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Love Roma #2by [Kat Avila](#)

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

Writer: Minoru Toyoda

Artist: Minoru Toyoda

Distributor: Del Rey

Translator: David and Eriko
Walsh

ISBN: 0-345-48263-8

Grade: 7

Minoru Toyoda's drawing style is what catches your eye when you pick up a copy of **Love Roma**, which won a new cartoonist award. The main characters look somewhat like mannequins; their doll eyes spooky, lifeless, hollow. That impression is reinforced by the hero Hoshino's unself-conscious, robot boy behavior as he interacts with Yumiko Negishi, his first love. At one point, the high school freshman notes in wonder, "Making a smile uses my muscles." Hoshino-kun is Toyoda-sensei's Pinocchio.

Much of the comedy arises from Negishi-san's screaming in embarrassment over Hoshino's behavior and from their



classmates' enthusiastic encouragement of Hoshino's pure-hearted pursuit of love. Their circle of acquaintances includes sex-is-the-solution Yoshitsune and love rival Ryoko Sugimoto who wants Hoshino to go out with her instead.

Toyoda-sensei's simple but unique drawing style forces you to concentrate on the low-key script, since there's nothing pretty about the style. You might want to buy this "Tokyo local high school love comedy" to prove that manga-style drawing isn't as easily recognizable as all those popular drawing books make it out to be.

Written: February 22, 2006

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