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Spice And Wolf, Vol. 2 - Light Novel



Synopsis

Following his good fortune in Pazzio, Lawrence is confident that he is on the path to realizing his dream of becoming a town merchant. One ill-informed business decision, though, leaves him teetering on the brink of bankruptcy and ruin! With no assets to his name - other than the cunning of his fetching traveling companion, Holo the Wisewolf - Lawrence may need to resort to illicit means to put his affairs in order. With all of the merchant's plans hinging on one beautiful young shepherdess - for whose vocation Holo holds no affection - Lawrence's prospects, both personal and professional, are looking grim!

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Customer Reviews

by Matt ReevesIt's a sad fact that sequels usually fall short of their original predecessor. Very few times do authors manage to replicate the success generated by their first novel. This is especially true of bestselling books, for which expectations can be raised quite high in anticipation for their release. In truth, sequels can be a very daunting task for any author. Not only are the world and the characters no longer new, but you are now faced with the task of making everything seem even more magical than it had before. A sequel can at times make or kill a book series's future, not to mention an author's potential career. So of course, when I picked up the second book of Spice and Wolf, I was slightly worried. Would Hasekura's sequel fall short of my own high expectations? Could he make me fall in love with his world all over again? For those unfamiliar with the book series, Spice and Wolf is the story of an average trade merchant and his not so average traveling companion. It's set against the backdrop of Medieval Europe during the strict rule of the Roman Catholic Church

and introduces a world to readers that is as foreign as it is familiar. So what makes this book series stand out so much from the rest? The merchant's young companion of course. Though you'd never realize it by the way she dresses, she's a wolf. No, I'm not describing her personality. She's literally a wolf, a living breathing wolf in human form. To make a long story short, she entered into an agreement with the young merchant. As long as she repays all her expenses, she can accompany him on his way north towards her old homeland.

I, as an avid reader of practically any medium, was stupefied by this novel. I was only able to get the second volume of the Spice and Wolf light novel series at the time and honestly, I was very skeptical at first. Medieval economics is a strange topic to say the least, but I picked it up after a friend recommended it. Ta-da! And now here I am with nothing but praise for the tale of Kraft Lawrence and his traveling companion Holo the Wise Wolf. A short synopsis - Lawrence and Holo continue along with their journey and proceed to make a deal with a trader who isn't as honest as once thought. Soon enough the pair come across Nora, a young lady working as a shepherd until she can pay to become a seamstress in a guild. Holo isn't pleased with Lawrence paying her to act as an escort to protect them from wolves with her trusty shepherd dog, but accepts his desire to be helpful. After arriving in the city of Ruginheign, they discover what they had believed to be a profit was actually a burden that could destroy Lawrence's career as a traveling merchant. Cue plotting to save Lawrence from being taken to pay off his debt as he only has two days to pay it back in full... The book is well written and the dialogue is witty and enjoyable. It is as if you could imagine these people talking in real life. The characters personalities are very memorable and Holo stands out of the crowd of characters in this novel and many others for her cleverness and cunning that is rare to find in literature now days. Many novels - both regular novels and light novels - fall flat when trying to create their main leads. I very highly doubt I will forget Holo and Lawrence. And on to the art! The pictures are drawn in a manga style, which adds to the novel's over all charm.

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