



Les Enfants de la Baleine #1

Abi Umeda

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Dans un monde où tout n'est plus que sable, un gigantesque vaisseau vogue à la surface d'un océan de dunes. Il abrite des hommes et des femmes capables pour beaucoup de manipuler le saimia, un pouvoir surnaturel qu'ils tirent de leurs émotions.

Ce don les condamne cependant à une mort précoce. À bord de la baleine de Glaise, ils vivent leur courte vie coupés du reste du monde. Jusqu'au jour où, sur un vaisseau à la dérive, le jeune Chakuro fait une étrange rencontre...

Les Enfants de la Baleine #1 Details

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Author : Abi Umeda

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From Reader Review Les Enfants de la Baleine #1 for online ebook

Pauline Fireheart says

My first manga. Thanks to my little brother for this one :)

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Children of the Whales is about as close to a Miyazaki movie as you are going to get. From the character designs, to the subtle characterizations, the random fantasyish setting, the innocence of children and machinations of adults, the intrusion of war into that innocence, and a subtle beauty. That influence is all over Children of the Whales to the point where this feels almost like an homage.

Story: In a world where the sea is made up of sand that you cannot step on, 'ship cities' called mud whales lazily cross the expanse. Most of Chokuro's small island's population has magical abilities that eventually translate into a short life span. The non magical elders guide and administer the colony since they live a long life. When the mud whale comes across another island, they expect it to be empty like the others they have passed - and so do a simple scavenging run. But young Chakuro, the obsessive archivist of their colony, comes across a lone survivor - a girl his age with martial abilities and a tale of having buried everyone on her island. But she also knows much more about their islands than they have been told by the elders - and her warnings are about to come too late to save Chakuro's people from a hiding horror.

By the end of this first book, we get a "the Village" movie type of feel. The elders are clearly keeping things from the magical marked kids - and everything is about to go very wrong for the peaceful island. The story isn't specified as coming from Earth but the islands greatly resemble air craft carriers or tankers that have been covered in mud and odd buildings - and glide along the sea of sand by some unknown means.

As with all manga of this nature, we are given very little in the beginning and the story will build from there. The character designs are lovely though very ambiguous - it can be hard to tell gender for several of the characters. In fact, I thought Chokuro was female for half the book.

There are intriguing ideas within and certainly this is a unique concept with thoughtful world building. It will be interesting to see where the story goes from here. Reviewed from an advance reader copy provided by the publisher.

Jesse (JesseTheReader) says

this was such a nice and calm story until the end came in like a wrecking ball. consider me shook.

Kayla (BOOKadoodles) says

A #GetGraphic Read—I haven't been this shook by an ending since watching episode five of Attack on Titan. Broaden your horizons and try manga, they said. It'll be fun, they said.

Jananie (thisstoryaintover) says

OMG. WHAT. THAT WAS SO GOOD. was not expecting that. definitely going to continue, I'm so curious. Loved the main character Chakuro and super intrigued by the world!

Justine says

4.5

FR

J'ai aimé la beauté de l'histoire, l'étrangeté de l'univers, je me suis attachée aux personnages, et cette fin !!! Elle était chargée émotionnellement, et elle donne vraiment envie d'en (sa)voir plus !

EN

I loved the beauty of the story, the strangeness of the world, I got attached to the characters, and this ending!!! It was full of emotions, and made me want to see (and learn!) more!

Angigames says

3 stelle e mezzo

Le ultime pagine dell'ultimo capitolo... O.O

Questo manga, per ora, ha preso la piega giusta! Mix perfetto tra dispotismo, magia, storia e avventura! Per ora promosso!

Chantal says

Ho visto l'altro giorno questo manga in fumetteria, non so se vi è mai capitato, ma appena l'ho preso e sfogliato mi è salita una strana emozione al petto. Sembrava che quelle pagine mi stessero dicendo "Leggimi, sono la storia che cerchi!" Ho seguito il consiglio! Children of the whales è un manga molto particolare, si avverte immediatamente di quanto sia complicata la trama e i suoi personaggi. Ci troviamo sulla Balena di Fango, un'isola dove vivono i non marchiati, destinati a diventare coloro che governeranno il luogo, e i marchiati, esseri dai poteri magici e la vita piuttosto breve. Chakuro è il protagonista di questa intensa storia, ama scrivere tutto ciò che vede e, proprio per questo, si occupa di registrare tutto ciò che avviene sull'isola. Un giorno, tra l'immenso mare di sabbia, gli abitanti dell'isola scorgono una nuova terra. Chakuro, che farà parte della spedizione, trova per puro caso una ragazza, marchiata come lui, che in preda al panico lo attacca per poi svenire. Chi è e cosa nasconde? È la prima domanda che Chakuro si pone, ma non sarà l'ultima,

Lykos infatti nasconde segreti e verità pericolose da raccontare.
Insomma io voglio il secondo!

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

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In an endless desert floats the Mud Whale, an island city of clay moving by magic, containing a small community where most die young their life spans cut short by their own magic. Chakuro diligently chronicles these deaths determined to leave a better record than those who came before. When a scouting party he's a part of discovers a young girl who knows more about their island than they do, everything changes...

GAH!! The art is GORGEOUS!! I mean it really takes my breathe away... This is the first time I kinda wish the art was were in full color with soft pastels... NOT that the black and white art was compromised but I can just imagine the dreamy colorless world they live in! I never had trouble figuring out who the characters were nor did I get them mixed up! And the settings were like characters themselves they were so well thought out and drawn!

This is a super cool dystopian manga! I kept saying... oh this is so cool... Oh wow, that was such a neat thing... GAH, this is just getting better and better... There is this slice of life aspect with the flying migration of the crickets plus this sci-fi part with the machine from the heavens that takes emotions to survive. This is NOT an easy going manga... NO! There are battles and the solders were creepy, crazy, cool! It was JUST ONE VOLUME and yet we learned so much about the world and things advanced at just the right pace.

There are three leads and I really enjoyed each one. There is Chakuro, a rather sweet and naive boy who records everything. There is a girl, Lykos, and her ferret whom they find who is an emotionless fighter. And there is the moles leader, Ouni, who is the most gifted of the thymia users. He is the rebel and blows opens the things the elders would rather be kept secret...

The only thing that gives me pause is that there are A LOT of minor characters we are introduced to (which isn't bad) and I struggled a little with who they were and why I was to care about them. I'm sure I will get to know them more as the series goes on...

Otherwise the world building is quite cool paired up with the gorgeous art... I won't say much but the norm of the mud whale is established then compared to the girl's whale so that you can understand that something mysterious is going on... and Chakuro is there to witness it all!

The end DOES NOT DISAPPOINT! It is shocking and just... wow! GAH! This is a creative, compelling post-apocalyptic fantasy world and I totally need the next volume!

????? Art

????? Leads

????? Others

????? Plot

????? Tension

????? Development

BOTTOM LINE: If you are a fan of the dystopia, post-apocalyptic or fantasy genres then this is the manga for you...

Thanks to Edelweiss and the publisher for providing me with an ARC in exchange for an honest review.

You can find this review and many others on my book blog @ Perspective of a Writer. See my manga and graphic novel reviews in a special feature called Saturday Morning Cartoons...

GrilledCheeseSamurai says

Interesting story. A floating island called the Mud Whale drifts across the sandy wastes. 90% of the population on the Mud Whale have a type of magic fueled by emotion. Those with the 'mark' rarely live past the age of 30.

Up to this point no one on the Mud Whale knows why they are there or where they come from. They haven't even seen another person besides those they live with on their floating Island.

Until now...

3.5 ?'s out of 5.

[Shai] Bibliophage says

Probably because of the translation from the original Japanese manga, that's why the story and dialogues are not that good. The beginning is a bit bland or maybe because, I repeat, from the translation.

I can't help it, but I fell asleep on the four consecutive nights that I've tried to finished the first half of this manga. However, the best part starts on Chapter 3 and it continues to get better as the story continues.

Thanks to VIZ Media LLC and Simon & Schuster for the reading copy of this.

Federica says

<https://ennesimobookblog.blogspot.it/...>

Il protagonista principale della storia è decisamente Chakuro. Lui abita sulla Balena di fango, così come tante altre persone, e gli piace scrivere. Annota tutto quello che accade sulla balena, un'immensa nave che vaga in un mare di sabbia. E quando dalla nave vedono un'isola, dopo tanto tempo che non ne scorgevano,

non possono fare a meno di andare in esplorazione, anche Chakuro parteciperà all'evento e sarà proprio lui a trovare su quell'isola una ragazza. Non è la prima volta che gli abitanti della balena si imbattono in un'isola, ma è decisamente la prima volta che si imbattono in un altro essere umano. Ma chi è questa ragazza? E come mai non dice nulla?

Non posso dire altro sulla storia perchè rischierei di raccontare troppo. Però andando avanti si inizieranno a scoprire altre cose, vedremo altri personaggi oltre a Chakuro, e il loro mondo verrà sconvolto. La fine del primo volume lascia in sospeso un sacco di domande, e fa anche un po' soffrire.

Trovo l'ambientazione fantastica, una nave di fango che vaga in un mondo dove il mare è di sabbia, le precipitazioni sono quasi assenti e gli abitanti della balena sono dotati di poteri magici, la thymia, che tende ad accorciare la vita di chi è marchiato. Quei pochi che non hanno i marchi -e quindi non hanno magia- sono detti anziani perchè vivono più a lungo. Sono loro a governare la balena, e sono loro a sapere qualcosa sul mondo esterno che agli altri non è dato sapere. Ma alla luce del ritrovamento della ragazza, tutto questo sta per essere cambiato, il mondo sta per bussare alla loro porta.

I disegni sono incantevoli, potrei stare ore a fissarli, tanto quelli dell'anime a colori che quelli del manga in b/n.

I personaggi sono ben fatti e caratterizzati, impossibile non affezionarsi a Chakuro e Sami, e provare interesse per il misterioso Ouni. In più da quando entra in scena quella nuova ragazza, Lykos, la curiosità cresce a dismisura. Per il momento ho trovato anche una certa fedeltà con l'anime, andando avanti vedremo. Se lo avessi letto senza aver prima visto l'anime mi sarei forse un pochino persa, per questo il voto non è di 5 stelle, ma prevedo che nei prossimi soffrirò e amerò molto di più che in questo primo volume.

Derek Royal says

This is the first Abi Umeda I've read. Here, she creates a complex, deeply layered storyworld, one that, at times, challenges immediate comprehension. There were several times that I had to back and reread sections so as to better taken in the nuances and details of the people and setting. But this is to the narrative's benefit, not a criticism. To some degree, this is a post-apocalyptic story, but one in a world that is not our own. I'll definitely go on to read future volumes.

Eva Hechenberger says

Das ist der erste Teil der "Walkinder" – Reihe und ich fand diesen richtig nett. Chakuro lebt auf einer Art Insel, die einem Meer aus Sand treibt. Chakuro und die anderen Bewohner der Insel haben spezielle Fähigkeiten, welche sich durch die Nutzung von Saimia ergeben. Nachteil ist allerdings, dass die Bewohner dadurch zu einem frühen Tod verdammt sind. Diese Insel ist auch komplett abgeschottet, sodass hier kein Kontakt zu anderen besteht. Als eines Tages dann doch überraschenderweise ein fremdes Mädchen auftaucht wird es so richtig spannend.

Persönlich hat mir die Geschichte hier sehr gut gefallen. Es war spannend und magisch, aber auch emotional,

denn so gewisse Abschnitte empfand ich doch als recht traurig. Ich fand die Idee mit den Leuten auf der Insel recht interessant und auch dem Leser sehr gut dargestellt. Stellenweise war die Handlung auch geheimnisvoll, was mir aber gefallen hat und das Leseerlebnis noch verbessert hat. Durch das Auftauchen des Mädchens, ergeben sich nämlich so einige neue Umstände für die Bewohner.

Das Ende fand ich übrigens so richtig fies, denn es ergibt sich, dass es genau mitten in der Action endet und man so als Leser absolut Lust auf mehr bekommt. Die Charaktere fand ich sehr ansprechend und vielschichtig beschrieben. Am besten fand ich Chakuro, der war auch sehr interessant.

Die Bilder haben mir gut gefallen und ich fand es toll, wie dezent und fein diese waren. Sehr ansprechend. Die Schreibweise des Autors war aber richtig toll zu lesen und man konnte der Handlung wirklich toll und ohne Probleme folgen.

Das Cover gefällt mir gut.

Fazit:

4 von 5 Sterne. Ein sehr gelungener Manga. Tolle, spannende Geschichte, die wunderbar unterhält. Klare Kauf – und Leseempfehlung.

Teri says

<http://www.elpesodelaire.com/2017/12/...>
