



Battle Royale Ultimate Edition Volume 1

Koushun Takami , Masayuki Taguchi

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Battle Royale, a high-octane thriller about senseless youth violence in a dystopian world, it is one of Japan's best-selling - and most controversial - novels. As part of a ruthless program by the totalitarian government, ninth-grade students are taken to a small isolated island with a map, food, and various weapons. Forced to wear special collars that explode when they break a rule, they must fight each other for three days until only one "winner" remains. The elimination contest becomes the ultimate in must-see reality television. A Japanese pulp classic available in English for the first time, ***Battle Royale*** is a potent allegory of what it means to be young and survive in today's dog-eat-dog world. The first novel by small-town journalist Koushun Takami, it went on to become an even more notorious film by 70-year-old director Kinji Fukusaku.

Battle Royale Ultimate Edition Volume 1 Details

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Author : Koushun Takami , Masayuki Taguchi

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From Reader Review Battle Royale Ultimate Edition Volume 1 for online ebook

Molly says

This was really good- violent, rapey, and awful, but really good. The only part that made me really uncomfortable was the story tagged on at the end about Mitsuko and "I'm only fifteen." Shudder. Really creepy to me.

Michelle Schultze says

so many sex scenes. kind of disgusting. but those were the only parts i didn't like.

the violence was so great (i'm a fan of the walking dead comics, so maybe that's why it didn't bother me) and i kind of love the spontaneous backstory-and-kill method that the writer used a lot. it made me continuously drawn to the story.

though now, i have to pause for a couple months because i don't want my book log to be filled with so much battle royale. i don't want my teacher to look up the title. that would be suicide to my grades. haha.

either way, this was such a great manga! the only reason it's not 5 stars is because of the unnecessary sex. more like a 4.85/5 rating :)

Kobeest says

this amazing series comes in five "ultimate edition" volumes and if you can make it through the first one--manga reads backwards as well as differently--you will enthusiastically plow through the rest. publishers weekly wrote "combine[s:] the horror and extreme violence of a clockwork orange with lord of the flies...[not:] for the faint of heart." totally accurate, yet strangely visually appealing, cinematic, and incredibly honest in its approach.

speaking of cinematic, there are a couple movie versions...i highly recommend skipping them and just reading these volumes--more than once even.

May says

If you are fan of Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games trilogy, chances are you have already heard of Kouhun Takami's Battle Royale, a dystopian-themed book that was originally published in 1999 and also deals with teenaged kids killing each other in a government-sponsored, gladiator-style competition. While a number of people have commented on the similarities between the two books, my review will focus solely on the manga adaption of Takami's book.

First of all, if you are even a bit squeamish about explicit violent acts and/or graphic depictions of sex, then this is not the manga for you. There is a reason why this series comes with a "parents advisory" warning label and let's just say, this story is not for the faint of heart. Within the first 100 pages in the first volume, there were already 3 deaths/murders along with a very unsettling panel depicting a rape scene. The story just comes at you like a sledgehammer with one violent encounter after another that you barely have time to process what is happening, let alone who to root for (note: there is at least 5-6 main characters in the story which gets kinda confusing sometimes because of the similarities in some of the kids' names).

Rather than be disgusted by what I was seeing and reading on the pages, I found myself drawn further into the story as the author and the illustrator carefully inserts mini-stories that examines some of these minor characters' lives before and during the competition. You cannot help but feel intrigued. One thing I noticed is that almost nobody in the story seems to have a happy life with loving parents or other family members. All the kids seem to be "running wild" and engaging in all sorts of criminal activities that was it any wonder that this class of students was picked to participate in Battle Royale?

This book is simply a gory and disturbing blood fest that is hard to put down. You simply want to read more just to learn what would turn your stomach and force you to put this book down. So far, I have finished volume 3 and it looks like I have a very strong stomach for these type of stories.

Alexander Engel-Hodgkinson says

3.3/5

The original *Battle Royale* is one of my favourite novels of all time, so I knew that, eventually, I had to grab hold of the manga adaptation. Problem is, with Tokyopop going under, the manga is out of print, and really fucking expensive--especially the Ultimate Editions.

I lucked out one day when I found Rightstuf was selling the first three volumes of the Ultimate Editions for only \$70 altogether. Good deal. So I at least own the first three Ultimate Editions, which makes for about the first nine volumes of the manga, plus some side stories, which I'm not sure were included in the original volumes or not, which leads to a few inconsistencies, but whatever; this translation isn't exactly first class.

Everyone knows the plot by now, considering how controversial the novel was back in its day, and the stellar film adaptation that came after (avoid BRII though--it's garbage). A busload of high school students is taken to a secluded island where they are briefed by a really ugly POS slimeball named Sakamochi on what they must do: kill each other until one remains, or die. With explosive collars fitted around their necks and a random weapon given to each student before they're forced to run out into the wilderness, the game begins. This translation goes on to mention that this is some kind of televised game show that rich folks bet on.

The side stories provide us with a bit more backstory for the more important characters, covering details and crucial events in their lives before the Program snatched them away that were only hinted at in the novel. They're smartly inserted into the story when the plot gets a little slow and the characters are resting.

My main criticisms for this adaptation are the artwork and the uncomfortable over-sexualization not present in the novel. First off: the artwork is gorgeous. It is amazingly detailed, the characters stay on model most of the time, and the action scenes are great. But at the same time, it's like the creators deliberately went out of their way to make almost everyone except for the main characters look as ugly as possible. Some of these

poor side characters look like Hamuko from *Apocalypse Zero*. Our main characters, however, are in an entirely different league, because all six of them look like super models, with the female characters getting over-sexualized on top of that. I'm not a prude when it comes to sexualization, but this is distracting, *Highschool of the Dead* levels of ridiculous. Few panels exist of these characters where their breasts or panties aren't emphasized. Mitsuko's side story at the end of this Ultimate Edition volume pushed it even farther, putting her methods of seducing older rich men so that she can drug them and ruin them later on full pornographic display. It's a bit weird seeing seemingly endless graphic sex scenes and then a two-page spread of a spread-eagled naked Mitsuko gripping her censored-by-white-out crotch with the speech balloon beside her head reading "I'm only fifteen!"

It's a bit much, guys.

Anyway, despite my gripes with the translation and aspects of the presentation, the first Ultimate Edition collection of the *Battle Royale* manga is off to a fairly solid start here. It at least delves deeper into the story's mythos and explores the characters in ways that weren't put into better detail in the original novel or its film adaptation. Worth a read for *Battle Royale* fans, and action/horror fans in general, but if you're neither, well, look elsewhere.

The Invisible Man says

i have been fascinated by manga for a very long time and when i heard that one of my favourite books was in manga form i had high hopes.....and it did not dissappoint.

Shannon says

A great manga for fans of the novel. If I had just picked it up out of the blue I probably wouldn't have liked it as much. The artwork is a little old school and goofy but I think the artist did it on purpose so that the differences between the numerous characters really stood out. There was also a lot more development in every character. They gave a lot of them much more in depth stories than the novel did, but still seemed to remain true to the personalities. There is also an interview with the original writer in which he praises this adaptation. To me, that adds a lot of credibility to the manga too. It says that it fits the authors view of the story.

Amanda says

A graphic novel featuring excellent art utilizes sex, violence, and psychology to confront the reader with the questions what makes right right and wrong wrong? Is hope always a good thing to have? What makes people do what they choose to do? And finally can the little guy ever hope to come out on top of a modern, totalitarian government? Plus it manages to explore all these questions and still be very entertaining. Highly recommended.

Check out my full review.

Jessica Severs says

Take Orwell's Big Brother nightmare, combine it with Stephen King's "The Running Man," and you've got "Battle Royale," a chilling, gruesome game where an eighth-grade class is randomly picked to compete against one another to the death.

There's only one winner, which means it's kill or be killed.

Of course, you've got the various personality types among the 42 students — the delinquents, idealists, Lolita cons, cowards, the valiant, the cold-blooded and the loners. The first three volumes in this Ultimate Edition begin to delve into the characters' backstories while pushing the psychological tension full-steam ahead with violence, lust, desperation and deception.

The story starts off with Shuuya and Yoshitoki, who are orphans and childhood friends, as they go about their teenage life — crushes, music, school. Then, on a class trip, the students are drugged and taken to an isolated island for the government-sanctioned "game," a widely popular hit on state-controlled television. Any objections by the students' families are dealt with — permanently.

The hefty, hard-bound edition reads like it's in high gear thanks to the twisting plot threads that fuel the crackling action. "Battle Royale" has it all, from gunplay to sexplay. It plumbs the depths of the human psyche and explores how far you can push someone before he or she breaks.

Some will hide, some will try to rally together and some will play the game. Consider this manga a mandatory read for action fans.

Angel says

This is an excellent example of a dystopia for one. But it is also a great story. Take the best of *Lord of the Flies*, 1984, *The Running Man* (King's story, not necessarily the film), and add some more violence, sex, and suspense, and you get this story. It grips you from the beginning, and it does not let you go until the last page. I will definitely continue reading this series. This collector's edition offers some extras in terms of an interview with the author, a short essay by a psychologist, and extra sketches. This is definitely not for little kids, but for adults who like a good adventure with suspense and shootings and so on, this is highly recommended. 42 ninth graders go in, and only one will survive.

I used to joke around that the show "Survivor" was not violent enough. I always joked that the show should be give the participants weapons, let them kill each other, and one walks out. This series is kind of how I envisioned that dumb reality show should have been, only on steroids, so to speak. Great series, and one I will gladly follow.

Beverly says

Similar to Suzanne Collins' Hunger Games, this is the story of a 9th grade class forced to participate in a death duel. The last survivor wins. I was a little put off by the graphic violence, which seemed to favor faces sliced open. I also don't have much taste for Japanese manga or anime, not liking the quality of the drawings. In general, lacked finesse.

Amanda says

I'm still not sure what I should rate this book. I didn't hate *Battle Royale*, it is tolerable in a very twisted and sick way. While it is incredibly violent and reminds me very much of the *The Crimson Labyrinth* which I had a hard time with I was not as opposed to this as I was the novel. I'm not sure why the novel version of a similar idea of "survival of the fittest" bothered me more than this manga/graphic novel did. I'd think that seeing the images drawn out for me would have been worse. Course I'm not saying the images are tame by ANY MEANS and that it didn't bother me cause it did. This is incredibly graphic and could turn the stomach of some sensitive readers. While it didn't bother my stomach, it does make my heart race and makes me very tense. I'm literally jumpy as I sit here and type this. Crazy? Maybe but that's the honest to goodness truth.

The first night I read a chunk of this, and it reads super quick given the format and the intensity of which is pulls you in. It keeps you reading to see what will happen next, who will be the next victim and I found that I HAD to read a different book, something much lighter AND watch a half hour comedy sitcom before I felt calm enough to turn the lights out and go to sleep. That said I am definitely giving myself a breather between the first book and the second book.

I'd recommend the book to anyone curious about the concept of "survival of the fittest", anyone not weak of heart or stomach. I think this is the kind of book that will stick with you. It will not be easily left behind. If you are not interested in feeling anything as you read, well by all means by pass this one.

Rating to come after I've digested the book, and calmed down once again.

Ashley says

I've read *Battle Royale* before, so I already knew what to expect going in. And yet I was still a little surprised by the graphic content. I don't know, maybe I thought it would be more off-screen?

I really liked this adaptation, though. Reading the book got to be confusing, trying to keep track of all the characters by just their names, especially when some are pretty similar. I like having the visual representation, so I don't necessarily have to remember their name, just their face. I also like the side stories, so that you get a better feel for some of the secondary characters.

Really looking forward to reading Volume 2.

Ryan says

The story starts off with Shuuya and Yoshitoki, who are orphans and childhood friends, as they go about their teenage life — crushes, music, school. Then, on a class trip, the students are drugged and taken to an isolated island for the government-sanctioned “game,” a widely popular hit on state-controlled television. Any objections by the students’ families are dealt with — permanently.

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psyche and explores how far you can push someone before he or she breaks.

Zach Goss says

The whole series is pretty good and ultra gruesome. It got a little too self-involved (i.e., main characters crying constantly, long expository crap) near the end, but it shaped up right before it ended.
