

= Love Hina =

Love Hina (Japanese : ?? ?? , Hepburn : Rabu Hina) is a Japanese manga series written and illustrated by Ken Akamatsu . It was serialized in Weekly Shōnen Magazine from October 21 , 1998 to October 31 , 2001 , with the chapters collected into 14 tankōbon volumes by Kodansha . The series tells the story of Keitarō Urashima and his attempts to find the girl with whom he made a childhood promise to enter Tokyo University . The manga was licensed for an English @-@ language release in North America and the United Kingdom by Tokyopop , in Australia by Madman Entertainment , and in Singapore by Chuang Yi . Two novelizations of Love Hina , written by two anime series screenwriters , were also released in Japan by Kodansha . Both novels were later released in North America and the United Kingdom by Tokyopop .

A twenty @-@ four episode anime adaptation of the manga series , produced by Xebec , aired in Japan from April 19 , 2000 , to September 27 , 2000 . It was followed by a bonus DVD episode , Christmas and Spring television specials , and a three episode original video animation (OVA) entitled Love Hina Again . The anime series , special , and OVA were licensed for release in North America by Bandai Entertainment . In July 2007 , the license was acquired by Funimation , who released a boxset of the television series in February 2009 . The series is also licensed in Australia by Madman Entertainment and in the United Kingdom by MVM Films .

The series has proved extremely popular around the world , both commercially and critically . In Japan , the manga sold over 16 million copies ; over 1 million anime DVDs were also sold . The English release of the manga has been reprinted many times . Both anime and manga have received numerous industry awards in Japan and North America , as well as praise from critics .

= = Plot = =

The story is a shōnen comedy that takes place in the Kanagawa Prefecture , and centers on Keitarō Urashima and his attempts to fulfill a childhood promise that he made with a girl to enter Tokyo University together . However , he has forgotten the name of the girl he made the promise to and hopes to be accepted into Tokyo University in order to find her . Having failed the entrance exam twice and with his parents no longer willing to support him , he goes to stay at his grandmother 's hotel , only to find that it has been converted into a female @-@ only apartment . The tenants are about to kick him out when his aunt appears and announces that his grandmother has given him the title to the apartments . Much to their dismay Keitarō becomes the new manager of the family @-@ owned girls ' dorm Hinata House and must now balance his new responsibilities in addition to studying for the university entrance exam .

At Hinata House , Keitarō meets Naru Narusegawa , who is also studying to enter Tokyo University . Naru ranks first in the whole of Japan on the practice exams , and Keitarō convinces her to help him study . As the two of them grow closer through their studies , and after Keitarō accidentally reads a small section of Naru 's diary , he becomes increasingly convinced that Naru may be the girl with whom he made the promise . On the second day of the Tokyo University exam , Keitarō asks Naru about the promise and is stunned when she tells him he is mistaken . Despite their studying , and Naru 's mock exam results , they both fail the exams . The pair then have an argument and independently run off to Kyoto to clear their heads . While on their trip they settle their differences and meet Mutsumi Otohime , who lives in Okinawa and is also studying for the Tokyo University exams .

After returning from Kyoto , Keitarō and Naru decide to retake the exams . After a while , Mutsumi moves to Tokyo , and the three begin to study together . During this period , Naru becomes convinced that Mutsumi is Keitarō 's promised girl , but Mutsumi states that she made a childhood promise with Naru , not Keitarō . During the next round of Tokyo University exams , Keitarō believes he has failed them once again and runs away before finding out his results . After learning of this , Naru chases after him without checking her exam results either , and they are followed by the rest of the residents of Hinata House who announce that Keitarō and Naru both passed the exams along with Mutsumi . Unfortunately for him , Keitarō has an accident at the Tokyo University opening

ceremony and is unable to attend classes for three months . After recovering from his injuries , Keitar? decides to study overseas with Noriyasu Seta . As Keitar? is about to leave , Naru finally confesses her feelings to him at the airport and decides to wait for him to return .

When Keitar? returns , he and Naru finally begin to express their feelings for each other . After they deal with new obstacles , Grandma Hina returns to Hinata House and reveals Naru is the girl of Keitar? 's promise . Four years later , a wedding ceremony (with a new girl , Ema Maeda , presented) is held at Hinata House for Naru and Keitar? as they finally fulfill their childhood promise to each other .

= = Production = =

Initial sketches for the series were created between September and December 1997 , after the completion of A.I. Love You . Early storyboards with initial character designs were created between December 1997 and January 1998 , and further character designs and location sketches followed between January and April 1998 . The last storyboards before serialization were created between April and August 1998 .

Around six months before the start of serialization , character designs were still going through several revisions before being settled upon . Several characters underwent complete redesigns and name changes . At one stage the character Naru was named Midori , and she was supposed to fall through a hole in the floor naked , bump her head on Keitaro and lose her memory . Naru 's name was changed many times before the author settled on Naru Narusegawa , and her final design is similar to Saati Namba from A.I. Love You . Mitsune " Kitsune " Konno 's money @-@ grubbing nature and her older , jaded , and more mature personality were originally intended to be used for Kaolla Su . Shinobu Maehara 's nature was settled on from the beginning of the series , however her physical appearance and age were extensively redesigned as the series concept was shaped . In her early design , Shinobu had a similar appearance to Forty Namba from A.I. Love You .

Throughout the run of the manga , the series used digital editing processes . After a rough sketch of a page was created , the page layout and basic detail were drawn and scanned into an Apple Macintosh . The major page elements were then shaded or filled with patterns , and elements that were drawn separately were added digitally to the page . The manga also used a series of " banked images " , which were basic line drawings of locations , such as a characters room . Instead of redrawing a location from scratch every time it was used , these banked images could be used as a base , and extra detail added to them depending on the requirements for the scene .

Both of these techniques lead to characters having white outlines when copied digitally onto the scene . Parts of Hinata Inn and other locations used were inspired by real life locations and designed from photographs collected during research .

= = Media = =

= = = Manga = = =

Love Hina were originally serialized in Weekly Sh?nen Magazine , between November 4 , 1998 and November 14 , 2001 for a total of 123 chapters . The series was released as a 14 @-@ volume collected edition between March 1999 and January 2002 . The series was later released in a partially colored format known as the " Iro Hina version " . The 14 Iro Hina volumes were released between July 2001 and April 2004 . A new seven @-@ volume edition was released by Kodansha between June and December 2014 .

Kodansha published a bilingual English and Japanese edition under the Kodansha Bilingual Comics label . Eight volumes were produced under the bilingual format between October 2000 and July 2001 . The edition was removed from sale after the series was licensed by Tokyopop .

The series was licensed for an English @-@ language release in North America and the United Kingdom by Tokyopop , which released the 14 volumes between May 21 , 2002 and September 16 ,

2003 . The English release was one of Tokyopop 's first releases in the " Authentic Manga " lineup of titles using the Japanese right to left reading style . In doing so the artwork remained unchanged from the original . The series appeared consistently in Tokyopop 's top five selling manga and has been reprinted several times . In August 2009 , it was revealed that Tokyopop 's license had been left to expire by Kodansha and would not be renewed . Kodansha Comics USA licensed the series with a new translation . This edition was released as 5 volumes between October 2011 and March 2013 .

The series is also licensed for an English @-@ language release in Singapore by Chuang Yi and for regional language releases in France and Québec by Pika Édition , in Spain by Glénat , in Brazil by Editora JBC , in Mexico by Grupo Editorial Vid , in Poland by Waneko , in Greece by Compupress , in Germany in German , in Norway by Schibsted Forlag , in Sweden by Bonnier Carlsen and in Denmark by Egmont Manga & Anime .

The September 1 , 2010 issue of Weekly Shōnen Magazine included a six @-@ color @-@ page Love Hina one @-@ shot . A crossover one @-@ shot with Aho Girl was released on August 27 , 2014 .

The first 11 volumes sold over 6 million copies in Japan .

= = = Anime = = =

Love Hina was adapted into a 24 @-@ episode anime television series by Xebec , a division of Production I.G. The series aired on TV Tokyo April 19 through September 27 , 2000 . The opening theme was Sakura Saku and the closing theme was Kimi Sae Ireba . Both songs were written by Ritsuko Okazaki and performed by Megumi Hayashibara . The two themes were released as a CD single , which debuted on the Oricon charts at Number 7 . A bonus 25th episode was later created and released as a DVD bonus . The series and bonus episode were directed by Yoshiaki Iwasaki , written by Shō Aikawa and featured character designs by Makoto Uno .

In Japan , the television series was released on nine DVDs by Starchild Records between August 3 , 2000 and April 2 , 2001 , and sold over 1 million copies . Love Hina is credited with being one of the first anime series to be available unofficially as a digitally produced fansub , with multiple groups working on the series . The popularity , and widespread availability of the series in this form meant that several potential licensors of the series such as ADV Films had concerns over licensing the series . The series was later licensed in North America by Bandai Entertainment , who released six DVDs between February 19 and November 19 , 2002 . In July 2007 , Funimation Entertainment announced they had acquired the license to the series after Bandai 's license had expired . A new boxset of the television series across 4 discs was released by Funimation on February 24 , 2009 . It was then re @-@ released as part of Funimation 's Viridian Collection on July 27 , 2010 . In the United Kingdom , the series is licensed by MVM Films , who released the series on six DVDs between September 6 , 2004 and March 7 , 2005 , and as a boxset on May 14 , 2007 . In Australia and New Zealand the series is licensed by Madman Entertainment , who also released the series across six DVDs between September 18 , 2002 , and February 11 , 2003 . A box set was later released on December 3 , 2003 .

After the television series was completed , a Christmas special , Love Hina Xmas Eve : Silent Night , was produced and shown on December 25 , 2000 on TV Tokyo . A DVD was released in Japan on July 4 , 2001 . It was then released in North America on December 3 , 2002 and in the United Kingdom on November 7 , 2005 . The Spring Special Love Hina Spring Special : I Wish Your Dream was also shown on TV Tokyo on April 2 , 2001 . The DVD was released in Japan on August 1 , 2001 , in North American on March 18 , 2003 and in the United Kingdom on May 16 , 2005 . Finally , an OVA series called Love Hina Again was released on DVD in Japan in 3 parts between January 26 , 2002 and March 27 , 2002 . A CD single featuring the opening theme " Kirari Takaramono " and the ending theme " Be for Me , Be for You " was released on February 28 , 2002 . A solo version was used for the first episode , and a duet with Yūji Ueda was used for the third episode . The North American and United Kingdom releases of Love Hina Again grouped the 3 parts together on one disc and were released on September 2 , 2003 and January 7 , 2008 respectively .

After the end of the television series , Love Hina Final Selection was released , containing a summary of the series and " Love Live Hina " , a live concert featuring all of the main cast members .

The anime was later used as the source for a film comic , Love Hina Anime Comics , which told the anime story in comic form using stills from the show as the comic panels . The anime Comics series follows the story of the television series , unaired 25th episode , and the Xmas and Spring specials and each volume contains 3 exclusive trading cards . The film comics also contain anime production info .

== Light novels ==

Two novels have been written by the anime screenwriters and illustrated by Ken Akamatsu as side stories of the main series . Love Hina : Mystery Guests at Hinata Hotel was written by Sh? Aikawa under the pen name " Kur? Hazuki " , was published in Japan by Kodansha on May 17 , 2001 . It was later rereleased in a bilingual edition (English and Japanese) in December 2001 . The second novel , Love Hina : Secrets at Hinata Hotel was written by Hiroyuki Kawasaki and released in Japan on February 15 , 2002 , with a bilingual edition released the same month . Tokyopop licensed both novels for an English @-@ language distribution in North America , releasing the first novel under the title Love Hina : The Novel , Volume 1 on April 11 , 2006 , and the second novel under the title Love Hina : The Novel , Volume 2 on August 8 , 2006 .

== Reference books ==

Two reference books for the manga series have been released for fans of the series . Love Hina 0 was released on July 17 , 2002 and contains character profiles , interviews and production info as well as other supporting materials for the first seven volumes of the manga . Love Hina Mugendai (??? ?) was released on July 17 , 2002 and contains character profiles , a timeline , artwork , interviews and production info . A large section is dedicated to early production sketches and handwritten development notes .

Two reference books have also been released for the anime series . Ani @-@ Hina Ver.1 was released on August 4 , 2000 and Ani @-@ Hina Ver.2 was released on November 9 , 2000 . Each book contains character profiles , episode summaries , production sketches and details as well as interviews and information on the voice actors ; each covers half of the anime series .

== Video games ==

The series has seen several video games released across several platforms . The Game Boy Color received Love Hina Pocket on August 4 , 2000 , and Love Hina Party on January 26 , 2001 . The Game Boy Advance received Love Hina Advance on September 7 , 2001 . The Sega Dreamcast received Love Hina : Totsuzen no Engeji Happening on September 28 , 2000 and Love Hina : Smile Again on March 29 , 2001 . The Sony PlayStation received Love Hina 1 : Ai wa Kotoba no Naka ni on September 28 , 2000 and Love Hina 2 : Kotoba wa Konayuki no Y? ni on November 30 , 2000 . The Sony PlayStation 2 received Love Hina : Gojasu Chiratto Happening on May 22 , 2003 .

== Soundtracks ==

Prior to the start of the anime , several image songs were recorded by the anime cast members . Several maxi singles were released featuring some of these image songs as well as drama tracks , also performed by the anime cast . " I Love Hina " was released on April 26 , 2000 and followed by Love Hina 1 on June 26 , 2000 , Love Hina 2 on July 26 , 2000 and Love Hina 3 on August 23 , 2000 . Love Hina 1 came with a box to hold the other singles .

There have been several Love Hina soundtracks released . Love Hina Original Sound File was released on September 21 , 2000 and contains all of the background music for the series as well as

many vocal songs . Love Hina ? Winter Special Soundtrack was released on January 24 , 2001 and was followed by Love Hina ? Spring Special Soundtrack on June 6 , 2001 . Love Hina Again Soundtrack was released on April 3 , 2002 . Two collections of vocal songs featuring the female cast members were released : Love Hina ? Hinata Girls Song Best was released on March 16 , 2001 and Love Hina ? Hinata Girls Song Best 2 was released on October 3 , 2001 . Many of the songs featured on these two albums were written by Ritsuko Okazaki , who released the self cover album Love Hina Okazaki Collection on December 16 , 2001 . Two live concerts called Love Live Hina were performed by the Japanese cast members . The Tokyo Bay performance was bundled on DVD with Love Hina Final Selection , and the Osaka Performance was available separately .

= = Reception = =

Love Hina won the Kodansha Manga Award for best sh?nen title in 2001 . It was selected as the " Best Manga , USA Release " at both the 2002 and 2004 Anime Expo conventions . In 2003 , the title was among the top ten graphic novels on Nielsen BookScan 's list and one of the first graphic novels to ever appear in the general trade paperback list . The pop culture website ICv2 voted Love Hina " Anime Product of the Year " in 2002 .

The series was well received by critics . Tony Chen , of Anime News Network (ANN) , found it to be a funny series , though finding the 16 + rating appropriate due to the number of jokes involving sexual innuendo . He praised the beautiful artwork , feeling the " sexy and cute " female designs were perfect for the series and that Keitar? 's design fit his dorky personality . Chen found Naru 's regularly catching Keitar? making a mistake and calling him a pervert redundant and annoying . Eric Luce of Ex.org notes an increased character development over other love comedies , and describes the series as " nothing if not whimsical " .

The release of the second and third DVD 's in Japan was only the second time that an anime series had consecutive number 1 chart positions . This would not occur again until over 15 years later with Mr. Osomatsu .

ANN 's Bamboo Dong praised the anime adaptation for being very intriguing and mixing " drama , romance , and slapstick comedy in a pleasing combination " . She found the music " incredibly cute " and felt it was used in a way which contributed to many of the dramatic effects in the anime . In The Anime Encyclopedia : A Guide to Japanese Animation Since 1917 , Jonathan Clements and Helen McCarthy felt the female characters were a " standard rack of female anime archetypes " and that the series as a whole was a " culmination of a decade of geek @-@ centered anime " . Kenneth Lee , writing for Ex.org , praised the look and quality of the animation , highlighting the benefits of the digital creation of the adaption over traditional cel animation . Lee recognised elements from other series such as Maison Ikkoku and Kimagure Orange Road , and summarised the series as " simply wonderful " . Chris Beveridge , of AnimeOnDVD.com , noted the first anime DVD volume was " really well put together " , but also felt the manga did not translate into an anime series particularly well . He praised the Christmas special , noting that it was " several notches above the TV series " but found that while the Spring Special had amusing moments , it was rushed with bad plotting .

The Love Hina Again OVA received more mixed reviews , with ANN 's Zac Berthschy feeling it reversed part of the plot of the main anime series and never reached the same entertainment level as the television series . The character of Kanako , Keitar? 's sister , was heavily criticized for being " one of the most annoying characters ever created even though she would have been better for Keitaro than Naru . " Beveridge praised the fun and comedy as well as the fan service , but also noted that one 's enjoyment would depend on whether they still cared for the characters .