



Fullmetal Alchemist, Vol. 3

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Accompanied by their bodyguard, Alex Louis Armstrong, our heroes seek out their closest childhood friend, mechanic Winry Rockbell, to fix their battered "auto-mail" bodyparts. Soon their quest for the Philosopher's Stone takes them to the great central library, where the Stone's formula may be hidden...if the mysterious figure named Lust doesn't get there first! But the secret of the Philosopher's Stone may be even more frightening than the beings who guard it...

Fullmetal Alchemist, Vol. 3 Details

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From Reader Review Fullmetal Alchemist, Vol. 3 for online ebook

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

5 stars

Contains Spoilers

Edward, Al, and Armstrong are on their way to the boys' hometown so Ed's auto-mail can be repaired after his arm was destroyed in the fight with Scar. I enjoyed this lull in the tense drama of the series. Their hometown is isolated and idyllic. Pinako and Winry helped them after they dabbled into forbidden alchemy, and it's obvious that there is a great deal of affection between all of them. These chapters are also a great opportunity to catch your breath, because the rest of the volume is one shocking revelation after another, followed by lengthy fight sequences.

When they arrive in Central, they learn that the branch of the library containing Marcoh's notes has just been burned to the ground. Thinking that their quest has ended before it began, they are ecstatic to learn that a former library employee can help them out. With a copy of the notes firmly in hand, they make another unpleasant discovery; the price of making a philosopher's stone is far too high for them to pay. But someone else has been willing to pay the price, and they are determined to learn how high up in the government the knowledge of this research goes.

Again, Ed and Al are forced to admit that some prices are just too high to pay. Because the boys are decent and good, the thought of making the Philosopher's Stone is now repugnant. Even though Ed has the ability and skill to follow Marcoh's research notes, he can't do it. The price is too high. And that is the other thing I love about this series. Even though Ed and Al won't pay the price to get what they want most in the world, their original bodies back, there are plenty of other individuals in this story that are more than willing to pay whatever it costs to cheat the system. When Ed and Al are placed on a collision course with them, all hell breaks out. I guess the question for me right now is will they be able to keep true to their moral compass, or will they be swayed to do otherwise? I think I've read half of this series, so I'm looking forward to finally finishing it.

anotherfungurl says

It is getting more interesting. I feel sad for Elric brothers(because of their bodies), still, they are amazing.

daisy says

Re-read these first three volumes so I can continue on with the manga!! Enjoyed it just as much as the first time - I *adore* the cast and the art style and **everything** about this series!

Kogiopsis says

I'd honestly forgotten what took place in this volume, and even though the pacing felt smooth while I was reading it, afterwards I was surprised to note that the Lab 5 plot started here - somehow it was all tied up in the events of the fourth volume for me, so realizing that I had recalled incorrectly was a tad bit jarring.

That being said, it doesn't really reach its fruition until the next few chapters, so the highlight of this volume is definitely the chapter about Ed and Al returning to Resembool. It's a good thing that this happens so early in the broader scheme of things, too, because the relationships they have with the people and places of their hometown really humanize them. Imagine how jarring it would have been if Arakawa had waited until after five or six volumes of these boys being like superheroes to show them as ordinary human beings. Instead, she establishes this aspect of them early, which is nice. The essential strength of the story, after all, is that it's about the kind of people who feel real - even if they can snap their fingers to create fire or clap their hands and remake buildings. There's a market for stories about powerful, distant characters, it's true, but they're rarely the kind of narratives that really get into your heart.

(This is also the volume in which Sheska and Maria Ross are introduced, as if I needed more reason to love it.)

Antonio says

Me siento tan identificado con este personaje...

Radwa says

Ahhh.. the Philosopher's Stone!

The main focus of this volume, and I'm amused by the yet another variation of the stone in this manga. Things seem to get more complicated for the Elric brothers with every issue, but I'm enjoying the fights and the different aspects of alchemy. Also, just when I was complaining about the lack of female characters, we get that mechanic girl (winry? I forgot her name!) Anyhow, I think she will have a bigger role in upcoming volumes, and I can't wait!

?????? ???? says

This time the volume ends with a cliffhanger. Edward fights a really strong opponent and is left in a bad shape in front of more strong opponents. The identity of the ones behind Philosopher's stone was just about to be revealed, but at the last moment prevented by the mysterious duo of Lust and Envy. Although the truth behind the philosopher's stone was revealed in this volume, but the truth behind the truth is still shrouded in mystery. Also the fate of Scar is uncertain after his fight against Gluttony. And it would be really unfair if Granny Pinako and Winry were not mentioned in this review. They are the only home that Elric

brothers can return to. And most certainly we will be seeing more of Winry as suggested in this volume. All in all the chemistry between Winry and Elric brothers as childhood friend is really heart warming. So, the manga isn't only about Action and Mystery, its also about the human relation and emotion. I hope to see more of the cameo character Seska the bookworm. I really envy her power to memorize everything after reading a book once. Just like Bidyasagar of Bengal.

Jennifer (Jen/The Tolkien Gal/???????) says

Buddy read with Bhavik/Roy Mustang

And so it continues.

N?rmin says

Wow! Great adventure continues and I can't take my eyes of it! I loved Winry and Granny! The interaction between Winry and Edward was so enjoyable and funny. I feel the beginning of a great love between them!))

Caroline says

MAN oh man I am powering through this series. This is what happens when you buy a 27 volume boxset and also have no self control... you just keep reading lol **so brace yourselves for plenty more FMA reviews in the coming days!!**

This one was a lot of fun! I seriously love Winry SO MUCH! There was a lot of great stuff in this one, learning more about the Elric brothers and their past. Towards the end we get into some more action which was great. The fight scenes are excellent- easy to follow and exciting. I love seeing alchemy used in combat, it's awesome! Gotta keep reading now because **omg that ending!**

King Haddock says

Chapter Nine is where Fullmetal Alchemist finally fully clicked for me. Before, I was like, "yay, it's fun, it has a good premise" and that sort of basic thing. But chapter nine, where Ed, Al, and Armstrong go back to the Elric brother's village to repair the two brothers, absolutely made me smile and laugh and just enjoy the characters for being who they are.

Following chapter nine, the plot continues smoothly. Whereas a lot of manga books I have read feel slightly disjointed between volumes and chapters, here I get a lot of really interesting and exciting new revelations and advancements of plot. Ultimately, this volume contains moments to make me smile, laugh, stare in interest at the plot twist, and flip pages hurriedly to get to the end of the action.

Mike says

I'm still trying to figure out why this has captured the popular imagination so much. It's good, don't get me wrong, but the good parts of it tend to be a little more subtle and understated than most mangas. I'd expect this to have a dedicated cult following, not for it to be one of the most popular mangas of the last 20 years. But whatever the case, I'm enjoying this series so far. I like that an overarching plot is starting to come together a bit more. And Elric and Alphonse are very interesting characters - their characterization really does hold the series together. I also like the side characters. Even the ones that only show up for a couple scenes seem to be distinct, without being too over-the-top. The one exception is the side villains, which are by far the worst thing about this series. I like most of the main villains, Lust and Gluttony and Scar are all cool, but I hate the side villains. They're always incredibly one-sided, and Arakawa writes them as if there's any chance of us thinking they'll defeat the heroes. They always lose because they monologue about their intentions and/or their weaknesses, and while the fight scenes are well-drawn, they get boring just because of how predictable they are, and how long they go on. There was actually a chapter that ended with a cliffhanger, when the only thing happening was Elric and Alphonse fighting minor villains we've never seen before. That is inexcusable. But other than that, I enjoyed this volume. Particularly the first half - I appreciate that Arakawa is willing to take a break from the action and write something that's more devoted to atmosphere and character development. And her artwork is certainly great at creating whatever atmosphere she happens to be going for. It's starting to bother me how little we know about the setting here, but other than that, I like this series, and I'm eagerly awaiting the next volume.

Becky says

Winry is fantastic, but mostly I want more Hawkeye.
Ed's okay too, I guess.

Ishraq says

These guys are insane :D

Sylwia (Wish Fulfillment) says

- I'm back and forth with my feelings about the characterization of Edward. On the one hand, he's a "likable protagonist" in that we can appreciate his endurance and drive. On the other hand, I'm annoyed by the manipulation.
- I did like a decision made about Alphonse's character, which balanced out my thoughts about Edward a bit.
- Some of the characters that are only present in one chapter are bland and I'm pulled out of the story when

they're regarded as important when they're not developed well.

- In terms of entertainment, this series continues to be impressive. The world-building is intricate and the plot is progressing steadily. I can understand why this series is so loved.

Gabriela Paige says

Well, um, that is not good. Not good at all. AH!

Aleixie says

Oh whow, whow, whow. Where is the rest?

Books should not end in the middle. It's not fair!

Btw, I love the brothers, they make me laugh with their personalities. :)

It's epic!

Eduard says

"Our regulars are here!"

"Ah ha ha! Welcome back!"

"Major Armstrong, we're here to escort you!"

"Well, then...let's see your skills."

"Once upon a time, in Central City, there was a butcher named Barry. Barry loved to chop up meat more than anything in the world."

Grace says

Another great volume as my love for the Elric brothers just grows ❤️?❤️? We get to meet Edward's mechanic, Winry, as well as learning more about the boys' past and also about automail!! Some action towards the end of the volume as the plot thickens and we learn some secrets about the Philosopher's Stone! Can't wait for the next one!!

Jedi JC Daquis says

FINALLY! After three volumes, I'm giving FMA my first five-star rating! Whereas the first two volumes were fantastic in building both the plot and the world of the story, it is in its third volume where Fullmetal Alchemist really soared to its potential, and to think that the series will get better? Damn, every cent i spent buying this full set is more than worth it!

If there is a phrase to describe Fullmetal Alchemist (or at least what I've read so far), it is "it's a perfectly-balanced and well-paced story". It has all the manga/anime tropes, but they are all used effectively here. For example, it is in those quiet moments in the manga that you get to emotionally invest with the characters. That investment explodes with payoff during the action scenes. The story progression doesn't feel rushed nor stretched too thin. Plus there's that right amount of humor delivered at the right moments that sprinkle this book with a right dose of laughter. Sure FMA does talk about serious things, going as far as the repercussions of war and the dark side of science, but Arakawa does not go full broody and dark.

The breakaway character of this volume by the way is none other than the kind-hearted Alex Louis Armstrong.
