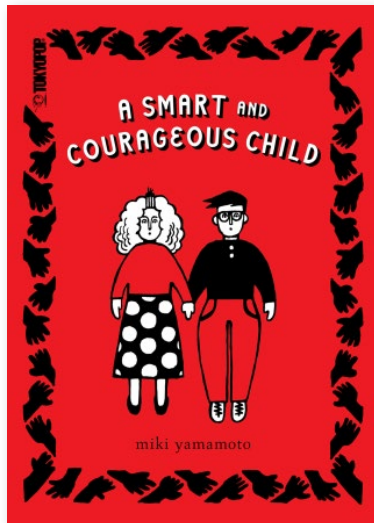


READER'S GUIDE

READ ALL
THE COMICS!

A Smart and Courageous Child (Tokyopop)



This is a strange and emotionally complex story about parenting that will leave readers excited to share their own takes with each other.

CREATOR: Miki Yamamoto

ABOUT: 2025 American Manga Awards Best One-Shot Nominee. Every young couple has high hopes for their unborn child, and Sara and Kouta Takano are no different. But only days away from giving birth, Sara learns about the tragedy of Malala Yousafzai's attempted assassination at the hands of the Taliban, and her pure and innocent belief in the future is shaken. If such a smart and courageous child can be hurt so badly by the world, how can she keep her own baby safe? With Sara now in a state of shock, will the young couple be able to bridge the widening gap between them, or will it tear their family apart?

“

“Ultimately, A Smart & Courageous Child is a contemplation of what it means to be a parent, and also what it means to care for children. It delves into a core anxiety, particularly for women, in a way that not very many books do. Is bringing a child into the world the right thing, in dark times? How can we protect those children? Is that even possible?”

—*Manga Librarian*, 2025



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What, if anything, did you know about Malala Yousafzai before reading *A Smart and Courageous Child*? What was her significance within the fictional story?
2. Whether you have had children or not, did you find Sara and Kouta's initial emotions relatable and authentic for their situation? Why or why not?
3. What were your first impressions of Yamamoto's art style? Did it fit with the story as it continued on? Why do you feel that such a limited color palette was chosen?
4. What emotions did you feel throughout the story? Were you ever worried about Sara's physical safety?
5. How did you interpret the ending? Did you like it, or if not, how would you change it?

READ ALL
THE COMICS!

“A comics bonanza.”

—LIBRARY JOURNAL



COMICS
PLUS®

“Being able to offer a service in which a small reading group, an entire class, or an entire grade level can read the same book at the same time with no waiting period is an absolute game changer.”

—SCHOOL LIBRARY JOURNAL

With Comics Plus®, your readers can have **unlimited, simultaneous access** to thousands of digital comics, manga, and picture books from dozens of library-friendly publishers.

Explore a diverse selection of new and backlist titles from Andrews McMeel, Dark Horse, Europe Comics, Fantagraphics, Humanoids, Image Comics, Kodansha, Mad Cave, Oni Press, Papercutz, Tokyopop, UDON Entertainment, Yen Press, and many more.

No holds, wait lists, or monthly borrowing limits—all at a price that won't break your materials budget.

#ReadAllTheComics



LIBRARY
PASS

Sign up for a free demo at
comicsplusapp.com