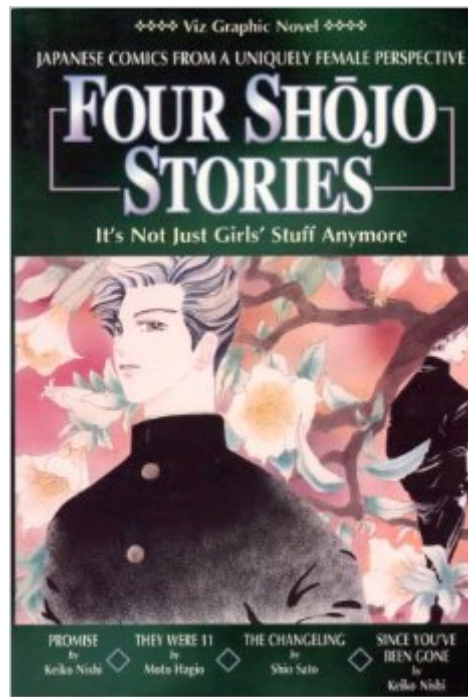


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# Four Shojo Stories



## Synopsis

An unprecedented collection of stories by the greatest shojo manga artists of our time! \* PROMISE by Keiko Nishi \* THEY WERE 11 by Moto Hagio \* THE CHANGELING by Shio Sato \* SINCE YOU'VE BEEN GONE by Keiko Nishi \*

## Book Information

Paperback: 261 pages

Publisher: Viz Communications; First American edition edition (March 1996)

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.5 x 8.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 4 pounds

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (4 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #2,520,906 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #6 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Publishers > Viz](#) #18962 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga](#) #55969 in [Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Graphic Novels](#)

## Customer Reviews

In his introduction to this wonderful graphic novel, translator Matt Thorn called shōjo manga: "...a unique forum in which Japanese girls and women can discuss and debate among each other (and now you) what it means to be a Japanese girl, woman, a human being in relationships with other human beings." The hallmark of all shōjo manga is its focus upon human relationships and emotions; it is the characters that drive the shōjo manga tale, not external conflict or action. This introspective, personal focus confers upon shōjo manga an amazing literary quality unique to the comic books of any culture or country. Four Shōjo Stories is definitely the best compilation volume of this unique art form ever printed in English-translation. Each of the four short stories contained within was originally serialized in comic book form in Viz Communications extremely short-lived Viz Flower Comics imprint, and was selected for its maturity and literary quality. It shows. Unlike many examples of shōjo manga, which span multiple volumes and thousands of pages, Four Shōjo Stories contains only short tales with definite conclusions. The book is truly stand-alone, and is all the better for being so. These are not "just comic books". The stories are equal parts philosophical and poignant. I've included brief summaries of each of the four stories, but, unfortunately, no poor words of mine will prepare the reader for the quality, sophistication, and

delicate beauty that each of these tales possesses. "Promise" by Keiko Nishi A mysterious boy swears to a little girl that they will meet again. Years later, the boy reappears, somehow unchanged, and teaches the now embittered girl how to live. Raw and emotionally charged.

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