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# TokyoPop Manga Submission

## “TwinSide”



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# Plot Synopsis

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"**TwinSide**" is a romantic comedy/drama about identical - but also very different - twin sisters growing up in **Sydney, Australia**. It is a story for teenage girls, about issues affecting teenage girls; and written by someone who was a teenage girl herself not so long ago.

\* - *Definition of unique Australian terms and lingo provided in "Glossary"*

## Plot

Half-Chinese **Amber** and **Jeanie Casula** are 14 year-old students at Greenwich Private College, an Anglican\* co-ed school in Sydney. Together with their small group of girlfriends, they form part of the Year 9 Netball\* team, where Amber is one of the captains. But lately, Amber's play has been slipping, and she seems to be a little... *distracted*.

Her friends soon find out the source of the "problem". Right next to the Netball Court is the Cricket Green\*, where the cricketers practice. Amber's attention seems to have been captured by the star batter - **Tay Schofields**. However, Tay doesn't know that she's alive, and Amber is at a loss - she has never really been comfortable talking to the opposite sex, and this is her first serious crush. Anxious to help her, her sister and her friends embark on a series of hilarious (and only moderately successful) attempts to attract his attention. However, it wasn't until Jeanie steps in to talk to him that he begins to take an interest - but in Jeanie, not Amber.

Jeanie rejects his advances and tries to steer him towards Amber, but it was not until he begins to date Amber that she realises what she has lost. Jeanie is smart enough to know that it's against the Girl-Code to "steal" someone's boyfriend, let alone your twin sister's; yet Tay still has feelings for her, and Jeanie finds herself far from aiding her sister in their relationship. She is guilty and confused about her actions - and soon, Amber realises something is up. The stage has been set for a love triangle that is sometimes funny, sometimes sad, and often very moving.

As the plot progresses, the large cast of lovable secondary characters weave in and out of the story - providing everything from comic relief to discussions on teen issues. The twin's eager-to-help girlfriends, Tay's rowdy cricket mates, the twin's sometimes-amused, sometimes-worried parents - they form the backbone of support for the three leads. They accompany them through thick and thin, through tears and laughter, and grounds them firmly in the reality of the wider world. Most importantly, they remind each other of their dreams: The story cannot be told without them.

All this is done to the colourful backdrop of Sydney's streets. From Sydney Harbour to the Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras\*; from suburban homes to Pitt St. Shopping Centre - it shows the lives of Sydney Siders from a perspective only someone living in Sydney can give. That it is set in Australia is part of its strength - the Australian setting gives it a distinctive cultural flair, serving as a charming window into life Down Under. For most people, whose ideas about that particular corner of the world comes from movies like "Crocodile Dundee", it serves as a rare opportunity to see what being a girl growing up in Australia is *really* like.

Touching, funny - and undoubtedly Australian, "**TwinSide**" is a story that is written for teenage girls, but which anyone interested in life in the Great Brown Land of Oz will enjoy. It is a rare, unique and completely authentic experience that is the first of its kind in the World of Manga.

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# The Main Characters

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## Jeanie Casula

Jeanie is chirpy, cheerful, and not all that good a student compared to Amber. This is *not* for lack of ability. Despite this, she has always had Amber's best interests at heart, and has always loved her sister deeply - until now. She feels guilty and confused about her feelings towards Tay, but when she finds herself going out of her way to jeopardize Amber's relationship with him, she is forced to confront her own feelings. She is wise enough to know a guy is *not* worth fighting over with your own twin sister - but people in love don't always think and act the same. Jeanie's intentions are always good, but the choices she makes are not always the best - and they serve as a catalyst for altering the two sisters' relationship forever.

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## Amber Casula

The younger of the twins; and the family overachiever. Amber is solemn and serious - a remnant of her days as Leader Of The Girls in kindergarten. She has carried this image all the way to High School, and cares very little for the opposite sex - preferring sports and schoolbooks to boy-chasing. However, when hormones hit, they hit hard, and Amber finds herself having to drop her defences if she is to attract the boy she likes. She does so, with some difficulty, but becomes resentful when she finds she has to compete with her sister. Amber loves Jeanie very much, but she also considers her something of a flake - someone too "undisciplined" to organise her life and get good marks. All the way through kindergarten and Junior School, Amber had to take care of Jeanie, a role she didn't mind playing - until now. When Jeanie seriously starts competing with Amber, Amber is shocked - and threatened. However, she recovers in time to realise that she may have taken her sister for granted all along. It is Amber's re-evaluation of her own attitudes about her sister that forms the basis of her growth.

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## Tay Schofields

Tay is pensive and introspective - something unusual in teenage boys; and that is what attracts both sisters to him. He starts off liking Jeanie's bold attitude, but eventually finds himself growing quite fond of Amber - he prefers Jeanie's good cheer to Amber's seriousness, but he can't help but admire Amber's drive and determination. That he watches her change into a more open and expressive person (at first for him, then later for her of self-growth) speaks volumes to him. He is inspired by her to work harder at what he does *himself*. He is also the one that is able to see the twins have more in common with each other than the average person may think. At the end of the day, he cares deeply for them both; and while he understands only a fraction of what is really happening, he tries hard to keep both of them from being hurt.

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