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— Dru Pagliassotti

43. Is there anything else you want to say about boy's love manga, its fans, or why you like it?

BETTER THAN HETEROSEXUAL ROMANCES

- I think boy's love is beautiful. If you read romance novels, try a good yaoi. Although there's a lot of sex in some, the story lines are basically the same. The only difference, in my opinion, is that in yaoi, it's better than with a heterosexual couple because everything has become so normal...the tempers, tantrums, jealousy, pettiness...everything has just been repeated so much that it's normal and one forgets the essence of the of the love between the people in the relationship. Other than Mars, to me, it's all the same in boy/girl couples.
- "Normal" or straight manga is so, formulaic. It's a harlequin romance, almost, without any real variation except in the plot and the world it takes place in. Boy's love manga is unconventional, and a breath of fresh air in the cloying decay of manga thus far.
- Regardless of what people say, a large part of it is getting rid of the heroine: no competition!
- Part of what I like about yaoi is the style in which it's done. If I came across yuri or het stuff done as stylishly, I'd go for that as well.
- Sometimes when I read a shoujo manga, it makes me uneasy because of my dislike for some of the "useless and submissive" females featured in them. This has also carried on into my preference for BL manga where it's not appealing if the uke is made too feminine. When there's no more manliness, it's just like reading an ordinary shoujo manga, only with the uke having a penis. And I'm not in it for the sex alone, so it's not intellectually-stimulating enough to influence my emotions. As for the fans, I think there are many types of fans. Some who are in it for the sex, some who like the beautiful, pretty characters, some who are homosexual themselves, etc. Nothing out of the ordinary since diversity itself is considered normal...

- i like it because it is more exotic to me than same sex romance and much harder to obtain. you are practically showered with same sex romace by the media.it is much more difficult to find good films and books on boy's love. so i started to watch anime and read manga on this topic. but i hate stupid story lines and stereotypes. the ultra weak crying uke and the super dominant seme make me puke...
- It's strange that reading a genre full of codified (and gendered) roles could feel so subversive. But even if I can't have a happily-ever-after where I am, at least I can read of dreams of one.
- I think Boys' Love is extremely important as a means of purely female sexual expression. I think Boys' Love fandom is a very important look at how women enjoy talking about sexuality and sexual topics with other women in a group setting. It is not like straight porn -- men sitting alone watching movies/viewing magazines. Boys' Love is a very community driven form of sexual expression, empowering and enivigorating for women.
- I like BL manga because it gives women the rare opportunity to see men presented as the primary object of sexual interest. Unlike many BL fans I also enjoy real life depictions of sex between men and gay porn. The one aspect of BL manga that does not always appeal to me is the overblown romanticism. My favourite BL manga is Kizuna.
- It's hot! I like it because it isn't the same sort of thing that you'd find in het romance.
- Like women before us that got a thrill out of reading paperback romances, a good story can leave your worries behind, if only for a while. For the most part, it's just the gender that's changed. Also, it can be a lot wilder than those old Harlequin novels, and it allows us to confront some alternative/off the wall activities that might be hard to bear in real life. Sometimes it's a thrill, sometimes it's hilarious. In the end, I love men, and don't mind seeing them love each other sometimes.
- In a world where a girl is brought up to beleive that she is the damsel whom must wait for her knight in shining armor, Boy's Love is a perfect escape and get away from the norm, showing us that not everything has to fit the mold.
- The questions pretty much cover it all. However, I think when one studies the BL phenomenon, one of the most important things to consider is its seemingly unexplainable appeal to heterosexual woman. I've been reading BL manga for eight years, and the more I read (and write) it, the more I think it's appeal has to do with women wanting to read about love in a "fairy tale" sort of way but no longer finding the heterosexual approach to be able to deliver this sort of story. Mainly because RL experiences have make it obvious that love doesn't work like that, and the only way to make "fairy tale" love to be "believable" is to de-contextualize it from it's normal (man-woman) parameters.

- I know I'm distinct from most female fans of boys love as I prefer reading about men in heroic friendships which may or may not be erotic. The emphasis, for me, is on masculinity untempered by femininity, *not* seeing an "through the looking glass" echo of het relationships. Because of that I tend to be very particular in the manga I choose; a lot of "boy's love" manga/anime have characters I can't stand. Usually the hysterical, submissive, manipulative uke. I usually want to read stories about masculine men bonding and depending on each other in life and death situations, rather than constantly seeing the uke saved by the seme. Because of that I steer clear of a lot of "boy's love" stuff, although I do have a fondness for Fake and other texts like it, that depict men in more masculine settings.

PLOT & ART

- Well, if it's nicely drawn, and the story is good, I'll like it, but I'm not one for PWP (porn without plot) so... it's gotta have a reason. I'm not really one for rape/pain without a reason... but I'll keep reading after it if the story is good enough.
- It's entertaining, manga in general is entertaining. Story is what's important whether it's romantic, action or whatever, I like what I like boy's love is just part of that.
- I prefer BL manga that is written more like slash, the closer the better. A good article on the difference between Slash and yaoi if you do not have it is here:
<http://www.aestheticism.com/visitors/editor/index.htm>
- 1. Porn sans plot is boring. I don't care how pretty the art is -- if the story is utterly lame, uninteresting, or absent, forget it. 2. Scans are important for deciding on potential online purchases; the costs of import shipping equal zero urge to take risks on the unknown. 3. Translated manga are problematic. Not only are they far more expensive than the Japanese versions, but they also obliterate information (such as honorifics, titles) that tells you a great deal about how the characters regard each other. 4. In society, and most particularly in anime and manga, women are nearly always constrained to rigid (and tiresome) "woman" behaviors and roles. In the sort of BL I'm most fond of, the men don't act like women but often they don't really act like "men" either, not in the usual sense of observing all the societal expectations/hang ups. (Or, if they're not hang-up-free, they get over it in humorous or interesting ways.) Rather they seem to occupy a middle ground where they can simply behave like "people." Like a nice, liminal fantasy world.
- I don't really enjoy main-stream English-language BL fandom. I like reading the manga for certain authors whose storylines I enjoy. I guess it's easier to be a casual fan when you can get used volumes for \$1 each. Good luck with your research!
- BL is fantasy for the girls, and should not be mixed with Gay stuff, which denotes 'reality'. BL has evolved a lot over the years (since 1980s), and much has changed since Internet came around.. I hope that ppl will someday look back and realize the true meaning and concept of BL from Japan, and not associate it with all the trash we're seeing in the english Internet.

- I like it 'cause most of it is beautiful: relationships, human conscience, open-mindedness, beautiful art and stories, so many things. Thank you so much for researching about it.
- I'm very interested in shoujo manga, so I got in touch with shounen-ai/yaoi/BL. My interest is mainly academic but I like some of the stories.
- i just like to read it b/c it never really happens in real life
- Boys love manga is completely unrealistic, a fantasy love that you could only dream of experiencing. It would take two people of incredible character, strength and bravery to endure what these boys have to go through for the sake of their lives together. I think very few people could manage it. Their loyalty and devotion to each other is what makes boys love appealing to me.
- There are many misconceptions about what boy's love manga is. What is it to me? It can be sexually explicit, it can be story-driven, it can be completely eye candy, it can be a really great story. Personally, I won't read a poorly written story, even if the artwork is nice. I am against censorship, but in my country (America) there is a taboo against showing the male genitalia, especially if it's under "homosexual circumstances."
- Boys Love is almost a parallel to almost Romeo and Juliet because they can't really be "together" because of their gender. Even if they two boys get together, they'll still have to face the social pressure of being a homosexual couple and that's what makes it a well written boys love manga so romantic. It's like any romantic novel/book/movie/comic.
- Yaoi is not a realistic genre, it is for phantasm. It is more about fun than about sex. It is fun to imagine famous boys (from manga, from movies) together, even heterosexual ones. It is also a game to determine who would be seme and who would be uke.
- i like to read the manga cos the stories are great, that's all
- My favorite type of boy's love manga (and what I primarily read) is doujinshi. I love seeing "another side" to anime, manga, and video game characters, and the results that come about when authors try to fit two characters in a plausible romantic relationship. I find the fan-produced works to be often more complex and interesting than the published boy's love manga. Not to say that I don't read the published works, because I enjoy them a lot. It's just that a lot of boy's love manga tends to fall into certain stereotypical plot patterns, but fanfics and doujinshi can provide a different look. Like, say, a normally "uke"-typed character becomes a seme, and vice versa.

- I think that yaoi and shonen ai are just another genere in manga, like the erotic genere in literature. It should be viewed that way; and the stereotype that "comic's" are only for children should change.
- I really wish that there wasn't always a seme and an uke in BL manga. My favorites are definitely the ones that have an equal partnership but unfortunately those are extremely rare (Color comes to mind). I guess I just like the partners to switch it up again. I also hate rape in BL manga unless it's treated as such (meaning that they don't end up with the rapist).
- I'm really not a die-hard fan of explicit yaoi manga, and sometimes I prefer barely there subtext, rather than a dedicated shounen-ai manga. I think the subtext of a background (yet obviously there) relationship between two (male or female) characters in a shoujo manga is sweeter than a seme/uke type relationship, which I don't like in the first place, I prefer equality.
- As a feminist, I find that boy's love manga is more likely to contain relationships that seem free from constraints of sexual roles... However I lament that many of them, if not most, that appear in scanslations seem to perpetuate them (seme as male, uke as female, and "sex roles" and attitudes expressed about both). I like it most when I've found something that I feel is free from this. However I'm still willing to read BL manga twinges on my feminist nerves because it's easier on me to read it between men than between a man on a woman (esp. in a lot of BL manga that deal with some kind of psychological manipulation of the uke by the seme)
- It's important for people to realize that while fans of this genre find it stimulating and interesting in various ways, it's neither an attempt to distance ourself from the situation [as primarily females] nor out of any impression that this is the way 'real' gay or bisexual men behave. I know it's probably unrealistic. I accept that, and enjoy boy's love and yaoi for what it is regardless. My friends who are also fans are mostly the same in their views about it.
- I personally think there's an incredible difference between BL as a genre, slash as a genre, and then fandoms where mainstream texts are appropriated and 'slashed'... possibly to do with the cultural divide. A lot of girls, for instance, don't subscribe to the Japanese seme/uke notion, though it's interesting to see this emerge in a traditionally Western work, like Harry Potter, which is also appropriated by Japanese BL artists/writers.
- Academia's recurring misconceptions astound me, esp. regarding simple terminology. I think most BL fans are highly aware of (and interested in) their little culture, though. I find the majority of published BL uninteresting, but absolutely love my favourite stories. And the art is a big issue for me, I usually buy nicely printed tankoubon with beautiful artwork and might overlook a good plot if it was ugly looking. Oh, and I find my taste has grown up with me. When I was in highschool I liked fluffy romance, now I like darker more adult themes, I mainly read about similiar kinds of characters and

situations - I know what pushed my buttons. I do read mens' comics, too but not heterosexual romance, I cant identify with it at all. Hope this helps.

- I guess in general I would just like to say, that I don't look for boy's love manga in particular, but I do read it when I've heard a particular title has a good story and good characters.
- It's not just about the stereotypes of seme/uke. That's just the surface of the stories, and the obvious interpretations. Often there is much more depth emotionally and psychologically than the stereotypes would indicate.
- Its a growing genre :)
- Only that I hate the "Seme" and "Uke" stereotypes. It's there in yaoi, and you can't get away from it, but real life doesn't always put an uke and a seme together. Nor do I ever really find any uke or seme types...bottoms and tops, maybe, but rarely a "male" and "female" role.
- I think that like any genre as a whole boy's love can vary greatly from work to work. While some is of a high quality there is also some that is very badly done. I think it's important to recognize that and not equate the poorer works with the richer simply because they share a genre.

IDENTIFICATION & PSYCHOLOGY

- On the uke seme question I identify with the seme which is the top/aggressor.
- Reading boy's love manga help make me understand and appreciate people who are gays/lesbians. I find that they are just like any other people trying to live normal lives.
- give some new ideas for different kinds of life
- I love it because I can relate to the emotions the characters are experiencing. And its hot...
- I started to read BL a few years back, I don't ever recall being shocked by anything I've seen (though I've seen lots not to my personal taste). To me, I see BL as I see hetero romance novels - they are a way to implant yourself into a story, except with BL you can pretend you are not envisioning yourself in these roles (because "I'm a girl and those are two guys"). It's a little less guilt-inducing and shameful in that sense. Anyhow, that's my long-winded opinion that I've thought about researching one day. Good luck with yours! - [EMAIL ADDRESS DELETED BY RESEARCHER]
- I live in a culture (on a planet) that does not acknowledge female sexuality outside of its use to service the male. This has been a great hinderance to me my whole life. I was suprised and delighted to discover Yaoi as it has helped me to define for myself, in my

own terms, what is my sexuality. In a way, it has helped me to reclaim myself as an individual and a woman. I no longer have any guilt feelings about what I find erotic, nor in perusing erotic materials.

- If you are a woman yaoi is a "safe" relationship you can involve yourself in with no chance of being hurt.
- I like this genre because it's interesting to see gender issues through the eyes of another culture. I like to learn about other cultures and compare them to my own.

GAY RIGHTS

- I'm proud to say that I support all homosexual rights, and that they should have equal rights. I enjoy boy-love, girl-love, and boy and girl-love because there is love in them. I believe love is a very powerful thing, no matter if it is same sex or not.
- Boys Love manga helped me to explain my reasons for supporting same sex relationships and made my friends more accepting of the idea as a whole. It's a great topic of conversation, because it is so multidimensional.
- -Though I realize the characters and situations in BL are not very realistic, I think that it is helpful in getting people to think about real gays and gay couples, and the treatment they receive from modern society. In other words, it turns gays from a faceless "them" into real people. -I don't look for Girl's Love, but I will read it if I come across it. I don't look for it because, similar to Boy's Love being written by women, Girl's Love is mostly written by men in a "lesbian fantasy" sort of way. If there were more women-authored GL manga available, I would like to read them. - Rather than ask when I first bought BL manga, you might ask when I *became interested* in BL. I was reading shounen-ai and yaoi fanfiction for years before I ever bought a book.
- There are two sides to boy's love manga in connection with the gay marriage issue: 1) Boy's love manga promotes gay relationships and increases the amount of people who approve of said relationships and 2) Boy's love manga devalues gay relationships by setting stereotypes and using them to get silly teenagers sexually excited. I believe that boy's love manga does both of these things, and should be read with an open heart and mind to avoid the devaluing part.

THE NATURE OF LOVE

- One simple quote I saw on a piece of fanart sums up the feeling of the entire boy's-love fandom, I think: "Love knows no gender."
- Some of the truly great series (Gensomaden Saiyuki, Yami no Matsuei, Legal Drug, Gundam Wing...) are either not explicitly shounen-ai, or are not Shounen-ai at all. The appeal to me is the oblique, hidden nature of the character's feelings for each other. Secret love is the most exciting love of all...

- Boy's love is something that I've found is as natural as heterosexual love. There was never any divider separating the two at all in terms of what's acceptable in love and romance.
- Love that is harder to get, is much more precious.
- I will continue reading boys love mangas despite the discrimination I have faced from some people I know. What I love the most about Boys Love manga is the idea of a soul mate that transcends gender. I find that really sweet and really romantic. I am so very grateful to all the creators who were strong enough to take the risk of creating stories and manga in the Boys Love genre. Thank You!

SEX & SEXUALITY

- Personally, I think a lot of heterosexual women, especially those living in paternalistic (Asian) societies enjoy BL manga because it follows that one questions the issue of empowerment and the possibly rediscovering what is most important in any given relationship, be it sexual or of non-sexual nature. While it's good that academics such as yourself are bringing this study into the mainstream, it is worth bearing in mind that one of the most seductive point about enjoying BL manga is its 'elusiveness' and in most cases, the ability to remain 'faceless' and 'nameless' fans. Unfortunately, suppression of sexual needs and wants remain taboo for many heterosexual (Asian) women, and even if we admit to being 'fans' in online surveys and whatsnot, it will be a long time before any of us will find the courage to admit such preferences openly any time soon.
- We shouldn't be psychoanalyzing it. It's something that gets it's fans hot. There really isn't more to it than that.
- bottomline is, it's sexy and tickles fangirls'(mostly) senses in ways i doubt anybody will ever be able to put exactly into words. => (same thing why some guys like yuri, i spose.)
- There really doesn't need to be any deeper meaning to liking BL other than just liking romance or sex. Men like sex and same sex pornography, women do to. It is what it is.
- I'd like to say that it is such a shame that people are so completely narrow-minded in my country. There is nothing wrong with boy's love, whatever the context, and they should learn to not take it so personally. It's not like it's being forced on them or constantly shoved in their faces. They, being those passionately against it, need to grow up and ignore it instead of protesting it like it's really evil or something. The way they act about it in my country is just ridiculous and completely hypocritical in reference to the claim of this being a "free and just country" etc.

- BL is a great way to be entertained by sexually exciting material without having to deal with the porn that's made for boys. I love seeing beautiful boys get it on. Non-con is GREAT. Where else can you read or see non-con and have it be ok?
- I think that the boy's love phenomenon is how women today are taking their libidos into their own hands without feeling like outcasts or social misfits. It's very nice to know that you aren't weird because you like to look at naked men and touch yourself.
- It's about time. It's for women. We don't have much out there for us that allows us to be in charge of our sexuality. I've seen the studies that "prove" women are not visually excited by graphic sexual images, but those are images made by men for men. They concentrate on the pretty woman and the man half the time is not even attractive. What woman wants to see that? Women don't want to watch women having sex. I would be interested to see if you'd get the same results showing women yaoi or boy's love. We are not that different than men ... we like what we see ... if we see what we like. BL shows us what we want to see, beautiful boys in love and acting sexy, and with a story to boot. ^ _ ^
- Yummy?!?!
- I enjoy boy's love manga because of the cute interaction between characters, awkward moments, angst, the slow but surely dawning love, though the steamy sex scenes are a plus too xD
- I have primarily been very interested in m/m eroticism since a young teenager before I've heard of BL/yaoi. It's always turned me on.
- I'd say that you are doing some important research, in fact I am pursuing studies in boy's love as I think that it allows access to hidden aspects of culture that very few other genres or entertainments allow. Boy's Love is very important to me and I was astounded to find that there is a genre so rich and varied that correlated so strongly with my own desires.
- I think that when factors of differences in gender are removed (ie hetero relationships) what remains can be distilled down to what love and intimacy really means. But let's face it two teenage boys falling in love discovering their feelings for each other is just plain HAWT!
- For me, the draw of yaoi/slash/etc rests on two things: (1) I find stories and illustrations about male/male relationships erotic, and (2) I am intrigued by the emotional content of the stories because I don't see men interacting with each other at an intimate emotional level, and I find the tenderness of two men sharing emotional intimacy to be fascinating and beautiful.
- I would like to say that I know there are many theories about why women like BL manga, but I don't really believe most of them - I think it's just sexy and can be part of a natural progression of interest for women manga fans as they "grow up." I also think many BL fans get a bad reputation for their jealousy, but in reality, girls just love to

express themselves and they are getting "braver" (more open?) about it as they (women) become more independent and individual, and this includes sexually. Lastly, I really enjoy a lot of BL manga because of its high levels of angst, which I didn't see represented in the questions on the survey (though I could be mistaken). Also, with regards to the "what is never ok in BL manga" question -- all subject matters are ok with me in general, but I admit to not particularly liking many rape or physical torture stories. I can only take those in small doses - i prefer love/curiosity/fun in the sex in the BL manga I read. Thank you for the survey.

- I think the rise of the popularity of the yaoi fandom in America has something to say about the women's rights and increasingly positive attitude about expressed sexuality in women.
- The sex is just hot
- I absolutely love boy's love manga, especially with pretty boys with long hair. ^_^ I just get completely engrossed in a good, smutty boy's love manga.

TRANSGRESSIVE SEXUALITY

- After studying the social aspects of the genre, what I like best about it is that on its most basic level, it's an opportunity for Japanese woman to see a story in which the individuals involved in these relationships are equals and have the romance of a straight relationship, and yet have the freedom to move through society that the male body gives them. I think that some of the fans are too young these days (having had a 7 year old come up to me and say, "I like yaoi" I still think it's important for people to see that there's nothing wrong with a same-sex relationship, so I hope that the fan base does grow.
- It's a literacy genre which some people don't understand or is afraid of because of taboos about the sexuality.
- I'd say i like it because of the "taboo-ness" of the subject matter. Its not something everyone likes which makes it different and new, plus i guess im just curious.
- One of the many reasons I like it is because it seems a little more sincere than heterosexual relationships. I don't know why. It also seems a little more exotic because, by society's standards, it's taboo. Plus, bishounen are fun to play with. *laughs*

DESIRE FOR MORE

- I think there should be more of it and it should be sold in book stores everywhere. This is the first thing I've loved and never drifted away from, it also keeps me from being desperate for my own relationship, I just wish I could see and learn more about it
- Boys Love, Yaoi, Shonen Ai and Gay themed Anime, Manga etc. Rox!! I will support it forever -I currently own every Yaoi manga released in English- and will never

ever support the disgusting genre known as yuri and shojo ai etc. its absolutely gross and should rot away. I can't stress this enough.

- I would like to say that i love boy's love manga and stories and that i hope to see more quality works come to the US in the future. As far as fanworks, I think there are some very very talented fans out there and i also enjoy their works very much. I just finished *Only the Ring Finger Knows* and i found the story very sweet and the characters endearing.

- Some poorly-organized comments for you: However off the mark it is in terms of representing reality, I'm very happy about the pro-gay message that is delivered along with the BL porn. I am pleased that the few BL titles being published in English in the US are available at chain bookstores (though I worry that when Borders figures out they're selling porn to young girls the titles will be pulled). However, I am disappointed that mostly old, tired titles seem to be the licensees. There are a number of mangaka who could probably be more successful in the US than they are in Japan based on drawing style/storylines, and the US publishers should be putting more thought into their licensing choices. I still buy pretty much everything that shows up just to support the *idea* of BL manga as a viable product, but my favorite titles will probably always be available as fan translations only. I am much older than most of the very active BL manga community online and don't really participate - except for public posting of the BL manga slash that I have written. Even though the most vocal subset of the fans seem to be teenagers, I've met many people nearer my own age - whom I've met through other genre slash writing - who are interested in BL manga, either as their initial online fannish activity or by way of slash and a sort of fandom "drift." I've been online for about 15 years but discovered the entire concept of fannish community just three or four years ago. Despite my lifelong fascination with Japan, I doubt I would have ever seen any BL manga were it not for the very international and share-happy nature of online life. It's interesting to me that manga is almost entirely marketed to children - and is usually in the children's section of the bookstore - regardless of content or intended audience. Neither the publishers nor the retailers seem to have any awareness of who the readers are, or that they span all age groups and genders. I am one of those people who refuses to read a manga in translation if the book opens from the right and not the left. I can't explain even to myself why I feel so strongly about this, but I'm a huge snob about the "authenticity" of the manga I read. I'd love to be able to read whatever results you come up with, in whatever final form they take. Not knowing if I get a chance on the next screen(s) to do so, I'm providing my e-mail here in hopes that you'll let me know when/where your conclusions are published. [EMAIL ADDRESS DELETED BY RESEARCHER] If I might be of any further use in terms of this project, please feel free to contact me.

- I think it's great that publishing companies are seeing that BL manga is a real market in the US. Ten years ago, I don't think people could even think that titles like *Kizuna* or *Love Mode* would be picked up for release here. It's also interesting to watch how the manga/anime scene continues to grow in the US. People keep saying that the bubble will burst (if it hasn't already) and that company interest will go down, but still,

it's a huge difference now than in the 90's. It's a good time for a general anime/manga fan, and it's becoming more so for those in niche markets like BL.

- I honestly enjoy it. I'm appalled by people who offer easily accessible manga online for free; support your damn artists! But if its rare, or in a language that is not translated as often, that's a bit more okay. But still! Manga is to be shared, but let's keep our artists producing.
- I think more boy's love manga should be released in the US.
- Hope BL's world will grows much more! ^^v
- I hope to see a lot more of it translated in English for the USA. Now that would be a dream come true.
- I wished more were offered in regular bookstores.
- I feel that when it is translated by big companies, such as Tokyopop, it should be a DIRECT translation, and not just "geared for the participating country's audience" as so many seem to be. I understand that many cultural things get lost in translation, but I'm still capable of figuring out how to find out what they might mean (the cultural references) or at least the company could put in explanations of what the cultural refernces mean. I know I'm not the only one that feels this way!
- i wish more stuff would become available in the UK, there are only like 3/4 general anime conventions a year so there is no hope for yaoi conventions which is completely unfair. as much as i like yaoi and shounen-ai, i cant explain why. it is more that i obsess over certain couples, sometimes yaoi, sometimes hetro, and will find as much stuff on them as possible. i would buy more anime and manga if they were available without having to overpay on shipping etc. ebay is a good place for gatefolds of a whole series for a good price, but then i feel like it is not supporting the creators as its not buying the offical product! life is hard :P
- One thing that the survey does not seem to mention is BL novels, which makes up a substantial proportion of BL publishing in Japan and often leads to manga or anime adaptations. I read quite a bit of BL novels in addition to BL manga. In fact, most of my BL fan friends do so too. We also play BL games and share BL drama CDs. (I should point out that most of my friends are bilingual in Japanese, Chinese, and/or English, which provides us with ample access o available products) Another thing I'd like to clarify is around the issue of manga scanlations. I do translate manga and novels, but I post only the text online. This is very different from scanlations, which assumes that the translated text is inserted in place of the original Japanese and posted with the pictures online. The legal boundaries are somewhat ambiguous in Japan, no doubt, but I think that Japanese publishers tend to pay more attention to scanlations than text translations and have indeed sent letters threatening legal action to scanlation websites to that effect.

- Not alot of boy's love manga is offered in the U.S, which is why not many americans are interested in it. The people I know that are interested in boy's love are few and far apart. I think the U.S. should import more boy's love so that other people, who don't run across it on accident on the internet, can also enjoy it.
- More people should know about it!
- I hope it continues to grow in popularity and encourages the world to be more tolerant and understanding.
- We need more of it published in English. Esp series, vs one-shots. We need LOTS more.
- More should be in the States then ever like movies books! the more the better
- Bring more yaoi to the US.
- Spread the boy's love manga to the world!

TASTE/HOBBY

- it's awesome
- I could write something completely logical as to why I like boys love mangas and doujinishis where even the non-yaoi fans will understand. But that would be utter crap. I don't know why I like it, I just do. I like it like I like chocolate. No one asks me why I like chocolate, because it's just a matter of taste. Well, the same goes for yaoi. It's just a matter of taste. ^^
- Yaoi IS a good thing.
- I still don't know why I like it... e.e;;
- Because its great :)
- It is simply a hobby. One that sometimes overwhelms the fan, but, still.
- BL manga is an off-and-on hobby for me. I enjoy it, but only in small doses. It's supremely brainless. :D
- That "Because I do" is **always** an acceptable answer to "Why do you like this stuff?".
- When I see things like this, I find myself wondering why the reasons are so important. I like boy's love. I like shoujo-ai and yuri too, actually. And I like a lot of things in between. I love manga for the stories it tells with gorgeous art and a lot of

careful work on the part of the manga-ka. Yeah, sometimes I even just like the smut, graphic or not. Do I (or anyone else) really need a reason? I don't think we need to justify liking something.

- It's not that big of a deal to me. Just another genre I enjoy reading. I don't attach any uber-specialness to it just because it has two guys as the romantic leads.
- Many people have asked me why I like BL, but I really don't know~ I've tried to come up with an answer, but I guess it's just too hard to express the reason why. I just know that I absolutely love it, and for me, there's nothing else <3

COMMUNITY ISSUES

- To me it's all fantasy, a chance to get away. I love to read or watch two very handsome guys hitting on each other. It's very exciting to me, and mainly it's fun and I have made new friends too, because of my hobby.
- The slash/yaoi fandoms are so fun. They have such nice people (the ones that I've met).
- A lot of what I get out of it is the social aspect - interacting with other fans. It's more important than the actual manga, and the primary reason I'm in the fan communities. There's also no deep reasons I like it - it's fun. The reason I don't read much yuri/shoujo-ai is that I can't actually find much - I'd read more if I had more.
- I don't think you can generalize about fans of anything. People are unique and have different experiences and perspectives.
- I must say most of my fandom is shown at conventions, and I am proud to show that I am a fan there. But at home, I stay secluded with my fandom and use novels and the computer for my source of knowledge in the subject of Yaoi and Shonen-ai. Also, you didn't include the sexuality 'Pansexual' In your sexuality, nor did you put 'transgender'. you should change that ^^; I'm personally Pansexual and a virgin. Thank you very much for this survey, I hope it turns out well :D
- You really de-emphasized story quality as a motivation for reading BL, and seemed never to ask if I decided based on quality from a mixed group of het and BL. I am an atheist not because I have no religious preference but because I think religion is toxic. I participate more in BL fandom online because of the quality of the other fans. For one thing, BL fans can accept that other people have other views without getting so upset.
- I see BL manga as an offshoot of shoujo manga and romance novels (both of which I like). Chick lit. And it's been disrespected by most academics just like they disrespect Romance novels (annoyed "feminist" tangent: no one, however, ever disrespects organized sports as "repetitive opiate of the masses" or starts pathologizing its fans or whatever). Here's hoping you do a better job! Some BL is great and transcends

genre (Moto Hagio) and some is enjoyable pap (Minami Ozaki), and some of it's just fangirls having fun making macho fighting game characters fall soppyly in love with one another. Most of it, though, unless it serves the story, has little connection with "realism" or "gay issues"--except perhaps inuring young chicks, who might otherwise have found it icky, to the idea of 2 men together. Thumbs up to you for actually doing research on this instead of just making up a bunch of conclusions after some half-hearted interviews. There's a huge variety of BL and BL fans... good luck trying to make sense of it all!

- It's cute and it's cool. The fandom is genki! Glad to see many new titles published in translation now.

- I think the fandom and fanworks are not "stealing" profit from the authors, as it is often said. Fanworks contribute to, as we say, "spread the love". A question you didn't ask but that you should have is: "IF you can download a manga from the net, would you buy it still?" Answer: I would more likely buy a manga I've partially or totally read online than a manga I've never had access to. That's all.

- Fans of boy's love are often "outcasted" in their real lives. Hence, they are lonely individuals. They only find comfort with friends online because those are the only people who would not look at their obsession with disgust. In my opinion, boy's love is an outlet for frustration. It provides an escape from the harsh reality.

- Hello. Great topic you're picking. I'm sure it'll be the next big thing in academic pop culture. I did my own honors thesis on the American Yaoi fandom. Stressful and revealing to say the least... [URL DELETED BY RESEARCHER] Some comments: I'm surprised you didn't include "impreg" in question 17. So many fans really hate that. I don't care, but I am curious as to how many put that in "other". When I read 19 and 20, I thought about one of my all time favorite pairings and few of the positive attributes you listed fit them. I wanted to see "vain", "bastard", "klutz" or "hateful", but alas... Question 22 was hilarious. "Not in my country". For 23 and 24, I think "either" should have been a choice. I know it'd complicate things, but in real life, when you interact with various people, you put on a different you. "I'm a seme with Joe, but Bob likes to be on top. Mary can never decide." Same with the gender question, although I completely understand why there're only two choices. Overall, I'm a really typical yaoi fangirl. I don't fit into the Aestheticism crowd because I don't like to analyze too much, and I'm careless about my fandom. However, they're great resources for info. Me email: thepockster@gmail.com Good luck!

- Boycott scanlations. Re-publishing an artist's work without permission isn't "fannish."

- The mangas are hot, the fans are great and I like it because I like it!

- I'll be interested in seeing what your results look like, though I staffed for [CON NAME DELETED BY RESEARCHER] for six years and, judging from the average age of attendees (15 in 2005), I think you're eliminating a huge body of interested people

(teenaged girls) from your research, people who are moving and shaking the genre despite being technically not-old-enough to read and/or view smut of any flavor. I understand the difficulty involved in studying what underaged people do with their smut, but I assure you that rather a lot of it is read, written, and proliferated by persons who aren't yet eighteen... and overlooking that segment of the BL-consuming population is likely going to queer your results, not in a good way. It's a subversive genre, in some ways, and its primary audience, at least in Japan, is younger girls. Here, due to our really odd and puritanical views about t3h s3x0r and minors, the age enjoying this sort of thing is skewed upward in "official" research. Out on the 'net, the people reading and writing and drawing this stuff are younger than that. Sure, they all click "Yes, of course I am over 18" because if they don't, then they don't get to read the smut. D'oh. A couple of years back, there was a hue and a cry on a mailing list [NAME REMOVED BY RESEARCHER] I was on because they were going to restrict it to persons over eighteen and I wrote a post about it:[URL DELETED BY RESEARCHER] It is insane and stupid that our country pretends persons under eighteen are 100% nonsexual. It's the way things are, I guess, but willful denial of observed reality is pretty darned stupid, if you ask me.

- I've been a fan since about 1998 (though I didn't get my first BL manga until 2001, when I began studying Japanese), and I find it amazing to have watched the genre EXPLODE over the past couple years!
- I got into yaoi when it was still fairly underground. Now, that I think about all the younger girls getting into yaoi through manga such as Gravitation and Only the Ring Finger Knows, the fandom and genre on the broad aspect is becoming bastardized. I think this way because of the flaming that happens if someone who is in the boy's love/yaoi fandom says something that is different from everyone else's viewpoint, this person is ostracized. Yaoi used to be underground and I that is the way it should have stayed.
- I just hope that the boy's love manga fandom doesn't get hijacked like slash fandom where it became a political gay rights forum. there's nothing wrong with being heterosexual and just enjoying what you read
- There are a lot of theories on why BL exists and why people like it. I myself do not know...I'll acknowledge the fact that the genre is nearly exclusively created by straight females, and that its fans are largely the same. I can't really say what the draw is, though...two pretty boys are better than one? Its nice to see men like we want men to be, romantic and caring? The sex is hot?etc? Who knows... I do find it kind of baffling why BL draws so many preteen girls...a little disturbed as well, but I guess its not my place to police them. All I can say is that in the US, the new boom in commercially translated manga seems to be looked upon as a rather unsophisticated pursuit for preteens and teens. Young fans of a more innocent manga may pick up an explicit BL manga not knowing what it is, and bam, they're introduced to another world, for better or worse. I don't really think the US is ready for BL. They aren't ready to take it as "written by women for women", to them its still gay porn. Maybe I'm wrong, but then why do we find 12-13 year old girls hiding their manga from their parents? Its just a rather thought-provoking phenomenon. I think the companies could do better with marketing mature manga to a

more mature audience and not censoring or trying to push the manga to the same audience as say...Sailormoon... They could make the subject matter more apparent, and market it as is without the glitz of bubblegum pop like they slapped on "Eerie Queerie" (what a name...what. a. name. I guess "Ghost" wasn't marketable enough). They could make shrink wrapping their manga a standardized practice. They could put a more apparent warning label (as much as I hate the idea of BL getting a big CAUTION sign, its still sexually explicit material) on it so children aren't picking it up. I dont really care if an underaged person picks up a sexually explicit BL manga, and if they're mature enough to understand it as fantasy and like it, so much the better. The only part I object to is the misunderstanding of the genre as just another fad for a very desirable marketing niche or as some gross social deviance.

- Yaoicon is the best!
- The fans are the same as any other fandom, they range from minor fan to psychotically obsessed.
- It's the most beautiful thing I've ever encountered. The relationships generally have more depth than hetero, and the dedicated fans are inspirational. I have been reading about graphic male relationships since I was 11, and had to hide in my room with the door locked to enjoy it, because then I was afraid, ashamed someone would find out. Years later and I am proud of the genre, of the years other faithful fans have created works of art for it. Though it saddens me that with this new wave of anime fans, many are unintelligent and ignorant, and spout misinterpreted facts and common, base ideas as if they are experts on the subject. I find that sometimes I feel ashamed once again, since these sad fools make a mockery of my childhood love, and then I feel angry at the same time, since they know nothing of what they speak of. I've just graduated high school, and from here on I want to go into the manga/doujinshi world. I want to be around what I love, and I want to try and create even one more story that would appeal to intelligence, to older fans who can't find a good DJ amongst a pile of fluff. I guess I want to distinguish myself from the oh-so-common 'screaming fan-girl,' and create beauty that even they can't taint.
- I find it sad that BL stuff has become so popular in recent years. It is hard to find stuff that only the few, seasoned fans have heard about. (mostly online) So when me and my buddies find something, no one hears about it besides us. I get upset when something is licenced unless I can't find it /anywhere/ Also, I and my friends really read BL for the story, not much else. If characters are well developed and the story makes sence, then most likely we will like it. Oh, and LONG LIVE EARL CAIN!!!♥
- Admittingly, the fandom can be scary at times, but we all can seem scary to outsiders, and I'd say if anything that this helps keep us closer together as a group.
- You can usually tell how long a person's been a fan- the newer the newbie the louder the squeals. Always found it intresting. Young slash fangirls are a scary sight to behold o_o

- I'm not sure why BL has such a huge fan-base. Heck, I'm not even sure why I like it. I just know I love it. I buy BL manga, English and Japanese, buy some dvds, and I would buy BL games if they ever come to America. I can't imagine how the fanbase is in Japan, but I can't wait to see and meet these people myself! Surprisingly, I've learned a lot about Japan through BL manga. It's not only about the sex, but their lives. It can be about Kendo, Tea Ceremony, salary men, musicians, school boys, archery, ninja, folk tales, ancient Japan, fantasy, everything! When scanlators/translators translate well and include a lot of cultural notes, it's educational, at least, Japanese culture-wise, if anything. I don't know, BL manga, and BL fandom in general, is a part of me and my life, and I can't imagine how it would be without it.
- I love the fans of boy's love in that they are usually so open minded and enthusiastic.
- Some fans (usually in the teenage age bracket) are overzealous about their BL hobby. Forcing BL upon others, or bashing those that enjoy hetero or yuri works is in bad form and only does the BL community a disservice.
- I've been a fan of Boy's Love - in all applicable media - for over a decade. I became interested in it before it hit the mainstream American market, so I definitely consider it more than a passing fad. Even if it loses some of the great popularity it now enjoys among female anime/manga fans in the US, I think the genre has a lot of devoted fans and is here to stay for a long while.
- I like it because in general it avoids 'mary sues' which is usually the female author writing herself into the story and having practically everyone fall in love with her. The one thing that I really don't like about the slash/yaoi community is that in general the fans always portray the female love interest as an evil bitch. This is not fair to the character. But in general I love yaoi/slash/real people slash more than het or yuri
- It's fun, plain and simple. It gives a sense of power almost to know we have the ability to create these works that entertain, or can support those who create them. There is a sense of comradeship, fellowship, amongst fans, almost like you are part of a secret club that no one knows about but you.

OTHER

- nope
- No
- [INFORMATION ABOUT BL RESEARCH BEING CONDUCTED IN ANOTHER COUNTRY DELETED BY RESEARCHER DUE TO IDENTIFYING/IDENTIFIABLE CONTENT]

- No, not really.
- Thank you for all the entertainment.
- Nothing to say, but I think it would be interesting to know the results of this survey.
- I think that it's admirable that your researching boys love. I feel like allot of the theories about the physiological and sociological make up of the boys love fandom are outdated or inaccurate. Hopefully your research will open up new avenues in to this somewhat secretive subculture. If you have any further questions please don't hesitate to write me at [EMAIL ADDRESS AND URL REMOVED BY RESEARCHER]
- I don't think there is.
- none
- Not particularly.
- No.
- You do realise that "Boy's Love" is more aimed towards shounen-ai over yaoi. Basicly, BL doesn't contain very much sex, so classifying it as the same as yaoi is actully incorrect ;)
- Nope
- You pretty much hit everything already.