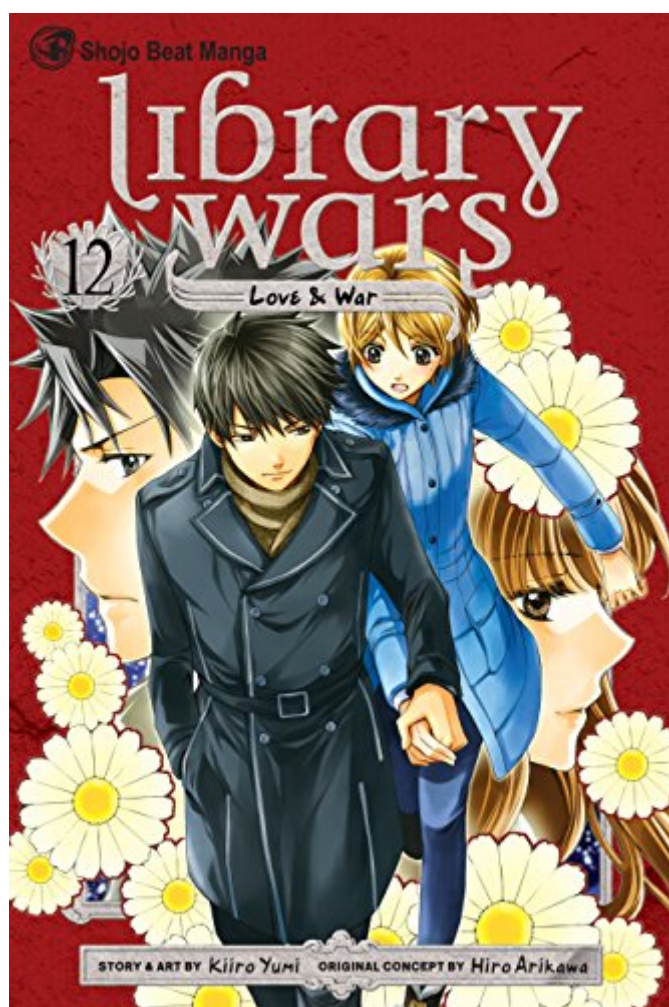


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Library Wars: Love & War, Vol. 12



Synopsis

Library Forces member Iku Kasahara has plans to go out for tea with her supervisor and secret crush, Dojo, but just figuring out what to wear puts her in a tailspin. When an urgent call comes in about an author seeking protection from the government, Iku realizes that the fight against censorship never takes a break!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

First off, I have to say that the artwork on the introduction to chapter 11 made me laugh so hard--hilarious and really clever! A lot of plot-heavy stuff going on in this one, as the Task Force helps prepare for a debate with those who want to ban books and then faces a major battle. Relationship-wise, there's an incredibly cringe-worthy scene between Kasahara and Dojo as she loses her temper with him when he insults her prince (re-reading these after everything comes out is fun, too, because it brings an extra layer of understanding to what's really going on). Poor Dojo, I felt so sorry for him. Love when Dojo keeps Kasahara from getting burned by the hot coffee the woman throws at her and the nice scene between the two of them afterwards. This volume also introduces Orikuchi, a reporter who will become important later in the series. I will say that I didn't enjoy this volume as much as the last because of the conflict between Kasahara and Dojo when he arranges

to leave her behind so she's not in danger. She ends up being separated from the team for the last couple of chapters and I wasn't crazy about that. And it ends on a HUGE cliffhanger that I totally didn't see coming. I rushed back to the library to get the next one and made sure I got the rest of the series so I didn't end up caught like that again. LOL So fair warning: if you read this volume, you'll want to have the next one handy to read right away. Edited to add an extra star because I went back and looked at the book and the bonus story at the end is one of my very favorites in the whole series. It's a fun little story where Dojo gets stuck going shopping for girly things and Iku ends up helping him. It's very cute, funny, and sweet. I love it SO much that I've re-read it a ton of times.

The series follows Iku Kasahara as she joins the Library Defense Force in near-future Japan. The LDF is a militant group comprised of librarians and soldiers who work together to fight the forced censorship of the Media Betterment Committee through any means necessary. Iku has dreamed of joining the LDF since one of its soldiers stepped in to save her favorite book from being confiscated--something Iku could not do herself as a mere schoolgirl. Inspired by the shining example of her so-called prince, Iku is determined to become the best LDF operative that she can. Iku's dedication is challenged when she butts heads repeatedly with Instructor Dojo. While he is competent and can teach Iku a lot, he also seems to have it in for her. Will Iku survive training? Will Dojo ever warm up to her? Will Iku ever learn the true identity of her prince? All of these questions and more are answered over the course of this fifteen volume manga series. Library Wars: Love & War is far and away my favorite manga of all time. I discovered this series in 2011 when I was in library school. Since then I faithfully read every volume as they came out and became available at my library. It was bittersweet when I read the final installment this summer and realized the series was truly over. Because of the serialized nature of mangas, this series is a great choice to binge. I devoured these volumes and even though I just finished the series, I'm already thinking about a re-read. Yumi's artwork is expressive and humorous as Iku negotiates her fraught relationship with Dojo with the everyday rigors of life as an LDF agent.

~4/5 [More of my reviews are available on my blog, [Geeky Reading](#), to which there's a link on my profile.] (Contains spoilers.) I am really liking this series. I mean, why didn't I pick this up sooner? And why didn't I get more of them, when I had the chance? Still, I hope to get more very soon, because this is the last volume that I have at the moment. And the cliffhanger was not very nice. This volume has two big plot lines. The first involves two kids who set off firecrackers during a PTA protest, an ongoing debate between the Library Force and a group supposedly working for the

children who want to censor books in schools. The kids are against censorship, and it all turns out well in the end. This was a rather fun plot, I liked seeing Iku and everyone else work with the kids, and I generally just find the whole censorship issue interesting. It's the main theme in this series, and I am not a fan of censorship, so I find it all very interesting. It's very obviously biased here, but still. The second plot has to do with the Library Force getting a huge collection of books that the MBC doesn't want to exist. So there's a fight while they collect the books, possible raids will be happening, and it's all a very big deal. And Dojo makes Iku stay back and guard the head of the Library, Inamine, instead of going with them for the raid, which is very hurtful to her. He does it for an understandable reason, but still. And it turns out worse in the end anyway, because Inamine and Iku get taken hostage by their enemy, and that's the horrible cliffhanger. I'm sure it's going to have some good ending, but I'm still looking forward to seeing what happens.

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