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44 years ago, a great war known as the Valbanill War raged in the land. One of the war's most dangerous weapons was the Demon Contract, where a human could sacrifice his or her body to become powerful demon. Realizing the damages the contracts have caused the land, the surviving nations made peace and banned the use of the Demon Contracts.

The Sacred Blacksmith Vol. 1 Details

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From Reader Review The Sacred Blacksmith Vol. 1 for online ebook

Bernard says

I knew very little about the story going in. It was a fun action packed story and having a female lead was refreshing. My biggest problem was that Cecily played more of a background roll during combat. I won't spoil it here but in much of the fighting she ends up getting rescued. To me this seems like undercutting the heroine a bit. I hope that in future volumes her skills and power as a fighter increase so that she can maintain the spotlight more than the supporting character. Still, the artwork was good and the story was fun. I look forward to seeing more of what this series has to offer.

Kyogou says

Interesting story. I've always enjoyed stories that involve some sort of swordsmanship, so naturally I picked this up when I saw it at the library, and my friend seemed to know of it as well when he spotted it on my shelf. That usually tells me it must be pretty good, because he tends to be a picky reader (or maybe he just liked it because it had boobs... who knows.)

I'm interested to see where the story will go from here and how the main character will get her sword, given the fact she apparently can't afford the crazy price Luke wants her to pay.

Rachel says

Cecily Campbell is a determined young woman, new to the Knight Guard. She takes great pride in her family's history and the noble cause of protecting innocent people. In her first real fight, her sword shatters, and she only survives when the mysterious stranger Luke Ainsworth steps in. His strange abilities, knowledge of demon pacts, and technique quickly convince Cecily that he is the one to make a sword for her. The Sacred Blacksmith as some interesting ideas, and delivers the story at a quick trot. It focuses on its action, with a side-serving of fanservice. So much so that it belittles the potentially strong character that Cecily could be. Hopefully this will change in later volumes once the plot gets rolling. So far the demons, and story are fairly generic Fantasy fare, but the art sets a high standard. With all the fanservice, this series will mostly appeal to boys, but because of some nudity, it is only appropriate for older teens.

The tagline compares this title to Fullmetal Alchemist and Final Fantasy. Whereas FMA is full of depth, strong themes, and a brilliantly conceived story, this is very shallow, and is no comparison in terms of quality. They do not even have a similar concept, and the same goes for Final Fantasy. There are much better Fantasy series out there that fans of these series can get. Pick up the Sacred Blacksmith only if you are interested in its own premise.

Doc says

The Sacred Blacksmith which is also an anime series primarily focuses on Heroine and Cecily Campbell and the companions she picks up along the way as she realizes her dream to protect others. Honestly it is a basic concept to a RPG style story but if it is not broke why fix it.

Set 44 years after a major war, where humans had the power of Death Phrases that summoned spirits to fight for them by sacrificing parts of their bodies, The trade city of Housman appeared calm but trouble brews up as a veteran of the old war stumbles into town raving mad.

If you like artwork that can cover the range of good looking characters to aged men all but falling apart or enjoy heroes cutting down ice like demons with a magical katana then you might like this book. I for one don't mind paying a little extra for these slightly over sized version compared to the normal manga size.

I should probably mention there is some limited exposed breast and the occasional lewd pose but i think that is more or less a way to break the tension as the story gets darker(and poor Luke, the Blacksmith gets hit for seeing Cecily exposed.)

So far my favorite part of the book is Lisa who works for Luke. Regardless of all the crazy fights and bad guys manipulating things in the shadows or the monsters that can be created by any human who wishes to sacrifice themselves I find Lisa to be a refreshing character who just does her best help Luke with his blacksmithing. She is also apparently not human because she can help Luke to forge a special katana by creating a magical forge with her eye on the battlefield. Mostly I just think she is adorable though. :)

JoJoTheModern says

Generic fantasy setting and characters, harmless and cute fanservice, nice art, acceptable quality overall. I wouldn't tell anyone "you've got to read this!" but if I were asked about it I'd say sure, it's entertaining enough so check it out if you want. Will probably read more volumes in the future.

Michelle (In Libris Veritas) says

The Sacred Blacksmith is a fantasy manga that has promise but doesn't really shine on its own in this first volume.

I went into this manga pretty much blind, I had never heard of it and wasn't aware of the anime. It focuses on Cecily Campbell as she works on proving that she is worthy of her Campbell name and the knighthood she has received. In order to do this, she asks Luke Ainsworth to make her a sword if she can prove she's worth the trouble. The storyline is pretty standard stuff, and the way it's told doesn't really stand out as being different either. It does have a more dark fantasy feel to it which is alternates with some lighter moments and fanservice.

I think the dark fantasy part really has some promise to it. There are some pretty cool fights in this as well as some fairly cool demons/monsters for Luke and Cecily to fight. The fanservice though was an odd fit...Most fanservice kind of fits the moment, it's a pin-up shot as someone jumps through the air or leans over for something...but this was just sort of forced into the story. If a fight gets so intense that it shreds clothes you'd be shredded too and considering the violence in the fights for this it's a little weird when only a girl's

shirt gets ripped open...meanwhile, someone's head just got lopped off. I don't "mind" fanservice, as you sort of just get used to it over time (though it is tiring, to be honest), but this was so sudden that it just kind of ruined the moment. I did appreciate the humor, though, and I think given more time I could come to enjoy this series.

I do like the art, it's beautifully detailed and pretty dynamic when needed.

I'll probably check out volume two before I make the decision on if I'll continue forward or not, but as of right now it's somewhat unremarkable and kind of forgettable.

Tawnie says

So far, this series really is just okay. Easy to read but also easy to put down and forget about it. Also has more unnecessary nudity and boob jokes than I care for. Really don't feel like I am the target audience for this, even though there seems to be a bit of a romance subplot. No burning desire to finish the series at this point.

Allie says

Two mangas in one day?! I must be on vacation!... No, not really. One was read in the doctor's office and the other in the car while waiting for my school kids. I do an awful lot of waiting. (Woe is me.)

Right. On to my reviewish bit. I liked this. I paused and really took in quite a few spreads. (Insert sexual innuendo here.) It made my nerdy heart happy. I'll definitely read more.

Jen says

Maybe I am giving this a higher review for lack of experience, but this was the first manga I have ever read. While reading right to left was a challenge, as was using the pictures and filling in the blanks with my imagination at the same time (instead of one or another), I found it extremely enjoyable.

The artwork is beautiful, especially the too few scenic vistas of countryside or the city. While I think having them in color would magnify the experience, the black and white work is beautiful and very expressive.

The storyline probably isn't the most unique, but I suppose I am not looking too much into that. Guy seems non-chalant then all the sudden whips out sword skill frenzy. It is pretty action packed and carries suspense most of the way through with a couple lighthearted moments to break the tension. I do like the different plot with the demon pacts, and the first volume gave me enough to close a part of the story and a cliffhanger big enough to keep reading the series.

Seeing as this took me a little over an hour to read I can see this becoming a dangerous and money-gobbling side to my favorite hobby.

Mike says

Cecily is a third generation member of the Knight Guard, setting out for her first battle. Her heirloom sword has seen better days, and the magnificent sword wielded by a mysterious stranger makes her desperate to acquire one from the same blacksmith. Being well prepared is a good inclination, as after forty-four years of peace demon pacts are returning...

I had heard of the Sacred Blacksmith manga and anime, but didn't know much going in. From the cover and back description I was expecting light fantasy/adventure, likely with some fanservice overtones. It's actually quite serious most of the time, with dark omens and dire situations constantly around the corner. I like the characters and the story thus far, but none of it is particularly original. As for the fanservice... it's there, and doesn't really fit. I'll discuss below.

The art is extremely good, but tends to get in its own way during fights and action sequences. Character designs, details, and intricate town and countryside backgrounds are all excellent. The artist tries too hard for the action scenes though and they get muddled and confusing with way too many action lines and effects.

The fanservice is weird. As I mentioned above the manga is more dark and serious than I expected, and then every once in a while in the most contrived way possible we get a pinup shot. They're beautiful, and I don't mind fanservice in some cases, but it's shoehorned in so obviously here it really breaks up the immersion and any tension that had been achieved.

Some examples: After her first battle Cecily has an attack of nerves, and clearly begins to fall forward as her knees lock. She suddenly switches direction in the next panel to sprawl BACKWARDS to end up sitting, back arched and legs apart. Later she heroically acts as a human shield and is hit with numerous shards of ice. The total effect of this barrage is to tear off her armor and clothes beneath and cause her to faint into the arms of another character for another pose (if she has some magical shield that protects her skin from cuts none was mentioned...)

So overall I'm finding it hard to pin down The Sacred Blacksmith. It's well done for the most part, has strong art and features interesting characters and situations. On the other hand it's pretty standard for the genre concept-wise, is very jarring in mixing tones and seems to be lacking something that would compel me to want to read more. Call it decent, probability of continuing with the series unknown.

April says

I was not overly impressed by this- the plot didn't seem original and the whole thing felt overly clichéd to me. I did enjoy the way some of the art really seemed to jump from the page at you as though it was 3D and the use of thick bold lines in addition to thin lines added great motion to images, but I'm not sure I will bother to read more of this...

Jorge Diaz Martin says

Entertaining. Nothing more

Karissa says

This was a decent start to this fantasy shounen manga series. Cecily comes across as a bit silly at times; she wants to be a Knight Guard like her father and grandfather before her but doesn't really have the training. She recognizes this and tries to seek out training. However along the way she gets obsessed with the fact that maybe an awesome new sword will make up for her lack of training.

During an incident where a madman starts terrorizing people in the marketplace, Cecily tries to stop the madman but fails miserably only to be rescued by reclusive swordman/blacksmith named Luke.

I thought the drawing was good but not spectacular. The storyline is pretty typical fantasy; complete with Demon Pacts, a lone swordsman who can kill anything, and a hopeful girl who wants to learn how to kill anything.

I enjoyed Luke a lot as a character: he has that whole mysterious lone samurai thing going on. I thought Cecily was okay but she was channeling a bit too much ditsy naiveness for me, hopefully this will be toned down in future books.

Overall this was a good start to this fantasy manga series. Although there's nothing spectacular in this volume I enjoyed the traditional fantasy storyline and the illustration style. I think the characters have potential but hope that Cecily is less ditsy in future volumes. I would recommend to fans of fantasy manga; this reminds a bit of Claymore or Berserk but isn't as edgy as those manga.

Clara (aka Kurara) says

Represents volumes 1-5 (for reading challenge purposes)

Charles Johnson says

The art is great and the flow between panels is excellent. However, the story does fall somewhat flat and the characters are ok but this series has a lot of potential.
