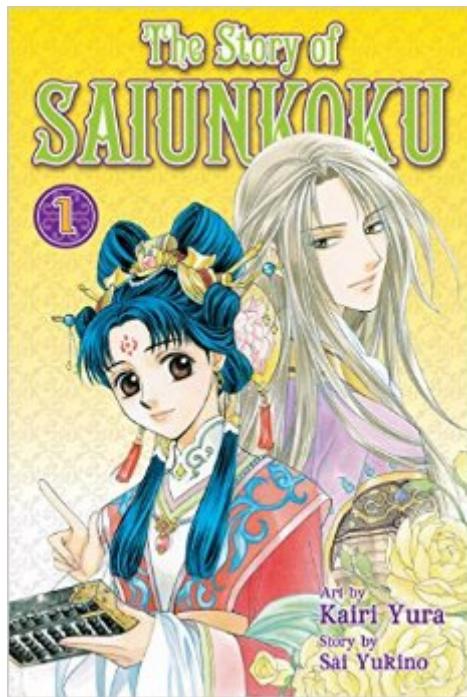


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The Story Of Saiunkoku, Vol. 1



Synopsis

Shurei Hong, destitute but of noble birth, has always dreamed of working as a civil servant in the imperial court of Saiunkoku, but women are barred from holding office. Reads R to L (Japanese Style), for T audiences. Shurei Hong, destitute but of noble birth, has always dreamed of working as a civil servant in the imperial court of Saiunkoku, but women are barred from holding office. The emperor Ryuki, however, refuses to take command, leaving everything to his advisors. Shurei is asked to become a consort to the emperor to persuade the neâ™er-do-well ruler to govern. Shurei enters the palace as Ryukiâ™s consort, but he has yet to seek her out. It is rumored that men, not women, share the emperorâ™s bedchamber. Shurei must think of a way to stop the emperor from shirking his responsibilities, but she has to find him first!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

I fell in love with this story when I first encountered the anime adaptation several years ago and I'm so pleased that the graphic novels are finally being published in English. Now if VIZ or another worthy publisher would only publish a translation of Sai Yukino's original light novels, which are the source material on which both the anime and graphic novels are based, then I would be truly satisfied! But for now I'm happy to read this version of the story and to enjoy Kairi Yura's beautiful artwork on every page. Set in Saiunkoku, a fantastical version of Tang-era China, this series follows the adventures of Shuurei, a protagonist reminiscent of Jane Austen's heroines in that she is young, intelligent, strong-willed, and of noble birth--but has very little financially. One day a highly revered

advisor to the emperor makes her a tempting offer: become a courtesan and tutor to the aimless nineteen-year-old emperor and convince him to fill his proper role in the government, in exchange for a hefty sum of gold and the chance to greatly influence the most powerful man in the country. Thus her introduction to the complex workings of government and political intrigue--and the even more complex affairs of love and courtship--begins. This first volume only covers the very earliest chapters of a convoluted but engrossing tale. As the series progresses, Shuurei will continue to encounter many more opportunities and challenges, as well as a fascinating cast of supporting characters. I look forward to following her on her journey for the second time, and I hope this review will encourage others to take a trip to Saiunkoku as well. Joie

I've read book 1 and 2 of this series, and can say, without hesitation, that the story is interesting, lively, and endearing. While it's warm, it is not maudlin. In fact, the manga thrives on its strong storylines of tangled government plots, entrenched rivalries, political sedition, and the triumph of fidelity and reason over violence. Through the eyes of Shurei, a novice in the court, you will be introduced to a layered world of glib elites where nothing and no one is exactly as they seem, and nothing can safely be taken at face value. The plot evolves, steadily, through the course of the series. As you move through the books these characters become truly engaging, particularly Ryuki, the youngest prince, and survivor of an abusive family. He stands out among the cast as someone with nothing left to lose, who truly deserves to be saved before he fades away. Reviving him is the exact reason Shurei has been brought to the court. I can't wait for book 3 at this point. For those who are concerned, the books are relatively faithful to the anime, but with greater fleshing out of details. If you haven't seen the anime it's another win worth recommending. The artist does truly laudable work - beautiful detail on traditional hairpieces, and surroundings, and wonderful work with the characters themselves.

I LOVE this manga. Written by Sai Yukino, the Japanese name for this manga is *Saiunkoku Monogatari*, which means Tale of the Land of Colored Clouds. In English it is known as *The Story of Saiunkoku* or *Colour Cloud Palace*. The story, which takes place in the fictional medieval empire of *Saiunkoku*, follows the adventures of ShÅ«rei KÅ•, a descendant of a noble family that has fallen on hard times. Her father works as a librarian in the Imperial palace, a post which offers prestige and respect, but little compensation. ShÅ«rei teaches in the temple school and works odd jobs to make ends meet, but her dream is to pass the imperial examinations and take a post in government, a path forbidden to women. ShÅ«rei's plans come to an abrupt halt when the Emperor's Grand Advisor

makes a startling offer, which is joining the imperial household for six months as the young Emperor's consort, and teach the Emperor to be a responsible ruler. If she succeeds, the financial reward will be great. The story details ShÅ«rei's growing relationships with the Emperor and other members of the court, and her commitment to better herself and her country. This is a really great story line, very different from the rest. Definitely a page turner, it will not bore you.

Shuurei joins the imperial harem to teach the stupid emperor. It's the beginning of her journey to reach her dreams and ambitions to help build a peaceful and thriving kingdom of Saiunkoku. It's reverse harem with a super strong female character, I love her and, again, the ART IS TO DIE FOR! :)

I am reading this now and loving the additional information that is being provided from the Anime series. The drawings are beautiful. This the first time I've read a Manga. Reading left to right, what I perceive as back to front is a new experience. I do wish there was more coloured pages but it is ok. I can't wait to read the rest of the series. THE SELLER WAS REALLY GOOD AND GOT THIS TO ME QUICKLY AFTER I MADE A MISTAKE IN MY INITIAL ORDER. I WOULD BUY FROM THEM AGAIN.

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