



## Akuma no Riddle, Volume 1

*Yun Kouga , Sunao Minakata*

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Haru Ichinose is a student at a private girls' boarding school, Myoujou Academy, who is being targeted by 12 assassins disguised as students. Tokaku Azuma is a transfer student and an assassin who also initially targets Haru, but develops feeling for her and decides to protect her from the other assassins.

## Akuma no Riddle, Volume 1 Details

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# From Reader Review Akuma no Riddle, Volume 1 for online ebook

## **mina says**

This series is a hot mess, but it's my favorite kind of hot mess. Technically, the comic itself is not very good, due to annoyingly literal translations of character voices, hard to follow action sequences, and just poor execution in general, but if you like action girls, f/f romance, and beyond ridiculous plot twists and backstories, you're in for a ride.

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## **Maud says**

The story is just getting started.

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## **Emleigh says**

Good stuff. Hope it gets gayer in later volumes.

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## **Gigi Bats says**

Muy interesante hasta ahora, me interesa saber cómo sigue.

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## **Brianna says**

listen i bought this purely because there are gay female assassins and the show was amazing and everything is amazing and gay.

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## **Sarah says**

Hard to get into the story. It felt a bit disjointed and frenetic. Could get better once the characters are better developed.

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## **Skjam! says**

Azuma Tokaku is the star student at Private Academy 17, secretly a school for assassins. As such, she's being temporarily transferred to Myojo Private School, to participate in Class Black. Supposedly, Class Black is a game disguised as an ordinary homeroom class—twelve assassins compete to see which one of them can kill the thirteenth student.

The target is Haru Ichinose, a bubbly girl who doesn't seem to have a care in the world. But we soon have hints that her past is dark indeed, and she's much harder to kill than she appears. Azuma begins to have second thoughts about her mission...perhaps she should be protecting Haru instead?

This manga ("Devil's Riddle") has been adapted into an anime series as well. (I am told the anime compresses the series and cuts out several subplots.) The author's notes mention a "social game" but it's not clear if this series was adapted from that or vice-versa.

In the tradition of dystopian YA, it is readily apparent that the teenage assassins have not been told the entire truth about what's going on, and some of what the adults have led them to believe is completely false. Azuma's teacher at Private Academy 17 tells the reader as much, and looks forward to her figuring that out. Most of the characters have very dark backstories, most only hinted at in this volume. (Haru's body is covered in nasty scars, and "Tokaku" means "rabbit's horn", aka "a thing that does not exist" like a jackalope.)

Most of the first volume is given over to brief introductions to the characters; there are thirteen girls in Class Black, a homeroom teacher who appears to be oblivious to what's really going on, Azuma's teacher, and the mysterious person who set up Class Black. Azuma and Haru get the most characterization as "trying hard to be an emotionless professional" and "overly cute girl who refers to herself in the third person."

The art is decent but relies heavily on hairstyles and uniforms to distinguish the characters. There's a couple of fanservicey scenes in aid of the plotline.

The book's primary weakness from my point of view is that it seems overly calculated. Each of the young women is designed to fit into a particular "appeal category" (the big-breasted one, the one with glasses, the one that looks underage, etc.) and I would not be surprised if this was originally published in a magazine with a primarily male reader demographic. Also, the premise kind of unsuspends my disbelief. Yes, I can accept for the sake of the concept one small private school that trains assassins, but here we have twelve teenage girls who come from twelve different schools and are all trained assassins. Plus we're given to understand that Class Black has happened at least twice before without the outside world noticing.

I do not think I will be picking up a second volume, but if teenage female assassins are your thing, and the plausibility issues aren't a dealbreaker for you, you might enjoy this.

Check out my other reviews at <http://www.skjam.com>

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## **Rod Brown says**

A bunch of teenage female assassins converge in a special classroom in an otherwise normal school to kill one of their classmates. Because, like, metaphor? For how mean girls are bullies and high school is hard? And everyone is two-faced?

Or because an editor shoved it down the creator's throats? Because, like, sales?

It's sort of like Assassination Classroom without any of the violence, humor or crisp art. I seriously had trouble telling characters apart, especially in close-up when they all look exactly alike with the same chins and tousled hair or bangs falling into their big eyes. And the dialogue was sloppy, random and/or godawful

for much of the book.

Developments near the end set up a status quo that might have some appeal, but I just can't see myself attempting to read a second volume.

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### **[ wandering queen ] says**

I liked it, I certainly didn't hate it but I'm left with little. There is a lot that can be worked on in this manga. One is clearing up the cluster of ideas going around. All of the characters with the exception of the two leads (who have this as well but not to the same extent) were very stereotypical. And did no think how silly it is that Haru Ichinose didn't already freaking learn how to fight and whatnot to defend herself? I, also, think the real target is the sensei! Its him, I tell you! Girls, kill him! Anyway, I will try the next just to see where it goes.

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### **Gillian Dawson says**

2.5

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### **Paige says**

it was really intresting

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### **Kayla Huggins says**

I actually enjoyed this manga. Azuma is interesting and I like the fact that she has layers to her character, although she does feel a bit lackluster at times. Haru has so much potential and falls short, because I feel like her character is glossed over. I think the most enjoyable factor was here's an implied Yuri that actually has a different sort of plot line. That aspect alone couldn't dispel the issues this series has, but it was worth a read.

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### **Jessie Potts says**

Takes a really long time to fully get into the story, but I love it!

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### **Rebeckahsypik says**

It's a really interesting concept. I just wish they did not introduce so many new characters at once.

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## **Jenna (Bookiemoji) says**

I see the potential, but there is a lot that needs to be worked on. The dark premise is cool and so is the art. The dialogue/translation? Choppy, at best.

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