



From Far Away, Vol. 02

Kyoko Hikawa, Trina Robbins (English adaption), Yuko Sawada (Translator), Walden Wong (Touch-Up Art & Lettering)

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Transported into a fantastical world of high fantasy adventure, a confused and frightened teenager discovers she holds the key to a profound power borne of an age-old prophecy.

Scared and on the run, Noriko strikes up an alliance with a mysterious rogue swordsman named Izark. But now, weakened from a recent battle, this swordsman has become dependent on his young charge to nurse him back to health.

Trapped in a strange world and unable to speak the native language, Noriko must find a way to save her fallen warrior... and save herself, too!

From Far Away, Vol. 02 Details

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From Reader Review From Far Away, Vol. 02 for online ebook

Forthright. says

Aww! chibi-Izark!

Lexie says

Welcome to volume 2 of From Far Away! In this volume Izark and Keimos learn the measure of each other, Rachef is super weird and what's this about Noriko being adopted??

New (recurring) cast member Seer Gorya who is Rachef's main seer and vassel makes his first appearance and we learn a little bit about the "chimos", an animal that's a bit like a chinchilla and can help a person teleport.

Noriko continues to try her best to learn the language while Izark continues to tell her he doesn't understand when she babbles. I appreciated the minor digression into why Noriko is so determined to be useful. Noriko learned, from a young age, that unfortunate things can and will happen, but dwelling does nothing. Channeling that anxiety about her future into creating a present she feels fulfilled in, is the core of Noriko's character. Does she wanna get home? Yes. Does she know how? No. instead of focusing on THAT she is focusing on how she can help others who are offering her so much.

Izark has a sadder back story, of which we see a brief bit about and some of which Keimos makes guesses at. Izark also resolves to find a solution that does NOT end in Noriko, aka The Awakening of Doom and Destruction, dying.

Keimos is fucking crazy. I don't mean he's reckless or does nonsensical things. I mean he is a psychopath, maybe a sociopath. I don't know if he distinguishes between right and wrong. For him it's "strong" and "weak", you're one or the other and if you're strong he cares about you existing...until you prove stronger than he.

Rachef shows a bit of his true colors here when he unleashes a power of his. His motivation basically being it's less of a pain to do this then if he gets hurt and is useless to me.

Meanwhile the villagers of Calco waste no time speculating about Izark & Noriko nor does the Mayor mind asking Izark to handle their bandit problem. Shameless!!

Natalie says

Nothing much happens in this volume except we are introduced to a few new characters and we get to know a little bit about Izark. Just a little bit. The plot doesn't move much besides meeting new characters and the two main characters continuing on their journey. There are a few fights and a tiny bit of information is revealed.

Noriko is still nice and talks a lot (Hey, at least she's warming up to staying in this world). Izark shows a little bit of his powers, though not much. He apparently gets a fever from time to time and he suddenly gets this boost of strength that allows him to fight a large group of people. (view spoiler)

We get to know a few other characters like the doctor, the inn keeper, and the mayor. They're nice people and each have a little bit of a personality. The mayor is very outspoken and always has something to criticize about. He's nice and caring towards others but he's also very bold and a very loud person.

There is also this powerful fighter named Keimos. In the first volume, we see him kill a few men and then we don't see him for a while. In this one, he hears about Izark's strength and wants to challenge him. He loves to fight, is arrogant, and has sheer pleasure in destroying his opponents. There's a bit of character to him but I just hope that he's not there *just* to fight Izark for the sake of defeating him. That would get boring. But I will say that his bloodlust is incredible. Holy cow, is this guy obsessed.

There is also this man, Lord Rachef, who has manners but seems like a sly person. I don't know what his motive is or what he's after but Rachef seems like he could be an interesting character if we got to know him a little more. I have a feeling that he's a villain but I don't know. I'm just going to have to wait and see. I just don't know what's up with this guy but I do hope to see more of him in the future, and I'm pretty sure I probably will.

This volume is not as good as the first one. There ARE more characters but the plot doesn't change or go anywhere. Not to mention that the new characters are with us only temporary. It's just a bunch of jerks going after the hero, and that gets old after a while. I just hope the third volume gets better.

Natalie says

Despite his sudden illness, Izark accepts a job to break up a ring of thieves operating in the town that he and Noriko are staying in. As a middle school student, I didn't like this series all that much: Noriko was too whiny and useless. However, when I reread this as an adult, I appreciated Noriko's faults; as an average Tokyo high school student, **she shouldn't be a total bad ass right from the start**. That being said, Noriko has decided to learn the new language; further character development in volume two proves her well on the way to becoming a bad ass: (view spoiler)

There isn't all that much romance in this volume, either (which I'm totally okay with) - Hikawa portrays no love at first sight and instead allows the bond between these two characters to grow as they spend time together: Noriko is clearly attached to Izark and though he insists to himself that keeping her around is for both of their safety, perhaps his feelings for her have already begun to change. After all, not once did he think of her as a pain in volume two.

Kyoko Hikawa expands a little on Izark's past in this volume - his mother pushed him away and no mention is made of his father. The villains, unfortunately, get even less backstory than Izark does: we have no idea why Niva agreed to help the thieves and we know nothing about the thieves except they're evil and greedy. A little more development here might have strengthened the story; right now, these guys are bad guys for the sake of bad guys. The same goes for Keimo.

However, this series redeems itself through its thorough dedication to realism via Noriko: I hope future volumes will allow her to grow more as a character and become a more active agent in her own life.

Kristine Hansen says

Ah Noriko, you really need to learn the language a whole lot quick than you have been....

We're still stuck in an alternate world of some kind and Noriko is making the best of things. Seriously. I love how this girl hangs in there without hysteria and really puts herself into doing the right thing.

There's a lot of politics here that I don't understand yet. I like that about this series - it has a lot of 'meat' to it. As every layer unravels I find myself wanting to go deeper and deeper. Why is Noriko so important? What is this big thing she can do that makes her worthy of being marked for death? And will she eventually learn the language enough to communicate with everyone?

Ah, this story brings back happy Fushigi Yuugi memories. I like this kind of story more than I'd realized. I can't wait to see what happens next.

Sx3 says

Volume 2 opens with Izark ill from some unknown ailment so Noriko gets a doctor to help him.

This sets up for Izark to meet with some men who want him to take out a gang of thieves who have been causing trouble for the town.

Izark agrees but there is a spy nearby to make things hard for our handsome hero.

Volume 2 has plenty of cute moments between Noriko and Izark but mostly, the story's best moments are the fight scenes and another where Noriko shows that she can be strong too.

There are more than a few villains in this volume but it gets whittled down by the end.

Nice set up for the Volume 3.

Bitsy says

I was expecting things to maybe slow down a little and we step back and really get to see this world poor Noriko has gotten plunked down into but unfortunately for the characters, and fortunately for us, the adventure picks up. Izark is struck by a strange, sudden illness and Noriko finds herself floundering in her attempts to help him because of the language barrier in place. She is forced to mime her intentions and more often than not she misinterprets what is being said around her and reacts inappropriately.

But that isn't the biggest problem they face, because now that Izark is considered out of commission the robbers we met in the previous volume decide now would be a great time to strike and attempt to kill Izark before he can kill them. What follows is frankly stunning, and I won't spoil it but it shows some fantastic character reveal for Izark and some real character growth for Noriko. The scared little girl from Japan,

actually proves she can do and be more than just a helpless, hapless female in constant need of saving. Her actions are purely defensive and show quick thinking and a lot of nerve. I have high hopes for Noriko as the series progresses.

My only negative points were the same ones I have with a lot of manga and that is occasionally there is too much telling and not enough showing. A man who had been badly hurt in the previous volume gets hurt again and cries out that, "My wounds have reopened!" Another time characters fix tea and one character explains to the other as they are making it that it's so they can stay up late almost as if he is more speaking to the audience and not the other character. I'm never sure if that is the author putting that in or bad translation or what. Another problem I had was the author put several autobiographical comments in panels throughout this volume. It was disconcerting and kept pulling me out of the story. I love reading author's notes at the beginning or short fun comics at the end that talk about the author personally or their process, but I have no interest in having injected in the middle of a fight scene that the author likes Jackie Chan movies. It also made me take a moment when we got back story on Noriko to realize what was going on because it was in the same tone as the autobiographical comments before. I almost skipped over the back story thinking it was more author trivia and not character history germane to the plot.

I hate to sound so negative about a series I am really starting to enjoy! The mystery around Izark deepens, Noriko is learning how to stand up for herself, and the fantasy elements and possibilities of the world continue to grow. I'm looking forward to seeing what happens to these teens next.

Soobie's scared says

Well, that was good!

I like the concept of this volume: two people who are somehow forced to stick together but who don't speak the same language. They try to communicate with each other but it's not that easy and poor Noriko does her best to learn it.

In addition, she does save the hero while he's kind of sick. I love it when female characters have backbones!

Every now and then Izark gets pointed teeth. Is this just a trick to show his rage or is he really non-human? I hope the answer will come soon.

Now, on to the third volume. And please, please, let the postal system deliver my order soon!

Dana Al-Basha ????? ?????? says

I wonder what Izark is? Maybe he is a Japanese vampire or something... but there is the whole chi thing... I wonder.

Chris says

Ok ill do this series.

Bonita says

This series was recommended to me by my daughter. Not my usual reading material.

Nurture Waratah says

This manga has lovely artwork and an interesting plot. I particularly like how Noriko cannot speak the language when she first arrives in the new world - so many books and movies don't seem to acknowledge this detail. This volume is very entertaining and full of laugh out loud moments. I highly recommend it.

Mary says

4 stars. **"As long as he's human..." THE GIRL SAVES THE GUY!!!!**

THIS is the fantasy series I have been looking for. It's been a long time since I have read a story with fantasy and adventure and possible romance where I have been 100% invested. The last time was probably when I was reading Assassin's Apprentice and A Darker Shade of Magic.

In this volume, Izark has fallen ill but when Noriko gets a doctor to look at him, he concludes that Izark has a disease that he cannot cure. We see a little about his past and discover that Izark's mother was paid gold to bear him. We don't know who the father is, but we know that his mother ostracized him and made sure the public hated him...

As expected, Izark has been isolated his whole life and basically is more than astounded that this girl he rescued, Noriko, still trusts him completely. When he is threatened by the thieves he came across in the first volume in his weakened state, it is NORIKO WHO RESCUES HIM. Yep, the girl CARRIES HIS UNCONSCIOUS BODY under a bridge and attempts to fight off experienced bandits to save him.

Now, Izark must weigh a ton more compared to Noriko. She's very petite and practically has no body strength, so it just goes to show you that she is doing everything in her power to be of help. That's something most YA protagonists can't even say.

With a potential antagonist wiping the floors with his good looks and intimidating presence and actually looking like a pretty decent bad guy, this series has snagged me. Izark has decided to bring Noriko along because he figures that when she learns his language, she might reveal that she is the Awakening. Of course, nothing is set in stone, but it's pretty much a given that Noriko is the Awakening, though Izark does have his doubts. And he never thought "If she learns my language" because he realizes that she is not only very intelligent, but that this girl can handle herself and protect those she cares about if she puts her mind to it.

Miriam says

I'm more interested in the long plot arc than in the characters or immediate action.

Jessie H. says

3.5/5 Stars
