

Manga Review: *Case Closed* V.1 by Gosho Aoyama (2005)

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[Book cover of *Case Closed Vol. 1* by Gosho Aoyama]. Retrieved on April 10, 2015, from <http://www.amazon.com/Case-Closed-v-1-Manga/dp/0575077395>

Jimmy Kudo is not an average high school student. He wants to be just like Sherlock Holmes, even though he knows Sherlock is just a character created by Conan Doyle. He is on his way to accomplishing that dream, but then something happens.

On an outing with his best friend, Jimmy helps solve a peculiar murder at a fair, where he meets some mysterious men. He

follows one of the men, and is hit behind the head when one of them discovers him. To keep Jimmy quiet, the men feed him a substance that is supposed to kill him.

But, Jimmy doesn't die. Instead, he is turned into a six-year-old, and he must take on the name of Conan (after Conan Doyle) Edogawa to keep his identity secret. He now has the hardest case he's ever stumbled upon: he must find the men who did this to him, and he must find a cure for his condition.

Even with his new identity and appearance, Jimmy helps the police solve difficult cases, but how many cases will he have to solve before he finds the information he is after? Will he ever go back to his teenage self?

The first volume in this Manga series introduces the quirky character of Jimmy and his condition. The series began in 1994, consists of 85 volumes, and is ongoing. The Manga has been adapted into an Anime and animated movies. The Anime has aired 774 episodes in Japan thus far, and 18 animated movies have been produced. There are other adaptations of the Manga series, such as

video games, TV specials, and music CDs. Based on these numbers and the series' sales numbers, we can infer the series is quite popular in Japan and worldwide ("Case Closed", 2015; Detective Conan World, 2015). Authorities even use *Detective Conan* (the Japanese title of the series) to teach crime awareness and prevention to children ("Detective Conan helps kids fight crime", 2015).

The Manga is a revision of *Sherlock Holmes* with hidden hints that allude to Conan Doyle and his work. The main character's personality is also similar to that of Sherlock Homes.

The story is fast-paced, moving from one mystery to another. It offers enough hints to help readers solve the cases, keeping them engaged. After a while, the story seems redundant, but it contains constant surprises to maintain readers' interest. Finally, its characters are loveable and unique.

The series explores issues teens may face in their lives, such as love and fear. Though the main character is male, the series also includes strong female characters with critical roles to play.

If you enjoy Sherlock's deduction style and want to read it presented in a Japanese comic format, you will enjoy this series.

References

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