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*Reviews may contain information that could be considered 'spoilers'. Readers should proceed at their own risk.*

**Publisher****Digital Manga Publishing**<http://www.dmpbooks.com/titles?n=12>**Credits**

Writer: Maki Kazumi

Artist: Yukine Honami

Distributor: Digital Manga Publishing

Translator: Kumiko Yuasa

ISBN: 1-56970-979-3

**Grade: 7**

***Desire*** is a yaoi manga about two high school juniors who are discovering that their feelings for each other may run deeper than friendship. The front cover illustration by Yukine Honami emphasizes the boys-next-door quality of Ryoji and Toru. I like the back cover inset picture of Toru demurely peering over Ryoji's protective right arm. The usually boisterous Ryoji is quiet and his eyes are closed in an introspective moment.

During a school lunch break, Ryoji drops a bomb on his prudish friend Toru when he announces he gets sexually excited looking at Toru. Maybe Ryoji has picked up on Toru's crush. Is Ryoji teasing Toru?

As Toru struggles with revealing to Ryoji his true feelings, Ryoji starts going out with a cute freshman girl. Toru is heartbroken, but their mutual four-eyed friend Tadashi and the handsome art club president Kashiwazaki are around for support. Things start to get more confusing for Toru when Ryoji approaches him for sex out of adolescent curiosity.

**Desire** is a lovely drawn manga where average sights and sounds are more intense because of Yukine Honami's expert drawing skills and Maki Kazumi's well-paced script. The shaded two-panel drawing on page 69 is very eye-pleasing. Ryoji is kissing his way down the length of Toru's body. Toru's emotional disequilibrium is accentuated by the positioning of the drawing at a rising seesaw diagonal. The placement of the text is like musical notes riding a wave off the page.

There's not a whole lot happening in this manga, so overall it's not an exciting read. It's kinda nice and quiet like Toru himself.

Written: June 19, 2005

Published: July 1, 2005

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