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Usagi Yojimbo Book 5: Lone Goat And Kid (Bk. 5)



Synopsis

Usagi faces Ninja bats and the "Lone Goat and Kid." "Frost and Fire" and "The Way of the Samurai" provide psychological drama, and "A Kite Story" is a fascinating look at the life and work of a 17th century Japanese kite maker. This fifth volume collects the epic-length "Blood Wings," in which Usagi battles a fearsome clan of ninja bats, while "Lone Goat and Kid" offers a cunning and affectionate parody of the famous "Lone Wolf and Cub" manga while doubling as one of Usagi's most dramatic and heartfelt adventures. "Frost and Fire" and "The Way of the Samurai" provide the psychological drama of this volume, which is rounded out by one of the most unique Usagi tales ever, "A Kite Story," which doubles as a fascinating look at the daily life and work of a 17th century Japanese kite maker, dramatically showcasing the thoroughness of Sakai's research and his skills as a storyteller. Featuring a foreword by the legendary Stan Lee! Black-and-white comics throughout

Book Information

Paperback: 152 pages

Publisher: Fantagraphics; Gph edition (January 17, 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 156097088X

ISBN-13: 978-1560970880

Product Dimensions: 6 x 0.6 x 9 inches

Shipping Weight: 9.9 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 13 customer reviews

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Customer Reviews

“These bittersweet adventure stories offer entertaining reading, especially for young Asian-Americans who feel excluded from mainstream juvenile literature.” - Los Angeles Times
“I’ve just finished the fourth Usagi Yojimbo trade and the fifth is sitting next to me... If you’re like me, throw away your preconceptions about anthropomorphic comics and get on board. As a fan of samurai fiction (to the point of having a Seven Samurai tattoo) and comics, I can’t recommend Stan Sakai’s beautifully drawn, note-perfect

reinvention of the genre highly enough. - Kevin Church, BeaucoupKevin.com
"I don't think I'm exaggerating at all when I say that Stan Sakai is arguably the greatest living comic book creator in the world, and Usagi Yojimbo is a thirty-year masterpiece that has a consistency and craftsmanship that other comics only touch when they're at their peak." - Chris Sims, ComicsAlliance

Stan Sakai is a third-generation Japanese American and multiple Eisner-Award-winning cartoonist, creator of the popular and long-running Usagi Yojimbo comic book. (Usagi Yojimbo is a recurring "guest star" in the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtle universe.) Born in Japan, he grew up in Hawaii and lives in Pasadena, CA. Stan Lee is the co-creator of many of the Marvel Comics iconic heroes, including Spider-Man, the Incredible Hulk, Iron Man, the Fantastic Four, the Avengers, Daredevil, Thor, Doctor Strange, Nick Fury, and the X-Men. His movie and television work includes cameo roles in most of the Marvel Comics movies, co-creating and hosting the TV reality show Who Wants to Be a Superhero?, and voice work on many of the Marvel animated series, including Spider-Man, The Incredible Hulk, X-Men, and Super Hero Squad Show.

Stan Sakai creates amazing stories. Characters with depth, plotlines with detail, twists and continuity. I found Usagi towards the beginning of the Dark Horse era. This collection had stories I had not read. I was thrilled to get it.

Good story, better than most modern comics these days. Highly recommended for those who enjoy Japanese history and folklore mixed with cartoonish style art

This was a Christmas gift for our 13 year old grandson who was elated upon receiving it. He is an avid reader and he was glad to have it in his collection of comic books.

You can never go wrong with a Usagi book. Not all are equally good stories but always thought provoking. The service was very quick and the condition was as advertised. I'll deal with them again

Great

Stan Sakai's comic series "Usagi Yojimbo" follows the adventures of a rabbit ronin (masterless samurai) in feudal Japan. Miyamoto Usagi drifts from town to town, and at every stop he seems to

run into an intriguing character, get in an exciting battle, or confront a vexing problem. And he meets them all with instinctive compassion and, when the need arises, unparalleled skill with the sword. Fantagraphics has continued its re-releases of the early volumes of Usagi, which had been unavailable for some time. This fifth volume, "Lone Goat and Kid," is a mixed bag. At this point, the "Usagi" series is on the cusp of maturity, and like any adolescent, it stumbles somewhat but is clearly growing. The volume begins with "Frost & Fire" and "A Kite Story," which are passable but predictable filler episodes. The two-part "Blood Wings" is longer, yet feels underdeveloped and, again, a bit obvious. Luckily, this book ends strong with "The Way of the Samurai" and the title story, "Lone Goat and Kid," which show the series' character development and action at their best. (In fact, "The Way of the Samurai" is one of my personal favorite Usagi stories). The most interesting thing in volume five, from the perspective of the series as a whole, is the changes in Sakai's artwork. The backgrounds and settings continue to be sumptuous, as they always have been, but now the characters are growing into them. His figures can still be a bit square-jawed, but Usagi in particular shows more subtlety of expression than in the past. This volume will of course be necessary for Usagi completists, and the quality of the book itself (paper and printing) remains very high. Casual fans may find they can take or leave this collection, although those who do pick it up will discover at least a couple of gems.~

Much like with Volume 16 after the Grassgutter arc the characters and the readers need to be able to slow down and breath. That's what this volume does. But it does it well because it slowly starts ramping up to the next high point in the series Grasscutter. You get an interesting story with the Komori ninja, a faction that will come up down the road. As well as a nice relaxing story about Kite making. Not every volume needs to be turned up to 11 with action, especially one right after the high point that was volume 4. This book is just goes to show how well Stan is at pacing this series as a whole.

Early collection of original Fantagraphics material of the samurai ronin rabbit. The hardcover signed/numbered editions can go for a fortune. They are low numbered and not many shops picked them up when they first came out. Stan Sakai is a genius! The samurai rabbit is now 30+ years old, see why he has continued to be so popular! Is it as artsy as Maus or Watchmen, no, but a solid story with attention to detail and historical accuracy when possible. Highly recommended!

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