



Model, Vol. 4

Lee So-Young

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We open with a dream in which it seems Jae sees Michael, but she isn't sure. A premonition of the future? We then follow Ken's story of growing up on the estate with Eva. Taking the job as Michael's servant allows Eva and Ken to stay together. But Ken hasn't yet met Michael. Ken almost stumbles upon the two adults one night, but Michael quickly disappears and three more years go past before Ken next encounters the vampire, this time in a giant underground swimming pool that ends up being Michael's bathtub! (Eva agrees to be Michael's servant because it's the only way she and Ken can stay together and also because Eva loves Michael and wants to be near him. Also, Eva isn't his real mother, though it's unclear how they came together.) Two more years pass before he officially meets Michael. He tells Jae that when he met him, he knew he wanted Michael to be his father. Jae is surprised because Ken seems to hate Michael so much, she assumed he always hated Michael. Years later, Ken returns from vacation and finds Michael and Eva in bed together with two other women. Ken's idea of being a family is destroyed and he begins to hate Michael. Jae tells Ken that she sees them as one family. Ken admits he came onto Jae to get between her and Michael because he didn't want Eva to be hurt. Now he says he's falling for her. Meanwhile, Michael asks Jae to be with Ken since he and Eva can no longer give him the love he needs. Then he tells her Eva is Ken's mother and they share the same soul. But then Michael talks to Adrian and we learn that there's been a plot about bringing Jae here all along. She's supposed to fall for Ken. Jae is about to reveal the big secret that Eva really is his real mother when she passes out-as does Ken. Michael and Adrian carry them away.

Model, Vol. 4 Details

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Anastasia says

3.25

I liked the extra chapter. Though it was a bit confusing because of the names. But still cute.

Kirsten says

I just found this volume didn't fit with the previous ones. I guess it was supposed to make some big revelation of character's pasts but I found by the end I was just like "what was that about?" I found it was also hard to tell from the art and the dialogue what was actually happening and what was a dream. Also continued difficulty identifying which character was which and who was speaking.

Grace Troxel says

This review originally appeared on my blog, Books Without Any Pictures:
<http://bookswithoutanypictures.com/20...>

Paranormal shojo manga has quickly become one of my guilty pleasures. I blame the series Model by Lee So-Young. I picked up the first volume at an anime convention last year, and I've been hooked. So hooked that I binge-read the last four books in a single afternoon.

In case you don't know anything about the series, the premise is pretty simple. A vampire named Michael invites a young artist named Jae to his home in order to paint his picture. In exchange, she has to let him indulge in some of her blood. When Jae arrives at the mansion, she quickly starts to uncover some of the secrets of its denizens, including the enigmatic housekeeper Eva, and Michael's "son" Ken. The synopses and commentary below contain mild spoilers for previous books.

Model Vol. 4 is the most disjointed of the series. It contains several dream sequences that reveal more about the characters' pasts. We get to go back in time and see when Eva and Ken first arrived at Michael's house, and it provides some insight into the relationships between the different characters. We see Ken's confusion as Eva goes from warm mother-figure to her cold housekeeper persona. In between the dream sequences, the love triangle between Michael, Jae, and Ken intensifies. Then the final dream sequence brings us to Jae's childhood, and an encounter she had with a restless ghost. The last dream sequence has some cultural implications that don't translate well in the English version of the story, and that could have used more explanation. And the events in the sequence aren't connected to the rest of the plot.

While I enjoyed Model Vol. 4 enough that I immediately picked up the next one and the next one and the next one, it suffered from middle book syndrome, and didn't feel as coherent as the other books in the series.

Jenny Clark says

Some character development here, and some secrets figured out. I do not like Ken at all... the kiss I could overlook, but the rest ummm nononono

Katie Umland says

I wasn't a fan of this series. I was just bored most of the time. I do have to say I liked the ending. But for the most part I never got into the story line. There were too many sudden character switches in the story line with, there was zero transitions. It was hard to follow at times. The art didn't help much. It wasn't horrible, but the male characters all looked the same and with some of the shadings it was hard to tell if it was the main male character or a different male character. I'm a fan of supernatural shoujo, but I only finished reading this series was because I had hopes it was just slow and would catch my interest by the end.

VampireNovelFan says

"Your tears...never show them to Michael."

In this fourth volume of the seven part series, we learn a lot more about Eva and Ken's past and how they came to live with Michael. Eva's reason for wanting Jae to live is a lot more understandable now. Also Ken comes to terms with his feelings for Jae. Was he playing her all along, or does he really love her? That's answered here.

I was a little annoyed with the back and forth regarding everyone's relation to each other. Is everyone blood-related or no? How did they become so distant? There's a lot of back and forth which makes it a little confusing. I also wasn't sure that I liked the introduction of souls into the story. If we all have two souls and one passes onto your child, what about if you have a second child? Do you die? The lore isn't very detailed like it could be.

The story isn't the most original, and the men are drawn so beautifully to the point of where they look like women, at least if they have long hair. The art style isn't really my favorite as the features are a bit disproportionate for my tastes, but it didn't hinder my enjoyment of the series. Jae's character could be worse. She makes pretty stupid decisions, but I do like that she stands up for herself every so often. And she certainly has her dedication to art. You can't deny that. This being the fourth volume, she is still consistent with goal of obtaining Michael's portrait. I noticed Jae's hair looks a bit different in this volume compared to the past. You may not think she's the same character. It seemed like it was covering her face less.

I purchased the whole series at once on Ebay for about \$30. It was an excellent deal and I've gladly kept every one. It is FAR from the best series, but I've certainly read worse.

*Review also posted to Amazon

Mary says

this book was so good!!! i cant wait to read the next one!!!

Christina says

I was happy to get more explanation, but then we were told it was all a dream?! Plus, what was that last chapter? I am so confused with this series. I think I'm going to have to reread the entire thing when it's done to see if it makes more sense.

Anna Rebecca says

In this latest installment of Jae and Michael's story we finally learn some of Eva, Ken and Michael's story and why Jae has become so important in Michael's house. Of course, there are still a lot of unanswered questions and half answered questions. As always, this book is satisfying enough to be enjoyable, but it leaves you wanting to pick up the next volume.

Leila Anani says

4th installment of this 7 volume gothic romance. A real flashback volume. The majority is taken up with Eva and Ken's backstory and how Ken came to resent Michael. Ken kisses Jae and the love-triangle deepens. There's a very odd additional story which seems to have Jae and Ken as different characters - Ken is the dead brother of Jae's grandmother and gran sends Jae to stop him haunting their house... odd.

Much more coherent than the last book, we finally get a few things answered. Detailed faces are wonderfully gothic, but I'm still not a fan of the elongated stick body style.

Katy says

This is my favorite cover thus far. The volume opens with a quick frame chapter which I thought was pretty, though maybe it didn't add much to the story. I really enjoyed baby!Ken's backstory with Michael, which comprised about half the volume. Ken's sexual aggressiveness toward Jae is sexy, but I think this is the moment where I lost a lot of respect and sympathy for him. At least he finally backs off, for now. Also at least he isn't manipulating Jae for his own purposes like Michael is. Overall, there was very little action in this volume--it's mostly Jae getting pushed and pulled. It feels like setup for the next volume.

My edition has a separate story at the end called "Scissors," which I enjoyed as a short, creepy story. I do have to critique the drawings--upon the first few readings, I thought the characters were Jae, Ken, etc because the faces look exactly the same. Still, it's a fun diversion.

Caroline says

Yay! Answers about Ken's past, and a bit about Eva's and Michael's. Jae confronts Michael and tells him to grow up a little and not figure that he knows what people feel and think. He reaches out to her a little more, so there's some romantic development there...they make a pretty good couple. They just have to figure themselves out, but that's what the other books in the series are for!
