



Path of the Assassin, Vol. 11: Hikuma Castle

Kazuo Koike

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Ninjas, samurai, hot lovin', political intrigue, and gold! Path of the Assassin has it all in spades!

Hanzo, the hero ninja for the future shogun Ieyasu Tokugawa, has been in some tight situations before, but nothing like the trap set for him by a ninja from a competing warlord's clan! And to settle this trickery, a sexy battle of wits and weapons. Meanwhile, Tokugawa is moving across the battlefield on his way to Japan's future.

Path of the Assassin is a pinnacle in (Lone Wolf and Cub creators) Koike and Kojima's fantastic and seemingly unending stable of awesome samurai manga. And as usual, these works don't wane as they draw toward their final volumes!

Path of the Assassin, Vol. 11: Hikuma Castle Details

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Jedi JC Daquis says

Kicking-off the last third of the series, we some great violent stuff from large-scale invasion battles to suppa one-versus-one. In its quiet times, this volume offers insight on how politics and war strategy work together for a conquest plan to succeed.

Against the previous volume which is showered with so many names I cannot keep track of, volume 11 still has that but only fewer. I'm glad that I wasn't just able to keep up with the general flow of the story but also with the specific dramas each character tries to convey.

Koike also has this sort of episodic subplot of Hanzo's enemies. Under the great battles are these smaller ninja fights that keeps me interested. Hope this continues until the end.

Russell Grant says

The epic sequence that started a couple books ago finally gets a resolution, but it doesn't seem like much is going to actually calm down. Great stuff.

Nick says

Violence, sex and ninjas. What's not to like?

Seriously, this series has always presented a nitty-gritty history of an interesting period in Japanese history, but the way this volume handles the fighting and intrigue was fascinating. Characters, largely based on real historical figures, are faced with conflicts of honor and obligation which go far to explain that period of Japanese history.

The series is great, but very adult, due to the sex and violence.
