

= Kamiya Kaoru =

Kamiya Kaoru ( 神谷 薫 ) , known as Kaoru Kamiya in the Media Blasters English @-@ language dub and Kori Kamiya in the English Sony Samurai X dub , is a fictional character in the Rurouni Kenshin manga created by Nobuhiro Watsuki . In the story Kaoru is the instructor of a kendo school in Tokyo , Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ryu ( 神谷 薫流 ) . The students leave when many people are killed by someone claiming to be the Hitokiri Battosai ( 逆刃 剣 ) from the Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ryu " , damaging the school 's reputation . Kaoru is saved from the murderous impostor by the real Battosai , Himura Kenshin , now a wanderer who has sworn to stop killing . During the series , Kaoru grows fond of Kenshin due to his good actions to society and becomes his ally .

Kaoru also appears in the film version of the series and other media of the franchise , including electronic games and a series of original video animations ( OVAs ) . Although Watsuki wanted to design Kaoru " more cutely " and to be " more fashionable " , he toned down those qualities and made her poor and " down @-@ to @-@ earth " . There was concern that Watsuki might kill her off , and critical reception of the character has been mixed .

= = Appearances = =

= = = Rurouni Kenshin = = =

Kaoru is the instructor of the Kamiya Kasshin martial @-@ arts school . She inherited her fighting style and a small dojo from her father , who was drafted by a police swordsmen unit and died defending a comrade during the Seinan War . At the beginning of the story , Kaoru has no students and runs the dojo alone ; she seems likely to lose it when Kenshin helps her . Despite occasional mood swings and a reputation for bad cooking , she is independent , compassionate , courageous and a good fighter . In her first appearance Kaoru searches for the assassin Hitokiri Battosai , who claims to be from Kamiya Kasshin @-@ ryu . Kaoru is saved by the real Battosai , Himura Kenshin , and invites him to her dojo . One of her greatest fears is that Kenshin might return to wandering , leaving her alone again , and she is jealous if another girl ( such as Takani Megumi ) is interested in him . In the series ' first story arc , Kaoru gains a student ( Myojin Yahiko ) and loses one ( Tsukayama Yutaro ) .

When the Meiji government requests Kenshin 's aid to kill the former Hitokiri Shishio Makoto , he bids Kaoru an emotional farewell and leaves for Kyoto . Kaoru falls into a depression before she follows him to Kyoto after a pep talk from Megumi . With the Oniwabanshu 's Makimachi Misao , she defeats one of Shishio 's Juppongatana : Honj? Kamatari .

In Tokyo , after Kaoru learns about Yukishiro Enishi 's plans to kill everyone connected to Kenshin she teaches Yahiko the ougi of the Kamiya Kasshin . Enishi says that his goal is not to kill Kenshin , but to make him suffer by killing the person most important to him : Kaoru . He kidnaps her , leaving a replica of her dead body . Convinced that he again failed to save the one who was most important to him , Kenshin flees to the Fallen Village and falls into a catatonic depression . When he learns that Kaoru is alive , he and the group rescue her from Enishi . They marry and have a son , Himura Kenji .

= = = Other media = = =

In Samurai X : Reflection , although Kenshin and Kaoru are married he begins wandering again because he needs to help others ; he returns every couple of years . Kaoru lets him go , promising to welcome him home with a smile and their child . Kenshin develops a mysterious disease , and Kaoru convinces him to transmit it to her . He leaves to help people in the First Sino @-@ Japanese War , as he had promised the Meiji government . When he returns to Japan , Kenshin collapses in Kaoru 's arms and dies .

In the pilot issue of Rurouni : Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story , first published in 1992 , Kaoru is

the sister of Megumi and Yahiko . Many of the character 's details changed in her transition to mainstream manga .

Kaoru appears in all Rurouni Kenshin video games ( including Jump Super Stars and Jump Ultimate Stars ) , primarily as a supporting character . In the manga reboot Rurouni Kenshin : Restoration , Kaoru works for Takeda Kanryū to regain her dojo . After Kenshin defeats Takeda , she continues living in the dojo with Kenshin and his friends . Kaoru was played by Emi Takei in 2012 's Rurouni Kenshin and its two sequels .

= = Concept = =

Watsuki said that he used " no specific model " and " no specific motif " in designing Kaoru , saying that if he had to name one model it would be Chiba Sanako of Ryūma no Koibito . He wanted to include the " commanding " qualities of Sasaki Mifuyu ( ??? ) from Shōtarō Ikenami 's Kenkaku Shōbai . According to Watsuki , Kaoru is a " plain , regular girl " despite her commanding qualities . By the first Japanese compilation , he thought that the character worked and many female Rurouni Kenshin readers identified with Kaoru . At the time , Watsuki had not decided if Kaoru would be Kenshin 's love interest . Although he wanted to design Kaoru " more cutely " and to be " more fashionable " , he toned down those qualities and made her poor and " down @-@ to @-@ earth " . The artist described her ponytail as " de rigueur " for a girl practicing kendo . According to Watsuki , he enjoys drawing Kaoru but filling in her hair is " sometimes a pain . " At the end of Rurouni Kenshin , Kaoru received a new hairstyle . Watsuki felt that Kaoru would look odd without her ponytail , but her original hairstyle did not look maternal and he changed it for the ending . When female readers asked Watsuki if Kaoru was a strong fighter , he called the character " quite independent for her age " who could " hold her own " against the local dojo masters and compete at the national level ( although she is weaker than Kenshin and Sagara Sanosuke ) .

Watsuki said that in volume seven the series took on a more adult tone , influenced by the shōjo manga he was reading at the time . During the series he considered killing Kaoru off , deciding against it in favor of a happy ending for a manga aimed at young readers and influenced by the previous story arc 's upbeat ending . However , he thought the storyline then lost its main theme ( revenge ) ; readers praised and criticized the twist . Watsuki apologized to his young audience for the dark chapters suggesting that Kaoru was dead .

= = Reception = =

Kaoru has been popular with Rurouni Kenshin readers , placing fourth or fifth in every popularity poll . Watsuki described Tomo Sakurai 's CD @-@ drama voice as " not too airhead @-@ y , " " not too high " and " not too low . " Kaoru merchandise includes plushes , keychains and sweatbands . Miki Fujitani ( who voices the character ) said in an interview that in the OVA series Kaoru is brave and very different from her original version whose characterization has been felt closer to the calm Yukishiro Tomoe .

Manga , anime and video @-@ game publications have responded positively to Kaoru ; in T.H.E.M. Anime Reviews , Carlos Ross called her a " spirited girl " . According to Megan Lavey of Mania Entertainment , the manga Kaoru is " a lot wiser " than her anime version . Kaoru and Kenshin 's relationship ranked eighth in About.com 's " Top 8 Anime Love Stories " , with Katherine Luther calling it a " classic romance . "

Kaoru 's Reflection OVA series version was criticized ; Efrain Diaz , Jr. of IGN wrote that although some of Kenshin and Kaoru 's private moments are touching , others are depressing . According to Anime News Network 's Mike Crandol , Kaoru is the least visually successful character redesign in the Reflection OVA . Citing the manga version 's " distinctive girlish charm " , Crandol said that the staff members tried too hard to make her look like Yukishiro Tomoe . Rebecca Silverman of Anime News Network was disappointed by Kaoru 's lack of development in the series Rurouni Kenshin Restoration .