



Fruits Basket by Natsuki Takaya

Dedicated fans of *Sweetness and Lightning* and *I Hear the Sunspot* may find *Fruits Basket* suitable to their liking!

Tohru Honda has high hopes of working hard enough to become a highly successful high school student, embracing the sentiment of her mother, who had just recently passed away. By the time her mother passes, her grandfather takes her in. However, when he explains to her that his house will be undergoing renovations and asks if she had a place to stay in the meantime, she deliberately lies to him.

Pitching a tent in the middle of someone's private property, Tohru decides not to burden her grandfather with additional living expenses and takes matters into her own hands. Yes, literally. Tohru lives outside, with her only form of privacy being the zip of an old, beaten-up tent.

She didn't have the slightest idea that she was living on someone else's property and happens to cross pathways with Yuki Sohma, one of the school's most popular and astoundingly handsome boys! Flustered and timid, she profusely apologizes to him, to which he then offers to have her live with him and his family.

Although she initially refuses the offer, she soon enough comes to accept it. Following this, magic is in the air. Oddly enough, everyone in the family is in sharp refusal of physical contact. Soon afterward, Tohru learns why. After accidentally hugging each of them, she is shocked to learn the truth. When a female embraces any member of the family, a transformation ensues. Due to their zodiac curse, whenever a female hugs a male, they turn into various animals.

This, of course, must be kept secret. Will Tohru maintain this secret throughout her high school journey, or will she back out from this situation completely?

Fruits Basket will assure you a good chuckle as well as a calming romance! Adapted for television twice, this romantic comedy will hit you right in your feels. As this is part of a manga series, the first omnibus beautifully kicks off the story. I've thoroughly enjoyed this story, and the emotional conflicts that the characters undergo may serve to be relatable to readers. *Fruits Basket's* adorable artwork can reel you in, as the cuteness of it all is super engaging and hard to put down. Beautifully written; it serves as a comfort-graphic novel to me. Highly recommend it!

