

Talk to the (telepathic) hand.

YOUR GENTLE HAND, VOLUMES 1 & 2

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Manga Info

CREDITS
Noriko Yamauchi
PUBLISHER
Digital Manga Publishing
RELEASE
Out Now
PRICE (RRP)
\$9.95 (Approx. £6.50) per volume
AGE RATING
+16

So far MyM has covered very little in terms of josei – manga aimed at women as opposed to shojo, which is aimed at girls – but those we have reviewed usually fall into the yaoi genre. *Your Gentle Hand* from Digital Manga Publishing is an exception, however, being a supernatural manga with its fair share of tension and excitement.

The central character is Mitsuki Etou, a graphic designer who as a young girl survived a car crash that left her brother wheelchair-bound. Although Mitsuki was relatively unharmed by the accident, she is left with a bizarre side-effect – whenever she touches someone with her bare hand she can read their thoughts. For most of her life this is a curse rather than a blessing, with Mitsuki routinely discovering the horrible truth about what people really think of herself and others. As a result, she normally wears a glove over her telepathic hand.

However, Mitsuki has also discovered that her unique ability does have an upside:

it makes her a cracking amateur detective. In each story she comes across a shocking image or thought, often involving a traumatic or violent death, and is able to piece together the whole story and learn exactly what is going on.

The other main plotline is Mitsuki's search for love. Her mind-reading ability often leads to relationship break-ups – unsurprisingly, her boyfriend's secret affair doesn't stay secret for very long. In the first story, however, she meets a rich college student called Kazuhisa Kitazono: he seems somewhat shallow, but is Mitsuki's luck about to change?

The 'telepathic hand' idea is certainly an interesting story hook and a rather fun one at that, mixing the supernatural with what is basically crime fiction. Being a crime manga, *Your Gentle Hand* also has plenty of shock factor. In addition to the scenes of bloody death, there are other disturbing moments. For example, in



Volume 2 Mitsuki is attacked by a rapist. During the attack her glove comes off and she uses her hand to discover the name of the attacker and learns that he is being hired to take photos of the assault so that they can be used to blackmail her.

Your Gentle Hand's mature tone, art style, plotlines and concept make it a rather entertaining series. This digital publication is worth a look, and maybe even worthy of physical print run – even if Mitsuki's habit of wearing a single glove does constantly remind you of Michael Jackson... **MM**



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