



Black Lagoon, Vol. 4

Rei Hiroe

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The action shifts to chilly midwinter Tokyo, where Balalaika hires Rock as her interpreter, and Revy comes along as Rock's bodyguard. The Washimine-gumi, a Yakuza family on its way down, wants to make a deal with Hotel Moscow. Soon, however, the yakuza realize they might have been better off making a deal with the Devil himself! As the pressure builds, Rock faces the reality of his outlaw life, and Revy meets her match in the Washimine's number-one enforcer. The icy streets of Tokyo are about to burn red-hot!

Black Lagoon, Vol. 4 Details

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From Reader Review Black Lagoon, Vol. 4 for online ebook

Abel says

Muy buen tomo!

Kati says

3.5 stars. I didn't like this volume as much as the previous ones, mostly because the Black Lagoon crew was side-lined and the story was pretty much told from the POV of Balalaika and her soldiers on the one side and Yukio and her bodyguard on the other.

"Goat, Jihad and Rock'n Roll Pt. 6" - I loved the part where Revy got Rock high. And when she yelled at him that next time, she would not come to his rescue. Ha! Right ;)

"Fujiyama Gangsta Paradise Pt. 1-8" - This story is definitely not for faint-hearted people. From the beginning, you know it just can't end well for the Washimine family and especially for Yukio and her bodyguard. Not with a man like Chaka nearby. And especially not with Balalaika after them. Balalaika proved to be a really cruel woman in this volume - she doesn't care about anything but money and power... and maybe her soldiers, well, as much as a general can care about foot soldiers in the field. I felt especially sorry for Rock, caught in the middle with no way out. Revy didn't care one way or the other, but he did - and I think that's what Revy admires about him and why she's so protective of him. I loved the scene where she swore to Rock that she would kill Chaka before they left Japan for what he did to Rock.

This manga is really fascinating, full of action and suspense - but also senseless cruelty. It's definitely not a feel-good stuff.

Alexander Engel-Hodgkinson says

The arc involving the Jihads ends on a rather hilarious note, which is probably a good thing, since the beginning of the arc involving the Washimine Clan doesn't waste any time in letting us know that things are not going to end well. The fact that Balalaika's also involved is another obvious clue, since she's as thorough as she is ruthless. No one wants to be caught on the business end of her gun. She's the cruellest character in the series--and considering how everyone in this series is a criminal of some kind, that means something.

Despite some great moments in this arc, it's a slight step down from the previous arcs. It's more melodramatic, and the Lagoon Company is more or less sidelined, moved aside to make room for the exploits (and development) of Balalaika and the Kosa Clan as they begin their one-sided war with each other. That would be a really bad thing if these other characters weren't interesting, or if the event itself wasn't interesting, but they are, and it is, so it works. Main heroes can get too much screentime too, even in their own story, if they aren't needed. And since they're just translators (and mild muscle) in this volume, they aren't needed that much. There's some tragedy here, as Rock realizes that the girl he's befriended is a member of the very group Balalaika seeks to destroy, so it's interesting how Rock tries to talk Balalaika out of it.

Mike Uscroft says

I love the Japan arc. Personally I think it's Black Lagoon's best.

Trip says

Poor Rock. (But then, when is that *not* an appropriate sentiment?)
