



The Irregular at Magic High School, Vol. 1 (light novel): Enrollment Arc, Part I

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The year is 2095. Magic has been tamed as another form of technology, and the practice of magic is now a rigorous discipline. Brother and sister Tatsuya and Miyuki Shiba are just about to start their first year at the renowned First Magic High School of Japan. But the school's ironclad rules mean that the brilliant Miyuki enters the prestigious Course 1, while her older brother, Tatsuya, is relegated to Course 2--and that's just the beginning of their troubles!

The Irregular at Magic High School, Vol. 1 (light novel): Enrollment Arc, Part I Details

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From Reader Review The Irregular at Magic High School, Vol. 1 (light novel): Enrollment Arc, Part I for online ebook

Marisa says

wow, there is so much set up for the magic in this world. it didn't take away from the story at all. Though it was hard for me to understand what the book was talking about. As the story goes on it gets thinned put so you understand it better. I thought this would give me more background on the story then what the anime did. In small ways it did but not as much as I was hoping. so off to read the next one!

Rinke says

What a disappointment. the setting was so interesting but It was in no way near it potential.

The unique way of magic and the way of classifying of the students and its consequences where the reason I bought and wanted tot read the book. Unfortunately those two things are mere background things.

The Main element in this volume is the weird/unclear relationship between the two siblings(Are they even that? CONFUSING!) and of course the fact that the younger sister is amazing with magic! But don't forget that the older brother who has a weak skill for magic is even better with magic????

Maybe it's just me but I am lost, Another big issue I have with the volume Is that it is a clear first volume. the ENTIRE book is just one long prologue There is no clear build-up just a bunch of side-characters that we get to meet for a few pages. Which is a big shame The idea behind it has a great potential. For me personally it just doesn't gets what it deserves.

Mary says

This shit needs to be burned. 0 Freaking stars.

If you're thinking, that's harsh, trust me, it's not. Sword Art Line has better writing, story telling, characters, heck even ROMANCE than this crap-which is the most praise I can give SAO. And we all know how terrible SAO's romance was...

It starts off fine. WW3 has caused Japan to start relying on training students with magical powers. Those born with magic are put on a pedestal, but the social class distinctions don't end there.

Tatsuya and his sister, Miyuki, enroll in First High school (how original) where immediately Miyuki is the best there never was at magic. She's put into the Blooms class because she's a special flower while her bro is put into the Weeds because you know, weeds are dirty, nasty things. *Le sigh*

While there, turns out Tatsuya is actually a misunderstood genius who for some dumbass reason didn't wish to really stand out. You know, cuz he's so modest and stuff.

If there was any action scenes, info dumps were dumped onto your little head until the information exploded out of ears. It droned on for *pages* of senseless drivel that every author knows in their list of 10 Author Commandments that **'Thou shall not info dump on your reader like a twat.**

Not only this but **the incest** omg stop it. Japan, despite all of its lovely stories and technology, seems way too obsessed with the oniichan trope. Sexualizing your little sister isn't cute. Little sisters aren't always cute—they're your sibling and you're going to hate them sometimes. I swear, it seems like every time this is put into anime/manga it's like the creator never had a younger sister.

Because if they did, I assure you they wouldn't be sexualizing them. Or well maybe they would but then everyone would know for sure he's a little cray cray.

And if you're butthurt about your waifu's, let the man of legend speak for you:

This wasn't even the worst part. Not only does Tatsuya soon build a harmada harem without effort on his part, his sister is obsessively lusting after him, but the misogyny is real. The hormones are so sky high that the hero can't seem to focus on anything but what's in his pants. It was disgusting having to read his monologue of how turned on he was.

And then he tried to make it into some kind of artsy poetry prose about how horny he was. **For his sister.** Just no.

I recommend this to absolutely no on Earth.

Brandon Varnell says

If you'd like to watch my youtube review, please click on this link: [The Irregular at Magic High School Volume 1.](#)

The magical high school is perhaps one of the most prolific genres in the light novel community. There are dozens upon dozens of stories that involve a bunch of high school kids going to a school, learning magic, and fighting in magical tournaments. Light novels like Asterisk Wars, Chivalry of a Failed Knight, Infinite Stratos, and so many more literally saturate the light novel landscape.

The Irregular at Magic High School is another one of those magic high school light novels, and I think it's one of the better ones. This story is about Miyuki and Tatsuya, a pair of siblings who are about to attend their first year at the renowned National Magic University Affiliated First Magic High School—dear god, that was a mouth full.

Anyway, the brilliant and magically talented Miyuki enters course 1, which is the course that the more

talented students attend. Being a course 1 student gives you some benefits, such as individual tutoring with teachers. Meanwhile, Tatsuya is relegated to course 2.

So, here we immediately have a divide. Course 1 and Course 2 is quite obviously a way to segregate students considered less talented. Course 2 students are basically the bottom of the barrel in terms of ability. They've been dubbed “weeds.”

Now, the reason for this derogatory nickname is because the Course 2 students lack the pendant emblem on their shoulder, which resembles a flower. Course 1 students, who do have this flower-like emblem, are known as Blooms.

I feel like Weeds and Blooms were placed in this story as a means of showing that, no matter the era, people will always be prejudice. Saying that, I'm kind of appalled by how the Course 1 students treat the Course 2 students. There are supposedly rules governing conduct between the two types of students, yet no one but a few people seem to even care. And where are the adults in all this? It seems as if they've completely disappeared from this story.

Despite being a Course 2 student, we quickly learn that Tatsuya is not a force that you can afford to underestimate. He's apparently a master at martial arts, is being trained by a shinobi, and has a powerful magic that only he can use—though we're not told what that magic is. To top it off, Tatsuya is highly intelligent.

Tatsuya's goal in coming to this institute is to become a magic engineer. Now, here's a bit of interesting information for all of you. The magic found in *The Irregular at Magic High School* is very scientific. In fact, I'd say it's more of a science than it is magic.

While people can use things like incantations, grimoires, and wands to cast magic, most people don't rely on such methods anymore. Instead they rely on Casting Assistant Devices, or CAD for short. The basic idea is that a CAD incorporates synthetic materials—or artificially manufactured neurons—that convert Psion signals into electronic signals by using the Psion from a magic ritual—or sequence—to produce a collection of electronic magic known as an activation sequence. In laymen terms, it's a device that does all of the work that a regular magic ritual—incantation, wand waving, or whatever—for you. This allows for faster casting time.

The magic system is actually my favorite part about the series so far. It's very complex and, as I mentioned before, it feels more like a science than a magic. The process in how magic is produced using a CAD is detailed to the point that I feel like I could walk up to a science class, explain the concept to them, and they would think I was talking about a legitimate scientific theory and not magical jargon from a book.

However, while the magic system is impressive, the story itself is not. I don't dislike the high school setting, and I'm not bothered by that “magic” theme. Even so, the story feels less like it's telling a story, and more like it's setting up the world to tell us a story.

a conclusive theory, I feel like he strays very closely to Mary Sue territory. I suppose only time will tell if that's true.

On the other hand, Miyuki IS a Mary Sue from what we've seen—at least, according to Tatsuya's perspective, his sister is perfect. She's gorgeous, she's intelligent, she's at the top of her class, etc, etc. I don't think I'd be so bothered by this if Satou Tsutomu had been able to show us her beauty instead of telling us her beauty.

Writers always hear about how they should “show” us a story instead of “tell” us a story. While I don't normally focus on this aspect, I can agree that this volume had far more tell than it did show. Miyuki is the perfect example of this. Whenever she's described, Satou Tsutomu always describes her as a “pretty.” Literally. We'll get a sentence that talks about how she's very pretty and makes heads turn. That's all well and good, but it doesn't show us how she's pretty. It doesn't show us how her dark hair glimmers as it catches sunlight, or how her fair complexion is more pure than freshly powdered snow. We're just told that she's pretty and we're supposed to accept that.

I don't blame Yen Press for this particular issue. They've always done an admirable job of translating what the author wrote. This feels more like a problem on the author's part. Saying that, I'm willing to forgive this issue, since it is his first novel, and if I'm being honest, my first novel was mediocre at best.

As I mentioned before, this volume feels more like a set up than it does a complete story. We're given a lot of information, we're introduced to a lot of characters, and quite a few things happen, but the first volume is a story without a resolution. There's no clear problem that Tatsuya needs to solve, no clear stakes, and no clear motive for the main character. What's more, the story ends on a cliff hanger, making it so you have to buy the next volume if you want to hope for a resolution.

While the end is off-putting, and I felt like some of the themes and writing could do with improvements, I did enjoy reading this volume—and I'd recommend it to anyone who's looking to get into Japanese light novels.

Rebecca says

Very difficult to read bc of clunky, awkward, and confusingly written prose. I'm not sure if the fault lies in the source material or if the translation is just that bad. It's unfortunate because the world building is really interesting. You can tell the author gave a lot of thought to this unique way of using magic. I also find Tetsuya an intriguing character. You can also tell this was originally an online serial bc information is repeated several times, something unnecessary in such a short work. I may try one more volume and hope things improve.

Example: “The moment he realized it, the object of ‘himself’ became a phenomenon born within him, and he cut it off.” - I have no clue what that means.

Euphemism says

This review covers the two books that form the first arc of the series, as translated on Baka-Tsuki.

Let's start off with the summary. This book is about a 'defective elder brother low achiever' and a 'perfect, flawless younger sister high achiever'. While the sister is undoubtedly perfect (and the author will tell you so repeatedly throughout this book and the series), the impression that the synopsis gives of the elder brother is a lie. Simply put, the younger sibling is perfect and everyone can see that; the older sibling is also perfect but due to certain factors he is considered by many people to be worthless.

Thus starts the story.

While it is undoubtedly an entertaining read, the first two books are equally weak. They serve primarily as an introductory arc to the series; while a few fights occur and there is even a small villain that appears, there is minimal tension because the protagonists are too capable. While a large cast of characters are introduced, that is all that happens; there is insufficient material here for character development or even to delve into their backstory. In particular, the protagonists suffer from this; they come off as particularly shallow characters - a perfect little sister with a brother complex; an emotionless older brother who is dedicated to his sister; and their strange relationship is often commented upon by others purely for laughs. In fact there is a good backstory to their situation - but that is scattered over the next few volumes, and so doesn't help their case here.

The worldbuilding in this series focuses primarily on the magic system which is very intricate. While the magic system itself is mostly hard, the presentation of it in the first few volumes is soft; that is, there is a rigorous magic system underpinning the series, but when it comes to resolving situations, it is handled as a 'revealed secret talent'. Essentially, this is standard Japanese Shounen plot resolution. It's only really kept from being an ass pull by the fact that it's made clear ahead of time that the main character has a bunch of hidden talents ready to be revealed.

So what makes these books interesting? The setting. To reiterate, the entire purpose of these two novels, covering a hundred thousand words, is to introduce the major characters while describing in detail the magic system, the world, and the politics involved. This is a world where magic has been exposed and then subject to scientific scrutiny, then followed up with the application of proper engineering to maximize its utility. With technology being where it is, the primary utility of magic lies mostly in combat applications. As talented magicians represent a small portion of the population, there are social pressures and powerful factions involved. All this put together construct a world that feels real.

In some parts, however, certain elements are left unexplained as teasers to be fully revealed in later volumes.

If taking into account that this is a Japanese Light Novel, with all the implicit tropes, setting, and target audience implied, then this is a pretty good read.

Pros:

- Interesting setting
- Hard magic system

Cons:

- Material in this book serves as investment for a later payoff
- Characters feel like Mary Sues, and they overpower the threats arrayed against them.

Heather says

I really enjoyed the anime series so I thought I would give the novels a go. The nice thing about the novel is getting inside the heads of the characters. There were times when watching the anime I wondered what the characters were thinking. However, this is a set up novel. Not a lot of action and almost no character development. Had I not seen the series, I probably would not continue with the series. I found some of the writing to be awkward, but that could be a translation issue. I also found the magic theory interesting but difficult to follow. The explanations interrupt the flow of the book. Overall, I am kind of disappointed in the light novel. I hope they get better in future installments.

Jordan says

Ok so I've seen the anime long before I read the light novel, and I've picked this up because I've been made aware the light novel continues after the anime and well I want more.

Now I don't know if it suffers a little in translation but while the writing itself is good, its very basic and has the odd issue here and there, for example a character will speak but only after they are finished talking does the book tell you who said what. That can throw things off a little as more than once I thought a perhaps the MC said something but it actually came from another character.

Like I said I watched the anime first, so as I read this I can picture the scenes in my head and I know what the author is trying to get across to the reader, so I do get joy out of it. I don't think I could actually read this otherwise so I do worry about later volumes past the anime but I wouldn't recommend this for English readers if they haven't watched the anime.

Elsbeth says

gimme gimme gimme!!!

Mary Wyman says

Watched some of the episodes before I started reading this. Love the anime series, and now I loved this book. The only complaint I have is it is a little harder to tell who said what. I've read light novels before, so this is to be expected at first. But other than that, I can't wait to read the rest of the light novels. For those who are about to read this novel, be prepared to have your brain overheat. It's confusing at first, but if you read slowly then it'll be easy to understand. Even if you don't totally get it, you can get the main jist of it. Personally, I loved trying to understand the technical terms in this novel. And I can't wait to do it again when I read the next novel. Overall, I loved this light novel, and I recommend this to those who want to read a both fantasy and sci-fi at the same time. Enjoy :)

Katerine Gail Pangilinan says

Impressive setting and characters! A wonderful world to live with with science and magic at its peak.

Jacob Cummings says

This book was an awesome example of following the manga and anime. The book was a faster pace read that was always making me want to turn the page and read more and more till the end. The story has lots of emotion that make the reader connect with the characters. The book shows examples of just because you think someone is lower than you it doesn't mean they are.

Love says

The majority of light novels seem to fit in one of two categories. Either they are isekai stories, that is something variation on the "transported to another world" theme, or they are magic high school series, think Harry Potter with a lot more fighting. Irregular at Magic High School fits snugly in to the second category, in some sense it might be the definitive title of the genre.

My complaints with it however has your do with the translation. It is very literal in its translation making it at times feel more like a fan translation than an official translation. This might give an authentic feel to the book but it ruins the reading experience. There is a reason I stay away from fan translations, so when I read an official translation I don't expect the writing to be this stiff, with odd sentence structures and at times right out hard to read.

Daniele says

This book is an example of all the mistake a writer shouldn't do. The writing is horrible and almost unreadable.

But I still finished it and I intend to keep going. Why? Because there are some good ideas buried under all that mud. An interesting magic system, a school academy and a ridiculously over-powered main-character.

Usually I don't like to lose my time, but it was a fast read and I think I might read the next book in the series too.

Maxine Livingstone says

Review to come.

As promised here is my review. Do not read this book without watching the anime first. Yes, yes I know you're probably saying "WHAT?" That is the truth the first book of this series is verbatim to the first episode of the show. So yes in order to understand this series it's best to watch the anime first. This can be found on Netflix or on HULU. We all know right off bat that the story follow a brother and sister pair. They both go to the same magic high school that is divided into two. We have the course 1 student (Blooms) are students who are gifted with the ability of using magic. Then we have the course 2 student (Weeds) who can also use magic but not to the same extent as the course 1 students. The course 2 students are also known as reserves. If anything should happen to a course 1 student then a course 2 student is used as replacement. Tatsuya our hero is a course 2 student while his sister is a course 1. Now here is the thing about Tatsuya he is very powerful. However, due to circumstances of his family keeping him on a leash he is incapable of reaching his full potential.

We all know he is powerful and good looking so please don't complain about the tropes in this story in regards to that. He was placed in Course 2 because the test that the school have designed for the students upon their entry exam does not in fact suit to how Tatsuya's powers are used. Tatsuya is probably the most powerful the magician that the world will on day know. Especially with the ultimate power that he does have that almost make him god like.

Tatsuya himself also likes to keep how powerful he in under wraps. If people were to learn of what he can do then he would be in high demand and use him for their on self gain. His younger sister Miyuki is also very powerful. Her immense devotion to her brother is from him saving her life with the god like power that he has. Yes the two siblings affection for one another can be construed as incest. But lets get real we are in an age where more and more people fantasize about incest. The one or two good places you can find such an example is in porn and on a writing site such as wattpad. Another one is in our media practically everyday you read about a parent/child, siblings or some relative entering into some type of incestual relationship.

For me I have no problems with such a relationship. Why you may ask. The answer is quiet simple. It's not my fucking business. I realize there are people who do have issues with this subject but lets get real more and more of this is going to pop up. What I love most about Japan is that authors and anime makers are more progressive in their thinking. An example relating to this is Sailor Moon. You may not know this if you don't watch the original but Sailor Uranus and Neptune along with two men who are villains were actually in a same sex relationship. Color me surprised when I re-watched this entire series in my adult hood. There are a lot of anime and manga out there that deal in incestual romance. Why you may ask. Because it is entertaining. This author of this book actually plays with the incest aspect between these two siblings. When reading this book or watching the anime you can't help but realize how much of a good couple these two would make. Yes in the anime there is a probability that if given the chance Miyuki and Tatsuya may "hook up".

Moving on the downer of the book is the major info dump of how magic works. This is probably due to once again the animation. The characters are always explaining something in how the magic works. Once again this is why I say to watch the anime first. This is so that when reading the info dumpage the reader has a gist of what the hell the characters are talking about in the book. I know when reading the info dump I sorta become cross eyed and while I somewhat understand what is being said its still hard to completely understand. For those of you who have read this book and do understand the info dump then CONGRATULATIONS.
