

Animal Crossing: New Horizons - Deserted Island Diary, Vol. 1 by Kokonasu Rumba

Deserted Island Diary, Vol. 1 is a **very** silly manga based on the most recent entry in the *Animal Crossing* video game series, *New Horizons*. The book depicts the lives of four youngsters embarking on an island vacation. After landing they meet Tom Nook and learn all about the Deserted Island Getaway Package, which was way more than they had bargained for. And these kids are not what Tom Nook was expecting either. Their antics are often absurd, and you might find yourself starting to feel a little bit bad for Tom Nook.

It's interesting to see how the story plays out over each short chapter, because you assume that these kids will learn from their mistakes. Several characters from the game are introduced, like Blathers, Wisp, and Raymond – and each of their chapters are sillier than the last. The storyline does stick to the basic premise of the game, landing on the island, getting your tent, learning how to use the DIY recipes, starting the museum, etc. However, it's implied that the actions of these kids brings on the restrictions of what can be donated to the museum or how things can be crafted. Similarly, the art stays true to the video game's style, but adds in that specific manga aesthetic in some panels, which works really well.

The story is definitely geared toward elementary/middle school aged kids, but adults that enjoy the games will likely chuckle at the antics of the characters. This was localized from the original Japanese version, so there are some jokes that get explained with asterisks. For me it was a nice, short distraction from the stresses of everyday life. And between reading this and the recent content update to *New Horizons*, I was really excited to get back to the game this past week. It won't be out until March of next year, but I do look forward to seeing what kind of ridiculous scenarios play out in *Deserted Island Diary, Vol. 2*.

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