

= Fairy Cube =

Fairy Cube ( Japanese : ????? , Hepburn : Y?sei Hy?hon ) is a fantasy , gothic sh?jo ( targeted towards girls ) manga written and illustrated by Kaori Yuki . Appearing as a serial in the Japanese manga magazine Hana to Yume from February 2005 to 2006 , the Fairy Cube chapters were collected into three bound volumes by Hakusensha and published from October 2005 to July 2006 . A related short story , " Psycho Knocker " , appeared in the October 2004 issues of the same magazine . Yuki began Fairy Cube with the intent of writing a shorter manga . Set in a fictional universe in which a fairy @-@ inhabited Otherworld exists alongside present @-@ day Earth , the series focuses on Ian Hasumi , a teenager who can see fairies , and his childhood friend Rin . After Ian 's body is stolen from him , he starts on a journey to reclaim it and soon finds himself in conflict with a group of fairies who hope to capture the Earth by opening a pathway from the Otherworld .

Viz Media licensed Fairy Cube for an English @-@ language release in North America . It previewed the series in its manga anthology Sh?jo Beat and released the series from May 2008 to November 2008 . A digital edition was published in 2011 . Another English translation has been published by Chuang Yi in Singapore , and the series has been translated into several other languages . The series received a range of reviews : reviews of the first volume were generally positive , although the reviewers differed in their thoughts on the conclusion . The final volume placed in ICv2 's list of the top 300 bestselling graphic novels for November 2008 .

= = Plot = =

Fairy Cube takes place in a fictional universe in which an Otherworld , inhabited by a variety of fairies and other nonhuman entities , exists alongside present @-@ day Earth . The series focuses on Ian Hasumi ( ?? ?? , Hasumi Ian ) , a timid fifteen @-@ year @-@ old who sees fairies ? invisible to normal people ? and is stalked by Tokage ( ??? , Tokage ) , a spiteful spirit only he can see . In his backstory , it is revealed that before the start of the series , his mother , Kureha Hasumi ( ?? ?? , Hasumi Kureha ) left , causing his novelist father , Kazumi Hasumi ( ?? ?? , Hasumi Kazumi ) , to burn wing marks on Ian 's back to prevent him from doing the same . Rin Ishinagi ( ?? ? , Ishinagi Rin ) , Ian 's abused childhood friend and secret " crush " , later returns to the city where he lives after being separated for years . Stumbling upon the scene of a murder and seeing a man retrieve a cube from the victim 's body , Ian follows him back to an antique shop , where the man , actually a Gancanagh named Kaito ( ?? , Kaito ) , gives him Tokage 's fairy cube ? a cube belonging to a fairy that can allow the fairy to take over the human who has it . Soon after , Ian is killed by his own father , who was manipulated by Tokage , and now exists as a spirit , with Tokage possessing his body . Returning to Kaito 's shop and after a trip through the Otherworld with Ainsel ( ????? , Einsler ) , a small yet powerful and vicious fairy in love with Kaito , Ian takes control of the body of a deceased young boy , Eriya Barnett ( ??? ? ???? , Eriya Barutto ) . Moved by his determination , Ainsel agrees to aid him in his quest to regain his body .

Along the way , Ian encounters his maternal aunt Lise ( ?? , Rise ) , a leanan s?dhe like Kureha , who explains that Kureha left before she completely drained the life force of Kazumi ; Shira Gotoh ( ?? ?? , Got? Shira ) , a cross @-@ dressing girl born in the Otherworld who , as the chairperson for the multi @-@ million land development company Gotoh Group , aims to restore the environment for the fairies ; and Raven ( ???? , Reivan ) , Shira 's supernatural bodyguard whose clan guards a " demon door " . Additionally , Ian learns that Tokage grew up in the Otherworld , abandoned by his parents Kureha and Kazumi , but loved by a non @-@ native fairy ; when his village tried to sacrifice him to the god of war and death , he slaughtered them and the god escaped . To infiltrate Gotoh Group , Rin allows herself to be captured , and under the pretense of a beauty contest , the company plans to harvest the energy of the fairy cubes and bystanders to open a " demon door " to the Otherworld . Ian rescues Rin , and the fairy god Balor is revealed to be inhabiting the body of Shira 's bedridden father and behind the plan . Ian eventually returns to his body through fairy magic , while Eriya 's body accepts Tokage . Having been held captive by Gotoh for most of the series , Kureha appears and before dying , reveals that Tokage is Ian 's stillborn twin . Shira is killed after

cutting Balor 's life @-@ line , and Raven realizes that his fiancée , whom Kaito had seduced , had actually unsealed the demon door prior to the start of the series , angry with the two for playing with her feelings . Ainsel , secretly the consciousness of the door 's sealing spell , and Kaito die together as a sacrifice to seal the demon door , as Ian and Rin help by letting the people of earth glimpse the fairies and using the energy of their belief .

= = Development = =

Manga artist Kaori Yuki 's earlier , related short manga " Psycho Knocker " appeared in the October 2004 issues of the Japanese sh?jo ( targeted towards girls ) manga magazine Hana to Yume published twice a month . It focuses on a pessimistic , heartbroken teenager who makes a pact with a lonely ghost , unknowingly exchanging her life for two wishes . Chasing down spirits that have escaped from the demon door , Raven and Tokage rescue her from the ghost , a young girl who died suddenly , and seal a spirit which feeds on negative emotions . Yuki wrote the story as a reminder to herself not to be so pessimistic , a trait she shares with the teenage protagonist .

Yuki started Fairy Cube with the goal of writing a short series . Because of the story 's nature as a serial , she faced page limitations . When deciding on the ending , she considered having Ian and Rin as the sacrifice to close the demon door , but rejected it , feeling that it would be too unpleasant for the readers , although she expressed her fondness for sad endings . She was also unable to include Ian and Tokage 's newfound friendship , because Rin and Ian 's romantic relationship served as the focus of the story .

= = Release = =

The eighteen chapters of Fairy Cube appeared as a serial in Hana to Yume from February 2005 to 2006 . Hakusensha collected the chapters into three bound volumes and published them from October 19 , 2005 , to July 19 , 2006 .

At the 2007 Comic @-@ Con International , a convention held in San Diego , California , Viz Media announced that it had licensed Fairy Cube for an English @-@ language release in North America . Viz included a preview of Fairy Cube in the April 2008 issue of its manga anthology Shojo Beat , and published the series from May 6 , 2008 , to November 4 , 2008 . A digital edition of the series was also released in 2011 . The series is also licensed in Singapore by Chuang Yi , and published in several other languages , among them German , Italian , and French .

= = Volume list = =

= = Reception = =

The final volume placed at the 221st spot on ICv2 's list of the top 300 bestselling graphic novels for November 2008 , with an estimated 516 copies sold .

Writing for School Library Journal , Cara von Wrangel Kinsey found Fairy Cube " more accessible than Yuki 's previous works , " despite covering subjects such as murder and revenge . A. E. Sparrow of IGN gave the first volume a favorable review , enjoying the series ' different view of the fairies . Mania Entertainment 's Danielle Van Gorder wrote that the story reminded her of the pre @-@ Victorian version of the fairytale " Snow White " or the British Sidhe fairies , in her review of the first volume . Van Gorder worried that the cover would mislead readers into believing that it was " a light and fluffy kind of story " and drive away the target audience . In a follow @-@ up review of the final volume , she wrote that the conclusion of the series was less confusing than that of Yuki 's earlier work Angel Sanctuary ( 1994 ? 2000 ) and thought the story was " well @-@ executed , " though it still had some flaws . Rating the series 3 out of 4 stars , Jason Thompson , author of Manga : The Complete Guide ( 2007 ) , wrote that while it reminded him of Angel Sanctuary , it covered " more original subject matter " and had " tighter " plotting . Anime News Network 's Casey

Brienza highly recommended the first volume , praising her inclusion of Celtic mythology . She enjoyed the plot and described the cover as beautiful , though she disliked the artistic inconsistencies caused by Yuki 's use of assistants . According to Katherine Dacey of PopCultureShock in her review of the first volume , the story succeeded through Yuki 's use of " outlandish touches , " creating " an intoxicating ? if occasionally ridiculous ? mix of horror , romance , and revenge . " In her review of the final volume , Dacey expressed her feelings of annoyance that the characters spent much of the volume talking with very little action , and wrote that the story , despite a promising start , went downhill with the introduction of the beauty contest in the second volume . Categorizing " Psycho Knocker " as " comeuppance theater , " she enjoyed it more than Fairy Cube 's conclusion , though still wrote that " it isn 't her best work . " A reviewer of the French edition disliked how quickly the story progressed , commenting that the protagonists ' personalities were not fully explored as a result . The reviewer praised the covers of the first and third volumes as " magnificent " .