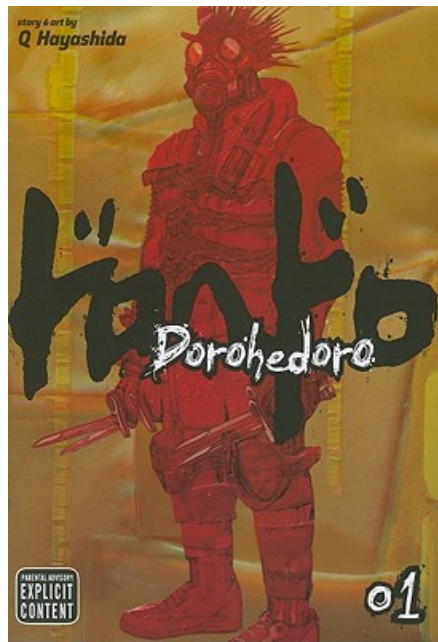




Dorohedoro, Vol. 1

Q. Hayashida

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A blood-spattered battle between diabolical sorcerers and the monsters they created.

Caiman was not lucky. A sorcerer cursed him with a reptile head and left him with no memory of his life before the transformation. Adding to the mystery, there's a specter of a man living inside him. But Caiman has one key advantage: he's now completely immune to magic. Along with his best friend, Nikaido, Caiman is hunting down sorcerers in the Hole, searching for the one who can undo his curse and killing the rest. But when En, the head Sorcerer, of the sorcerers, gets word of a lizard-man slaughtering sorcerers, he sends a crew of "cleaners" into the Hole, igniting a war between two worlds.

Dorohedoro, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Q. Hayashida

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From Reader Review Dorohedoro, Vol. 1 for online ebook

fonz says

Los que gusten del bizarro tienen aquí su tebeo ideal, una sucesión de momentos wtf? que arranca con una memorable viñeta a toda página de un tío con cabeza de caimán devorándole la quijotera a otro tipo en primer y detallado plano y de ahí hacia arriba. El problema es que esta es la típica obra que resulta más atractiva contada que leída, puesto que el festival de bizarradas que Hayashida pone en danza se sostiene de forma endeble en una estructura que no deja de ser el manga shonen de batallas de toda la vida ambientado en un entorno cuya lógica interna es ciertamente tenue. El interés se mantiene gracias al planteamiento inicial, que parece ideado por un Bret Easton Ellis que fuese guionista de manga, y porque la autora posee una gran imaginación para la parafernalia insólita, violenta, grotesca y absurda con la que ha vestido su historia. Y un excelente sentido del humor chorra muy japonés, como ese personaje al que no se le deja de putear en plan chiste recurrente realmente gracioso. Por otro lado, los dos personajes principales tienen el interés del envoltorio de un chicle arrugao (él, Kaiman, es amnésico y le encantan las empanadillas como se insiste una y otra vez, ella, Nikaido, lleva un restaurante, le cocina las empanadillas de marras y da unas ostias como panes. Ya.), y "los malos" resultan algo más interesantes aunque sin pasarse tampoco. Supongo que tanto los personajes como el ambiente y la historia se beneficiarán de un foco más amplio según avance la narración, tal y como suele ocurrir en las series japonesas, porque de momento resulta un tebeo entretenido pero debe mejorar bastante para que acabe leyéndome los veinte tomos que hay publicados hasta ahora.

En lo gráfico, no he podido encontrar información para corroborarlo, pero Hayashida parece una fan fatal de Ted McKeever (Eddy Current, Plastic Forks, Industrial Gothic...) pero con los elementos típicos del manga en rostros y narrativa. En las páginas a color, por ejemplo, el dibujo es clavado al del norteamericano. Desde luego el estilo grotesco de McKeever se ajusta como un guante a esta historia, pero, lamentablemente, Hayashida no posee la depurada habilidad del autor norteamericano y no puede ocultar sus carencias en cuanto a anatomía, perspectiva y narrativa y tampoco resulta coherente en su estilo, a veces intenta ser más realista, acercándose a Nihei en las escenas de acción, pero en alguna ocasión no le sale y la cosa da el cante muy gravemente. Es una pena porque su grafismo resulta interesante, a ver como evoluciona en los próximos tomos.

Kristian Dobson says

This manga is really cool. It's like a mixture of Berserk and Blame!, set in a weird punk dystopia filled with sorcerers and magic. It's dark and violent, and drawn rough, but detailed which makes it look unconventional compared to most manga. The art gets points alone for how great it is. There's still a lot to learn about this world but I'm excited to find out more.

Justin says

Dorohedoro feels like what you'd get if you took *Battle Angel Alita* and replaced the cyborgs with sorcerers. Filthy dystopian city as a main setting? Check. A powerful, outside ruling class, that exploits the lower rungs of society, and actively works to keep them from advancing? Check. Interesting and likable characters? Check. And while it hasn't reached the levels of unbridled awesomeness of *Battle Angel Alita* yet, volume

one of *Dorohedoro* is still really damn good.

The bizarre situation that Caiman finds himself in (transformed into a lizard man, with someone who may or may not be his true self trapped inside of him), is an immediate attention-getter, and quickly sets up the theme: Sorcerers are not good people, and just this once, they may have messed with the wrong guy. What follows is a dark, unabashedly violent quest for vengeance, which does lose a little steam due to the simple fact that Caiman and his partner Nikaido, don't really know where to look. They've just taken to shaking down every sorcerer they come across, but it's not like there are magic-users camped out on every street corner. This isn't inherently bad, as it lets the reader see a bit of Caiman's & Nikaido's day to day lives, and get a feel for them as people rather merely blood-fueled instruments of justice.

That said, there are times when Caiman comes across as a little too flippant for my taste, but I can roll with it. Nikaido on the other hand is a straight-up badass, and serves as a nice straight-man (straight-woman?) counterpoint to Caiman's laid-back, joking personality. The villains present a nice range of personalities, too. From the truly unsettling En, to the sad-sack demeanor of Fujita, to the cool and calculating duo of Shin and Noi, they all bring something unique to the table. Quite an enjoyable cast, all around.

The art is rough, without being unrefined, and really fits the story well. Character's faces have a lot of emotion, the overall character design is great, and the environments do feel run-down and ramshackle. My only complaints are that sometimes during fight scenes, some panels are zoomed in a little too close to be able to easily tell what's going on, and the fact that every once in awhile, someone's head will look like it's been drawn a little too small.

But yeah, this volume of *Dorohedoro* is a great setup, and I look forward to seeing where Q Hayashida goes with this.

Keith says

There should be no reason for me not to like a book in which a guy with an alligator for a head eats another dude's head on the first page. And yet, blech. Not a fun book at all. Grim and senselessly unpleasant, like reading a Slipknot album. I would write more but I think I'm done here.

Baal Of says

I went into this expecting something a bit more serious. I was satisfied with the gore, and the artwork, though scratchy and messy and cluttered, is not so rough as to make it impossible to figure out what is going on. Some of the character proportions seem weird, but then it's in the weird/fantasy/horror realm, so some bodily distortion is acceptable. The writing is competent, slightly above average fare for manga, with plenty of humor laced throughout. I was actually disappointed that the various characters were just wearing masks - I had assume they would all have non-human heads like Caiman, but alas, no.

Álvaro Arbonés says

Estilo es aquello que surge de forma natural al privilegiar ciertos aspectos sobre otros a la hora de crear. De

ese modo, no hay dos artistas verdaderamente geniales que sean iguales. En qué proporción elige cada artista hacer énfasis en la atmósfera, lo personajes, la técnica o cualesquiera otros aspectos que puedan influir en la obra es donde radica la definición de su estilo. Su personalidad radica en lo que hace, incluido aquello que parece que no se debe hacer.

Dorohedoro tiene un estilo muy particular. Tanto, que hemos tenido que empezar a hablando de estilo. Con una clara influencia de **Katsuhiko Otomo** en la composición de rostros, pero con un estilo sobrecargado, lineal y abusando de un tono donde lo *cyber* desaparece para dejar paso enteramente a lo *punk*, la obra de **Q Hayashida** consigue combinar dos aspectos difícilmente conjugables juntos: violencia extrema y cuquismo.

Esto se explica tanto en su estilo pictórico como en el narrativo. Ambos perfectamente imbricados. Pues además de lo sobrecargado de cada viñeta, llenas de líneas sólo en apariencia huérfanas y caóticas abriéndose paso entre personas de cuerpos enormes, la historia se comporta del mismo modo, saltando con facilidad entre momentos íntimos rayano con el costumbrismo con una posterior masacre de magos que acaba con tantos cadáveres desollados de tantas y tan brutales formas que, al principio, cuesta comprender cómo ese nivel de violencia resulta chocante, pero en ningún momento desagradable. O no tanto como para llegar a resultar difícil de leer.

Eso es así por ese delicado equilibrio que describíamos.

Este primer tomo, que no deja de ser de introducción, nos presenta a los personajes, sus cuitas y sus vidas cotidianas. De ese modo, entre sanguinamientos, vamos aprendiendo que es de ellos. Cómo viven, cómo se escaquean en el trabajo, cómo tienen una vida más allá de las masacres.

Todo de un modo dulce. Tranquilo. Donde la diferencia entre una conversación tranquila y descuartizar a una persona sólo media la connatural naturaleza más violenta de lo segundo.

Por eso resulta cuqui y violento. Fascinante incluso. Porque no intenta epatar. No intenta pasar por algo radical, extremo, duro y sucio. Sólo nos presenta con igual gracia, cariño e interés la vida de unos personajes interesantes, aunque en este primer tomo aprendamos poco más allá de su tendencia a masacrarse entre dos bandos enfrentados, los humanos y los magos, que habitan en dos dimensiones paralelas. Motor de la historia desde el momento que un mago desconocido convirtió al protagonista en un hombre lagarto tras un experimento no se sabe si muy logrado o completamente fallido.

De ese modo, el estilo de Q Hayashida va saltando entre lo conocido y lo violento, el gran misterio de fondo, las pequeñas conspiraciones y el día a día en la vida de una gente que tiene, de hecho, una vida más allá de la aventura en la cual se han visto sumergidos. Una gente que es creíble que, tras masacrar a un mago, lo siguiente en lo que piensen es cómo escaquearse de pagar la factura del restaurante al que acudirán.

Porque eso es el estilo. Privilegiar unos rasgos sobre otros y llevarlos hasta su máximo refinamiento. Por incompatibles o absurdos que puedan parecer a simple vista.

Fiore says

Violence filled fun, I haven't read anything else quite like this. But I loved the dark humor it has going alongside all the gorey material.

Ingenue says

Sometimes I click with a book instantly. Sometimes I click just as instantly into knowing that a book's style and premise means it's just not going to work out between us, at all. Sorry, Dorohedoro. It's not you, it's me. Although it's probably you.

Miss says

Hmmm. Not precisely my thing? The universe set up is as follows: there's two worlds, The Hole and unnamed world where sorcerers hang out in weird masks which if the side story is indicative of anything are crafted by the Devil. These sorcerers occasionally drop by the Hole to practice their magic on random people in the streets. This experimentation gives us our protagonist, a man with a lizard face and an immunity to magic. He's on the hunt for the sorcerer who did this to him, by way of grabbing any sorcerer he finds and sticking them inside his mouth where a man yells out whether he recognizes him. None of them match the bill so far and he kills them all after checking.

It's a weird story.

I'm not exactly invested in the characters but I'm sort of curious about the plot anyways? What's up with the dude inside Caiman; why are these sorcerers so pressed for practice they go around experimenting their magic on unlucky citizens; is the sorcerer world supposed to be hell or what? The art style's interesting too; I haven't seen much like it. Sort of this rough-lined semi-realistically proportioned, weirdly effective in depicting gore kind of thing. I'm not entirely sure when (or whether) I'll be picking up the next volume; I'm going to be need in a particular mood for this sort of stylized gross out violence. 3 stars.

Olivia says

Badass fighting, gory battles, evil sorcery, and slice-of-life humor collide in Dorohedoro. Follow Caiman as he tries to unravel the mystery of his lizard-like appearance, regain lost memories, eat oba gyoza, work his day-job at the local hospital, and viciously murder sorcerers. With his best friend, Nikaido, Caiman encounters a colorful cast of villains who are also quite likable as antagonists.

This series is not for the faint of heart: when I say it's gory, I mean GORY. Casually gory. As in, the gore is treated as commonplace which is part of the humor. The cheap garbage bag you're using to carry around a still living person's head and organs? Of course it broke; you have to buy the nice garbage bags. Don't skimp on the garbage bags.

Joy says

Half of Dorohedoro was awful.

It started out strong and had a good concept. Good characters that I liked and cared about. They were all morally ambiguous, but they were interesting. The art was meh, but it made sense.

Then the middle of the story happened. The artwork descended into ridiculous amounts fan service gore that made no sense. It looked like a bored fifteen-year-old drew it while listening to horrorcore. Ridiculous new characters were introduced and alliances between older characters changed. It became increasingly difficult to track which characters were dead. Nearly all of the characters became flat and uninteresting. Battles were boring and repetitious.

Around 3/4 of the way through, I finally opened up the last volume to see where it was going. I felt as if I hadn't missed anything.

With that, I gave up. Dorohedoro is the perfect example of a manga that should be put out of its misery long before the paychecks stop coming.

Jokoloyo says

At first impression it is a one bloody-and-gore manga. Well, it is not entirely wrong, but there are more than that. On this first volume, after early bloody chapters, the last two chapters are pretty humorous. Okay, dark humor, not so funny for some people.

The magic system of this series is not revealed much yet on this volume.

Christopher says

Potentially interesting ideas that need a better storyteller. I would not be surprised at all if someone told me the overall series is worth reading, but the first volume doesn't do too much to compel me to continue.

Though I do have Volume 2 in front of me, so I might see how it goes.

Mike says

This was my first "real" experience with Manga, and I have to say I loved every page of it! Can't wait to get the second volume.

osoi says

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