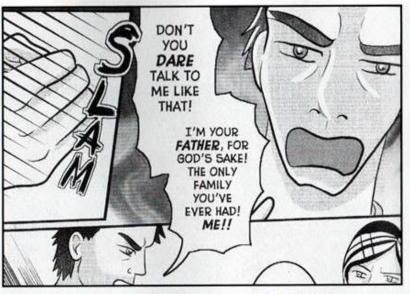


LABEL: Sweatdrop
CERTIFICATE: 13+

AUTHOR: Irina Richards

RETAIL PRICE: £6.50

SERIES LENGTH: 2





Chemical Blue

hemical Blue tells the story of a young girl, Amber Kayar, who starts school at the exclusive Emery College, and her trials and tribulations winning friendships and discovering the secret past lives of her new pals.

Whilst the set up is a fairly unambitious shoujo story, artist Irina Richards tackles it with warmth and good humour, filling the pages with some great, comic scenes. She also proves herself to be quite adept at capturing those little human moments of vulnerability with great charm, and her observations about the dynamics of

relationships help to move the story forward at a great pace. With unassuming talent, Richards has created a cast of characters who, whilst not being particularly unique in their own rights, nevertheless interact with spark and vitality, and although the artwork here doesn't quite live up to the writing, Chemical Blue is still a great, absorbing read, which bravely tackles some sensitive issues. FLISS GREEN

Chemical Blue marks Richards out as a talent to watch.

RATING ****

