



Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 12: Shattered Stones

Kazuo Koike , Goseki Kojima

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A woman driven to insanity by the murder of her child, and the horribly burned husband seeking revenge; unseen samurai under the thumb of a power-hungry woman; a beggar ronin seeking the downfall of his greedily ambitious wife; a good-for-nothing beggar willing to use a child to make easy money; a lady magician threatened by swindling gangsters: all of these people have something in common — the need to regain their honor, and this quest almost always means death. Ogami Itto, a wandering ronin on a road to vengeance, has been paid to put these folks back on that path, at any cost. For this grim samurai and his infant son, there is nothing left in this world except honor, vengeance, death, and blood. Fortunately, there's plenty of each to go around...

This volume contains the following stories:

Nameless, Penniless, Lifeless

Body Check

Shattered Stones

A Promise of Potatoes

Wife Killer

Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 12: Shattered Stones Details

Date : Published September 11th 2001 by Dark Horse Manga

ISBN : 9781569715130

Author : Kazuo Koike , Goseki Kojima

Format : Paperback 304 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Comics, Graphic Novels, Historical, Historical Fiction, Fiction, Cultural, Japan

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From Reader Review Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 12: Shattered Stones for online ebook

Michael says

This continues the episodic narrative, but is as interesting as before.

Jedi JC Daquis says

Another one of those filler chapters, this volume of Lone Wolf and Cub distances from the main Yagyū storyline and instead tells self-contained stories which are loosely related with family-themed revenge and subtle mysteries with how each chapter ends.

This is a missable volume. By that I mean you can skip reading it altogether and you have missed nothing plot-wise (but don't do it!) Writing and art are still top-notch.

Martyn says

As always with this series it's plus several million for the artwork, themes and atmosphere and minus several million for the ridiculous translation. It's ok if Dana Lewis wants the Samurai to use American slang but if he/she(?) could just pick a city and a time period - one minute there all 'dang tootin' and the next it's 'the boys gotta make money, see?' I didn't know whether to imagine Bogart or Green Acres.

The stars are for Koike and Kojima, I wish I could read Japanese because I'm sure these stories are transcendent in the original language, just as the artwork is here.

EDIT: Two notes. One I was glad to finally pick up this series again. Vol. 12 has been out of print for some time and even my local comic store was no help. Second, thinking about the translation issues again, the character of the older boy who uses Daigoro in the chapter 'A Promise of Potatoes' reads just like an evil version of Shaggy from Scooby Doo - read it in his voice, it's him!

Angel ??? says

Volume 12 of the Spanish version of "Lone Wolf and Cub" changes the pace and scenery from the previous volumes to one of non-stop fights. Ogami Itt?'s head has a price on it put by his enemies, and everyone in Japan will try to get it. This makes this volume a continuous list of enemies, from samurai to poor people or farmers, trying to kill Ogami for the money. It makes for a thrilling 400-odd pages, easy to enjoy and with a purpose in it. It is good that the stories don't get stretched too thin, though, as too many of these situations would become boring.

A fighting oriented volume.

The best: the change of pace and the focus on the main story-line with everyone intent on killing our heroes

The worst: more of the same?: fights and silent pages

Alternatives: "Kingdom", for example, is an easy to enjoy manga, based on historical facts

7/10

(Spanish translation by Geni Bigas and Yayoi Kagoshima)

James T says

12 down...16 to go.

Vicenç Sanz says

Tomo doce de Lobo Solitario y su Cachorro, un tomo que parece encarar la trama hacia un inevitable final, y si no supiera que me quedan ocho tomos más diría que en un par lo tenemos liquidado.

El motivo de pensar que estamos cerca del final es que los protagonistas descubren el misterioso secreto de la carta de los Yagyū (nosotros no), lo que les hace encaminarse hacia Edo para tener una confrontación directa con su líder.

Pero lo que el tomo nos ofrece de verdad es ver cómo se ha puesto precio por la cabeza del lobo y de su cachorro. Algo que en principio no debería afectarles demasiado (están acostumbrados a ser perseguidos), acaba por dar la sensación al lector de que están acorralados, de que en cualquier momento acabarán con ellos. Y es que hasta los campesinos se alían en grupos para intentar matarles y cobrar la recompensa!

En fin, como podéis imaginar el tomo me ha gustado mucho, buenas historias (siguen siendo capítulos autoconclusivos relacionados) narradas con una maestría que muchísimos narradores actuales envidiarían. Una pasada en lo que a narración secuencial se refiere, quizás el mejor tomo al respecto de ésta obra hasta el momento.

Bueno, pues ocho tomos más y se acabó! A ver si mantienen el nivel, aunque sospecho que lo harán.

Víctor Segovia says

primer libro del reto listo. No puedo decir mucho, ya que parece que entre está entrega y la pasada pues todo el asunto del clan rival se perdió hasta nuevo aviso

Esma Tezgi says

Yaln?z Kurt ve Yavrusu'nu ilk ke?fetti?imde çok sevinmi? heyecanla okumu?tum, ancak zamanla seride ilerledikçe seri ayn? düz çizgide seyretti ve bu da seriye olan ilgimi azaltt?. Seride bir çok ba??ms?z olay var, hepsi Japon kültürü ile farklı bir noktaya de?iniyor ancak her olay benzer ?ekilde ilerledi?i için bir süre sonra okurken beni s?kmaya ba?lad? tekdüzelik.

Seriye hala sevsem de bir süre ara vermeye karar verdim. Serinin genel hikayesinin canlanması ve biraz daha aksiyon içermesi iyi olabilirdi.

Terry says

Wow, I gotta say that some of the stories in this volume are doozies that take us in some interesting directions. Certainly one complaint that can be lodged at some of the volumes/stories of Lone Wolf & Cub (if not this one) is that they can sometimes be a bit same-y, with one set-piece assassination story following another with only the unique modes of combat delineating them very much. That is certainly not always the case however, and for a series whose heart revolves around a path of brutal vengeance that appears to be superficially concerned with depicting epic violence the number of ways in which Koike and Kojima interject character, humanity, and emotion is perhaps surprising. In terms of narrative progression you could perhaps liken Lone Wolf and Cub to a TV series like the X-Files, Babylon 5, or (shudder) Lost all of which have long story arcs that provide narrative cohesion to the overall story (I'm not looking at you Lost), but that are often interspersed with 'one-shot' episodes that may not drive the main storyline forward, but instead give further glimpses into the world depicted and the lives of the characters. In this volume the overall story arc of Itto's vengeance against the Yagyu by means of the secret letter does not advance significantly, but the individual stories really shine.

'Nameless, Penniless, Lifeless' tells the story of a husband and wife team who put on erotic shows for the public. When they come face-to-face with local Yakuza enforcers, angry at not being given a kick-back while the group was in their territory, things go from bad to worse and the gangsters demand more than just a cut of the entrance fees. When they must then put on a special show for the Yakuza bosses and their guests the macabre performance that follows shakes the audience to the core...and what strange contract has the assassin Lone Wolf & Cub taken on for this itinerant group? Vengeance and heartbreak are definitely at the core of this story and Itto's targets are not the obvious ones.

'Body Check': when Itto and Daigoro come to the Hakone Sekisho checkpoint that controls access across a mountain pass, Itto is taken by the authorities who were warned of the assassin that would be travelling with fake papers of transit. Could the wily assassin really have been so deluded as to choose a plan that was so easily subverted? If not, then why would he choose to be captured in such a secure location? I thought Itto's plan in this tale was great and showed how he uses his intellect as much as his strength and swordsmanship when carrying out his assassinations. We also see how father and son work together as Daigoro proves to be a key element to Itto's strategy for success.

'Shattered Stones': like the first story in the collection this one has Itto taking up an unusual contract the ends of which are not exactly standard to his usual modus operandi. Lone Wolf and Cub come across a samurai fallen to the level of a beggar who tests their resolve and sense of honour. Satisfied, he requests that they bring to its conclusion the family drama of betrayal, lost love, and deceit that had brought him so low. Travelling to the home of a local lord they confront him along with his concubine and her son and present

them with an impossible quandry that only death can resolve.

‘A Promise of Potatoes’: left to his own devices, Daigoro is set upon by a group of bullies who are driven off by an apparent good Samaritan. Apparently this help was not altogether altruistic, as the stranger proves to be a con-man who sees Daigoro as a possible useful ally in his efforts to keep living the good life. When Itto returns to the scene the grifter realizes that he may have gotten more than he bargained for when he recruited the young boy and re-examines the life he has been living up to this point.

‘Wife Killer’ comes back again to the themes of family betrayal and vengeance. A drunken old man flanked by two hoodlums has been filling the world of itinerant magicians with terror. He is known only as Kappa Masa (or ‘wife killer’ since magic is known as the ‘wife of the hands’ of magicians) and he exposes the magician’s trade secrets in the midst of their performances unless they agree to pay for his silence. There seems to be no trick he cannot see through and the guild of magicians has come to Lone Wolf and Cub in the hopes that they can help. When Kappa Masa comes face-to-face with a young magician who refuses to bow before his demands, however, he will face a retribution more terrible than any punishment that Lone Wolf and Cub could mete out at the end of their sword.

This was definitely a very strong volume in an exceedingly strong series. Great stories and, as is always the case though I don’t always mention it, the art is fantastic throughout. Goseki Kojima is expert at depicting action, landscape, and character in vividly cinematic ways and the union of his art with Kazuo Koike’s thought-provoking stories is a winning combination.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 12: Shattered Stones (Lone Wolf and Cub #12), Kazuo Koike, Goseki Kojima

Christine says

A series of mostly women-centric stories, damaged woman, faithful and faithless wives, women of power. In my top five for this series.

Dan Gorman says

One of the bleakest volumes in the series. Well-written, but not the most fun to read.

Ill D says

Returning to the endless road approach of before, we’re treated with more inter-tales scooped up from the overall arc. While never contributing to the main strand of narrative, the results are generally well executed. Again, with a strong eye placed on the subaltern, the original content of Koike and Co.’s Ronin is well meshed with the average life of peasant and middle class folk alike.

