



Mushishi, Vol. 6

Yuki Urushibara, William Flanagan (Translator)

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A father disappears and his son, a hunter, inherits his father's power to lure animals to their deaths, quietly and entranced. But this ability poisons the mind and the body. Can mushi master Ginko cure the son before he shares his father's fate, or will the young man turn his deadly powers on his would-be savior?

Mushishi, Vol. 6 Details

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From Reader Review **Mushishi, Vol. 6** for online ebook

Melinda Beasi says

<http://goodcomics.comicbookresources....>

Leandro Guimarães says

Deep sadness, deep beauty. The second season of the anime is visually beautiful too.

Samantha wickedshizuku Tolleson says

Gods I just love the art in this series, and the story is getting really complex. I wonder what's next?

Hollowspine says

Although there weren't any stories about a person going blind in this one, blindness was still mentioned and one person disappeared completely! More than once! This volume seemed to have a theme of mushi that draw you into their world and away from the human world. This volume also had another interesting thing in that we got to see a whole group of mushishi. There are more than I'd imagined, I wonder how one goes about becoming one...I'd like to be one. It seems like a good job. Especially if I got to stay in one place like a Mountain Master or something. Unlike Ginko I'm more of a homebody, I don't think I'd like traveling so much alone. I would miss my family. In the world of mushishi though it seems that as much as you want to keep the connections with loved ones, sometimes it becomes near impossible, sometimes they just disappear never to be seen again, or you forget who you were and that they even existed. In a way it's a very lonely series.

Travis says

This was a good volume with a nice mix of stories. Unfortunately, *Mushishi* stories can sometimes be a bit too repetitive, with a sort of "monster of the week" type structure, but I think this volume breaks that up a bit. Also, I always like the little mini-stories the author tells about her travels or experiences, and it was nice to see some more in this volume. I just wish there were more of the type of old stories from grandparents like in the first volume.

Timothy says

This volume includes stories that were written after the anime finished airing so for many of us it comes as

something totally new that was missing in the previous volumes. As usual, *Mushishi* is a mix of wonderment and tragedy as man comes into contact with nature it hardly understands or sees. I would love it if the anime were to continue with these new chapters...

Katharine Kimbriel says

This is a beautifully drawn series of vignettes about *Mushi*, a primitive life-form that is much closer to the line between plant and animal than other forms of life. Not everyone can see *mushi*, but anyone can accidentally intersect with them – usually with problematic results. Our guide on this journey is Ginko, a *Mushi-shi* or Mushi-Master. Ginko moves through a world tinged with *mushi* – he smokes constantly, because without the smoke, *mushi* would swarm around him, making life for other humans miserable or even dangerous.

These stories were inspired by old superstitions, legends of Japan, and the artist's fertile imagination. There are *mushi* that during times of famine fish for food – producing a hook that appears to hang from an empty sky. There are *mushi* that hide in seashells, and can steal a young girl's voice. Some *mushi* are like odd diseases, attaching themselves to humans, and still others mimic natural creatures (like yeast) creating strange and wonderful sake.

We see all of the *mushi* as Ginko makes his way through a world tinted by the presence of The Other. Ginko is a rare *mushi* master, convinced that it is not always necessary to kill *mushi*. His goal is to help humans live with *mushi* – and avoid the most dangerous of their breed.

This is sort of like someone writing out the riddles in Patricia McKillip's *The Riddlemaster of Hed*. If you enjoy the manga, you should rent some of the anime – they did a beautiful, award-winning interpretation of the original six volumes. Remember that manga are black & white illustrated digest-sized Japanese comic books, so you'll be admiring line work, not colorization.

Miss Ryoko says

Actual rating: 3.5

Brendan McAuliffe says

Article today about a kid someplace who cries rocks. A case for Ginko ! (maybe a ' iwanamida ' mushi)

Caroline says

Another excellent volume in this series about Ginko. I especially enjoyed the story "Under the Snow," and the look into all kinds of different *mushi* that live in the snow. I really enjoyed all the little details, as always,

like the mushi that rolls snow into balls so that it can move.

Claire says

I distinctly liked this one. I mean to return to give this series a better discussion eventually.

Angel M Tayup says

4,5

Krista says

??

Graziano says

Heaven's Thread or String from the Sky

A girl was taken by a white string from the sky and disappeared. After a while the girl returns and strange things start to happen to her.

The girl: 'I just ... pulled on this thread that came out of the sky ... then everything around me went black ...' (p. 24)

A mushi called Tenpengusa nests in the sky, and 'They're born from the shadows ... and they haunt the border between sunlight and darkness.' (p. 29)

Ginko found the girl and they return to the village. The girl is infested by the mushi so she floats in the air. Only the man who wants to marry her tries to understand and ‘... no matter what awful thing happens during the daylight, the stars are always there unchanged.’ (p. 42)

The Chirping Shell

A man and his daughter live outside the village because he thinks the villagers are responsible of his wife's death. A mushi and Ginko seem to fix the problem.

‘When I say the song in the shell ... what’s really singing is a mushi that nests inside of shells. Some call them Yodokaridori. Others call them Sezurikai.’ (p. 62)

⁴‘People who put the shells up to their ears to hear them … forget how to use their own voices.’ (p. 63)

The girl has lost her voice and Ginko thinks that she and her father have to go back to the village, so the girl can learn to talk again.

The Hand that Pets the Night

A man can easily capture animals with the power coming from an eye depicted on his palm. The man's palm

is infected by a mushi called Fuki. ‘Your hand forces your prey to do whatever you want.’ (p. 106) ‘Fuki is ... Koki, the source of life, that has gone to rot.’ (p. 107)

Under the Snow

‘They’re a class of being called Yukimushi. If you unravel a snowflake, sometimes you’ll find them inside.’ (p. 150)

Toki is a boy infested by mushi: he does not feel the cold and he can’t touch anything warm.

‘In a land where white snow blankets the ground for the better part of the year ... there are more odd things found in the snow ... than one could ever find in the water or earth.’ (p. 189)

Toki rescuing a girl has to carry her on his shoulders, so he has to bear the warmth of another body. Bearing the girl’s warm , although Toki feels it hot, he has to accept his condition and heal.

Banquet in the Farthest Field

Brewing sake, instead of yeast, a man uses a mushi called Suimitsu-to; drinking this strange sake the man see things ‘that looked like red and black hairs.’ (p. 229), but ‘those weren’t hallucinations. They’re mushi called Shojo-no-hige. Mushishi use them as guides to mushishi gatherings.’ (p. 230)

‘... when we can’t make a good batch of sake ... I’d drink just a little of that leftover sake.’ (p. 237)

‘Then I’d be able to see the distinct shapes of living things ...’ (p. 238)

Many episodes of this sixth volume tells about Ginko helping people who have to accept what they usually refused.

Mushi could be similar to spirits in western culture, and they have to be accepted as they are. Ginko as Mushishi can understand the meaning of mushi in the world, so he helps people to live with mushi, to avoid mushi, etc., but Ginko never kills mushi.

Mushishi episodes are set in rural Japan, during the Edo and Meiji eras (1600 / 1800).

April says

For thoughts on the series overall and what Mushishi is about see this review for the first volume:
[http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...\)](http://www.goodreads.com/review/show/...)

I enjoyed this volume as much as I did volume four and the ones before that. The story of the girl who grabbed onto the thread of mushi living in the sky was probably the best, but the others were thought-provoking and haunting as well.
