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BEYOND PRIME

Ichiro Inuyashiki is down on his luck. While only 58 years old, his geriatric looks often have him written off as a pathetic old man by the world around him and he's constantly ignored and disrespected by his family despite all that he's done to support them. On top of everything else, his doctor has revealed that he has cancer and it appears that he has little time left in this world.

Just when it seems things couldn't get any worse, a blinding light in the night sky strikes the earth where Ichiro stands. He later wakes up to find himself unscathed, but he soon starts to notice that there's something...different about himself. However, it turns out that these strange, new changes are just what Ichiro needs to take a new lease on life and now it seems like there's nothing to stop him from being a hero worthy of the respect that he never had before...unless, that is, there was someone else out there with these same "changes"...

Inuyashiki, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Hiroya Oku

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From Reader Review Inuyashiki, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Nicola Mansfield says

A promising new sci-fi manga series with an appeal to the adult reader. A compelling new take, for me at least, with an old man as the main character. Though they make him out to be older than he is in actual years, kind of a life has been hard on him thing. The book starts off very sad and goes into quite a deep character study of this man, his life, family and view of the world around him. Then he and a stranger and hit by a blinding light and his world is forever changed. The sci-fi angle is really cool and for a first volume a lot happens including just enough information to get the reader hooked. The book ends with the introduction of the second character and I'm really excited to see if he's going to be the protagonist to Inuyashiki. Really detailed clear art as well.

Keith says

I picked this one up randomly at Kinokuniya the other day and had no idea what I was getting into. It's like Kurosawa's *Ikiru* meets... I don't even know, really. *Ghost in the Shell?* *Twilight Zone?* Something like that.

Not sure how far I'll get into the series, but reading the first volume was a hoot!

James DeSantis says

I love Gantz. It's one of my fave animes of all time. I took a lot of inspirations from it when I began writing. So when Oku said he would be doing another Manga I jumped on it right away. Did we get another masterpiece? Or least as entertaining as Gantz? Not really but a lot of interesting ideas.

What I liked: Ichiro (the main character) is treated like shit by his family. His daughter thinks he's a loser. His wife makes fun of his age/look. His son is embarrassed of him. It's awful and you actually feel for the old man. I also love the pacing. You get to really get a look inside of his life but also get to the main plot quickly once a alien ship of some sort lands on top of the old man and another young man. When Ichiro awakens he notices he's not all that human anymore. Being able to transform to a robot, which is pretty badass. You see him, the old man use his powers for good, and it's awesome.

What I didn't like: Some of the art can be iffy. Almost feels like the characters are out of place. I also think the last chapter is a little cheesy. A lot of throwback to Gantz, and it feels like the author is just feeding his own ego. We get it, Gantz is fun and awesome, but dissing your critics is a little sad. I didn't like that. And it felt pointless with these new kids and the ending was easy to see coming.

I'm still eager to get deeper in. While not as good as Gantz start it still is very exciting. Hopefully it gets even better. A 3.5/5.

Ek Guevara says

Deni Morzilli says

Debo decir que la historia me fascina, es una bocanada de aire fresco en comparación a los últimos mangas repetitivos que hay en el mercado. Me atrapo de tal manera que estuve tres días ANSIOSA esperando tener tiempo para sentarme a continuar con la lectura.

Muy bueno, por el momento recomendable, esperemos que en los próximos tomos no arruinen la historia que viene tan bien encaminada.

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Phils Osophie says

Mein Einstieg ins Manga Genre - etwas plakativ mit hölzernen Dialogen, aber total gut gezeichnet, kurzweilig und spannend! Bin mit diesem Genre anscheinend angefixt

Rosangela says

I really enjoyed reading it, it's a promising new sci-fi manga series. It is really well drawn, I absolutely loved the artwork.

Terrence says

Well, that was a quick read. This is a Seinen about a salaryman who gave his everything to get a better home for his family, only to be rewarded by taking crap from each and every one of them about his elderly appearance, the house being too small, and other insignificant superficial problems they have with him.

So yeah, this'll definitely be an acquired taste since the story is so negative with that premise. Thankfully there is a turn, though I don't want to spoil too much. There's also a secondary main character in a young man who has a joked about Shounen sense of righteousness who is clearly being set up as the one to talk some sense into his daughter.

Again, there's an anime style twist to this story that takes it in another direction. I can't help but be reminded of Baccano, Parasyte, or I Am a Hero. The story also pokes fun at Gantz being a crap tier manga, which I assume was written or illustrated by the same Mangaka since the designs are so similar. Kind of interesting to see him poke fun at his own work and give Twitter opinions and the like. I am interested in seeing whether

this becomes a tragedy or a feel good story. There's a light amount of violence involved right now, but I could see the stakes rising later, especially where our title character has a vulnerable family they could use to tug at our heartstrings.

Shannon says

[his insides have been replaced with alien technology, (hide spoiler)]

Justin says

Old Man Robocop is best Robocop. Ahem, now that the sound byte, meme-review is out of the way, *Inuyashiki* so far is part study in neglect of the elderly, and part superhero origin story.

Oku's storytelling is always hit or miss, but the worlds he builds up are invariably compelling, if overwhelmingly dark. *GANTZ*, for example, relied more on spectacle than coherent storytelling for its individual plot arcs, but the overall examination of how terrible people can be to each other made it a real page-turner, for those who looked below the surface. His works are always dripping with social commentary, and the examples put forth in the opening act of this volume of *Inuyashiki* may be the best examples of this he's yet put forth. Ichiro Inuyashiki is the patriarch of his family, but he gets absolutely no respect, despite his best efforts to provide for them--a fact not helped by the fact that he looks at least 15 years older than he actually is (prompting his daughter to refer to him as her grandfather, to her friends). He's taken entirely for granted, ignored, and even outright shunned for the first couple of chapters, and in all honesty, the result is a devastating read. And it tugs at the heartstrings all the stronger, because I could actually see this happening in real life...and then an alien spaceship crashes on him.

I don't mean to undercut the gravity of the situation by stating it so bluntly, because the story is still good after this happens. Essentially, before taking back off, the aliens reconstruct a facsimile of Ichiro (and another person who happened to be nearby), and the plot shifts gears. There's still a focus on cruelty, neglect, and man's inhumanity to man (as well as a dose of body horror, as robo-Ichiro realizes the truth), but the difference now is that he can actually start doing something to change things.

The story gets a bit spotty toward the end, though. (e.g. A group of teenagers seems to get murdered at one point, but they're okay a few panels later--it suggests that what hit them wasn't actually lethal, but at the time it sure looks like it. Lots of questions raised, either way.) It's disappointing to see a story that began with such a bang fizzle slightly at the end, but I'm definitely on board to see where this goes. Even being familiar with Oku's other work, I honestly can't predict where he might go with this.

Jennifer says

I don't know what I was expecting, but this wasn't it. *Inuyashiki* contains many elements seen in other sci-fi manga such as the role of technology in interpersonal relations and the question of what makes us human, in this case, because the main character's physical body is no longer human due to some mysterious aliens killing him and restoring him as a weird cyborg. However, this title feels different somehow, for reasons that I can't necessarily pinpoint. It could be that it's more serious, which is reflected in the artwork, which is less

stylized than most manga. It could also be because the main character is a 58-year-old man. The main character has family who depressingly undervalues and disdains him. He experiences depression at his family situation and his diagnosis of terminal cancer; experiences a freaky, bewildering stage of self-discovery that he's no longer human; and, by chance, he saves a homeless man's life, which apparently convinces him to become a 58-year-old cyborg vigilante.

I'm curious where this one will go. I also find it amusing that the author made fun of his previous work, *Gantz* in this volume, and that the main character's best, and constant, companion is a shiba dog.

LG (A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions) says

Inuyashiki is a 58-year-old man who is unloved by everyone in his life. When he moves his family to a new home, all everyone does is gripe about it - how small the place is, how cheap he is, etc. He has a young son and teen daughter, both of whom are embarrassed by how old he is. They also don't respect him and don't bother to hide this fact. When Inuyashiki proposes that the family get a dog, no one will come with him, so he ends up selecting a Shiba, Hanako, on his own. It seems that Hanako is the only being in the world that Inuyashiki has to live for, until one fateful evening, when he and a teenage boy end up forever changed.

I picked up the first couple volumes of this in a Humble Bundle a while back. There's Humble Bundle with more volumes of this and other series up right now, and I'm still debating whether to get it.

This first volume of *Inuyashiki* didn't leave me wishing I had more in my collection. The characters were, for the most part, horrible. I doubt any of the people in Inuyashiki's family ever genuinely loved each other, and the world of this series seemed to be entirely populated with bullies. The only character I even vaguely liked was the dog, and something about this series makes me suspect that the dog isn't going to make it through the whole thing.

The artwork definitely wasn't to my taste. There was something slightly unsettling and repulsive about it, even before Inuyashiki discovered that there was something strange going on with his body. Maybe this was intentional, but the result was that I didn't really want to spend more time than necessary looking at pages and panels.

The sci-fi aspects were weird and a little hand-wavy. The goals of the beings Inuyashiki and Shishigami, the teenage boy, encountered were never stated outright, but they seemed to want to avoid causing a stir, or perhaps to avoid affecting humans with their appearance too much. Either way, they failed miserably, and their failure seems likely to grow more pronounced in later volumes.

I'm really not impressed with this series so far.

Extras:

Two pages of translation notes.

(Original review posted on A Library Girl's Familiar Diversions.)

Adam Spanos says

A promising new sci-fi manga series with an appeal to the adult reader. A compelling new take, for me at least, with an old man as the main character. Though they make him out to be older than he is in actual years, kind of a life has been hard on him thing. The book starts off very sad and goes into quite a deep character study of this man, his life, family and view of the world around him. Then he and a stranger and hit by a blinding light and his world is forever changed. The sci-fi angle is really cool and for a first volume a lot happens including just enough information to get the reader hooked. The book ends with the introduction of the second character and I'm really excited to see if he's going to be the protagonist to Inuyashiki. Really detailed clear art as well.

Juan says

Interesante. Un comienzo como lento pero puede ser divertida como historia.

DarkChaplain says

I feel honestly bad for Inuyashiki. His family is a shitshow. Great pilot volume, though. Hit plenty of good notes here. Gross in places, but that is to be expected from this author.
