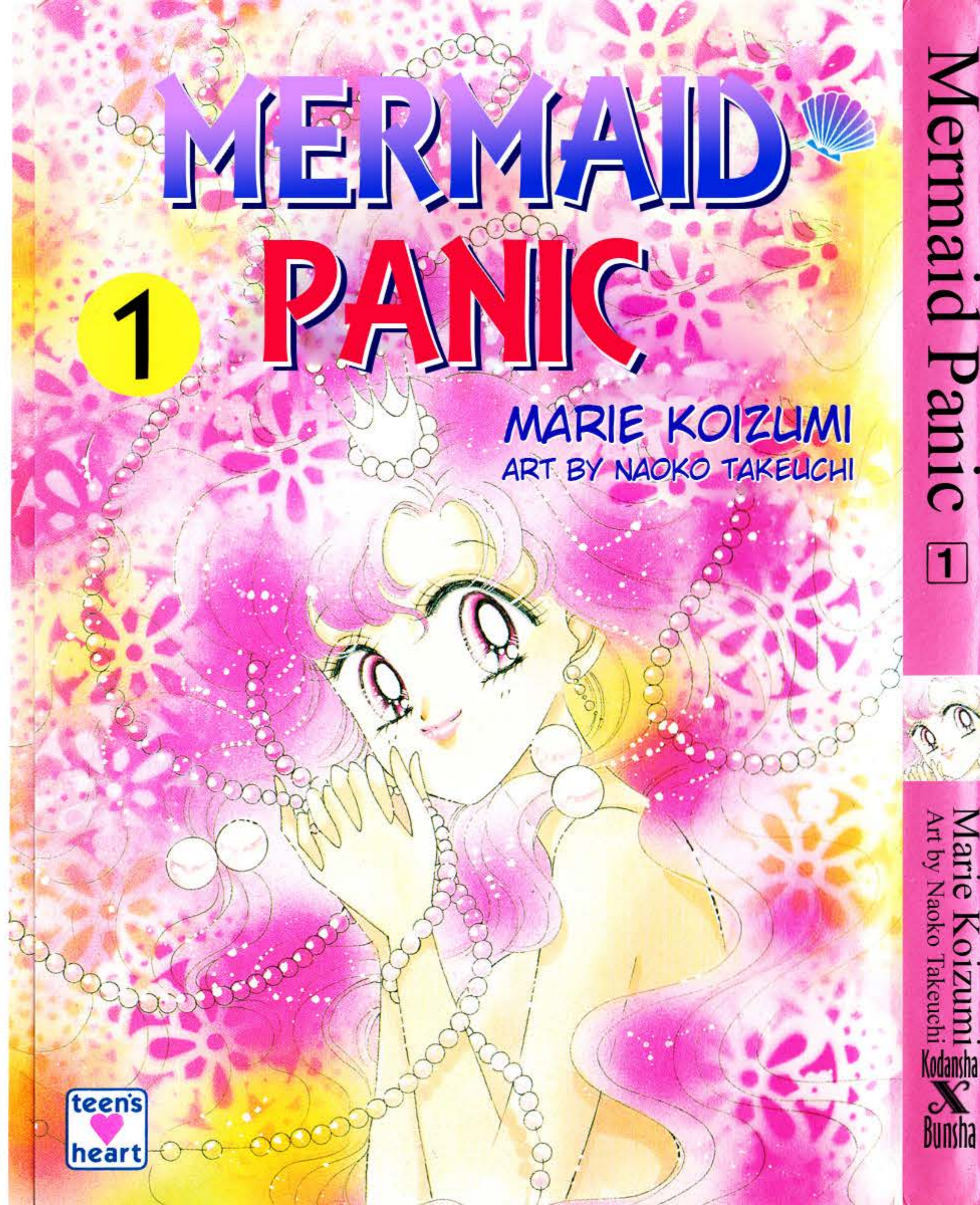


1000 years ago, the Mermaid Princess became a human after finding her beloved - or so says the "Mermaid's Legend".

Now, 1000 years later, I'm being told that I'm the Mermaid Princess! I've got to fulfill the Mermaid's Legend in order to beat the evil Sea Witch Wyndia and prevent her from destroying my beloved world! I'll do my best!



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By Marie Koizumi

Don't fall in love!  
I'm not in love right now!  
I'm not in love with anyone!  
Don't say "you love me!"  
Do you really like me?  
I want someone to love!  
I fell in love with my best friend!  
Fall in love with me!  
He's the one I love!  
It is okay to fall in love?  
Is it bad to be in love with an idol?  
Don't fall in love with her!  
Do you like me?  
But, you can't like me that way!  
Don't love me the same way as before!  
We like the same guy!  
Forget about your girlfriend!  
I'm sorry I fell in love...  
I'm separated from the one I like!  
I did it for the one I love...  
A trip I'm keeping secret from my mom  
I proposal I'm keeping secret from my mom  
A honeymoon I'm keeping secret from my mom  
Don't tell him I like him!  
How to forget the one you love  
Have you always been in love with me?  
Let's find our love in the girls comic book library!  
Let's beat our rival in the girls comic book library!  
Let's be happy in the girls comic book library!  
Being in love isn't funny!  
On a diet for the one I love!  
The person I'm in love with is my best friend...  
I heard a rumor from the one I love!  
But I should be the one you like!  
But, he told me that he likes me!  
Don't you love me?  
I love being in love...  
Think about the one you love!  
Please tell me you love me once again!

Art: Naoko Takeuchi  
Cover Design: Hiroki Habuki

Kodansha Paperbacks

# MERMAID PANIC ①

：

Koizumi Marie





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**Illustrations by:  
Naoko Takeuchi**

Mermaid Panic

In an ocean pool,

Sun glimmering on the surface,

A white coral reef as far as the eye can see.

Far

Far

Far below the reef, in the depths of the ocean,

It is far more beautiful than the most beautiful aquamarine

In those depths is where I make my home.

## 7 MERMAID PANIC ①

Huh?

You say it's strange to live in the ocean?

You think I'm lying?

Nuh-uh,

It isn't strange at all.

It's not a lie either.

I really do live in the sea.

Cause I'm half-fish!

Half-fish.

Y'know, a mermaid.

You know about mermaids, right?

Even I've read books about mermaids,

I found one in one of the shipwrecks people left in my ocean.

Um...

I think it was called "Mermaid Princess" or something like that.

Ah,

Oh,

Could it be,

You think Mermaids only exist in stories?

That's wrong.

They're not just in stories.

We really exist.

My flapping tail should be proof enough right?

My name is Shinju.

Its a cute name, right?

## 9 MERMAID PANIC ①

I like my name a lot.

Oh yeah, in case you wondered, it's not true mermaids never age.

Today's my 15th birthday!

I have very long, flowing silky hair

Shells covering my chest,

And a pink tail.

I can use my tail to swim freely through the ocean.

I can also talk to fish too.

I am a fish-person.

Oh! ☆

But,

Call me a mermaid! I like that word a lot better.

I think "Mermaid" sounds way cuter.

So,

Make sure to call me a mermaid, not a fish-lady.

I'm a Mermaid! ♡

But on that subject,

In reality, I'm not just any old mermaid!

I'm a SPECIAL mermaid!

hehehe,

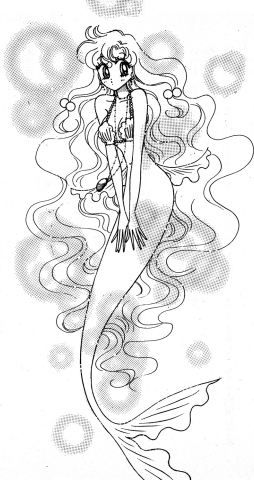
Guess what!

I'm a princess!

A princess,

A royal fish,

A Mermaid Princess.



That is to say, I'm above-average. I'm a remarkable mermaid.

A long time ago.

A super long time ago.

Deep, deep in the ocean was the Remain Shrine.

Ahh.

Remain was really, incredibly beautiful.

You can still see its walls set in amber.

Anyway.

That's where I live, in that shrine.

So I feel a bit like a Princess.

How - ever.

I'm not a Princess at all. I'm totally, totally, totally normal.

I spend my time playing with the other Mermaids and the fishes.

Today, with my Mermaid friends, I'll be throwing my big birthday party, as promised. ♡

"Shinju! Shinju!"

"Shinju!"

That's the sound of my mermaid friends' voices.

In the sea and on the beach.

What should I do?

It's still too early to be my birthday party.

Huh?

It can't be, did I get the time wrong?

What should I do?

I haven't even gotten dressed yet.

And I really wanted to wear my silver-lipped oyster hair ornaments, I haven't gotten to wear them out yet.

Should I give up on wearing them?

Well, I really want to dress up.

"I'm sorry. I got the time wrong. Just wait a minute, while I put in my hair ornaments."

"Shinju, this is no time for hair ornaments."

"Huh?"

"Shinju, your mom is calling you."

"Really, my mom is calling me?"

My mom is the head of our household of mermaids.

Even though she's been around a long time.

Nobody really knows my mom's exact age.

She lives in a cave in the back of our shrine.

And she rarely ever comes out.

Yeaaaaah.

I wonder what my mom is calling out to me about.

Whatever it is, I have a bad feeling about it.