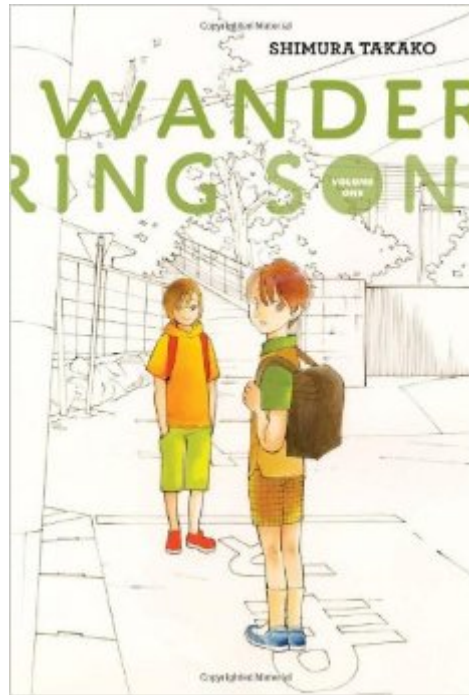


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# Wandering Son, Book 1



## Synopsis

A sensitive masterpiece from Japan's most prominent creator of LGBT manga. The fifth grade. The threshold to puberty, and the beginning of the end of childhood innocence. Shuichi Nitori and his new friend Yoshino Takatsuki have happy homes, loving families, and are well-liked by their classmates. But they share a secret that further complicates a time of life that is awkward for anyone: Shuichi is a boy who wants to be a girl, and Yoshino is a girl who wants to be a boy. Written and drawn by one of today's most critically acclaimed creators of manga, Shimura portrays Shuichi and Yoshino's very private journey with affection, sensitivity, gentle humor, and unmistakable flair and grace. Book One introduces our two protagonists and the friends and family whose lives intersect with their own. Yoshino is rudely reminded of her sex by immature boys whose budding interest in girls takes clumsily cruel forms. Shuichi's secret is discovered by Saori, a perceptive and eccentric classmate. And it is Saori who suggests that the fifth graders put on a production of *The Rose of Versailles* for the farewell ceremony for the sixth graders • with boys playing the roles of women, and girls playing the roles of men. *Wandering Son* is a sophisticated work of literary manga translated with rare skill and sensitivity by veteran translator and comics scholar Matt Thorn. 8 pages of color; 184 pages of black and white

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Nitori Shuichi has always been an effeminate boy. When he transfers schools in the fifth grade, he meets Takatsuki Yoshino, a girl who looks more like a boy. The two end up in the same group for a

project, and they become friends. But when Takatsuki starts giving dresses she doesn't want to Nitori to give to his sister, he finds that he'd rather wear them himself. Even the girls in his project group say that dresses would look good on him. One day, when he's home alone, he tries on a dress and a headband and discovers that he really likes how he looks as a girl. Meanwhile, Takatsuki keeps rejecting the girly fashions her mother buys her, preferring boyish clothes and haircuts. She is open about her preferences, but Nitori knows that boys who dress like girls are not accepted the way girls who dress like boys are. But their classmate Saori knows about Nitori's secret and likes seeing Nitori as a girl. A blunt, seemingly mannerless girl who does what she wants, Saori suggests putting on a play where the boys play girls and the girls play boys for the 6th grade farewell ceremony. Nitori is excited when he finds out that he'll get to wear dresses, but what would his classmates think if they knew he was enjoying it so much? A manga about crossdressing fifth graders sounds like a terrible idea, but Shimura Takako's "Wandering Son" is a gentle, sensitive portrayal of two children finding their identities at an already awkward age. Actually, it's more than that. Shimura takes time to develop other characters and their struggles as well, so it's also a story about childhood and growing up. Saori is a strange girl who doesn't get along very well with others, but she secretly struggles with herself, feeling like she's a bad person.

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