




Planet Ladder, Volume 1

Yuri Narushima , Gabi Blumberg (Translator)

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Orphaned in a war she can't remember, Kaguya is happy with her adopted family. But chaos returns when a mysterious boy tells her of her past as a princess from another world. With her guardian, Kaguya sets out on a journey from world to world to claim her birthright. Courted by some, hunted by others, her destiny is feared by all, for it is her fate to decide which worlds will rule and which shall die.

Planet Ladder, Volume 1 Details

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From Reader Review Planet Ladder, Volume 1 for online ebook

Oyceter says

<http://oyceter.livejournal.com/455616...>

Natalie says

Planet Ladder is one of the first manga series I read and I have to say that when I first read it, I was impressed about how interesting this series was. It was short, simple, and good. The idea of a girl carrying a burden of choosing which world will survive was new, fresh and interesting story for me to read about. This manga being one of the series that introduced me to manga, I'd say that this was pretty good. It isn't fantastic or great but it's a decently entertaining manga.

There's not much to talk about this series except that it was generic. The main character was likable, and so were a few characters as well. But I'll get to that in a bit. First, let me talk a little bit about the story.

The plot was pretty interesting because to me, at the time, it was something new and a story that I haven't seen before. The main character, Kaguya Haruyama, is taken into this parallel world and soon discovers that she is the "Girl of Ananai", the one "destined to save only one of the nine parallel worlds from collision". As far as I remember there were nine worlds.

Ancient, the first civilized world that was "mysteriously" destroyed (yeah, don't know how that happened since we come back to it later)

Asu, Seeu's broken world

Eden, present-day Earth

Telene, a small world (allies with Geo)

Fifth World, a politically neutral world

Geus, a peaceful world (under Geo's control)

Geo, the most powerful of the worlds (or so the manga claims)

Asuraitsu, Geo's "rival"

Ninth World, deceased (destroyed before the beginning of the manga)

Kaguya travels with Seeu's robot. Meets a few characters and tries to figure out her destiny along the journey. So not too bad right?

Well . . .

If I did have one complaint, it would be that the ending seemed a little rushed and confusing. If I remember correctly, it goes something like this: (view spoiler) I obviously don't remember the manga but if that was all it took so 'save the worlds' then why didn't they do this in the first place?

Another thing that bothered me was Kaguya's past with her brother and why she was chosen. There probably is an explanation but I just don't remember. Don't forget the relationships with the characters. Kaguya spends some time with Seeu and learns of his tragic past and then takes care of him. But my problem is that these two don't take time to develop a relationship. I understand that they do spend time together but when Kaguya and Seeu are identified as a couple I'm scratching my head thinking 'where the heck did THAT come from?'

The characters in this manga are not that interesting or complex. Kaguya is nice, stands up for herself and others, and is your generic heroine in shoujo manga that often deal with travelling of different worlds. Seeu is quiet and doesn't do much. Kagami is a robot and doesn't say much either. Kuru is your typical villain. He says mean things but really, he's just an ass trying to save his planet. Idou is barely there, or at least I don't remember him much. Shiima is pretty awesome. She's tough, independent, and a great fighter. Waseda was okay except for the fact that the only thing memorable about this guy was that he was a student in the body of a giant rooster.

Yeah . . . I didn't get that at all.

It's not the best series I ever read and not everyone will like it but I can at least say that it wasn't predictable and I did enjoy it. If you want, feel free to give it a try and see what you think.

Chanel says

My first and favorite manga. Beautiful artwork and great story, though it does get complex nearing the end of the series. I bought the first few books in America in 2004 and finished collecting them at about 2006.

Claire says

It's a good book, though the ending to the series is ... weird...

Lexie says

THE MAD PRINCE BECKONS

So two things - this series makes little sense on a whole scale, but pieces of it make sense on a small scale. I remember wanting to treat this like a bunch of interconnected short stories.

Second - stare very hard at the cover, especially near the waist. It's pretty at first...but try to figure out how her proportions work and you'll go mad.

Now then. In a brief somewhat coherent way let me summarize - Kaguya, an adopted child thought to have been abandoned at 4 years old, has vivid dreams of a dangerous place where a boy offered her his hand.

Amidst the scandal of her adoptive father being arrested for bribery, some strangers with weapons duke it out to have the right to kidnap her.

She winds up with the silent, eerie young guy who follows her orders to the precise letter. Instructed to keep her safe by his master - the Mad Prince Seeu - the two find themselves in a heavily forested area. Meanwhile Idou hunts them, Seeu went (presumably) home to his creepy castle, and some weirdo with a braid is keeping tabs on everyone.

Also Kaguya's adoptive older brother may have a sister complex

This is confusing and it's not helped by the fact the translation is jarring. Some of the conversation doesn't transition from thought to thought while observations are abrupt or strange.

Overall though my nostalgia glasses are still firmly on and those feelings of love for Seeu are quite strong. Even if it's a volume or two before he proves interesting.

Ging says

Read: Volumes 1-2 of 7

Starbubbles says

this series has just beautiful artwork. the storyline gets increasingly interesting as the story progresses too. narushima weaves together multiple dimensions and worlds colliding brilliantly with humanistic tendencies towards others and self-preservation. i highly recommend it for anyone who likes sci-fi with a fantasy twist.

Jerry says

The Good: This manga had an exciting story and great artwork. While some parts of it were confusing, I'm sure it'll make more sense as the series continues. The clean content--no profanity, graphic violence, or sexual content--was a big bonus.

The Bad: Nothing, really; I just save the highest rating for truly amazing works.

Conclusion: This is my first manga in a long time...but, I enjoyed it! I'm glad I have all seven volumes on hand. Let's hope the series continues down the same road on which this premiere volume started.

Vicky says

Planet Ladder is a quirky manga series, it has some really interesting concepts, some great characters, and a good mix of humor and seriousness.

The ending, however, failed for me. It got... weird, for lack of a better word.

Jenn says

Planet Ladder (Volume 1) by Narushima Yuri (2002)

Holly Letson says

This series confuses me so much, and yet, I sped through 2 volumes and slugged through a third. But, honestly, I feel like that's all I'll be reading of this series. I only own V1-V3 and feel no real need to search for scanslations to continue reading it. It just has too much going on at once, and goes into too much detail about each thing that's going on.

I do like the characters, especially Kaguya and Bambi. I just feel not real connection to the storyline.

Miriam says

The central point of view with Kaguya was decent, but all the surrounding characters and story were incomprehensible.

The prose was larded with embarrassingly emo-teen-poetry type phrases, such as "I am by your side. Even if you destroy the world I'll be by your side" (How does that even work? I mean, if the world is destroyed, where are you two standing side by side?) and characters spoke in unnatural ways. Who responds to a complaint that she's hogging the phone with, "I'm sorry. I don't do anything right. Even if I make up my mind, it takes me 30 minutes to get the guts to go through with anything. But I'm really gonna work on being brave!"

(I'm not familiar with this translator, Blumberg, so I'm willing to buy that she did a poor job, but I doubt the writing can have been great to begin with.)

I'm not currently planning to read on. I assume Kaguya and doll boy will escape the evil science fiction peasants and survive the mysterious castle, since otherwise the series wouldn't go on.

Lauren says

One of my favorite manga series.

Rebecca says

Planet Ladder is my favorite manga of all time. I actually took the time to hunt down all seven volumes, which was no easy task considering it's apparently out of print.

Fantastic story that blends sci-fi and fantasy, excellent characters that receive wonderful development through the course of the series, and beautifully done art.

I can't recommend it highly enough.

Lord says

It's difficult to judge this series from the first volume. The story is dreamy, flows quickly and isn't particularly memorable. Just like the art. I will see what next volumes have to offer..
