



Yowamushi Pedal Omnibus, Vol. 1

Wataru Watanabe (???)

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For the love of all things *otaku*--anime, video games, figures, you name it!--power-pedaling Sakamichi Onoda has long been conquering the steepest slopes and regularly making the ninety-kilometer round-trip to Akihabara on a granny bike!! But when his bike commute to his new high school lands him in a confrontation with the serious first-year road racer Imaizumi, Onoda has a major showdown on his hands! Can this meek geek really out-pedal the future ace of the school road-racing team?!

Yowamushi Pedal Omnibus, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Wataru Watanabe (???)

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Skjam! says

The Sohoku High School Bicycle Racing Club has several interesting freshman members this year. There's Imaizumi, a serious competitor whose family is wealthy, so he can afford the finest bicycle racing equipment and training. There's the fiery Naruko from Osaka, who's a fine sprinter despite his flashy ways. And then there's Onoda.

Sakamichi Onoda is an otaku (nerd) who loves manga and anime, and is afraid of jocks since they always treated him poorly in Physical Education for his weakness. He didn't have any friends in middle school, and is looking forward to joining the anime club in high school so he can finally talk about all his favorite shows. So it's a crushing blow when he learns the Anime Club has been closed for lack of members!

But unknown to himself, Onoda's weekly trips to Akiba for manga and anime goodies, a 90 kilometer round trip on a heavy, incorrectly adjusted "mommy bike", have given the lad superior climbing endurance and pedaling skills. A chance encounter with Imaizumi is about to change his life!

Yowamushi Pedal ("Weakling's Pedal"), known to its fans as "Yowapeda", is a shounen (boys') manga that's been running since 2008, and has a multi-season animated adaptation.

In this first omnibus volume, Onoda meets Imaizumi when he's run into by the latter's chauffeur on the steep back road to school. While at first the serious cyclist dismisses the weird kid on the inferior bicycle, he sees something there that he's curious about. Onoda also meets Miki Kanzaki, a girl who loves bicycles and racing (though we never see her ride herself) and wants to be the racing club's manager.

Miki helps Onoda with some vital adjustments on his bike, which is a good thing as Imaizumi has challenged the otaku kid to a race. While Onoda doesn't win even with a huge headstart, Imaizumi is impressed by his potential.

The next time Onoda goes to Akibahara in Akiba, he runs into Naruko, who's come to the big city to buy presents for his little brothers. Naruko lassos Onoda into helping him because he likes Onoda's bicycle and the other boy is clearly familiar with the shops. A hoodlum in a fancy car disses Onoda's bike, and Naruko drags Onoda off on a chase to teach the disrespecter a lesson.

Onoda learns more about how to ride at high speed, and the two boys become friends, then learn they're attending the same school. Naruko's enthusiasm finally convinces Onoda to join the bicycle racing club.

But as it happens, the day they join is the day of the Freshmen Welcome Race, a 60 kilometer course over some of the most difficult roads in the area. Even "experienced" freshman Sugimoto, who was smugly proclaiming his superior expertise earlier, blanches at that one. But Onoda is fearless, and may surprise everyone!

The series has plenty of exciting bike race scenes with lovingly drawn bicycles, and a good variety of faces (though the problem with similar girl faces is mostly handled by having few important female characters.) The main trio are a good set of contrasting personalities and riding styles, which sets up a variety of possible interactions.

But this is, after all, a sports anime, and ninety percent of the plot development and characterization is

directly attached to the training and races. We're going to see little if any of the characters' lives outside the lens of bicycle racing.

Recommended to fans of shounen sports manga, and bicycle racing fans who would like a good manga to start with.

Sesana says

One of the better sports mangas that I've read. I liked that the main character sort of backs into the sport, and that the character who's apparently being set up as a rival isn't pointlessly rude to the main character.

Steven S says

Dari awal cerita si Onoda udah jadi karakter kesayangan.. Lucu banget desain karakternya.

Aku kepengen baca ini gara-gara ada balap sepeda di Ambon, november kemarin.

Dari sana aku jadi tertarik dengan dunia cycling. Keren deh, di komik ini A-Z soal dunia balap sepeda dikenalin ke pembaca. Nggak njelimet dan tetap sederhana untuk diikuti. Nggak kayak Haiky?!! yang masuk volume 2 nggak gereget. (Ok ini subjektif banget)

Seru!!

Hana Eka says

Cerita bagus dengan tema olahraga memang harus memberi semangat!!

Oh, ya. Gaya gambar antara niat dengan tidak niat *plak *bukan. Itu mah ciri khas Watanabe sensei saja... xD9

Neko says

Pernah baca *online* secara gratisan tapi ngerasa wajib punya! #yha

Marianna Rainolter says

Vi presento la mia guilty pleasure degli ultimi mesi. Ho iniziato online la lettura di Yowamushi Pedal per soddisfare una mia curiosità, visto che ho scoperto molto casualmente una canzone legata all'anime e ho voluto scoprirne di più. Da lì sono scesa nel baratro e non penso di uscirne. Il protagonista è Sakamichi Onoda ed è un otaku della peggiore specie: per risparmiare soldi dell'autobus va in bicicletta fino ad

Akihabara (il quartiere di Tokyo famoso per i suoi negozi di elettronica e di anime e manga). E che ci vuole dite voi, ma tra andata e ritorno lui si fa 90 chilometri in bicicletta, non so se capite che pedalate si fa... Giunto al primo anno del Liceo Sohoku il ragazzo vorrebbe aprire un club dove parlare delle sue passioni ma non riesce; incontra però Imaizumi, un ragazzo che compete in bicicletta a livello agonistico e non ha intenzione di perdere contro nessuno, specialmente contro un otaku che riesce a pedalare sulla ripidissima salita che porta a scuola canticchiando la sigla di un anime (Sakamichi lo fa, ve lo giuro!)! Imizumi però si rende conto che Sakamichi ha un vero e proprio talento con le biciclette e lo invita ad unirsi al club di ciclismo del Sohoku. Nel mentre Sakamichi incontra un altro ciclista, il rosso Naruko e anche lui lo invita ad unirsi al club. Il desiderio di pedalare con i suoi nuovi amici porta Onoda ad iscriversi ma ecco che il giorno stesso che entra nel club viene organizzata una gara tra i ragazzi del primo anno per determinare le loro abilità... Perché da adesso in poi il cammino di Onoda sarà solo in salita.

Capite che io ho letto questi capitoli in autunno e rileggerli nuovamente mi hanno emozionato ancora. Ho un po' riso perché il design dei personaggi è cambiato anche tanto e alcuni personaggi sono quasi irriconoscibili (cito uno dei miei preferiti, Makishima, i cui capelli aumentano di lunghezza e la cui faccia è sempre più magra ad ogni capitolo), ma per il resto piangevo per la bellissima storia e il suo messaggio. Onoda non vuole altro che avere degli amici con cui condividere la sua passione per manga ed anime ma scopre di averne un'altra, la bici, e di come questa lo aiuta ad entrare in contatto con persone con le quali non avrebbe altrimenti mai rivolto parola. Il suo talento unico con la bicicletta gli permette di uscire, di aprirsi e di fare nuove esperienze che altrimenti non avrebbe mai fatto. Poi beh più avanti ho sviluppato una mia personale interpretazione su come le corse in bici siano una metafora per la vita, di come i personaggi più grandi invitano i più giovani a guardare avanti, a correre, e crescere e come queste indicazioni non valgono solo per l'imminente gara e per la bici ma appunto per la vita, per le difficoltà che ti trovi a dover affrontare quotidianamente. L'unica via è pedalare avanti, anche se la strada si fa ripida. Poi se cantate la sigla di Hime Hime come il nostro Onoda (video esplicativo --> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mnvW1...>) farete meno fatica (ehm, lo dico per esperienza personale...)...Peccato che non c'è in italiano e non uscirà mai, ma è una serie fantastica ed emozionante e io la consiglio per chi ama i manga sportivi e i messaggi positivi che essi trasmettono.

Ruth says

Initially introduced to Yowamushi Pedal via the anime as it was simulcast on Crunchyroll, I had high expectations for the Yen Press release of the manga, and it has not disappointed. While some series do not transition well into omnibus editions (I'm looking at you, Attack on Titan: Junior High), for YowaPeda it's a perfect fit. Each chapter feeds naturally into the next, building up anticipation that doesn't subside throughout the entire volume. Carefully spaced introductions of new characters helps with that build up as well, and though most chapters revolve around Onoda surprising experienced bicyclists with his amateur persistence, it doesn't feel tired yet, even after three volumes worth of content in one omnibus.

As for the the story is fairly tried and true: an amateur turns out to be a natural in a sport when he's actually tested in it. If not executed properly, this setup can turn into a snooze fest quite quickly. What can make or break such a story is how they spice it up, and in Yowamushi Pedal, Watanabe adds extra flavor through his characters, particularly the added little hitch that Onoda is actually an anime and manga enthusiast.

Onoda's personality shines through as easily in print as it does in animation. He's a likeable main character that avoids being completely wishy washy. He knows what he wants and he goes for it--and when it's not possible, he also has the courage to go for other goals. The supporting characters of Imaizumi and Naruko add balance to Onoda's effervescence. Imaizumi should be a kindred connection to those who tend to work so hard at their hobby that it becomes as much a job as a way to enjoy oneself. Meanwhile, Naruko is a bit of

flair in a series where the ultra-serious or the humbly-nice types have taken a lot of spots.

Overall, Yowamushi Pedal is a series that has the potential to appeal to many English readers of manga. It's got the flow of a Shounen Jump action series, entertaining characters that don't fall too perfectly into pre-determined archetypes, and also a nice hook with the main character being a fellow fan of manga.

Robert says

A cycling manga?! Yeah baby!!

Arnela says

I love sports manga, I find them pretty fun. I have a good time and I learn a lot of pretty neat things about the sport.

I was really curious about this one since cycling is a big thing in Europe and in areas of Japan, and I really wanted to see how they sort of "hype" this sport up, yanno make it an interesting aspect of the entire story. It's like you build the plot around the bike, which can be difficult and more often than not those types of stories sometimes fail.

The characters, as much as we've seen of them are attention grabbing, they don't bore me they don't feel like cookie cutter cliches, we get the underdog, the guy whose gunna make the underdog into our hero, and a reason for them to do the thing they don't want to do which will then take us on our adventure. The usual way these stories go.

The pace is good, there's the usual amount of comedy, there's the drama of a race near the end of the story.

I like how the story was built up around biking, the plot is sort of going at it a little slower than usual, building up the real reason of why he'll eventually start biking as a sport, but building the plot up isn't bad, frankly it builds a stronger story.

I always say give the first volume or 2 a chance. Like give the story a chance to pull you into it, you might be surprised, it could be your favorite story in the world, don't give up just cause the first volume doesn't completely stick it's claws in you.

It's good, I don't feel like this sports manga is my cup of tea, but it's an interesting sport to cover, it's not something people would commonly think of when thinking about sports, it's pretty cool to see the competitive world of biking, the characters are good, the story telling is good, the plot so far feels like other sports manga [or shonen manga] but if it works why mess with it. Give this manga a chance, it's pretty neat.

Damien Ark says

Sports manga has been a big thing in Japan for a while, but it has seemed to go completely unnoticed for the US audience. I'm glad that manga like Yowamushi and Haikyuu are finally getting an English publication and maybe, just maybe, Big Windup could be one of those in the future. I'm not so sure how the audience

around here will react to it, but I've been a big fan of these series since the moment they were released.

Vol 1 of YP is beautifully printed and gifted as two volumes in one. I'm a big fan of that format and believe it will work perfectly with series, especially when considering how many volumes are already out. The art is pretty sleek and versatile throughout the entire series, from comical and wavy to action packed, while also being addictive to look and read. Sports anime does have some tropes that might shrug some people the wrong way, such as a protagonist with a "hidden ability" that turns him from rookie to an ace-like character. Our protagonist, Onoda Sakamichi, definitely plays into that, but his struggles are also pretty severe and intense throughout the story as well. He's probably one of my favorite characters of all time for being such a light-hearted badass with a love for anime. We're also introduced to two other pivotal characters in the story and their parts in it are a pretty good introduction to them.

What's extremely unique about a lot of sports anime that's been unnoticed for a while is its ability to capture an audience that might not have any interest or knowledge on a particular sport. That's basically a sign that the artist and author are doing the right thing. I'm not saying that Yowamushi is going to make you go out and want to exercise on a road racer every day for the rest of your life, but these series in this genre of manga have a magical ability to inspire you. One of my favorite things about Yowamushi Pedal is its ability to be so uplifting and inspirational. The story has a unique soul to it. Hopefully some of you will also read and find yourself interested in the future volumes as well!

unknown says

Shonen manga is so utterly ludicrous. It's pretty great.

Evelyn says

Sports manga are so heartwarming. But this one is especially relatable because the main character is an otaku. He reminds me of myself and how it feels to be an introverted nerd. And after reading this I want to go ride a bike like I used to when I was a kid.

This omnibus contains volumes 1-2.

Guguk says

18 Jun 2017 :

Untuk volume 1 dulu (*^?^*)

Gambar : bagus ^^ terlihat 'berserat' kayak sketsa tapi semuanya jelas dan bisa dipahami gerakannya (^-^o)
Yang bikin kesal, entah gimana keseluruhan Bab.2 (atau vol.2 di tanko-nya) itu kegeser satu halaman. Dan karena banyak gambar yang gabung dua halaman sekaligus, otomatis semua gambar yang seharusnya nyambung jadi kepotong. Terpisah halamannya! (^'?)

Cerita : Seru-seruan standard komik olahraga yang ga pernah gagal memikat hati! ♥

Pembahasan soal tekniknya pun detil ~~same same aku ga ngerti XD//bukan~~, dalam arti : dijelaskan dengan rujukan teknik dari dunia nyata ~~dan bukan teknik dari dunia imajinasi, macam Basket Ajaib itu XDD~~

Belum tau apa akan dilanjutkan atau tidak... (^ ^);>

28 Nov 2017 :

Dilanjutkan ke vol.2 dan 3~ (???) *nambahin ?

Untunglah lanjut~ di vol.2 dan 3 ndak ada kesalahan penempatan halaman seperti di bab 2 vol.1 itu. Lagipula, edisi 2-in-1 ini terasa ekonomis sekali (???)

Tapi yang lebih penting dari itu, ceritanya makin seru (◊ω◊) Kemampuan si tokoh utama juga wajar banget: terbiasa bersepeda jarak jauh dan melalui tanjakan, tapi tetap saja belum bisa disandingkan dengan yang biasa bersepeda untuk balapan.

Kadar persahabatan di sini pun sehat dan manis-menyenangkan (???)? baik antar teman sepantaran, senior, maupun dengan rival beda sekolah.

*menuju ke volume berikutnya~ ?≡Σ(((◊◊?◊?◊?))?)

23 Aug 2018:

*sampai vol.8 TAMBAHKAN BINTANGNYAA~ UWOOO!! ?????

Serius! Saat ini, di antara semua komik olahraga yang ta' ikutin, Yowamushi bisa dibilang berada di puncak (◊ω◊)b!!

Pertandingannya, hubungan antar-teman maupun antar-lawan, kisah masa lalu, harapan masa depan, dan perjuangan di masa kini ... semuanya jempoll!! (((o(???)o)))

Tadi malam baca vol.8 ini (tanko-nya vol.15 dan 16 berarti, ya?), dan momen perjuangan Sohoku itu bikin pengen ketawa sambil nangis. Tak lupa meneriakkan: "PUTRIIII!!" ??(^∇^?)??

Aku jatuh hati pada Sakamichi Onoda Σ>?(?°ω°?)♥→

Yang mau ta' bahas saking-jengkel-nya adalah si lawan dari Kyoto Fushimi yang enggan kusebutkan namanya. Ya! Yang tampangnya kayak persilangan antara titan dan orang-orangan sawah!

Biasanya, lawan dalam komik olra itu menimbulkan perasaan gemas-tak-berdaya. Mau benci pun tak bisa, karena terasa ga sportif. Ujung-ujungnya pembaca malah jadi kagum. Tapi cuma orang ini! Bukan, dia bukan orang ... tetapi jelmaan iblis! Yang menjengkelkan, dia memang punya kemampuan, tapi kelicikan dan strategi-iblisnya (termasuk Jurus Bisikan Setan dan Pose Melet-Melet) ini yang bikin enek-bin-sebel!! (*tapi ngetik kayak gini kok aku jadinya pengen ketawa XDD)

Pengen orang ini dijatuhkan sejatuh-jatuhnya sampe nangis-nangis tobat~ ←~(Ψ▼?▼)∈ mwahahaa

Christina says

Pleasantly surprised by this manga. I didn't think it would be something I'd like, and figured I'd read a few pages, prove myself right, and move on to something else. All I knew was it was a manga series about bicycling, with a male protagonist. Most manga I've read that focuses on a male protagonist (usually targeted at teen boys) are either full of incomprehensible battle scenes, or portray women as sex objects (not unlike the American comics that inspired this genre). I figured this would be in the latter category, but I like to read broadly and try to keep an open mind, and was happy to find in this a refreshing change. The story drew me

in, and I actually enjoyed it.

It's about an otaku boy in Japan named Onoda, excited about starting high school where he can join the manga and anime club and finally have some friends who share his passion. Otaku is a Japanese word that's along the lines of a fanboy or fangirl--someone intensely passionate to the point of obsession, often about manga and anime. Onoda rides his old bike a great distance once a week to Akihabara, a Mecca of otaku culture. It turns out all that cycling on what is referred to as a "mommy bike" has made the unwitting Onoda a talented cyclist.

This omnibus includes the first two volumes of the series. As Onoda focuses on his goal of finding otaku friends, he crosses paths with several people who are passionate about cycling and recognize and admire his talent for the sport even though he doesn't see his gift himself. Clearly, these are the friends he's seeking, but he's so focused on their differences (i.e. they're jocks, he's a geek) he doesn't realize it. The author doesn't rush the relationships, introducing the characters slowly and using multiple points of view to allow the friendships to unfold at a carefully orchestrated pace. It's good pacing that leads to good story-telling. The characters are engaging, Onoda is very likable, and even though I have no particular interest in cycling, the author made the topic interesting, explaining techniques to the reader in an informative and natural way. I reserve my 5 stars for absolute favorites, and would typically give a book like this a 3 (I liked it, worth reading) but since it made a topic I had no interest in interesting, and I enjoyed it in spite of myself, I'm bumping it up to 4.

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

4.25 stars
