

Me & My Brothers VOL 1

A bittersweet take on the harem genre

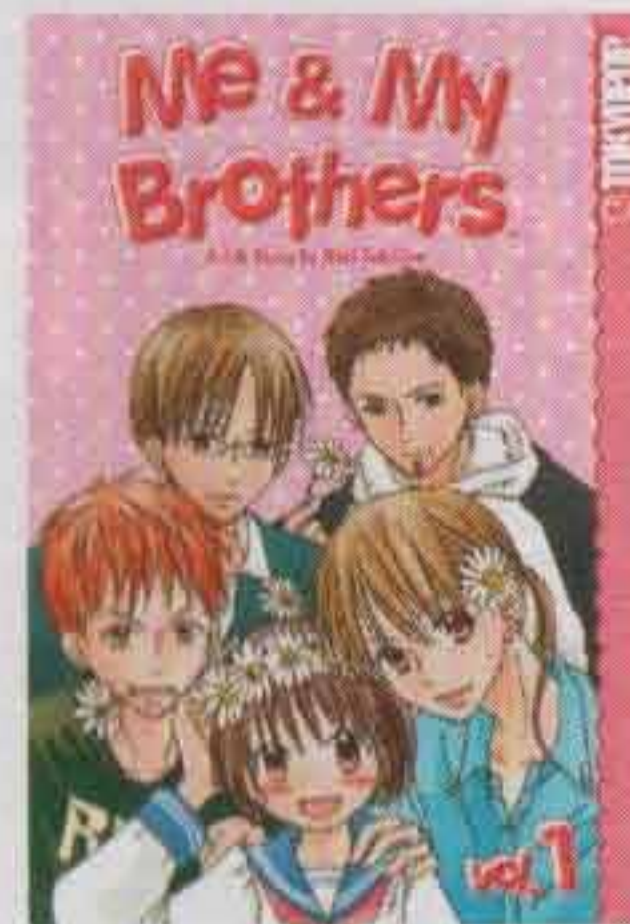
Fourteen-year-old **Sakura Miyashita** leads a sad life; her parents died when she was small, and now her grandmother, her only living relative, has left her side. Returning home after the funeral, all Sakura can think about is how she'll cope living on her own—only to discover she has four new brothers who've come to take care of her!

Me & My Brothers is Hari Tokeino's debut manga, an earnest tale that turns the harem genre on its head. The artwork is delicate, almost tentative, as expected with a manga artist's first work—and each of Sakura's brothers could easily be classed as *bishonen*, especially the

eldest, Masashi. It's Masashi that Sakura develops a close friendship with, and this intensifies when she remembers their first meeting as children.

The storyline is what tugs at the heartstrings though. *Me & My Brothers* is very much a bittersweet tale, with hints of romance sprouting in this unique situation. But it's not depressing, even if it's hard to call a comedy or a straight romance. Essentially, the first volume takes all these diverging assets and puts them together to make a well-rounded introduction to a compelling story.

—Lesley Smith



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