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Usagi Yojimbo Book 5: Lone Goat And Kid (Bk. 5)



Synopsis

Usagi faces Ninja bats and the "Lone Goat and Kid." "Frost and Fire" and "The Way of the Samurai" provide psychological drama, and "A Kite Story" is a fascinating look at the life and work of a 17th century Japanese kite maker. This fifth volume collects the epic-length "Blood Wings," in which Usagi battles a fearsome clan of ninja bats, while "Lone Goat and Kid" offers a cunning and affectionate parody of the famous "Lone Wolf and Cub" manga while doubling as one of Usagi's most dramatic and heartfelt adventures. "Frost and Fire" and "The Way of the Samurai" provide the psychological drama of this volume, which is rounded out by one of the most unique Usagi tales ever, "A Kite Story," which doubles as a fascinating look at the daily life and work of a 17th century Japanese kite maker, dramatically showcasing the thoroughness of Sakai's research and his skills as a storyteller. Featuring a foreword by the legendary Stan Lee! Black-and-white comics throughout

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Usagi Yojimbo is the kind of quality work that transcends time, genres, demographics, and even age groups. It crafts a delicate and beautiful balance between honor and savagery, cute innocence and dark brutality, simple heart-warming stories and multi-part epics that shape a dense continuity. Whether or not you've ever been a fan of feudal Japanese culture, furry anthro characters, or independent, non-superhero comics, Usagi Yojimbo is a comic that can't help but impress even the harshest critic. There's no such thing as a bad Usagi installment, but Book 5 of the Miyamoto Usagi saga is probably among the weaker of the volumes. It comes right after The Dragon Bellows

Conspiracy, a beautifully crafted and masterfully executed 7 part epic that no doubt left creator Stan Sakai a bit drained by its conclusion. As a result, while Book 5 includes some fun Usagi adventures, it pales in comparison to what came before it, as well as what will follow. Worth noting in this volume is "A Kite Story," the first of several memorable stories in which carefully researched history takes the center stage. Here, Sakai salutes the ancient Japanese art of box kite making. Usagi's presence in this adventure is actually secondary to the primarily educational story. This is a very daring and surprisingly successful approach to storytelling. Also fondly remembered is "Lone Goat and Kid," a homage to the legendary "Lone Wolf and Cub" manga. For fans of the original series, this adventure does not have much to offer, but if you are unfamiliar with the original material, you will no doubt find this story as thoroughly entertaining as I did. Sakai truly infuses the richness of those characters into this story with little lost in the translation.

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