

Embracing Love #1

by [Kat Avila](#)

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Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

Publisher

Be Beautiful

<http://bebeautifulmanga.com>

Credits

Writer: Youka Nitta

Artist: Youka Nitta

Distributor: Be Beautiful

Translator: Melanie Schoen

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Grade: 9

Youka Nitta's (yuu-ka neet-ta's) *Embracing Love* is an unapologetic hard-core yaoi romance known also to some as *He Hagged Hooker*. The startlingly realistic series appeals to a broad age-range of fans and features vigorous sex in creative positions and locations. After all, the leading men are both actors in adult films.

Kyosuke Iwaki and Yoji Katou are rivals in the industry. Almost 30 years old, the somewhat jaded Iwaki-san has been losing jobs to his younger risk-taking colleague Katou. They meet up at an audition for an independent film based on a Nagisa Sawa romance called *Embracing Love*. The novel is about two adult film male actors who fall in love with each other amid the torrid landscape of commercial pornography.

Compared with Katou, Iwaki-san is not any less virile or handsome, but is demonstrably less secure and confident. He is very conscious of keeping up appearances in public; this must be kept in mind because Iwaki-san can act irritatingly childlike at times when he's with Katou, showing how completely open and vulnerable he makes himself once he grudgingly accepts Katou into his life.



Volume #1 wraps up with the unrelated bonus story *Fence* about two elite high jumpers. Freshman Naoto Gyoubu unexpectedly didn't join the university team. Instead, he stands in the distance to watch them practice, especially sophomore Masaki Joushima, who is ranked second nationally, two spots ahead of him. Perhaps there is another reason Naoto remains engrossed and not necessarily because he misses high jumping.

The biggest difference between the translated **Be Beautiful** edition and the Japanese edition is the latter has a bonus color mini-poster page, which makes the Japanese edition worth tracking down.

The way Youka Nitta draws her character eyes initially took a while to get used to. The shimmery pupils resemble the setting sun's reflection on a lake. They promote the illusion of a reflective convex surface for the eyes.

On page 61, there is a nice panel storytelling sequence of a private rehearsal session. It begins with a full shot as Katou encircles Iwaki-san with his arms and kisses his senior. Iwaki-san begins to feebly protest the sudden intimacy as Katou's tongue slips past the "heroine's" lips. The camera moves from the close-ups to an overhead shot from behind Katou of the aroused couple as instincts take over.

An additional noteworthy sequence starts on page 131. Katou is posturing and cooing: "Make love to me ... Iwaki-san." His actions would get anyone else in the mood, which makes the punch-line panel on the following page all the funnier.

The translation seems toned down a tiny bit where "Shit!" becomes "Damn!" or the direct "So, Iwaki-san's an anal virgin?" is changed to "That's right, you've never taken it before, have you?" Yet, overall, a very good job.

I am a big fan of Youka Nitta's sexy, melodramatic stories and attentive drawing style. I own a poster and an autographed T-shirt of Katou and Iwaki-san from *Yaoi-Con* 2002 when Nitta was the main Japanese guest of honor. Perched on a table beside my bed is the April 2005 *Be-Boy Gold* anthology with a cover of a very happy and content Iwaki-san wrapped in Katou's arms as fluffy snowflakes fall all around them. So, naturally I'm going to support her quality work and say BUY HER MANGA!

