

= Hibiki 's Magic =

Hibiki 's Magic (??????? , Hibiki no Mah?) , subtitled a continental chronicle in the original version , is a Japanese manga series written by Jun Maeda and illustrated by Rei Izumi . The story centers on a young girl named Hibiki who is the apprentice to a very skilled wizard named Shiotsuki . Hibiki does not have much skill with magic , and the only thing she is really good at is making tea . After an accident where her teacher nearly dies , Hibiki comes to stay at a famous magic academy and works as a teacher herself .

Hibiki 's Magic started serialization in the August 2004 issue of Kadokawa Shoten 's Sh?nen Ace , but later transferred to Kadokawa 's Comp Ace in November 2005 , and concluded in the May 2016 issue . Tokyopop licensed the series in North America , and released the first two volumes in 2007 . The manga is described by Anime News Network as having an " inspirational tone " with a very cute style of storytelling . IGN Comics describes the manga as a " solid story that breaks out of that cuteness mold . "

= = Plot = =

Hibiki 's Magic revolves around the title character Hibiki , a lonely young girl under the wing of a skilled wizard named Shiotsuki . At the story 's onset , Hibiki is living with Shiotsuki and is in training as an assistant to learn the art of magic . Shiotsuki , whom Hibiki refers to as " Master " , is searching for the key to immortality . He is a renowned expert at the craft known as Magic Circles , which draws its power from the art of elaborate circles that enact various enchantments . Even though Shiotsuki invites Hibiki to learn what he knows , she is unskilled in magic and rarely succeeds in anything she does . In spite of repeatedly failing , she keeps trying with her teacher 's encouragement .

Shiotsuki 's research is interrupted when a group of men break into his house during an experiment . Shiotsuki 's soul becomes trapped inside a squirrel @-@ like creature called a gusk , and his real body is lost in a fire that results from his magical protection wards ; Hibiki and the gusk barely escape alive . With nowhere else to go , Hibiki takes up residence in the nearby capital city Kamigusk . Hibiki is surprised that Shiotsuki 's reputation precedes him , and she is taken to the local Kamisaid Magic Academy where she is given the position of professor . Hibiki 's attempts to convince the administration of her shortcomings meet with failure . Hibiki is forced to learn to cope with being a professor in the most famous magic school in the country and meets many new people that help her along the way .

Hibiki meets a hard @-@ to @-@ handle student named Ahito who hates magic , and while he and Hibiki are eventually able to become friends , Ahito continues to hate magic . With the help of her master , Hibiki creates a homunculus in the form of a young girl which names herself Shiraasan . While she is hard to keep in line , Hibiki and Shiraasan share a close relationship . Hibiki meets a cursed girl named Nazuna Shireiyu , and Hibiki tries to help alleviate her curse , and in doing so becomes her friend . Nazuna turns out to be the granddaughter of the king of the land where Hibiki 's Magic takes place .

In the world of Hibiki 's Magic , in order to gain magic one must make a sacrifice . It can be a physical sacrifice , such as Ahito experiencing pain , or a mental sacrifice , such as Shiotsuki losing his memories . Hibiki tries to help by making the sacrifices a little more bearable .

= = Characters = =

Hibiki (???)

Hibiki is a young girl with little confidence in her abilities , except in tea making . When she met Shiotsuki , Hibiki was a shy girl who would hide in the corner of a room in his house speechlessly . Eventually , Hibiki warmed up to Shiotsuki 's affectionate personality and came to consider him a very important person . Hibiki can be very lighthearted , and always helps people who need it . She has no talent for magic , and relies on her master to help her in this regard . She is a crybaby and

somewhat clumsy , but does her best and wins people over with her abundant kindness and warm heart .

Shirotsuki (????)

Shirotsuki is a very skilled wizard who took Hibiki into his home in order to train her as an assistant to his craft . Despite Hibiki 's constant failures , Shirotsuki never gets angry with her and lets her take her time to get it right . He had been in love with a young woman his age named Yui , but had sacrificed his memories of her and his loved ones for his magic .

Ahito (???)

Ahito is a young man enrolled as a student at Kamisaid Magic Academy . In spite of this , he does not believe that magic is useful to mankind . He had been forced to go to the academy by his grandmother . His parents had died in a war while conducting horrible experiments and he remarks that " they deserved it " . This attitude stems from a series of painful magical experiments he was involved in as a child so he could save a girl his age named Mizuki , but she died prematurely . Ahito becomes friends with Hibiki , and starts to act a little more nicely to her . Ahito sacrificed going through pain for his magic ; he is physically injured after gazing upon someone with his healing eyes .

Shiraasan (?????? , Shiiraasan)

Shiraasan , also known as Shi @-@ chan , is a female homunculus , or artificial human , created by a joint effort of Hibiki and Shirotsuki . Despite looking like a very young girl , Shiraasan has the maturity of an adult who finds nothing wrong with reading newspapers or smoking cigarettes . Since homunculi were originally created as weapons in Hibiki 's Magic , Shiraasan can procure guns and other weapons to use as she pleases , such as taking care of stray flies . Shiraasan has a very independent personality and does not like to be told what she can and cannot do . After it is confirmed that she is a stable lifeform , Shiraasan warms up to Hibiki and loves her very much .

Asuma (???)

Asuma is a male wizard with a frivolous personality and is the director of Kamisaid Magic Academy . He likes using magic to surprise others , such as making flowers and small birds appear out of nowhere . His sacrifice for magic is that he ages quickly . For example , when Misaki was saved by him , she was surprised he had aged a few years in one day .

Misaki (???)

Misaki is Asuma 's assistant and is the first person that Hibiki meets from Kamisaid Magic Academy . When Hibiki makes a mistake , Misaki lectures her and informs her how a member of the faculty should act , even when it may not entirely be her fault . Due to Hibiki 's low magical experience , Misaki worries about Hibiki succeeding as a member of the staff . Like Hibiki , Misaki cannot perform magic , though she still has a vast knowledge of magic at her disposal . She had been adopted by a man that constantly abused her and the only thing that could cheer her up was a book from a magic user . She had been saved by Asuma and hopes to be of use to him .

Ikko (???)

Ikko is a female teacher at Kamisaid Magic Academy whose specialty is curses . While normally a sweet , young woman , her personality becomes sinister when she is performing her curses . She shows a skill in sewing when she is asked by Hibiki to make new clothes for Shiraasan .

Yukko (???)

Yukko is a woman around the same age as Ikko , her older sister . Yukko lost her young daughter Nanako in the last war , and since then has spent all her time researching how to make a homunculus in human form , though has never been able to produce one that looks human . After the incident with Shiraasan , Yukko is finally able to accept her daughter 's death and ceases to make more homunculi . Yukko sacrificed her slumber for her magic .

Nazuna Shireiyu (??? = ????)

Nazuna is a young girl whose grandfather is the king of the land of Kamisaid . She is a skilled sword @-@ fighter , but is followed by the dead spirits of baby chicks , who believe her to be their mother , and rest on her , thus interfering in her sword @-@ training . Hibiki is able to help her initially by making some of them disappear , though the chicks come back .

= = Production and release = =

The manga series Hibiki 's Magic is written by Jun Maeda and illustrated by Rei Izumi . As stated at the back of the first volume , Maeda first conceived Hibiki 's Magic as a short story he wrote as a student , and the story contains an unspecified theme that he has carried through a lot of stories since . In 2003 , he wanted to collaborate with Izumi , one of his favorite artists , and remembered his earlier concept that would become Hibiki 's Magic . After Izumi drew some early character designs for Hibiki , Maeda wanted to continue the story and start a manga with Izumi as the artist .

The manga premiered in the August 2004 issue of Kadokawa Shoten 's Sh?nen Ace . It was later transferred to Kadokawa Shoten 's Comp Ace magazine on November 26 , 2005 . Hibiki 's Magic went on hiatus after the release of Comp Ace volume 15 on May 26 , 2007 , during which only three chapters were released : the first in Comp Ace 's August 2008 issue , next as a bonus chapter in the September 2008 issue of Comp Ace , and finally in a special edition of the magazine 's July 2011 issue titled Key Station . The manga resumed regular publication with the April 2013 issue of Comp Ace , and concluded with the May 2016 issue . The first tank?bon volume was released on August 10 , 2005 ; four volumes have been released as of February 26 , 2015 .

At Comic @-@ Con International 2006 , Tokyopop announced that it had acquired Hibiki 's Magic for distribution in English in North America . Tokyopop released the first volume on January 9 , 2007 , followed by the second volume on September 11 , 2007 . Kadokawa Media licensed the series in Chinese .

= = Reception = =

Anime News Network 's (ANN) review of the first volume states that " Hibiki 's Magic ... focus [es] on the ways that magic effects the everyday lives of its users . The personal focus is welcome , but the book is a little too compressed and rushed to evoke exactly the emotional response that it desires . " While at the same time describing the first volume as having an " inspirational tone " , the review ends by saying , " Don 't come to Hibiki 's Magic expecting a life @-@ changing re @-@ examination of magic . It 's a heavy dose of pure cuteness for those who like their sweet @-@ and @-@ sour drama with lots of cheese . " The first volume of Hibiki 's Magic was featured in ANN 's Right Turn Only column in January 2007 , where Carlo Santos compares the series to " Someday 's Dreamers with more guts and heart , " which portrays magicians as similar to normal people with " weaknesses and all " as opposed to " other tales of magic [which] focus on how cool and different magicians are [compared to normal people] . " Visually , the series is described as being too similar to " every other fantasy series " and even cites similarities with " Hogwarts ' magic robes and school logo . " IGN Comics ' review said , " This book ought to be fairly popular for its intended age group Make no mistake , this book is cute in every sense of the word ... but at the same time it 's a solid story that breaks out of that cuteness mold . "

In a review at Comic Book Bin , the reviewer Leroy Douresseaux praised Jun Maeda for crafting a " gentle , yet highly engaging story about deep friendship and strong love and devotion . " Douresseaux also cited Rei Izumi 's art as " cute " and how her " visuals are also emotionally potent . " In a review at Mania , Michelle Ramonetti follows with other reviewers , citing the series as " deceptively cute " , but also describing it as " often funny , but mostly bittersweet--and a real tear @-@ jerker . " The manga 's theme is thought to be related to " finding hope in times of pain and grief . " In the online appendix to Manga : The Complete Guide , Jason Thompson cites Hibiki 's Magic as " a cross between Someday 's Dreamers and Atelier Marie and Elie , " though describes it as being " less optimistic than Someday 's Dreamers . " Thompson goes on to pan the manga as a " dull moe title " with " crude , generic art . "