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Ghost Hunt #1by [Kat Avila](#)

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

Publisher**Del Rey**<http://www.delreymanga.com>**Credits**

Writer: Fuyumi Ono

Artist: Shiho Inada

Distributor: Del Rey Manga

Translator: Akira Tsubasa

ISBN: 0-345-48624-2

Grade: 7

17-year-old Kazuya Shibuya runs the Shibuya Psychic Research Center and is hired by a school principal to get to the bottom of things about a cursed old school building. However, when the school principal discovers how young Kazuya is, he loses confidence in the ghost-hunting professional and calls in a number of other pros, that is, a Shinto priestess, a Buddhist monk, a Christian priest, and a psychic medium. Can they all stop bickering long enough to solve the mystery of the old building so it can be safely demolished?

The exuberant Mai Taniyama ends up working for the solemn Kazuya as his assistant after she accidentally cripples his former assistant. Kazuya is a cautious guy, therefore it's



puzzling why he suddenly trusts Mai to help him out. Maybe he immediately detected that Mai has great intuition about people, a skill he could use to his advantage later.

Ghost Hunt moves at a slow pace. I haven't made up my mind if Shiho Inada's adaptation of Fuyumi Ono's novel is successfully entertaining; however, the manga is an intelligent read. The first volume seems introductory, trying to paint in all the characters we may meet again in successive volumes. Hopefully we'll learn more about the mysterious Kazuya, how he knows so much about psychic phenomena, and where he got the money to buy his grand collection of recording equipment.

The cover graphic featuring the leads gets a spooky boost from a small B&W photo negative, inserted in the background, of a pigtailed schoolgirl whose back is turned to the viewer. Inada-sensei's panel drawings are neat and professional. In novelist Fuyumi Ono's closing note, she writes, "[E]ach of the characters in ***Ghost Hunt*** perfectly matches with the images I have from my original novel." The compatibility between the novelist and manga creator is high.

Ghost story buffs might like the manga. There's a hint of a possible romance developing between Kazuya and Mai, which makes me curious enough to pick up a future volume to see what happens.

Written: October 23, 2005

Published: November 1, 2005

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