



Happiness, Vol. 5

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LIFE OR DEATH

As the body count rises, the horror that has descended upon Makoto Okazaki's life reaches an apex. The forces pursuing him and Nora are relentless, and they will not rest until they've captured their prey. But what fate awaits Makoto at their hands? And even as Yukiko continues her determined search for the truth and discovers the carnage that Yuuki has wrought, she is unprepared for the violent consequences...

Happiness, Vol. 5 Details

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Victoria ? says

Ooooo the ending of this volume seems promising, I'm excited to see where they take it!

Shannon says

[Curious to see what people (well, how many are still alive ...) have been doing for the last ten years. (hide spoiler)]

Alex Fyffe says

Oshimi finally takes this story into exciting and unexpected directions. This volume is a major payoff after the relatively slow and somewhat average beginnings, and it also manages to earn bonus points for turning one of the problems I had with the fourth volume into a strength. This is the first time in a long time that I have actually gasped while reading a book, so it must be doing something right. 4.5.

Jason says

[This review is for volumes 2-5, so SPOILERS]

The mood is so palpable it's like a character in the series. So somber and dramatic. It's probably my favorite aspect of the story. I'm kinda "meh" when it comes to vampires, but this is a story about so much more-relationships, sexuality, sociology, family, etc. The whole vampire schtick is clearly a vehicle for other messages. But not in a preachy or obvious way at all, no sir! Yuuki's character arc is the most unpredictable, going all the way back to before his transformation. I'm so very curious to see what becomes of him and if he can overcome his crappy upbringing to become a moral vampire, haha. Nora is so full of mystery-I so want to know more about her, particularly why she refuses to wear undergarments in cold weather. Goshō's resilience is inspiring and the time jump at the end of volume 5 was unexpected and intriguing. Compared to almost any other series, Happiness is exceptional. But it's not producing as strong a response in me as Flowers of Evil. But that's a pretty tough act to follow, honestly.

David Schaafsma says

Volume five of this vampire series is even more intense than the last one in some ways, as we learn that the mysterious Sakurane is a vampire-worshiping nihilist who wants to enlist Yuuki to push the limits of vampirism. Yep, the body count goes up. Okazaki and Nora are captured and experimented on by some as-yet-unnamed organization, which seems like a bit of a crazy plot move, though it gives Oshimi the opportunity to create distorted images, with elongated faces and limbs.

At the very end we make our first time shift, to ten years in the future, where we see Gphoto, now an office-worker, who struggles still with the memory of surviving Sakurane's botched attempt on her life a few chapters earlier. I am hopeful about this move; not enthralled, but curious and hopeful about where it might be going.

Closer to a four rating than the last couple volumes, but I can see how others would just think this is nuts, too.
