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# Lychee Light Club



## Synopsis

The Lychee Light Club is considered Usamaru Furuya's breakthrough work. Originally designed as an experimental project Lychee's themes of youthful rebellion and deus ex machina destruction, and attractive designs eventually won over a new generation of readers and critics, leading the way for Furuya to take on his many recent high profile properties. In an abandoned warehouse, a band of nine students have assembled to plot out a new future. Their "leader" Zera is determined to cleanse his community of the ugly and cowardly. Having taken command of a band of young men to build him a god-like machine capable of changing the world. This machine, named "Lychee," will give them what they've been searching for...a beauty of the finest quality. A surreal yet touching horror comedy Furuya's Lychee Light Club that mixes elements of French Le Théâtre du Grand-Guignol and with modern day pop culture tropes and is set in modern day Tokyo. Shocking, sexy and innovative, the Lychee Light Club is at the pinnacle of modern day Japanese seinen manga (young adult comics).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"Lychee Light Club is unflinchingly graphic, and as such it requires a certain taste of its audience. Those who can stomach its depravity will be amply rewarded. Furuya's grimly elegant style [ ] is a perverse kind of beauty, as visually bold and exploratory as its subject matter. One thing is for sure, you'll never look at lychee the same way again. • Otaku USA • Furuya at his most deranged • a masterpiece of gore and debauchery that will have your brain screaming in horror even as you read on in rapture.

The plotline is simple enough – the Light Club’s descent into madness shows how absolute power corrupts absolutely – but the complex themes and details make it unforgettable. It’s shocking, disturbing, revolting – and an instant pick for one of the year’s best. Grade: A – Anime News Network

“It’s a gripping read – quite literally – as when it arrived I began absent-mindedly reading the first few pages and ended up sitting down in my kitchen and reading the whole book in one sitting. If you’re looking for something violent, sexual, revolting and thought-provoking, then Lychee Light Club is a solid pick. It’s definitely one of the better manga I’ve read so far this year. Score: 9/10 – Japanator

“The manga is in a way a tragic love story and a horror novel at the same time that will leave the reader a bit shocked and enthralled. The translations all read well and their placement is great, avoiding getting in the way of the images. A great read. Grade: 4.5/5 – Examiner.com

“Gore so lovingly depicted that it almost transcends and becomes art. Make no mistake about it, this is a book filled with sadism, horrific violence and sexual situations, and depraved behavior. But it has a human heart in its Frankenstein-esque robot, and what I’ll take from it is not the scenes of people being cut open and smashed into bits. More manga as thought-provoking as this, please. – A Case Suitable for Treatment” [Furuya’s art] is refined and delicate with a dark edge... It’s a creative, cerebral, and occasionally wry take on a genre that usually favors action over irony.” – About.com [Design] is undoubtedly Furuya’s chief asset as an artist and he deploys this in spurts throughout the work at hand. Furuya’s approach is akin to a type of popular surrealism which owes much to Dali and Magritte.” – Hooded Utilitarian

Usamaru Furuya was born in Tokyo, Japan on January 25th, 1968. A graduate of the Tama Arts University, with a focus on oil painting, Furuya is currently considered one of the most talented artists in the industry today. A former student in the Osamu Tezuka Manga Correspondance Program, Furuya’s drawings as a teen were often published in the pages of the seminal boys comics magazine Shounen King. Upon entering high school, Furuya began to embrace his darkside experimenting with subculture and the underground art scene. An early participant in the Tokyo version of the Le Théâtre du Grand-Guignol, he started off with them creating puppets and set designs for their elaborate performances. After graduating from university, Usamaru turned his attention to the world of comics. His early projects combined the surreal with extremely modern political commentary winning him critical acclaim worldwide for his juxtapositions of Tokyo youth and

their suit wearing salaryman counterparts. Since his debut in 1994, Furuya has gone to draw 16 titles for Japan's leading comics publishers Shogakukan and Shueisha (publishers of Shonen Jump).

What do you get when you combine elements of the Lord of the Flies and Clockwork Orange, throw in some adolescent Japanese school boys and top it off with fruit? Give up? You get the Lychee Light Club of course! A disturbing and gruesome manga by Usamaru Furuya (Short Cuts and No Longer Human) which tells the sadistic tale of 9 junior high school students and the unimaginable lengths they go through to build a mechanical humanoid for the sole purpose of kidnapping young and beautiful girls. If this already sounds warped and perverse to you . . . keep in mind, this is just the beginning. Enter Zera; the tyrannical, lipstick wearing, flamboyant leader of LLC. Zera rules his obscure sanctuary overlooking a lychee grove with complete and irrefutable dictatorship. His cynical subjects will do anything to appease their leader even if it means sacrificing a vital organ, torturing other humans or even slaughtering one another. But despite the shared adoration amongst his disciples, Zera knows there is one member of the club who could defy him at any moment. Thus spoke Zera, "among you, there is one who will betray me." After the awakening of his mechanical creation, Zera christens his machine "Lychee" for the fruit which fuels his body. His sole mission in life is to kidnap beautiful maidens for the members of LLC. (What they do with the girls at that point is up for debate amongst the members but it usually ends in blood.) When Lychee abducts Kanon, an attractive and naïve student, the foundation of the club starts spiraling towards an erratic state of frenzy which will lead to death for anyone playing this sinister game of chess. Tamiya, former leader of the group, now fully aware of Zera's manipulative and merciless ways, stands opposing his leader in hopes regaining his supremacy and liberating those caught in between. But with the rest of the LLC on Zera's side, it's not going to be easy for Tamiya to ascend on top. And what'll happen to Kanon when she awakens to find herself held captive with Lychee as her watcher? Can machines feel emotions or are they just instruments of humanity? Lychee Light Club is not for the faintest of hearts and should be read at the reader's discretion. The scenes depicting rape and torture were hard to swallow, but are not as glorified as the death scenes. And trust me people; there is a lot of death in LLC. While the other characters go through an elaborate array of emotions, the main heroine seems to lack any real emotion even when she realizes her current situation. Instead she befriends Lychee, the very creature that kidnapped her, and teaches him hymns to bypass her time of solitude. On another note, the art itself is quite different from most other horror mangas and I mean that in a good way. Some members, including Zera himself, exude

a somewhat effeminate quality that makes them look almost bishonen like. Lychee Light Club was a very different experience for me. If other horror mangas about monsters, ghastly ghouls or things that go bump in the night don't terrify you, try reading about pubescent boys with a secret society. You might not look at a lychee the same way again. . .

this book was wrapped in plastic so when i opened it, so it had a horrible smell from the ink. they must've printed the book then wrapped it right away, they normally wrap manga's with adult content so i kinda expected it to be wrapped. all i need to do was just let the book sit out for a few hours then the smell was gone. other than that, i enjoyed this book

**WARNING:** This came from an erotic magazine, I don't recommend purchasing it for someone under 18 not only for the nudity ,but for the gore. Especially the first chapter which kind of made me uncomfortable. Also yes, there is gay sex scenes ,but aside from that this is not yaoi. I liked the story alright ,but I wished there was more of it ,but sadly I haven't read the prequel yet (but thanks to TV Tropes I know the gist). But the real gem is the artwork since while the traditional way manga is drawn is fine, I really like the more realistic style of Junji Ito and the like. Sure some of it is gory and/or nude ,but even that's drawn pretty well.

This is Usamaru Furuya's manga respect to the play of same name, and also to Suehiro Maruo (who also starred in the original play, says the epilogue), if it wasn't desperately familiar with the Kato-like masques that fascist headgear can give, and the exploitation of childhood fantasy. The story is a one-shot, so I won't spoil much. The sweetness Furuya can be known for is at play in the role of Lychee, a giant robot with a naive, almost "Iron Giant" sensibility and a body fueled by lychee fruit. The horror of Maruo is on display in the more or less cardboard cut-out characters of the underground club; they exist to drive home the thoughts and insecurities of the author(s) (societal critique alert?), not to push the story forward. Like filmmaker Guillermo Del Toro, Furuya seems to love the outsider and the grotesqueness of the unknown; the sympathetic monster is a reflection of the misunderstood side of budding adolescence and group think. Those familiar with Hideshi Hino or Hanakuma know the themes of basic exploitation enough to know what you're getting yourself into. The story revolves around middle school drama and themes of alienation, fantasization, and of course the fetishization that is included in going to an all boys' school. The ideas presented vary from completely ridiculous to outright shadowing of Hollywood tropes. None of it really detracts from the chaos you came for, though none of it is original either. Still, it's a classic among ero-guro fans,

and I'm glad to have it in English, finally. Furuya's building up his American repertoire nicely with the folks at Vertical, and a (Japanese language) prequel is in the works! Buy this and show Vertical they need to translate that ASAP.

I bought this book for a friend who's into this series and it's a great buy for any ero-guro manga fan (of course, over the age of 18 because of the gore and sexual content). The book was well packaged, shrink wrapped, and came in a timely manner. It's pretty thick and big since it contains the entire oneshot, and there didn't seem to be any problems with how it was printed. I'm really surprised that there was an English translation of this!

It came in perfect condition, and was even a little bigger than I had hoped.

Considering my nephew's very positive reaction and instantaneous reading of this book I'm assuming that he was thrilled with the story. I myself am not familiar with the series.

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