



Children of the Sea, Volume 2

Daisuke Igarashi

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The sea has a story to tell you, one you've never heard before... R to L (Japanese Style). Umi and Sora are not alone in their strange connection to the sea. Forty years ago, Jim met another young boy with the same powers. As penance for letting the boy die, Jim has been searching the world for other children with those same ties to the ocean. Anglade, a wunderkind who was once Jim's research partner, lures Sora away with the promise of answers. This leaves Umi severely depressed, and it is up to Ruka to help her new friend find his brother. But time is quickly running out... When Ruka was younger, she saw a ghost in the water at the aquarium where her dad works. Now she feels drawn toward the aquarium and the two mysterious boys she meets there, Umi and Sora. They were raised by dugongs and hear the same strange calls from the sea that she does. Ruka's dad and the other adults who work at the aquarium are only distantly aware of what the children are experiencing as they get caught up in the mystery of the worldwide disappearance of the ocean's fish.

Children of the Sea, Volume 2 Details

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From Reader Review Children of the Sea, Volume 2 for online ebook

Bryn (Plus Others) says

This is just not really my genre -- I will probably keep reading it until I run out of volumes loaned to me by my lovely manga-loaning friend, but I don't think I'll bother to finish the series unless it surprises me.

Chris says

It's alright. Curious to find out what happens next.

Ayen says

Wow

E says

mythic and haunting... I'm not sure I understand the story that's going on, only partly because of having to read it in the reverse of my accustomed patterns.

I think it's dreamlike to the point of incoherent in spots... and I really wish it were color illustrations all the way through, because the undersea scenes would be easier to read.

Child960801 says

A strange phenomenon is happening to one of the boys. They all run off together to a private beach. A new character is introduced who I thought was a girl for pages and pages until someone called that character a guy. These books are weird.

Nicola Mansfield says

This incredibly unique story picks up where Vol. 1 left off and after reading the book I'm still left without any evidence on whether to call it fantasy or science fiction at this point. The fish continue to disappear but that aspect of the story fades to the background as this volume both takes a closer look at certain characters and propels Umi and Sora's plot forward. We are taken into the past and shown Jim's backstory which explains why he is the boys' guardian. A new character, Anglade, appears on the scene who promises answers to Sora. Sora's disappearance leaves Umi depressed and physically ill and Ruka helps him on his search to find Sora.

A few exciting reveals are given in this volume adding more mystery to the nature of the boys' existence. The shocking ending is unexpected and will make for a major change in plot for the next volume, if all is as it seems to be. I love the science presented in this manga, the information on marine life and specific to this volume the tsunami's natural place in the ecosystem. I really enjoy the artwork, a lot of attention is paid to the background scenery in many frames and the characters are nicely drawn. One thing that did irritate me though was the new character Anglade. So far in this book, the men have been drawn to look like men, something I appreciated and had come to expect from the series. But along comes Anglade who is obviously an attractive female and referred to by name only at first then all of a sudden Anglade is referred to as he and him all the time.

Otherwise, I'm finding this series incredibly intriguing and unique. The science setting of the aquarium, the involvement of marine biologists keep the possible science fiction angle open while the fantastical events are happening all around them. At over 300 pages these volumes include a lot of characterization and I've grown attachments to certain characters and found a few I'm not fond of as well. After the system jarring ending I'm really looking forward to the next volume due out this summer (2010).

Re-read Aug/2013: My original review is very detailed on my impressions of this volume and I won't repeat them. I rated it a (4.5/5) For this re-read I am again just astounded with Igarashi's stunning art. His representation of marine life is captivating. The story becomes very mystical at this point. The boys themselves and Jim refer to them as not human, something I think I missed in the first read and this is an important plot-point. Also much is made of Ruka's similarities with Umi and Sora. I still don't like the way Anglade is drawn. I really hate it when they draw a beautiful girl with long flowing hair, gorgeous big eyes with long upturned eyelashes and then eventually tell you it's a him. Gag! The story is becoming very mystical with connections between both myths and science at this point and the ending is shocking and tragic. I'm willing to change my rating to a full 5/5 at this point. Anglade's looks don't affect the story, just my sensibilities LOL.

Callie Rose Tyler says

I continue to enjoy this story even though I'm confused at least 50% of the time. It is just so mysterious, the dugong call to me.

David Schaafsma says

The art again is the best thing about this series, the gorgeous work Igarashi does especially with nature: any ocean creatures, water, weather... he's a little less good with people, interestingly enough, but maybe because the global/cosmic themes are actually more important to him than the characters themselves. Many of the characters are mystical and ethereal and two of them look very much like girls but are boys, to no obvious purpose... but the cast is still interesting, just not as accomplished as the amazing art, which well fits the purposes of the story.

The central idea here blends science (marine biology, in particular) and mysticism to tell a story of something peculiar and concerning about the sea and the disappearance of fish. It also features middle school kids as central characters, so that's an audience issue, to get at the complexity of the known world and communicate that to teens (and older people, too!).

Two kids, Umi and Sora, have a sixth sense, though it is not about ghosts, but about the sea. Instead of seeing dead people or prescience, they can read some levels of the ocean, have a sense of what is going on with it. They also grew up IN it, not just around it, so that's a fantasy element. Ultimately, we learn as we go in the plot that we humans know very little about the sea, we are just scratching the surface and are as arrogant about it as we are about any sort of cultural or ethnic issue. The pace is slow, as Sora goes missing and Umi gets sick and we get some interesting backstory about marine biologist Jim who has known kids like Umi and Sora for forty years. He's not just a hard science guy, in other words, he gets it that the ocean is mostly unknowable and often mysterious. Much of what he is learning as a scientist is informed by Sora's mystical sixth sense, actually. Sora has been working with him. There's a big reveal at the end that is surprising and will make you/me keep reading, of course. This is a really unique manga..

Zaz says

As with the 1st volume, the story was strange. In addition, it was also far fetched and difficult to follow at some points. I enjoyed the moments in the water or on the beach, and the kids' interactions, but not really the rest. The end was quite difficult to look at.

Donatella says

Propongo un piccolo passaggio da questo secondo volume.

E' qualcosa di DAVVERO bello e mai visto prima, ha una profondità che non a caso può essere paragonata a quella degli oceani.

Lo consiglio e lo straconsiglio a tutti, appassionati di fumetti e non, perché ha il potenziale per soddisfare la stragrande maggioranza dei lettori.

"Gli occhi della scienza non vedono realmente ciò che accade dentro di noi. Di tutte le cose che esistono in questo mondo noi esseri umani non siamo in grado di osservarne che una infinitesima frazione.

Perfezionando la tecnologia per scrutare il cosmo, quel che abbiamo compreso è che esiste della "materia oscura" che non è direttamente osservabile. Ne presumiamo la presenza solo dagli effetti gravitazionali che causa. Inoltre in totale la sua massa è dieci volte superiore alla massa di qualsiasi altra cosa. In pratica più del novanta per cento della massa totale dell'universo è costituita da materia oscura di cui non sappiamo niente."

"Quindi quasi tutto?"

"Sì, è come se non vedessimo nulla. Questo mondo è pieno di cose che noi non possiamo osservare e il cosmo è di gran lunga più immensamente grande di quello che ci appare."

Brittany says

Igarashi's drawing is still as lovely as ever. I found myself stopping page after page to adore and absorb the sketchy lines and the way he uses line shape to provoke emotion and mood. The drawings of the sea, or the animals, or the eyes, are sometimes just scratches on the paper - up close the lines recreate the swaying of the plants underwater, or the brush of a current - and when farther from the eye they create a whole scene, something moving and a moment captured. I think that's what I love most about this manga. The story is

great, but the art is something all together new and beautiful to me.

In this volume, Sora and Umi are separated. The whole volume creates something of a desolate feeling... that "typhoon building inside of you". Even Ruka's enthusiasm and spunk are muted as Umi and Sora's separation pushes Umi into a depressed funk. We learn a lot more about Jim's relation to the two boys in this book, and find out more about researchers who want to do tests on them to discover "what they really are". There's less ghost story, more legend leading to truth, and a lot more real life concern.

When Sora and Umi are finally united, they share a day of joy swimming with Ruka...and in one night, as Umi's body is going through some kind of "change" ---Sora is taken by "her" ---and is dismembered by sea creatures. It's a bit graphic, and a bit curious, but it adds to the overall interest I have in this particular story from the sea. And there it ends...so I'll have to pick up the next volume!

Geraldine says

I enjoyed reading this book. Especially that it includes the ocean and the aquatic animals. Not only is it entertaining, it is also educational. I was so engrossed in the book I finished it in less than a day. I recommend it to everyone.

Rosa says

The illustrations of the animals are absolutely gorgeous. The story is getting a little bit creepy and sad but I am still enjoying it.

Stephanie - Adventures Thru Wonderland says

I think I'm starting to understand this series a little more. This one covered some Asian mythology, and seems to be the theme for this series. I am starting to like the characters more as I understand who everyone is. I love the artwork, and am excited to read more of this series! This is so different from the other manga I've read, but I think that's part of it's lure, that it is different, and I love that!

Monica says

Well that took a turn I wasn't expecting! Must find out what happens next!
