



## Death Note, Vol. 1: Boredom

*Takeshi Obata (Illustrator), Tsugumi Ohba, Takeshi Obata, Pookie Rolf (Translator)*

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*Light Yagami is an ace student with great prospects - and he's bored out of his mind. But all that changes when he finds the Death Note, a notebook dropped by a rogue Shinigami, a death god. Any human whose name is written in the notebook dies, and now Light has vowed to use the power of the Death Note to rid the world of evil. But when criminals begin dropping dead, the authorities send the legendary detective L to track down the killer. With L hot on his heels, will Light lose sight of his noble goal... or his life?*

Light tests the boundaries of the Death Note's powers as L and the police begin to close in. Luckily, Light's father is the head of the Japanese National Police Agency and leaves vital information about the case lying around the house. With access to his father's files, Light can keep one step ahead of the authorities. But who is the strange man following him, and how can Light guard against enemies whose names he doesn't know?

## Death Note, Vol. 1: Boredom Details

Date : Published October 10th 2005 by VIZ Media LLC (first published 2003)

ISBN : 9781421501680

Author : Takeshi Obata (Illustrator) , Tsugumi Ohba , Takeshi Obata , Pookie Rolf (Translator)

Format : Paperback 195 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Graphic Novels, Comics, Fantasy, Horror, Fiction



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## From Reader Review Death Note, Vol. 1: Boredom for online ebook

### N?rmin says

[ (I am only sad that one of the best and cleverest villain in the world died like that.. it was pathetic)  
And Matsuda! You kicked ass in this one)) So being angry can make even the sweetest gu

---

### Pooja says

Every one on social media was getting freak about Death Note. I just couldn't understand why.

Until the day, after whole two years dive of this ignorance, I finally got to read the manga that totally blewed my mind, that got me hooked since the first lines.

To tell you the truth, I never paid attention to it's title. Never cared, not at all.

So when I read this manga, I was surely to stay amazed until and unless I reached to the end.

All pieces started to connect. The truth was before me, the facts were before me.

I tried to talk about it with some of my friends, they won't listen and won't read this manga.

So I had to categorize them personally in my mind to a 'Never to suggest anything' list. You get what I'm talking about.

There is so much awesomeness in the world that it leaves me wondering what just happened before me!

If you've never tried to find out what and why about this book, like to have a mind shaking effect, then this book is for you.

As it was for me.

There are reasons why this manga has to be and is the best manga ever. Ever.

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### C.G. Drews says

This was my very FIRST expedition into magna and **ahhh I so loved it!!** I mean, once I started reading the book in the right direction. Ahem. And I only got mixed up like 859 while reading it...BUT HEY. I'M SURE I'LL GET BETTER WITH TIME. I'm also *really* annoyed I only got the first book from the library because a) cliffhanger and b) I WANNA KNOW WHAT HAPPENS NEXT AND I ONLY GO TO THE LIBRARY ON THURSDAYS. \*hyperventilates\*

Least to say, I obviously am a fan.

**I loved the story!** Like the mixture of death gods and an overachieving super smart highschooler. Duuuuude, Light was a GENIUS. I mean, apart from the part where he was really stupid and has this "I wanna be god" complex. But he was really smart and laid detailed traps and tricked the police and I'm just impressed. **I love the trope of criminals vs masterminds.**

But his name is *Light*???? Ah-huh.

**I'm also 10000% sure this is more of an anti-hero story.** I mean, Light is killing people in order to make a utopia. BUT HE'S STILL KILLING THEM. THE DUDE IS MESSED UP.

Also did I mention I was addicted and read the whole thing in one sitting? THERE'S THAT.

I also **really liked the art.** (Although I'm a bit confused as to the dude who's name starts with W [I seriously can't remember] and if he's working for L or is L or...what. Hrughugh?) And I think Light was kinda adorable. Also the death god creature/monster, Ryuk? HE WAS FUNNY SOMETIMES. Between being kind of creepy and all that. Ahem.

**Okay, so I'm sold. I want to read more magna!** (I also fully admit this is "research" for my writing because I'm setting a book in Japan. ahem. Totally legit.) I love paranormals and mysteries and I LOVE battle-of-wits and antiheroes. sO. MUCH. WIN. HERE.

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### **Magdalen says**

I recently watched the trailer for the american film from Netflix and as a person who respects herself and appreciates quality and authenticity I decided to read the manga. Dear Americans stop ruining epic things.

God I've missed Light and L and I was smiling like a fool. DEATH NOTE IS EVERYTHING. The art is great the characters are oh well AWESOME! You have the antihero Light, whom you love to hate and vice versa and the badass L. Everyone knows the plot so it's stupid just to even try saying something that hasn't been said before.

So yeah, i obviously loved it and enjoyed it to the fullest.

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### **Connor says**

I think this set up a whole lot of interesting things that can happen throughout the series. It took me a little while to wrap my brain around how many people he was killing, but I think I'm really starting to get into it now!

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### **Dannii Elle says**

My first graphic novel and manga experience was definitely a good one and I might already be hooked!

I didn't know how I would get on with the format but I found myself just as immersed in the story, after a

few pages, as I would an ordinary novel. This managed to pack in so much in such little text and I was consistently guessing where the plot would take me next. It also managed to transgress into so many genres that I find it hard that there would be a reader who would not like this!

The story follows high school super brain, Light, after he acquires a magical notebook that has fallen to earth. This is, of course, the Death Note, and each person written in the pages will find themselves deceased before the minute is out. Light manages to become the perfect anti-villain and his wit, super smart tactics and willingness to do good with his new evil power aligned me to his immoral cause.

The artwork was simplistic in colour and design and yet its varied format and sizing kept each page feeling fresh and pleasing to the eye. Takeshi Obata is a one seriously good artist and his skill really helped to bring this story to life. I can't wait to see more of his brilliant work and continue on with Tsugumi Ohba's complex and compelling story.

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### **Sara says**

My first toe dip into the world of Manga, this was enjoyable and packed full of surprises and colourful characters.

What would you do if you had the ability to kill anyone in the world just by writing their name and picturing their face, in a book? That's the situation Light finds himself in when he comes across the Deathnote. Soon he finds himself pursued by the police, and the mysterious 'L', as he tries to complete his dream of creating a utopia free of violence by killing the world's criminals.

I suppose the overriding theme here is does anyone have the right to take another's life, even if that life has done nothing but evil? Choice, surely must always play a part. Light is arrogant with his power, and lets it go to his head big time. He thinks he can outdo the world's police, that he's smarter than everyone he meets. Honestly, he's not a nice guy. Which comes as a surprise, because from the start I thought he was going to be the protagonist. The antihero. He's anything but. Ryuk by comparison, the shinigami who owns the Deathbook is a great character. He's funny, often feigning melancholy at his life before coming to earth, and appearing interested yet also completely nonplussed at what Light is doing.

The plot is also really interesting. Far from being straightforward, it had plenty of twists and surprises to further the plot and make it exciting. I'm actually amazed that such a complex story can be told in so few words.

My only criticism is the lack of any female presence through this volume. We see Light's mother, sister and a random girl who takes on a 'date'. All the main characters are men. And most of the secondary cast too. A bit of female presence would have been welcome.

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### **Merna says**

**This is more of my opinion on the whole series instead of the first volume.**

Death Note is a highly addictive read. I would say it's the best manga I've ever read. It's one of those stories

which leaves you desperate for the ending, but at the same time upset because it all ended. Everything in Death note was planned out perfectly and it was very fast-paced so I was never fed up.

However, I do have a problem with the protagonist. Light's character was never developed well. He suddenly just turns evil after gaining the notebook. He appeared like a perfectly normal high-schooler, but he becomes a cold-blooded killer in matter of days. I don't buy it. There must be some progression. I wanted to see him regret his actions slightly at first before turning fully evil.

Besides that, it's fantastic!

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### **Lola says**

Death Note vol. 1 shows well drawn graphics, an anti-hero as main character that surprises/shocks, a \*monster\* that becomes actually...endearing, controversial themes that will provoke raw emotions along with deep thoughts and a writing and dialogs that make the characters look real and three dimensional without a doubt.

I think the plot could have been more developed, though. The Shinigami world better seen and much more exploited and maybe even contain a notable amount of interesting descriptions for the creatures inside it, because it lacked of it. Badly.

Nonetheless, one of the most original manga volumes I've had the chance to read in months!

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### **Virginia Ronan ♥ Herondale ♥ says**

I finally borrowed "Death Note" from the library and I think I might be in love! <3

**This is soo damn good!!!** I really didn't expect it to be so good!

I don't know what I expected but damn it's definitely better than I thought it would be!

And haha I'm having trouble to decide which side I'm on. I mean it's obvious Light is misguided and that his actions are wrong, this however still didn't stop me from liking him and Ryuk though. \*lol\*

Also, I love L! Gosh they are like cat and mouse and it's nothing but amazing! I live for their "chess game" and how they try to lure each other out! ;-P This is exactly the kind of story I love!

I hope I'll be able to borrow Vol.2 from the library soon! XD  
Wish me luck! \*crosses fingers\*

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## Archit Ojha says

*Not Stopping Until I Hit The Finale.*

My wife was hunting me down to read this manga and until I do that, she won't let me breath.

Well, well!

I'm glad that she has tremendously fantastic choices in everything. And so she proved it in this case too.

A thrilling ride Death Note is!

If you haven't still encountered with it yet, I urge that you should!

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## Kiki says

There is no effing way I am spending six hundred hours reviewing every single volume, so I'll be brief: *Death Note* is awesome.

Honestly, I absolutely loved it. Okay, it got so much shittier after Near showed up holding up a big sign shaped like an arrow that read "DEUS EX MACHINA" in sparkly gold lettering, but even then the art was still great, the protagonist/antagonist (which is Light? It's pretty subjective) still had me on moral tenterhooks, and the plot still had me guessing.

Oh, and it also brought us this little gem.

This one is big, folks. It's a phenomenon. Few people are oblivious to it. I'll admit that the fanbase takes some getting used to (okay, a lot of getting used to) but at it's core, it's a fascinating manga. The themes and morals are designed to confuse and conflict the reader. They're designed to keep you switching from side to side, and to force you to constantly reconsider your stance on the whole question of who deserves to live, and who doesn't. It's parallel to the age-old question of capital punishment.

Why not kill those who've kill others? A life for a life, no? Or does that make the punisher just as guilty? What is justice, and what is murder?

[Death] Note: I wonder how long it will be until a western YA author steals the premise?

So everybody always wants to know who everyone else loved and hated in this series. I'll tell you exactly who I hated, and that was Rem. REM.

I think we all know why.

Throughout the series, it was a hard toss-up between L and Light. I mean, there were times when I thought, *L, dude, quit being a douchebag*, but then it'd switch and I'd want to take that fucking biro and jam it through Light's greedy little eye socket.

[Death] Note: Read my last review to see who finally won my heart.

SNARL!

That's another absolutely brilliant thing about this series. All of the characters are so real. None of them are clichés. They're vibrant and clever, and they're many-dimensional, down to the finest detail. Unlike a lot of people, I love Misa. How can you not empathize with her? She's not stupid, which is what a lot of people assume about her. She really isn't. She's just a naïve girl who wants a knight in shining armor. She wants her life to be a fairy-tale, where she can fall madly in love with a gorgeous guy and live a life of glamour and expensive jewelry. The life that Light promised her, before he started cheating on her and treating her like trash.

Sad, ain't it?

At least she out-lives him. Burn, Lighto!

So, my very brief thoughts on this entire series? Well, it's a testament to how cracktacular it is that I'm a fan, being a die-hard hater of anything detective related (with the exception of *Criminal Minds*, because of Matthew Gray Gubler. Matt, if you're reading this now, I love you!) and being kind of a limpet to J.C. Staff-produced anime, because it always looks so beautiful. It's TRUE and you know it.

I watched the anime first, then read the manga, if you're wondering. It only made the experience more fulfilling. And really, twice can never hurt.

So, five stars from me. Yeah, the five-star ratings are limited to the early volumes, because as the series progresses it doesn't retain its shiny manic goodness. Ohba's attitude toward women concerns me, and I'm not alone. There's clearly a lax in equality here, with secondary women being portrayed as dependent idiots and up-fronters being firm pawns of Light. Granted, all those who objectify and oppress said women die horrible deaths, and Takada is considerably stronger and more intelligent than previous females, but still - there's a strong sense of male power, and it irks me now like it didn't irk me at fourteen. I also hate Near with the fire of a thousand suns, and would like nothing more than to see a pack of angry tigers slowly tear off his limbs while zombies chew on his brains, but that's for another day.

Overall, this manga is excellent. It was one of the first I read, and I thoroughly enjoyed it. It got me into the genre, and kept me rapt. Once a fan, always a fan.

Apple, anyone?

**Bonus time!**

Good places to practice The Kira Laugh:

- a) On the bus
- b) In the library
- c) In a museum
- d) During the eleven o'clock screening of *The Rite*

- e) In the doctor's office
- f) Kindergarten
- g) The the supermarket freezer section
- h) Your sister's closet

Peace and love.

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### **Beatriz says**

Aclaro que es mi primera experiencia con manga. Desde hace mucho tiempo quería probar y cuando *Death Note* fue elegido en un grupo de lectura ni lo dudé, ya que había escuchado buenísimos comentarios de esta historia. Y la verdad, concuerdo, la historia es muy original y bien elaborada... peero, no es mi tipo de lectura, definitivamente soy más de descripciones escritas que gráficas. No creo que lo continúe.

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### **Emily May says**

#### **4 1/2 stars**

When I wrote in my review of Battle Royale that there were only two manga series I really enjoyed, it made me realise just how much in need of a review this was. I am not a manga fan, I know some people love it like crazy, but I've tried starting the most commonly loved - Naruto, InuYasha, Fullmetal Alchemist, etc. - and been left believing that I would never come to appreciate these graphic novels. Death Note was a complete accident which I found one day whilst browsing youtube. I ran into the first episode and watched out of curiosity, then I watched the next and the next until I'd seen the whole thing and knew I had to read the novels too. **Both are brilliant.** The whole series has only one flaw for me and that's why I deducted half a star from the rating. I will talk about this issue later on.

Just so you know, this is going to be a review of the series as a whole because I'm not going to review every single volume, but I promise to leave out any spoilers.

Here goes: **Death Note is brilliant.** It's incredibly clever and will challenge your views on justice and power, but the challenges it puts your way are far from simple. I guarantee that you will change your mind multiple times during each volume; you will switch sides constantly; you will one minute think Light Yagami is evil and the next you'll think him a hero. This is a very complex moral story about right and wrong, about how power corrupts, and about what is a just punishment for the wicked.

Light Yagami is an over-achieving student who is fed up with the world around him - day by day he hears the news report listing murders and rapes and other atrocities committed by human scum. When one day a Shinigami (Japanese death god) drops his death note into the human realm, Light Yagami picks it up and holds in his hands the power to kill people just by writing their names and picturing their faces whilst doing so. He starts out with the most noble intentions - rid the earth of the foulest criminals - but there's a price to pay for playing god. As people start to realise that somehow someone is murdering criminals and disregarding Japan's law methods, questions about justice begin to arise - **is the killer doing the world a**

## **favour, or is he showing a complete lack of respect for human rights?**

When more people begin to stand in Light's way, he is forced to write the names of more and more individuals - some criminals, some not. The power granted to him begins to change him, force him deeper into his obsession with this god-like role. All the while, Ohba maintains a brilliant pace and throws up many obstacles and challenges. This story will really appeal to people who want something to think about and are sick of reading novels with the same old pattern.

On top of all this, *Death Note* has possibly my favourite detective of all time. When the Japanese police force realise that they are unqualified to catch the killer, they appeal to L Lawliet for help. Now, I don't want to say too much about L because I could spoil it, but he's intelligent, lovable, brilliant... I doubt you'll be able to resist loving L Lawliet. And this is one of the things I love most about the series: **there's no clear line between good and bad.** The novel pits Light and L against one another, they have very different ideas about justice and right and wrong, but the brilliance of it is that you can see it from both points of view, in a way you find yourself on both of their sides.

So why did I knock off half a star? Because I dislike the way women are portrayed in *Death Note*. At the end of the day, this series was made to mainly appeal to young adult males. There's no heroine and very few main female characters appear throughout the whole thing. Also, the most central female character is Misa Amane and she is beautiful but useless. She is silly and fickle, and she is mostly regarded with contempt from the other characters. This would probably annoy me more if the rest of the story wasn't so excellent, but it is, it really is.

You should read it. Or watch it. Each episode is only 20 minutes long, why not try out the first and see if it's something you could like: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CheI5D...>

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## **Seth T. says**

Over the past three weeks I've been burning through one of the most exciting reads I've come across in a while. *Death Note* is a seat-edged battle of wits that left me exhausted by the end. Heck, I was exhausted by the halfway mark.

Let me start over. *Death Note* is a Japanese comic that tells its story over the course of twelve volumes (on display now at your local Borders). If what I'm about to say sounds good but you don't feel like spending the eight dollars per volume, head to your local library - they almost certainly carry the books in the Young Adults section. In any case, it's worth your time. Here's why.

The story begins when Ryuk, a death god (known in the story's mythology as shinigami), drops a death note into the human world in order to alleviate the boredom that oppresses his everlasting life. A death note is a special notebook possessed by shinigami that allow them to take the lives of humans whose names they write into the notebook. Ryuk's dropped notebook "happens" to fall into the path of Japan's top high school student, son of the chief of police, and all around genius, Light Yagami.

After a couple tests of the book's authenticity and the boundaries of some of its rules (e.g., one must visualize the face of the person whose name he is writing for that person to die), Light decides that he will forge a new world, a utopia in which all criminals (those who would take advantage of the weakness of others) simply die. Rather quickly, the police around the world begin taking notice of the staggering number of criminals

who have suddenly dropped dead of heart attacks. Suspecting foul play, they want to find the perpetrator because law-and-order and vigilantism have never been the best bed-fellows. And it doesn't help that Light has gained a popular following amongst the masses who dub him Kira (which sounds remarkably similar to the Japanese pronunciation of the English word, "killer"). So the authorities enlist the assistance of the world's greatest detective (an anonymous man known only as L) and he quickly narrows the range of suspects dramatically, instigating a pulse-pounding game of cat-and-mouse between the figures - L vs. Kira.

Initially, as exciting as the first couple volumes were, I had a hard time seeing how the story could sustain itself across twelve volumes. The key to *Death Note*'s happy success is the absence of anything really resembling a status quo. The story and its elements are continually in flux. If things remained simple, I could see the book resolving in four or five volumes but everything is constantly moving, constantly changing. It was a fantastic read.

And smart. The fact that you're reading about these very intelligent characters who think things through to incredible lengths only adds to the excitement. There were moments of revelation and counter-revelation that simply blew my mind. And then there are moments when you think the jig is up for one or more of the characters and then a flashback will reveal the would-be victims plan from the start and you get to see tables turn and over turn as these characters fight for their lives.

And even after that, the moral question that is explored by the book's author and artist really goes to lengths to get the reader thinking about means and ends and it's not at all clear who one should root for. It helps that Light, despite having an ego that won't quit, is entirely unselfish in his motivation. *Death Note* is almost a distillation of an important moral question.

In short, I highly recommend this series to just about anyone.

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### **Mohammed Arabey says**

My very first read of Manga.. and it just blow my mind

**I mean what if you have A Death Note....A note that belong to one of the gods of Death..  
Just write a name in it...with the person's face in your mind...and BAM .. Dies..**

**It's a 'hard to pick a side' story..**

I mean, I would do just as Light did, try to get rid of those who make life hell...Killers, torturer, rappers, sadist and child abusers.

Damn them all ,you know , specially in here in Egypt...The law is way slow and ,mostly, not that fair...at the same time...is that would be fair?

Oh and I may go BIGGER but, not now, **Let's back to the story..**

**Light**, a prodigy student, as an answer to his prayer to get off his **Boredom**, finds a Black Note...**A Death Note**, complete with its instructions.

and as a Good person , he know how to use it as best as it gets -*I feel I'm soooo agree , mostly, to his ideas, is that making me a bad person? , may be..*

The Death Note originally belong to **Ryuk** a Shigami, a god of Death -may be in Japanese myth, I don't

know.. He deliberately lost his Death Note into the human world ...ALSO because he felt a strong **Boredom**... he wanted to leave the Land where the gods of Death hanging around.

**BUT** as hundreds of criminal and convicted murderers, The Police of Japan "**NPA**" start searching for who is reasonable for this weird phenomenon..and for this mystery they can't look without a genius detective .. And here's **L** , a anonymous detective who's super smart and really effective in solving mysterious cases... Now they together will do all their best to catch this one they call "Murderer" ,But will they?

\*\*\*\*\*

**The first Vol. , Boredom , has 7 chapters.**

**Boredom ( 5 Stars)**

**L (4 Stars)**

**Family (5 Stars)**

**Current (5 Stars - really smart)**

**Eyeballs (4 Stars)**

**Manipulation (5 Stars - full of anticipations)**

**Target ( 5 Stars - WHAT A PLAN!)**

**The chapters are really amazing and fast.. and it caught my attention with even before I finish the first chapter.. with Light magnificent discovery, and the fun of the neutral companion , the Shigami ,god of Death with his super cute features ...and the surprise in chapter 3, family - I won't spoil for you now.- then L came and it's Cat and Mouse....both super smart , both righteous... Both think they represent JUSTICE..**

**So , pick a side... I know it's Hard..**

**A truly nice comic, Manga ..and it's a great start to me into this world..**

Mohammed Arabey

from 9 February 2016

to 11 February 2016

**PS : This is half the review of the edition I read, The Black Edition.. since the review there will be in Arabic when I finish Vol. 2 too..**

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**Patrick says**

I don't read very much manga. But I picked the first few books of this series up on a whim, then quickly bought all the rest so I could finish the series.

Short version? I really enjoyed it.

Longer version: Here's some thoughts in no particular order....

~ Great example of how you don't need a bunch of crazy fantastic things happening to make something a gripping piece of Speculative Fiction. In this series, you've got a notebook, and if someone writes your name in it, you die. It doesn't seem like that should be enough to carry twelve graphic novels worth of story, but it absolutely does.

~ These books break a lot of my rules-of-thumb in terms of what makes a good story. The vast majority of the action is people thinking about things. That's a definite "no" in terms of storytelling, and I'd think it would be a double "no" in a visual medium like this. But it works. You can't argue with that.

~ I think the series took a definite dip 2/3rds of the way through. It felt to me like the story reached a natural ending point, then just kept on bulling ahead, ignoring it.

I've seen this happen before with a fair number of successful US comics (And a few series of novels). And while it's nice to see that this isn't not a problem unique to US publishing, I still have a severe distaste for stories that don't end properly. Doubly so if they feel like they're being infinitely extended just because the author won't let go, or because the publisher wants to keep selling more books.

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### **Norah Una Sumner says**

#### **Come on,it doesn't get more original than this.**

I've already watched "Death Note" so the story is not shocking for me, but it's as interesting as it was last summer. The characters are amazing and I can't wait to see how they develop throughout the series. Light VS L is probably one of the most epic "*battles*" I've ever had a chance of reading/watching. Apart from the obviously intelligent characters and an unique and captivating story, I really love the fact that this series questions our morality and principles. What is right and what is wrong? In Death Note there's no clear line between right and wrong, good and bad-everyone has different opinions and everyone sees Light's or L's actions differently. That's what makes Death Note so interesting.

Takeshi Obata is the artist/illustrator of Death Note and man, he is simply amazing. Give this guy an applause.

So, overall, I really enjoyed reading this and I'm already starting the next volume.

PS. I don't know why but I've listened to I Follow Rivers while reading this and I loved it. Great combination.?

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### **Emma says**

yayyy for buddy reads and amazing manga

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## **Melissa ♥ Dog/Wolf Lover ♥ Martin says**

Trah la la, I have me a manga that I'm in love with and I need the rest of them now and I might have to get them because I want them now and I pre-ordered the freaking funko of L because I'm in love with L and unfortunately I didn't like the Funko's of Ryuk or Light. I was really hoping for Ryuk but he doesn't look cool at all, and I'm babbling!

Thank you to all of my GR friends that pushed me onto this manga!!!!!! Actually it was sweet Ashley my hufflepuff that sold me on it first. =) ♥

This is so freaking cool. So, Ryuk is a Shinigami <-- did I spell that right? which means he's A Death God. He just happened to drop his Death Notebook in the human world because he was bored. Ha

Then this smart as a whiz kid named Light finds it and takes it home. Then Ryuk shows up. Apparently whoever possesses the notebook can write in the names of people that they want to die and they can see Ryuk when no one else can. Oh happy day!

Light decides to do the good think and kill off evil people, mostly the ones that are already in jail. I don't see anything wrong with that but the cops think it's murder even though he's doing it for the greater good. Although, he wants to be on top of the world and be his own god so yeah...

Then the cops call in L <---screee . . . and he is going to hunt Light down and put a stop to it.

I can't even imagine what is going to happen in the next several books! I hope nothing bad happens to L and no one better tell me. I like Ryuk too. Anyway, I can't wait to read them all!

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