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Old Boy, Vol. 1



Synopsis

Ten years ago, they took him. He doesn't know who. For ten years he has been confined in a private prison. He doesn't know why. For ten years his only contact with the outside world has been a television set and the voice of his jailers. In time, he lost himself... changed... transformed himself into something else... something hard... something lethal. Suddenly one day, his incarceration ends, again without explanation. He is sedated, stuffed inside a trunk, and dumped in a park. When he awakes, he is free to reclaim what's left of his life... and what's left is revenge.

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Customer Reviews

Comics and the movies more closely resemble one another in Japan than in the U.S. In adult manga like this 1997 hit later made into the successful movie *Oldboy*, the same scene is shown from different angles; the same focus is approached or departed from in ever closer or more distant panels that mimic moving-camera effects; and the degree and sources of light in the panels vary dramatically as well as according to setting (indoor/outdoor, day/night) and point of view (close, near, far). The obvious photographic sources of many panels further the cinematic resemblance. Only now being translated into English, this story is a revenge thriller. A man released after 10 years in a private lockup doesn't know why, by whom, or precisely where he was imprisoned, but he intends to find out. By volume's end, he's homing in on the lockup. There's a love interest (a noodle-shop waitress) and frequent cuts away to a rich guy who may be the culprit the hero seeks. Nobody looks cute; everybody looks tough. And marvelous. Ray Olson

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I watched Spike Lee's film version of this story. I have to admit it was rather bland to say the least. I managed to watch the international version of it as well. It was far better and much closer to the source material. Anyhow, this first volume excels as a slow burn as it sets up the basic outline of the story. The artwork is rather exceptional, as it lends a atmospheric and mysterious look to the proceedings. It left wanting to know more about the antagonists motives behind it all. Yamashita was certainly locked away for a pretty good reason. What did he do or not do to bring all this about? I love the how the hints at betraying what is being conveyed at the start. So far, so good. A bit of patience is its own reward once all the pieces come together. I must continue to read....Thanks.

Great read. It is a story that will keep you tuned in from start to finish. The art is amazing as well. With gorgeous two-page spreads. This definitely constitutes a classic read.

The first book in the Oldboy saga, this one really kicks everything off in style - an absolute must for anyone interesting in the origins of an incredible film! Highly recommended seller, super fast shipping :)

Pretty good

10 years ago a man named Shinji Goto was kidnapped and taken to a private jail for unknown reasons as he was sentenced for someone for 10 years where he has a comfortable bed with bathroom/shower with his only link to the outside world was the TV set to newspapers and talking to the jailers, he even gets his food and water delivered to him mainly Chinese food. He spends those years also building up and working up until he is finally out 10 years later, he searches for a new home and finds a new job working at a construction site in Tokyo including living with a girlfriend named Eri as now he wants revenge on those crooks who locked him up for those years. One of the most unique and grown-up comics or manga i've ever read! i first became aware of Oldboy by the movie back in 2005 which brilliant in it's own right but different from this as i had no idea at first it was based on a Japanese comic (aka manga) until that year. This was first published in 1996 and ended in 1998, it has become one of the best selling mangas in Japan and most award winning too. It came to the US with rights bought from Dark Horse comics to capitalize on the US popularity of the acclaimed 2003 Korean import. I find this to be a stylish Tarantino and Payback-esque crime drama that is a nicely drawn and entertaining work of manga fiction i've read. I can see how this was

translated as a live-action movie which was different but still excellent but this is worth reading for fans of comics and manga alike.

The art is fantastic, far beyond most mangaka except for the likes of Junji Ito and Samura. The characters are so expressive, and you can't really decipher them yet, but there is something deep about them. The dialogue is very minimum, and it's kind of redundant that he explains to his girlfriend the whole beginning of the book. But the character art is so expressive, and they don't need to speak for you to know how they're feeling. The story so far is very weak, and there is no tension or build up, all you know is that someone is watching Old Boy and that's about it. The story moves very slow. He leaves his cell, meets a lady, works, someone is watching him, that is the entire first volume, and you probably wouldn't miss much just skipping it. The art is fantastic, the story isn't flawed, it's just very slow, but it's going somewhere. I highly recommend this manga nevertheless, as a great alternative to more mainstream staples like Naruto and Bleach.

This is an outstanding series with adult sensibilities, without being X-rated. The plot is fresh and strong. Lots of mystery and intense characters that live on the margins of society: the suspiciously devoted bar maid, the ex-secret service agent, the beautiful yet spinster ex-grade school teacher, and the obsessed business king. (Not all appear in the first volume.) At the center is Goto, whose response to grossly unfair treatment is to become stronger so he can face his enemies. And that he does. Goto's gritty world is fascinating, and a refreshing escape tho I wouldn't want his life. My only question is, how can they drink so much booze and why in the world do they? Just a fixture of the genre, I guess.

This is a solid, pulpy Japanese underworld manga series with a bristling tempo and solid, detailed artwork by Nobuaki Minegishi. Will definitely be reading through the entirety of the series.

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