

BOOGIEPOP AND OTHERS

At school with death



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SHINYO ACADEMY HAS a problem with missing students; the teachers believe they have simply run away, but the female students have a different explanation. According to them, the spirit of death (or shinigami in Japanese lore) known as Boogiepop has taken them. However there is also something darker roaming the corridors of Shinyo Academy, the vampiric Manticore who is hiding in

plain sight by taking on the appearance of a student named Minako Yurihara.

Boogiepop and Others marks Seven Seas Entertainment's first foray into a vast series that spans almost a decade. The story is told through the eyes of five students who attend the Academy, including Keiji Takeda, the 'Fire Witch' Nagi Kirima and antagonist Masami Saotome. These multiple perspectives also allow a deeper understanding of the complex, non-linear storyline.

From the moment Boogiepop and Others opens, with a prologue that relates several events from different sections of the novel's timeline, it's clear that the reader is only being exposed to a small section of a massive universe full of vivid characters and disturbing events, not all of which are explained in sequence. However, this merely serves to entice us into following the series, before exploring the companion movie and the anime series Boogiepop Phantom.

One of the nicest aspects of the book is the illustrations, all of which are created by Kouji Ogata. Beginning with a stunning manga-style cover depicting Touka Miyashita and her shinigami alter-ego, Boogiepop, along with the original Japanese title in kanji and kana, the novel also contains colour pages depicting the major players, as well as various black and white illustrations showing key scenes.

Seven Seas Entertainment has also taken pains to ensure the authenticity of the novel by keeping Japanese name order, along with the inclusion of a comprehensive translation notes. These notes not only explain the titles, but also cover the more abstract references, such as Japanese ghost stories and the concept of portraying a male character in a female body. Boogiepop and Others also includes further bonus content including Kouhei Kadono's original afterword, a roll call of the students at Shinyo Academy and their various affiliations and a preview chapter of the next book in the series, Boogiepop Returns.

Despite the fact that Boogiepop and Others is relatively short, the promise of the sequels and a companion manga series is sure to have fans of the anime and movie champing at the bit for the next two instalments.

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