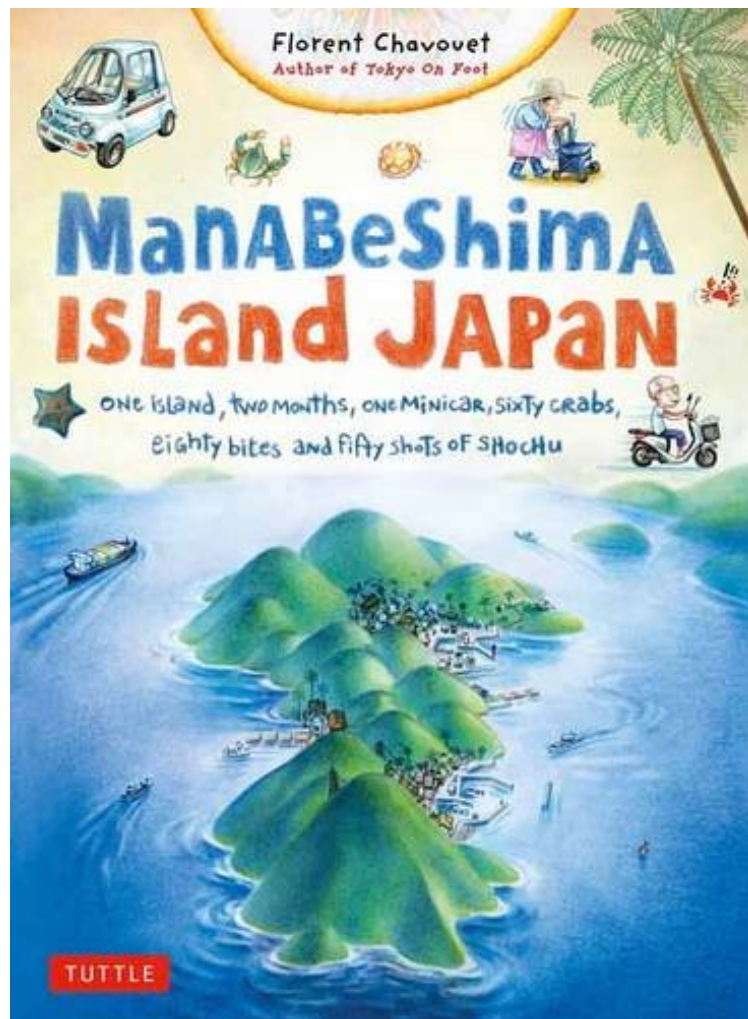


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Manabeshima Island Japan: One Island, Two Months, One Minicar, Sixty Crabs, Eighty Bites and Fifty Shots of Shochu

Florent Chavouet

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Florent Chavouet : Manabeshima Island Japan: One Island, Two Months, One Minicar, Sixty Crabs, Eighty Bites and Fifty Shots of Shochu before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Manabeshima Island Japan: One Island, Two Months, One Minicar, Sixty Crabs, Eighty Bites and Fifty Shots of Shochu:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. A colorful and detailed slice of Japanese lifeBy TechereTokyo on Foot sits in my bookcase within easy reach and I loved it and every time I re-read it I wished that Mr Chavouet would draw and write about Japan again. It's been years since that first publication and Manabe Shima, his second book, does

not disappoint. The colors, the humor, the facial expressions, the cat of the day, all the details so vibrantly captured. No wonder his books take so many years to be completed translated into English! This is my Christmas present to myself and I love it. There are so many tiny details, a list of cat delinquents, a crab fight, pictures of udon, descriptions of many different wonderful locals, and that specific page of the woods showing the cacophony of natural sounds. Florent's skills with colors and shading, his humor and sweetness; it's an excellent book! And while you may not think you know someone who is interested in a French guy's perspective of a small island village in Japan depicted in graphic memoir style, this isn't a topic as obscure as it may seem. It is so well done, so charming and so much fun! It's such a wonderful little book that I'm already pining for his next one. Salut Florent, merci!

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. ... artistic abilities and his illustrations in this are so fantastic. I am so happy he has continued to ...

By Michael Florent Chavouet has a real gift with his artistic abilities and his illustrations in this are so fantastic. I am so happy he has continued to make travel books in this style and would love to see more.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Great book

By Y. Carpenter Absolutely great book if you like sketching style illustration. I love it. I read the authors first book "Tokyo on foot" and having been in Tokyo twice, I could relate to a lot of the drawings. This book was even better as I have never been to this island. Very entertaining !

More than just a Japan travel guide, Manabeshima Island Japan paints a colorful and entertaining picture of a particular place and time in Japan. Japan is made up of thousands of sacred islands, artificial islands, industrial islands, resort islands, wild islands and exploding islands but artist Florent Chavouet had only ever visited two of them. This graphic novel is the story of one summer when he decides to get to know one more the tiny island of Manabeshima. This speck of dirt in the Inland Sea, off the coast of Osaka, has a total population of 300, and he sets himself the task of recording everything and everyone he meets there in quirky detail on the pages of his sketchbook. Whereas Chavouet's other best-selling book, Tokyo on Foot, focuses on the physical city, it is the local island inhabitants who form the heart of this new book. Chavouet's sensitive drawings and insightful captions create instant portraits of incredible literary depth. The cast of characters who are lovingly depicted includes Ikkyu-san, owner of the island's only bar (and the bar's three regulars: skinny guy, Day-Glo cap guy and greasy-haired guy); the young Nakamura family and their five kids; the layabout Shimura-san, a living relic from the hippie 1970s; Kurata-san the policeman; Reizo-san the island intellectual in his elegant Meiji-era home; Rock the Neanderthal fisherman; and a chorus of assorted grandmothers and cats all of whom welcome Chavouet into their community as a kindred soul. Against a backdrop of fireworks, summer festivals, fishing expeditions, and the constant hum of the cicadas, Chavouet depicts these characters so vividly and sympathetically, and describes their rustic way of life in such simple and appealing terms that we find it as hard to finish the book as Chavouet found it to leave the island at the end of his enchanted summer holiday.

From School Library Journal

Gr 4-6 Through cartoon drawings and hand-drawn text, Chavouet records his two-month visit to Manabeshima Island, a small piece of land in the Inland Sea with just 326 residents. With just two towns, much of the island's economic and social life centers on the loading and unloading of fishing boats. The slow pace suits Chavouet, who settles in at a small inn/hostel and begins to draw. As he meets the island's residents, he draws them, along with their families and homes, in detailed cartoons. He draws his host family and their dog, the inn itself, a close-up of his room, and the view from his room. He draws what he eats and drinks, plus religious and cultural gatherings, fishing trips, a visit to the middle school, and the summer festival and feast that conclude his visit. His drawings are cartoony yet filled with realistic details, such as when he captures the island's lush landscape and animal life, including cicadas, crabs, and semiwild cat gangs that roam everywhere. He even provides a map of the cat gangs' territories and food source. Chavouet often draws interior and exterior views and adds context through maps. His playful fondness for his subjects is frequently on display; for instance, he describes a typical "grannymobile," or cart used by the island's elderly women. The hand-drawn text is sometimes small and difficult to decipher: a minor concern in an otherwise enjoyable and informative book.

VERDICT Readers who enjoy graphic novels are in for a treat with this unusual and well-crafted travelogue.

Marilyn Taniguchi, Beverly Hills Public Library, CA "By coupling such a broad range of subject matter with a quirky yet inviting free-form style of depiction, Chavouet has created a truly experiential guide one in which the reader becomes fellow traveler, seeing, smelling, tasting, savoring and even recoiling from the same things as he." Examiner.com

"Chavouet's art contains gentle humor and an awareness for life's details. Personalities and quirks enliven his fond caricatures, and each page brims with life. Chavouet's notes and observations provide further details about life on a small island. He notes the resident's habits and the antics of the many cats that rule the island. These small details, many of them surprising, give Manabeshima Island a different outlook than a guide book. It is a smart, warm, gently comical look at everyday life. Vibrant colors and interesting perspectives keeps you turning the pages." Japan Powered blog

"Florent Chavouet is no tour guide for those in search of overblown emotion and remarkable sites. His interests are the unknown, the anecdotal, those journeys that never cease to astonish and amuse." Liberation

"Open the book to any page in the middle of the book and you will find the most amazing, tiny details." Shanghai Daily

"A sumptuous book, as original in its format as in its content,

Manabeshima Island Japan is even more accomplished than Tokyo on Foot." Zoo"His softly shaded colored-pencil artwork is often humoroushe draws himself with a bulbous nose and puts silly eyes on the various sea creaturesbut it can be both luminously beautiful, especially when he draws landscapes, and highly detailed, as on the pull-out map of Manabeshima included in the back of the book. This loving portrait of island life will enchant readers as much as Chavouet was obviously charmed by Manabeshima." Booklist"Readers who enjoy graphic novels are in for a treat with this unusual and well-crafted travelogue." School Library Journal"The best part of Tuttle's lovely softcover edition of Manabeshima is that it comes with a huge map folded into a pocket on the back cover. This map is intensely detailed, showing every house and garden and boat on the island and labeled with references to people, landmarks, and events from the main text." News on JapanAbout the AuthorFlorent Chavouet is a young graphic artist and author living in France. When he returned from Japan, he realized that all the observing and sketching he had done led to his evolution as an artist. This is his second book.