



## Crying Freeman, Vol. 1

*Kazuo Koike , Ryoichi Ikegami*

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## **Crying Freeman, Vol. 1** Kazuo Koike , Ry?ichi Ikegami

He is Yo Himomura, deadly assassin for the 108 Dragons, the Chinese Mafia. But to the criminal underworld who fear him, he is known as Crying Freeman, the killer who sheds tears at the fate of his victims. A young, handsome, sensitive artist, Yo has been hypnotically programmed by his Dragon masters to kill on command: he cannot resist his masters' commands to kill; his masters cannot stop his tears of remorse.

Written by the legendary Kazuo Koike, creator of Lone Wolf and Cub, and illustrated by the incomparable Ryoichi Ikegami, Crying Freeman is adult manga at its most challenging: dark, violent, morally complex, erotically charged and regarded worldwide as one of the classics of adult graphic fiction. Dark Horse Manga is proud to present Crying Freeman, yet another of the jewels in the crown of manga classics, presented in its original right-to-left reading orientation.

## **Crying Freeman, Vol. 1 Details**

Date : Published March 21st 2006 by Dark Horse Manga (first published October 28th 1989)

ISBN : 9781593074784

Author : Kazuo Koike , Ry?ichi Ikegami

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## **From Reader Review Crying Freeman, Vol. 1 for online ebook**

### **David Crane says**

Crying Freeman manga arrived in the United States in the early 1990's and took the country by storm. I was very fortunate to purchase the first edition of this beautifully drawn and written manga created by writer Kazuo Koike and illustrated by a brilliant manga artist Ryoichi Ikegami. This crime saga tells an incredible story of a young artist named Yo, who is recruited into the ranks of the Chinese Mafia against his will. Hypnotized to follow their commands, he becomes a gifted assassin who sheds tears for his victims when the killer spell is released. Tasked to murder a beautiful female witness to his latest crime, the killer for the first time in his career refuses to pull the trigger and later falls in love with his intended target. This is a story that makes the reader root for the main protagonist all the way. Beautifully drawn and presented with skill and daring, Crying Freeman Volume 1 will entertain you from first page to the last.

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### **Donyae Coles says**

I started this because I saw the live action movie years ago. This is a lot more . . . fun than the movie!

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### **Peter says**

The ultimate organized crime manga. Extreme violence not for the sake of violence, but for the sake of caring about the very deep and textured main characters. Freeman is one of the most engaging anti-heros in manga (and there are a LOT of them), where the more horrible acts he has to do as crime lord of the 108 Dragons, the more terrible you feel for him and root for him. Artwise, to me there's no one better than Ikegami Ryuichi. No one. Can't recommend this one more, but it's not for the faint of heart.

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### **Doug Brunell says**

Kazuo Koike, the man behind the incredible Lone Wolf and Cub series, is a storytelling master. And with the first volume of the Crying Freeman series he is on his way to creating another masterpiece.

Cinematic in scope and modern in setting, this story of an assassin programmed to kill against his will is erotic and violent, but all of it is handled in a very mature way. If one is expecting mere exploitation, you'll be sorely disappointed. That said, there is plenty of blood and nudity to help satisfy those urges.

Koike doesn't pander to a reader's basic instincts, however. He often writes about good characters forced to do bad things, and this is no exception. Interestingly enough, by the end of the first volume, a story that seemed like it was going to go one way takes a thoroughly different turn and goes another. It makes one realize that Koike had something special planned for the reader straight from the start, making what could be an average tale of violence become something far greater.

On to volume two...

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## Lör K. says

**Original Rating:** Originally, I gave *Crying Freeman, Vol 01* 3.5/5 stars.

**Reread Rating:** I'm now giving this manga 4.5/5

This book is about a spiritualist ceramist, Yo Hinomura, that was trained to be an assassin by the Chinese Mafia, the 108 Dragons. His talent as an assassin earned him the name “Crying Freeman” due to his tears whenever he kills someone. However, when Emu Hino, a young painter, is witness to one of his killings, they both begin to feel a connection between each other.

At first, I wasn't really sure what I thought about this book. It seemed to glorify Yo as a murderer, and romanticise the fact that he murdered people, and I now assume this was due to me reading it before so late at night. However, after reading it a second time, I can see this was not actually the case. Although this is the reason that Emu is drawn to him at first – he's dangerous – their connection deepens and becomes much more than “hunter and prey”. Although still slightly iffy with me, this is enough for me to let it drop and continue on with the manga.

After reading this the second time, I managed to get a lot more from the manga, and was able to enjoy it much more. I was able to delve more into the mafia story line, the story behind Yo and how he became what he has become, the story of everyone hunting him down, and how Emu fits into everything. This was quite... soul wrenching. There was a lot I missed the first time reading it and I am really shocked at just *how much* I missed. This is a very raw manga, with a lot of real feelings in an almost fictional situation and it shocked me how true to life it is.

The artwork is simple and wonderful. Different to the generic manga style (considering it was first published in 1989, I'm not surprised), which is wonderful to see. Ryoichi Ikegami has done absolute wonders with this art work and it's a wonderful thing to see just how a simple art work can do so much for a story.

The story line itself is dark, gritty, romantic and gripping. Kazuo Koike has done absolute wonders with this dark story line and I really, really want to read more of his works. Once I've finished *Crying Freeman*, I will **definitely** be going on to read his other works, more notably, *Samurai Executioner, Vol. 1: When the Demon Knife Weeps*.

This is a really well done manga, with a lot in place, and I would definitely recommend this to manga lovers. It's wonderful, and I regret not giving it a second chance sooner.

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## Evan says

absolutely ridiculous and ridiculously hot

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## **Jedi JC Daquis says**

Although Crying Freeman is not at par with Kazuo Koike's obra maestra The Lone Wolf and Cub (god that series is just amazing), I thoroughly enjoyed reading this as a guilty pleasure material.

Crying Freeman's protagonist is Yo Hinomura, a talented, kind and morally untarnished man who got into a series of unfortunate encounters with The 108 Dragons; and with acupuncture and training from really old people, he ultimately became the mafia's top assassin. But after each kill, he is filled with guilt and remorse, something that makes him cry, hence Crying Freeman.

I said it is a guilty pleasure read. The material is filled with violence, sex and murder. The plot is what you expect from a mafia-assassin genre: kill contracts, love interest, training, murder and guns. Ryoichi Ikegami perfectly captures all these in his art style which is so detailed and alive. His drawings of cars, buildings and inanimate objects are exact and his characters are full of emotions.

If you are looking for an adult manga about modern mafia and assassinations then look no more. Here's Crying Freeman.

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## **Charles Spencer says**

Like SAMURAI GIRL, I first saw CRYING FREEMAN in its anime form. A few years ago, I got my mitts on the first two volumes of the manga CRYING FREEMAN published stateside by Dark Horse. The anime streamlined much of the story and made it less complex for viewers in comparison to the manga original, which I can enlighten you to here. For those who don't know the story, mix SCARFACE and THE MANCHURIAN CANDIDATE, add a strong dose of ROMEO AND JULIET, and you'll get a sense of what you're in for!

The story begins in Japan, where young beauty Emu Hino suddenly has her life transformed forever when she witnesses the murder of a crimelord and his thugs. The killer is a handsome, quiet man who immediately begins to weep the moment his bloody work is done. He tells the girl his name is Yo, and then he leaves. Fearing rightly that the killer will return one day to murder her because she was a witness, Emu also realizes that she's falling in love with Yo...she never had a lover in her life, and if he's going to kill her, then she will want him to take her virginity first!

From there we're taken on a complex, dangerous and blood-drenched ride through the international criminal underworld and we discover how Yo came to be an assassin. He was once a rising artist before he stumbled upon evidence of the murder of a man by the Chinese mafia organization called The 108 Dragons.

Committed to turning the evidence over to the police, Yo ignored both threats to his life and bribes. But somehow realizing Yo had the qualities and potential to be the perfect killer, The 108 Dragons captured him and used acupuncture and hypnotic techniques to program him into becoming their unwilling puppet. In a harsh irony, they give him the code name Freeman. But even from the beginning, in spite of his conditioning to obey his masters completely, he still can't help but cry with remorse when he kills his assigned target.

I'm not spoiling things saying so much about CRYING FREEMAN, since all of that happens in the first part of Volume One, the first of five huge books! The story is an intricate one, and highly stylish in a way that reminded me of the TV series MIAMI VICE. (No coincidence the manga began in the late 80's!) It turns out

Freeman's fate isn't quite worse than death, though. We come to discover how once and for all he became part of The 108 Dragons by his own grudging choice -- and no, I won't spoil that! -- and we're shown not only what kind of rigorous training he went through to become a truly peerless killer, but how he earned his iconic dragon tattoo. We also discover why a Chinese criminal organization chose a Japanese artist to become their greatest assassin...and possibly even The 108 Dragons' future leader! The reader can't help but feel for Freeman as we follow him each step of the way on this bloody road, though; we want to root for him and Emu as their love story develops. The supporting cast is just as engaging...like Freeman's masters, the elderly yet nearly mystical Father Dragon and Mother Tiger, and enemies that range from the beautiful and ruthless Kimie Hanada to (in the second volume) the child-like yet lethal Bai-Ya Shan!

The first and second volumes are engrossing and have a brisk pace (a good thing because the books are thick!), thanks to the excellent writing of Kazuo Koike. And I can't praise the art of Ryoichi Ikegami enough, which ranks up there with the very, very best...you won't be able to take your eyes off the pages because of his gorgeous, almost photo-real style. It's a strange kind of crime story, more like a modern and very violent fairy tale about star-crossed lovers and how they came to be in each other's arms. It's a dark world where its central character was a good man who discovers it's his fate to never be free...but can he at least find happiness with the woman he loves? That's what makes *CRYING FREEMAN* so captivating to me, and I'm sure it'll do the same for you!

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### **Babs says**

Utterly ridiculous, but I absolutely love this.

One of my favourite series. Basically a sensitive Japanese artist witnesses criminal goings on, gets kidnapped, brainwashed, tattooed and turned into killer assassin for the Chinese mafia who weeps with remorse after each hit and is totally irresistible to women. Also features crazy martial arts moves, pretty ladies, dudes with names like "Razor Ryoji" and a submarine with dragon decals.

The art by Ikegami is beautiful, with plenty of my personal favourite "angry/shocked gangster face." Also very strange seeing the old Hong Kong skyline!

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### **Alvin Ian says**

#### **ADULT MANGA CLASSIC REISSUED BY NEW PUBLISHER!**

I have the Kobo (epub3) edition; looks nice on my Kobo Aura H2O.

Published by Creek & River Co., Ltd., with isbn: 6493300000398. First of nine volumes reissued by the publisher, with page count of 231.

I know it is an old manga from creators Kazuo Koike and Ryoichi Ikegami, with a movie adaptation in the 1990s. But it is a classic adult manga and it is free on Kobo ebook store.

Reading it reminds me of "Cole" by Tijan, a story of a young woman who got distracted and fallen in love with a young, handsome man with dangerous connections (mob/mafia). Yes, it felt (to me) like a New Adult/romance with mobster trope but more. So it could have been marketed to adult women with its romance and sex but action and violence with the protagonist, Japanese police/detectives and Yakuza is definitely for the male audience. To say something of the art, Ryoichi Ikegami can draw and paint subtly beautiful bodies (and faces), even fully-tattooed body; making an erotically engrossing read for adult and/or new adult audience/readers.

And when financial resource allow, maybe i could continue this series until the last volume. And did i say that the first volume is free with succeeding volumes for purchase on cheap price on Kobo. So that's why it is a four-star rating for me. Hope you like my review. Thanks! :-)

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### **Alexander Engel-Hodgkinson says**

I couldn't believe my luck when I found this on Amazon Kindle for free. I've been looking for some Koike manga for a while since I find his gritty style of storytelling and artwork interesting.

*Crying Freeman* is the most feared assassin in the 108 Dragons organization. He's a potter by heart, and an assassin by hypnosis. He got his name because he longs to be free from the hypnotic grasp the organization has over him--and he sheds tears after every kill.

He meets a beautiful woman during one of his routine assignments--well, he doesn't exatly "meet" her so much as she witnesses him blow a guy's head off and paints a portrait of him in his dynamic "I just shot someone" pose from memory while she waits for him to track her down and kill her in her own home.

\*Gasp\*

But here's a twist (not really): she falls in love with him. Yes, it's love at first sight. On top of that, she actually *wants* Freeman, whose name she learns is Yo, to kill her--with one condition: he takes her virginity first.

Because nothing is more arousing to a harmless painter woman than watching a guy splatter another guy's brains all over some nice green grass in broad daylight. It's dangerous. It's sexy. >\_>

Obviously this leads to complications. I'm sure you can predict what happens before you reach the second chapter. The plot's pretty weak and predictable that way. The art was good. The action scenes were alright. The gratuitous nudity didn't bother me. You know what *did* bother me? All the pointless fucking censoring. :) No wonder this edition was free.

Other than the obnoxious black and white censor bars over the artwork, *Crying Freeman* is, so far, a weak, barely-three star effort that I enjoyed on a purely shallow level. Any pulp manga enthusiasts ought to seek this one out regardless of its flaws.

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### **Howard says**

It was good then and good now. The series and characters were well scripted and developed and I enjoyed re-reading the series again. This was the Assassin two enjoyed before Bourne and Rapp.

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### **Angel says**

This is the start of what is looking to be a great series. The assassin who cries at the fate of his victims, Yo

Hinomura, codename Crying Freeman, is an assassin for the 108 Dragons, the Chinese Mafia. When he leaves a witness alive, a woman he may be falling in love with (more on that later in the tale), things get, shall we say, complicated. This volume shows us how Yo, an artist, becomes the great assassin. The art on this series is very good. The story so far is very engaging and fast paced. I will definitely continue reading this series.

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### **Ond?ej Hotovec says**

Detektivka, s lehce erotickým nádechem. Bohužel knížka je dost krátká, cca 1 hodina ?tení.

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### **Jasz Woodyard says**

Enjoyed the story, I just got through it too fast. Can't wait to read the next.

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