



Turning Japanese

MariNaomi

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Turning Japanese MariNaomi

MariNaomi's newest graphic novel tours the mid-90's US and Japanese illegal hostess bar scene and her own personal cultural awakening.

"The best comic about being Asian American in Japan. Like *Fun Home* and *Persepolis*, *Turning Japanese* is at once modest and grand. MariNaomi is a master of the small, intimate moments that build to a surprisingly emotional climax."—**Jason Shiga**, Ignatz and Eisner Award–winner

"In *Turning Japanese*, Mari's unflinching honesty, open heart, and hard-earned wisdom challenges us to embrace the unexpected detours that unfold in our own lives."—**Yumi Sakugawa**, author of *Your Illustrated Guide to Becoming One with the Universe*

In 1995, twenty-two-year-old Mari had just exited a long-term relationship, moving from Mill Valley to San Jose, California. Soon enough, she falls in love, then finds employment at a hostess bar for Japanese expats, where she is determined to learn the Japanese language and culture. *Turning Japanese* is a story about otherness, culture clashes, generation gaps, and youthful impetuosity.

MariNaomi is the author and illustrator of the SPACE Prize-winning graphic memoir *Kiss & Tell: A Romantic Resume, Ages 0 to 22* (Harper Perennial, 2011), the Eisner-nominated *Dragon's Breath and Other True Stories* (2dcloud/Uncivilized Books, 2014), and her self-published *Estrus Comics* (1998 to 2009). Her work has appeared in over sixty print anthologies, and has been featured on such websites as the *Rumpus*, the *Weeklings*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Midnight Breakfast*, *Truthout*, *XOJane*, *Buzzfeed*, *Bitch Media*, and more. Mari's work on the *Rumpus* won a SPACE Prize and an honorable mention in Houghton Mifflin's *Best American Comics 2013*.

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