



Welcome to the real world

STEADY BEAT 1



- 1 AUGUST • £6.99 •
- TOKYOPOP •
- TEEN • UK RELEASE •
- RIVKAH •

LIFE'S TOUGH BEING a teenager, especially when you've got a big sister who just happens to be Miss Perfect. Leah Winters lives in the shadow of her sibling Sarai, who just happens to be the epitome of perfection and the apple of their mother's eye. But when she stumbles

across a love letter addressed to her sister from someone named Jessica, Leah and her best friend June turn detective to discover more about a side to Sarai they never knew existed.

With so many manga set in fantastical universes full of transforming magical girls or mystical beasts, it's a refreshing change to have a series so grounded in reality. *Steady Beat* is one of a rising number of world manga produced by TOKYOPOP and this particular series is the debut of an American artist named Rivkah Greulich.

Read from left-to-right; *Steady Beat* is set in Texas and follows Leah's quest to discover more about her sister, whilst coping with being a teenager and discovering her own feelings for a boy named Elijah. The artwork is in manga-style but with western influences thrown in which not only makes it gorgeous to look at, but also gives an added sense of realism to the story and the characters.

Even though the plot is firmly grounded in real life, that doesn't mean it's dry and boring. On the contrary, *Steady Beat* has a good dose of comedy thrown in for good measure and is a light-hearted look at life in



middle America. Touted as 'authentic American shoujo', *Steady Beat* is girls' manga reinvented for American teens that deals with discovering your own identity. This idea alone makes it far more appealing than many other series currently available on the market.

Despite being a little short, the first volume contains some nice extras including a comprehensive sketchbook of Rivkah's drawings for the series, as well as notes and jottings. There are even a couple of sneak peaks for the next volume, as well as background on the history of the series and its original incarnation as a webcomic. On top of this there is also the first chapter of *Mark of the Succubus*, making it an excellent buy for all fans of world manga.

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