the same studio that Tataru finds himself in, but it's only after Tataru watches a video of past competitions and feels the dancers' desire to be the center of attention that his attention is truly grabbed. These two emotions seem so distant from each other that it doesn't quite work yet. One can't even argue that Tataru is simply being dragged along by the flow given just how much effort he's put into practicing dancing so far. Another way the story is revealing its shounen roots is by just how Tataru approaches dancing. He falls firmly into the category of "Mostly talentless youngster with an earnest desire and the briefest flashes of TRULY GREAT POTENTIAL" which is a set-up that would be equally at home in a shounen fighting manga. So far Tataru's improvement has also been on par with the pacing of a slow-burn, tournament shounen story as well. Every time Tataru begins to make progress it turns out that he is failing in some other critical way, and while this is potentially a realistic set-up it's not most engaging storyline. The ballroom dancing scenes by comparison are quite intense and are filled with an almost claustrophobic amount of lines; there's barely an untuned centimeter of paper to be seen. As someone who hasn't watched competitive ballroom dancing before I felt a little lost during the scenes, and having looked at some videos after reading the manga I'm still a bit lost! The general concept of how the competitions work is easy enough to understand, but the manga's art makes the dances look far more frantic, speedy, and frankly sexualized than the real world clips I came across. That last part is especially awkward given how Tataru and Shizuka are only around 16; Shizuka is already being labeled as someone who does a shameful and indecent sport, something we haven't seen lobbied at

the male characters yet. Regardless, it's not necessary for the reader to understand every move the characters are making to follow the story but if the story does choose to dive into the more technical aspects in future volumes then the art, this could become a problem. What intrigued me the most about this first volume was Tataru's relationship with Shizuka's dance partner, the terse Kiyoharu who everyone is quick to label as Tataru's rival - even if Tataru is clearly uncomfortable with the idea. There's been a palpable, intentional awkwardness to every one of their interactions so far and I'm curious about what ultimately drives Kiyoharu since currently his reasons for dancing are even more muddled than Tataru's. Watching an underdog struggle to the top doesn't always make for the most engaging sports story but hopefully with interesting characters at his side Tataru's time spent dancing with the stars will be an energetic one. - Helen

This was a great read. I didn't expect to enjoy a manga where the sport that is focused on is Ballroom Dancing but this was surprisingly good. This first volume is centered on how the main character, Tataru Fujita, is introduced to dancing. He is in his last year of middle school and not sure about the direction of his life and he also lacks confidence. I feel like he basically needs an anchor or something to give him direction. After attending a dance studio, quite by accident, Tataru decides to take lessons and it is through dancing that he starts to find something that he loves and that helps to build up his self confidence. Overall, the art in this manga is well done. I really like the artist's style. Additionally, I love the humor in this story, the side characters are interesting and funny and the plot wasn't boring at all. It kept my interest all the way to the end and I can't wait to read the next volume. Seriously give this manga a shot.

Great manga I just hope author takes it off hiatus real soon

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