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Kizuna: Bonds of Love #5by [Kat Avila](#)

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Publisher**Be Beautiful**<http://www.bebeautifulmanga.com>**Credits**

Writer: Kazuma Kodaka

Artist: Kazuma Kodaka

Distributor: Be Beautiful

Translator: Melanie Shoen

ISBN: 1-933440-06-6

Grade: 9

At the end of volume 4 of ***Kizuna: Bonds of Love***, Kei Enjoji has decided to buy engagement rings for him and his lover Ranmaru Samejima. The salesclerk says, "I'm sure your girlfriend will be surprised!" To which Enjoji laughs nervously and thinks to himself, "Except that it's my boyfriend."

Unfortunately, Enjoji never gets to surprise Ran-chan. He is knocked unconscious after following someone who resembles his younger brother Kai Sagano. The person turns out to be a drug-dealing impersonator, part of a bitter Tsuneya Family conspiracy to bring down the Sagano Family and to start a gang war between the Kansai region's Shoryukai (Sagano



Family) and the Kanto region's Shohokai (Ozu Family). Volume 5 turns up the heat further.

For those readers new to the urban-drama yaoi classic ***Kizuna: Bonds of Love***, there are three significant pairings at the moment: Kei Enjoji and the more sensible Ranmaru Samejima; Enjoji's half-brother Kai Sagano and Kai's yakuza bodyguard Masanori Araki; and a pair of hit men who were introduced in volume 4, namely Tashiro and his former mentor, now rival, Mr. J.B. or Jack.

With Enjoji in the hands of the vengeful Tsuneya Family, Ranmaru races against the clock to save his lover. In a subplot, the strength of J.B. and Tashiro's past relationship is tested as they may have to eliminate the other in order to protect their yakuza clients. With suspense boiling over all sides, the reader will be cursing about having to wait until volume 6 for the resolution.

Like Kai Sagano, I enjoy seeing Ranmaru in warrior mode (see the ferocious panel on page 178), his brows knitted in concentration, his eyes blazing with the fierce intensity that made him a national kendo champion while in high school. This time Ran-chan has a real sword in his hands, and he has the capability to kill.

What makes ***Kizuna: Bonds of Love***, volume 5, a great buy is the cute bonus story with angel lookalikes of our golden couple. Ranmaru's winged twin is absolutely adorable (Mom, can I have one?), and he has taken a shine to the unangel-like Enjoji. *An Angel Came Down* is a refreshing spritz of light fantasy after the weighty drama of Kazuma Kodaka's ***Kizuna***. Also in the back is part of an interview with Kodaka-sensei where she is asked what makes a good yaoi story.

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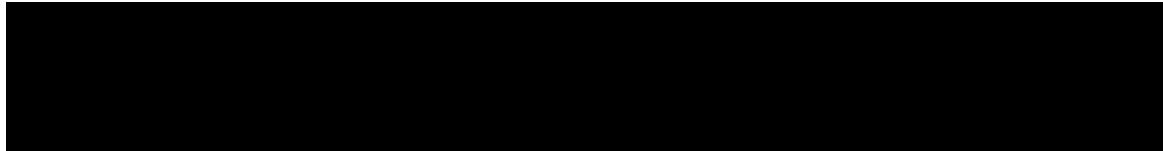
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