

THE REPORT CARD

*Kizuna: Bonds of Love #4**by Kat Avila*

*Reviews may contain information that could be considered 'spoilers'.
Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

Publisher**Be Beautiful**<http://www.bebeautifulmanga.com>**Credits**

Writer: Kazuma Kodaka

Artist: Kazuma Kodaka

Distributor: Be Beautiful

Translator: Melanie Shoen

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Grade: 8

The pairings in this yaoi manga have comfortably settled into the smooth-talking Kei Enjyoji and vulnerable Ranmaru Samejima, then the stoic Masanori Araki and bratty Kai Sagano. In volume 4, our favored couples are thrown into another set of challenging situations.

Ranmaru's grandfather wants him to come back to work and pick up kendo again to ensure a smooth transfer when Ran inherits the dojo. Grandpa feels enough time has passed for Ran to heal after the hit-and-run intended to assassinate Kei, the illegitimate son of a yakuza bossman. However, Ran's love for the sport has been replaced by his greater love for Kei. Which will win out — familial obligation or blissful love?

Meanwhile, Kei's younger brother Kai seems to be getting into trouble again. The situation is quicksand; it's threatening to pull down not just Kai but everyone else around him, including the powerful Sagano yakuza organization.



A nice plus in *Kizuna: Bonds of Love*, vol. 4, is being able to see a photo of Ranmaru's beautiful mother Shizuho, who was respected and feared as a kendo fighter. Also, a *couple* of assassins have stepped into the picture. Guess we have to wait for vol. 5 to see what develops.

Kodaka-sensei has a masculine style of drawing that suits the crime world her manga enters. Her drawing isn't pretty; you aren't going to see blossoms of love scattered in the background of any panel. Which is fine with this reader. She can draw cool, handsome, and strong guys, and that's what really counts.

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