



## Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 14: Day of the Demons

*Kazuo Koike , Goseki Kojima*

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## **Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 14: Day of the Demons** Kazuo Koike , Goseki Kojima

As the flames draw nearer, the fire gets hotter. Ronin assassin Ogami Itto seeks to learn what's written on the secret messages from the corrupt Yagyu clan to the Shogun, and leaves a river of blood in his path.

Elsewhere, a shamed woman attempts to force her husband to name his own child, but his job and honor stand in the way. Daigoro makes a new friend in another samurai fated to *seppuku* &mdash; ritual suicide &mdash; and defends the honor of a young playmate. The world keeps turning as the Lone Wolf and his Cub wander the land seeking revenge and answers, the questions to which are written in blood and ink.

### **This volume contains the following stories:**

One Rainy Day

O-Shichiri Man

The Kyushu Road

Day of the Demons

## **Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 14: Day of the Demons Details**

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## **From Reader Review Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 14: Day of the Demons for online ebook**

### **Jedi JC Daquis says**

Volume 14 deviates from the usual chapter plot of contract killings. Instead, Ogami did not take any life as an assassination assignment, yet still manages to leave a lot of dead bodies in his wake.

The highlight of this volume is The Kyushu Road, where the Yagyu letter, a plot device that has never really developed since the all-out war of the Yagyu clan against the Lone Wolf has its secrets almost been revealed.

The other chapters are as engaging as The Kyushu Road. There's even one chapter where Ogami Itto was never seen in any panel, and his involvement in the story is left for interpretation. Another chapter has something to do with an o-shichiri runner (they are sort of official messengers, samurais who can run pretty fast) and his unrelenting dedication to his task. Lastly, Christian Japanese who went hiding their true beliefs, those who are called Kirishitan were also given a story in this volume.

One theme that I think is central to all the stories in this volume are the characters' reverence and obedience to the one they believe in. These beliefs, be it bushido, kirishitan or meifumado are more important than their lives.

Now I am halfway towards the end of the whole Lone Wolf and Cub. It has been a great journey so far.

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### **James T says**

HALFWAY point! 14 down...14 to go.

Nice little perspective / story about Christianity in feudal Japan in this one.

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### **Michael says**

The first and the last stories in this volume give this book the high rating. I am amazed at how expressive the art is throughout this volume.

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### **Serrano Nouaille says**

Sólo por esa técnica de lucha katana-contra-lanza se merece las cinco estrellas. La trama por fin avanza con el capítulo, larguísimo para lo que nos tienen acostumbrados, del clan Kuroda. El resto de historias ponen el listón muy alto con sus retazos poéticos. De los mejores tomos hasta ahora.

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## **Terry says**

‘One Rainy Day’: a rather moving tale that has only a tangential relationship to the main characters, it nonetheless highlights the way in which the lives of our heroes can often intersect those of others for good as much as evil or violence. It also allows the authors to once again highlight some of the most egregious flaws in the political systems of the day that were built on the way of bushido. In the end we see how one man can exemplify all that is best in that code while he stands staunchly against all that is worst in it and pays the ultimate price for his conviction.

‘O-Shichiri Man’: It seems apparent to me that one of the main themes running through the saga of Lone Wolf and Cub are ruminations on the role of the bushido philosophy, and the political structure that was built upon it, in the lives of the people of feudal Japan. Whether this is seen from the inside in the lives of the warrior elite themselves, or from the outside from the point of view of the peasant class upon whose backs the entire regime was grounded, the idea of an aristocratic warrior society built upon ties of obligation and honour obviously deeply affected any individual’s personal and societal relationships. In this story we see how far some members of the warrior elite, even on its lowest rungs, were willing to take their feudal obligations even in the face of the more visceral ties of love and family. Lone Wolf and Cub become drawn into the affairs of a husband and wife whose lives were tragically affected by just such a tension between the personal and the political and the judgement of who was right and who was wrong is left very ambiguous in the end (much more so than the initial trajectory of the tale would at first lead one to believe).

‘The Kyushu Road’: Lone Wolf and Cub are set upon by new enemies: a clan who hope to gain political ascendancy by means of the instability brought about by the feud between Itto and the Yagyu clan. Lone Wolf dispatches the assassins sent to kill him with relative ease and takes the fight to the clan leader himself in the hopes of uncovering the secret behind their interference. In the end both the mysterious Yagyu letter upon which Itto seems to have pinned his hopes of success and a deep secret of the Kurokuwa clan and its insidious ties to the other noble houses of Japan become central to the resolution of the situation.

‘Day of the Demons’: A story in which Koike and Kojima look at the treatment of early Japanese Christians that were persecuted for their faith. Daigoro befriends a little girl who is part of this alien sect to whom he feels bound by an act of kindness on her part. His father admires the boy’s tenacity and spirit of loyalty in the face of opposition and agrees to help him meet the letter of his obligation to his newfound friend, though in actuality it proves to be something of an empty gesture. Both this tale and the first one act as appropriate bookends to this volume in which Daigoro’s actions (and empathy) play centre stage and both tales definitely pull at the reader’s heartstrings.

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## **Christine says**

Particularly loved the final story, depicting the persecution of Christians in Japan. A beautiful juxtaposition.

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## **Ahmad Sharabiani says**

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## Helmut says

### Erneut brillante Bilder

Die Geschichten dieses Bandes, bis auf "The Kyushu Road", die den Hauptteil des Bandes einnimmt, sind eher unzusammenhängend mit der Hauptstorylinie.

Vor allem beeindruckend wiederum ist die visuelle Qualität: Auch hier, gerade in "The Kyushu Road", sind wieder einige kinowürdige Elemente drin, die einen Staunen machen (hierbei möchte ich insbesondere die Stelle ansprechen, in der ein Zoom auf ein gezeichnetes Bild sich hin zu einem Szenenwechsel entwickelt: Spitzenklasse). Aber auch die pastoralen Szenen, in denen Daigoro durch wunderschöne Landschaften zieht und mit Kaulquappen und Käfern spielt, sind wunderbar gelungen.

Minimal störend empfinde ich die in diesem Band stellenweise leicht schlechtere Reproduktionsqualität in Bezug auf Graustufen, die etwas körnig geraten sind.

Fazit: Insgesamt nicht so gut wie einige der Vorgängerbände; dies bedeutet aber bei diesem hohen Niveau nicht viel. Die vier Sterne spiegeln diesen Sachverhalt also wieder: Sie sind deutlich mehr wert als 5 Sterne bei anderen Titeln.

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## Dan Gorman says

The turning point, the halfway marker. Ogami Itto learns one of the major secrets of the enemy Yagyu clan, which is slowly taking control of the entire Tokugawa shogunate. Young Daigoro begins to stand up for himself, helping to save a young Christian girl from the Japanese Inquisition. Harrowing pages set the stage for the second half of this monumental saga of world literature. 4000 pages down, 4000 to go.

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## Víctor Segovia says

es una de esas entregas más aclamadas pero como aportó a la historia. Eso sí, ya comienza, finalmente, a perfilarse todo de como será el tamaño del final o al menos de que lo estará por llegar.

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## Alex Sarll says

Halfway through the bloody saga of Edo-period Japan, and at this point we're in the phase where lots of US network TV shows would spend most of their run - where the Fugitive, or 'David' Banner, or that chap who could see aliens, would come to a new town, interact with some guest stars, get caught up in their story for an episode, then have to move on. And occasionally the larger plot would intrude, but it would seldom make much actual progress. But it doesn't really matter, because increasingly I'm reading this for the landscapes as much as the story. They really are ridiculously evocative at times, with a wistful detail that reminds me of Manara or Charles Vess, yet is bleaker than either - a dose of Caspar David Friedrich too, perhaps.

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### **Mike Pearson says**

I was already enraptured by this series by this point, but this is precisely the point where my eyes were burning with hot tears to the degree where I had to take a break from reading for a while. Such touching, beautiful, sensitive storytelling. This series is truly unique.

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### **Steven says**

Volume 13 was one of the better entries, but this one...just when you think Kazuo Koike is lapsing into episodic tales, you get sucker punched in the feelings. "One Rainy Day" starts off feeling like another Samurai whackfest, where you expect Ogami Itto to suddenly pop up and kill more or less the right person...and then the story ambushes you in revealing layers of what it's about; I ended up a tad teary at the end, which is unusual. The remainder of the volume isn't quite as emotionally affecting, but it does pack a bit of a punch -- whether it's Ogami Itto's obvious and powerful respect for the old city cop who tries to arrest him, or the treatment of Japanese Christians in "Day Of The Demons."

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### **Susan says**

I have the feeling that this is one of those series you have to had read almost the whole way through to have it make sense. Then again, I'm not sure - going off the volumes I've read - I could take seventeen closely packed (I'm serious, the books are SMALL, and considering how detailed the linework is that's not necessarily a good thing. Eyestrain ahoy!) volumes, which all presumably consist of "Guy and son travelling somewhere, their journey interrupted occasionally for a bloodbath." I have a feeling I might put up with it if I knew what was going on, but really - I approve of journeys+bloodbaths, but this feels repetitious and flat to me.

(Reaction shot originally posted: <http://community.livejournal.com/book...> )

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