



# Ajin: Demi-Human, Vol. 1

*Gamon Sakurai , Tsuina Miura*

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**Ajin: Demi-Human, Vol. 1** Gamon Sakurai , Tsuina Miura

High school student Kei Nagai is struck dead in a grisly traffic accident, but immediately revives to learn that he may not be like every other human. Instead, he may be a mysterious, almost immortal being, granted not only the powers of rejuvenation, but the abilities to see supernatural beings. Scared, he runs away, and is aided in his escape from society by his friend. Unfortunately for Kei, the manhunt is on and he will soon be caught within a conflict between mankind and others like him as they prepare to fight a new war based on terror.

## Ajin: Demi-Human, Vol. 1 Details

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## Gusfina says

--- Ajin - Demi Human 1-? ---

Plot: Gelap - cepat - mencekam.

Gambar: Gambarnya rapih dan menyenangkan.

Penokohan: ...Dibuat dengan teliti.

Review ini mungkin akan saya ganti lagi, lagi, dan lagi sampai buku ini suatu saat tamat.

Bahkan setelah tamatpun saya mungkin akan mengeditnya lagi, lagi, dan lagi (haha).

Baiklah! Diawali dengan sneakpeek 'apa yang disuguhkan Ajin' di forum, saya jadi benar-benar penasaran dengan judul ini. Judul ini juga sudah lama ada di wishlist akun baka\*upd saya dan karena komentar positif yang mewarnai, kurasa tidak ada salahnya untuk mencoba membacanya.

Sedikit banyak, saya tidak menyesalinya.

Dalam satu hari, saya terserap cerita Ajin dan membuatku lupa waktu. Buku pertamanya benar-benar bisa membuat komik ini masuk daftar belanjaanku. Saya hampir berhenti di buku pertama karena sudah siap mengangkut buku ini nantinya. Kengerian dan rasa takut yang digambarkan membuatku menarik simpatik. Harapan dan ekspektasi yang kubangun sayangnya tidak begitu terealisasi. Masuk akal sih, malah sebenarnya aneh jika ekspektasi saya terealisasi (haha!). Sifat karakternya yang matang dan tidak terpaut dengan hal-hal klise membuatnya bisa disandingkan dengan karakter berhati dingin lainnya di komik tertentu. Ah, apa mungkin kita bisa menyebut sifat ini sebagai antihero?

Selain hal itu, pertanyaan mengenai apa yang akan terjadi setelahnya mengelilingiku. Saya benar-benar penasaran akan berakhir seperti apa komik ini? Apakah bisa memenuhi ekspektasiku yang klise? (Sebaiknya tidak, tapi kalau iya, saya akan senang (haha)) Apa dia bisa menyuguhkan apa yang tidak kubayangkan sebelumnya? Rasa tidak pasti itu membuatku akan berada di barisan 'bimbang' untuk mengoleksi (dan mungkin akan dalam waktu yang lama).

Terakhir, saya teringat dengan beberapa komentar acak yang pernah kubaca mengenai Ajin yang mirip dengan Parasyte. Plot dasarnya menurutku berbeda. Tapi satu hal yang keduanya berhasil jabarkan secara baik dan kompak: manusia itu... *memang mengerikan*.

Kebetulan, dari dulu saya juga berpikir begitu.

[8/10]

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## Aleksandra says

I'm very impressed. **This volume is a very strong beginning of the series!** Dynamic, action-packed and thrilling! It's been a while since I was so invested from the first volume alone.

The story takes place in our modern world. Seventeen year prior to the events of this volume, a non-human human-like entity was found in Africa, the origin unknown. The scientists studied them and found that they're immortal and can't be killed, at least as far as it's known now. The regular citizens don't know much about them. Shady government organizations are hiding everything, as they do.

The main character Japanese high school student Kei is hit by a car and dies. However, he resurrects, which is the clearest sign of his not-human self. Everyone begins a manhunt to capture him. There are secret government organizations, morally dubious scientific experiments, nothing as it seems and black ghosts.

**I'm so hooked you guys!**

I love the illustrations, they are rather simple, but the details are gorgeous. The designs of those ghosts are so visually pleasing.

I definitely see Ajin:Demi-Human becoming one of my new favorite manga.

I want to mention that I've bought this translated into Russian edition on the market and I really like the feel of this volume, it's very high quality! I might continue on with the Russian editions, but I suspect it might take time for them to translate & publish next volumes. But we'll see.

Overall, I had so much fun reading this volume! **Perfect balance of suspense, paranormal unknown magical elements and great artwork!**

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**Ahmad Sharabiani says**

Ajin: Demi-Human, Volume 1 (Ajin: Demi-Human #1), Gamon Sakurai, Tsuina Miura

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**Jason says**

Pulls you in right at the beginning and doesn't let go. Reminiscent of Tokyo Ghoul (which I read first), but might be a little more focused. Definitely more violent!

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**harlequin {Stephanie} says**

pedestrian. The side story was interesting enough, but much too vaugh for my liking.

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**Zombieslayer/Alienhunter {merry wanderer of the night} says**

**All I'm trying to do is work hard so I can become a fine human being.**

High school student Kei is struck by a semi one day before summer break and is tragically killed. And then he *gets up*.

Kei and his friends' world is inhabited by demi-humans, human beings who regenerate after death, making them immortal.

The demi-humans were discovered in Africa seventeen years ago.

They were quickly seized by U.S forces, and their existence hidden from the public.

But of course word got out.

There are forty-six known in existence.  
Forty-seven.

Kei never knew he was a demi-human, but now he has to run.  
Everyone, including Kei's friends from school, would gladly turn a demi-human into the authorities.  
Having nowhere else to go, Kei goes to his old friend Kai (because THAT'S not gonna get confusing) for help.  
Together, they flee the city.  
With every demi-human hunter pro and amateur on their tail.

Well.  
That was....  
A mess.

Kei's abilities as a demi-human were way too easy.

"Doesn't the scream of a demi-human temporarily paralyze anyone within earshot?"  
"Yeah, but it's okay, because we're bestest friends."  
^ who haven't spoken in ten years.

The writing was sloppy, the saves throughout the story were dues ex machina extreme and the dialogue was forced.

Please tell me I didn't really spend 11 dollars on this crap.

### Art specs

The art is actually pretty damn good. Gamon Sakurai is a talented artist with a unique style.

Fluid movement and really good facial expressions.

Too bad it went with such a crap story.

I suppose if i could check out vol. 2 for free somewhere (I have my sources) *just* to see if somehow the story gets better, I would consider reading more.

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### **Seth T. says**

Generally, my favourite sort of literature (and graphic literature) is stuff of heft and weight—reading that requires and rewards thoughtful interaction. I loved Bolaño's *Savage Detectives*, Julian Barnes' *Sense of an*

*Ending*, Tom McCarthy's *Remainder*. I reward books like *Duncan the Wonder Dog* and *Nao of Brown* with high spots on my Top Comics list.

And at this point there's not really any sense bothering to ask, Do I like these kinds of books because they are the best books or do I like these kinds of books because I want to be the kind of person who likes these kinds of books? By now, it hardly matters. Whether there was any kind of pretension in my initial interest in thoughtful books, they've long since become my preferred playground in the medium. It's one of these I-yam-what-I-yam sorts of things. Irrevocable, probably.

But every now and then, I run counter to the programming and really just want something fun to occupy myself. Something light, something thrilling. Something entirely plot-driven. Something... not pregnant with meaning.

For a long time, I tied my long-waned interest in superhero books to the fact that they were ultimately low-value trifles. They were, mostly, just dumb fun books—and who has time for that when there are more solid, worthwhile graphic novels out there than any of us will ever have time to read? But I was wrong. I misplaced the origin of my distaste for superheroes. It didn't have anything to do with their plot-driven sensationalism. After all, I adore Korean dramas, don't I? The trick with Marvel's and DC's hero books is that they don't feature characters so much as they forward story-engines.[1] Where characters have arcs and growth and progression, the whole point of *Spider-Man* or *Batman* is to tell Spider-Man or Batman stories. They can never be allowed to stray from archetype because they are not characters, but product generators. That's why I couldn't stay invested. There was nothing to invest in. There're only so many times that you can read the biographies of Abraham Lincoln before you—for your own sanity probably—have to move on to other biographies, to other persons.

So what I needed then was plot-driven adventures to fill in the role of mindless summer reading, but they had to be plot-driven adventures with a beginning, middle, and end. An arc. A purpose. I had to believe the characters I would become involved with could grow, evolve, age, procreate, or even die perhaps. And not in the superhero-comics meaning of death (i.e., a temporary writing trope meant to push sales). What I was looking for and what has fit my bill lately, is something like *Ajin: Demi-Human*. [2] Ironically, I guess, the characters in *Ajin* die and resurrect with much greater frequency than they would in superhero books.

Though here, that's kind of the point.

Gamon Sakurai's created a world in which a rare subsection of the populace is functionally immortal. By volume 6, the series lead has died (often gruesomely) well over a hundred times. These demis have been living largely in secret for decades, camouflaged as normal humans. Rumours of their existence flit through society, but most people are pretty sure it's all a hoax. A few volumes in, a war erupts between a group of demi-humans and the Japanese government, leaving probably few who doubt the existence of the demis.

Demi-humans, in addition to resurrecting over and over and over again, manifest a strange shadowy ghost figure that looks like some sort of clawed, oozing mummy. Each demi's manifestation is slightly different based on practice and focus. These ghosts, while invisible to non-demis, maintain very real interactions with

the physical world and can kill and destroy with little trouble. There are a number of weaknesses and strange properties to the ghosts that are gradually revealed through the series, and Sakurai makes wonderful use of those fragilities.

It's a thrilling ride and I've been comparing it to the clever excitement of *Death Note*[3]. There's some fantastic cat-and-mouse going on here, and Sakurai keeps things fresh by coming up with new ways to utilize the same basic set of powers. I not infrequently found myself smiling at the ingenious way the creator chose to get his characters into and out of scrapes.

The pace isn't nearly so relentless as *Death Note*'s. In the first five volumes, there are two major action set-pieces. These are pretty tremendous, but much of the series is psychological and relational in nature. So far (in six volumes), I believe this staggering of tensions has really worked in favour of the series, but we'll see if that continues to be the case. At this point, I'm pretty well along for the ride and the series would really have to drag out (like to 25+ vols) or go south pretty quickly for me to lose interest. For now, I'm just having a lot of fun.

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[Review courtesy of Good Ok Bad.]

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### Footnotes

- 1) I feel I've mentioned this recently. Forgive me if I'm treading the same ground over and again. There are skips and trips in my memory, and I find it at least as frustrating as you.
- 2) Despite it having a name I can never accurately remember.
- 3) Back before Near and Mello.

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### juan carlos says

Que manera de enganchar al lector, Que gran historia y que pedazo de libro.

¿Para qué leer Ajin?

1. por que las escenas de terror, peleas y sangre y decapitamientos, complace a los amantes del terror.
  2. Es una muy buena mezcla de ciencia ficción y terror.
  3. Los personajes estan tan bien dibujados que escuchas y sientes sus estados de ánimo.
  4. Los monstruos o criaturas LOS AJIN, que escalofrio, que bellezas de sombras y muertes.
  5. Desde la primera hoja hay acción, no decae jamás. jamás. ES ABSORBENTE.
-

## **Michelle K. \*Get off my lawn!\* says**

I really loved the anime (the OP and ED are excellent, by the way), so I'm not sure why it took me so long to start this series, but I'm so glad to start it now! 5\*!!!

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## **Chantal says**

Amo questa storia!

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## **Lau Sierra says**

Me ha gustado un montón. En este primer volumen, nos introducimos en un mundo donde hace 17 años, en África, apareció una nueva especie. Es la hora y en la actualidad no tienen mucha información de los Ajin o de otra posible espero que puede existir.

El problema es que si te descubren, serás un conejo de indias y vamos a ver al protagonista escapar en múltiples ocasiones para evitar eso y han de haber muchos más. Dicen que no sabes que eres un Ajin hasta que mueres o, ¿Realmente naces siendo eso?

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## **Jennette says**

Very interesting I liked it alot

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## **Bec says**

3.5 stars.

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## **Ella says**

A solid introduction volume, things are starting to kick off. I'm interested to see where the story goes.

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## **Yasamin Seifae says**

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