



Tail of the Moon, Volume 1

Rinko Ueda

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Sometimes it seems like Usagi is hopeless. Sure, she's good with healing herbs, but she's the granddaughter of the leader of a prestigious ninja village and she's such a klutz that she's never made it out of the kiddie class. Finally frustrated with Usagi's lack of progress, her grandfather sends her to marry a local lord and have lots of ninja babies. But the lord has no interest in her or her child bearing potential! After years of goofing around, Usagi is finally determined to reach her goals--she's going to become a ninja and capture her true love's heart!

Tail of the Moon, Volume 1 Details

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Author : Rinko Ueda

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From Reader Review Tail of the Moon, Volume 1 for online ebook

Julie says

tail of the moon is a good book. its really funny...i love mangas there awesome...i love japan.lol

Cynthia says

It started off fantastically, cute and lovable, but as the series dragged on, it became really obvious the mangaka didn't really have any large plot in mind. The characters are sweet and likable, but the whole setup seemed kind of cliched to me.

I read up to 8 and gave up. Ryo is better, and I wished they would just license it already Xd.

Dylan says

Okay this is one of my favorite manga series ever. I love Rinko Ueda's work. If you haven't read this series you need to.

Clarisse says

This is the first manga I've ever read so I had little expectations, and thank God for that. This isn't by any means a bad book, but it wasn't great either. This is only the first volume though so there's a big chance that it might improve in the next.

Sugar says

Review for the whole series!

Review:

Historical shoujo manga, and what I mean here is, with minimum fantasy elements and realistic as possible, isn't in any way rare, but such manga seldom gets translated into English. I can at the top of my head name Kaze Hikaru (Japan), Red River (Anatolia), A Bride's Story (Central Asia), Emma (England) and that's it (there are of course more, but I just can't remember any others). What makes the situation sadder is that historical shoujo manga isn't as popular as it should be (how many people actually read or even know the four manga I just mentioned?). One reason for the low demand would be, I gather, the fact that the setting is Japan and, thus, it is foreign for a Western reader to fully understand or know anything about the details of Japanese history, but most (non fantasy) historical shoujo is in fact set somewhere in Europe, other or is very European in style, for example somewhat going to the last group, is Rinko Ueda's other manga Stepping on

Roses, which, unfortunately, is extremely soap opera-ish and melodramatic for my taste, but also, surprisingly, seems to be quite well read and well received compared to other historical shoujo. This is all, of course, understandable, but I for one wouldn't protest if more shoujo with the background like Tail of the Moon's could get green-lit.

The story basically follows the life of an amateur ninja (or kunoichi for female ninja) Usagi, who is pretty hopeless for most of the series and quite unbearable at times, though she is, as it turns out, a skilled medicine maker and catnip for guy (the small, cute and innocent act seems to really be raking it up). Her mission set by her grandfather is to have the children of a young, talented and respectable ninja leader Hattori Hanzo. Needless to say, there is a clash, because he's simply way out of her league. Between rivals for the attention of either side (a really frequent and annoying shoujo cliché), turbulent political times, dangerous ninja missions, side stories, assassination plots, your usual couple miscommunication troubles, Usagi's failure at being a successful kunoichi, etc, the couple of course falls in love.

This is a very action-packed and fast-paced manga with something happening all the time. But as with Stepping on Roses, I feel that there is too much drama at times, which comes at you with full force one incident/person/topic after another without any real breaks. For example, one guy is introduced and vying for Usagi's attention, after things get more or less settled, someone else becomes a rival to Hanzo. I do, however, think that this manga excels at balancing the action and romance, not forgetting the latter amidst all the trouble and constant hindrances for our couple. The manga doesn't forget that it's essentially still drawn for girls despite the setting, so the love story part is strong and constantly at least on the semi-foreground. Also, in spite of Usagi falling for Hanzo quite quick and for seemingly shallow reasons, the actual coming together and the course of the romance is somewhat of a slow burn. There is always something coming between them and rather than it being annoying and stalling, I appreciated the wait and the further development these obstacles enabled their budding relationship.

I wasn't a huge fan of Usagi, even though, she didn't turn out to be as useless and as klutzy a troublemaker as I concluded during the first volumes. She had her charming sides, but her type of heroine, the innocent girl who everyone falls for, who is whiney, often messes everything up, being more of a burden who needs things done and saved often, and who is just bothersome with her bright eyes and naïve attitude, is not someone whose adventures I fully enjoy following. Still, she was an eager learner and volume after volume she became less of a strain to others and in the end I almost respected her, almost.

Hanzo was supposed to be all manly, brave, talented, serious and a true leader, but what made him actually attractive was his minor dorky side. There were several adorably funny snippets where he is shy, surprised, blushing, innocent, jealous, etc. Those glimpses were what made him more than a cardboard hunky hero. Amongst the various side characters I definitely have to mention Memezo, Usagi's little "brother," who was simply ridiculously squishy, cute, huggable, so hardworking and a small grownup (even more mature than Usagi at times). I especially loved his time and care for all his animal pals.

While the manga is fun and wacky and goes from one crazy situation to another, as I mentioned before, it might be somewhat difficult for Western readers to fully grasp the manga, especially due to the real life historical side. The story takes place during the Warring States period in Japan and thus, there are several historical figures from the infamous Oda Nobunaga to the supportive and kind Tokugawa Ieyasu to the hero Hattori Hanzo himself also having the same name as an actual famous ninja from that time, making appearances or even appearing as minor and major characters to the plot. I'm quite sure regular readers of shoujo manga have no idea who and what all these important people, places and happenings are. Then again, not knowing that, for example, that the man whom Usagi helps is Akechi Mitsuhide, an actual person who once existed, doesn't necessarily hinder in understanding what's going on and, thus, it doesn't leave any gaps

for the reader. The extra knowledge would enricher the reading experience, but it isn't vital.

The emphasis of the art of this manga is mostly on drawing the characters and the background is quite simplistic and not primary in any way. The faces of the characters are detailed, especially for the males, and boy are most of them drawn oh-so pretty looking. The author has this specific look to her men, so I'm quite confident that I can spot her work from a huge bunch. As a fault, I can conclude that, when taking away the hairstyle, the characters look very much the same (but this is nothing new in manga). From the amount of dialogue and different panels on pages, the manga falls somewhere in the middle, with some pages being cluttered with text and various action, but others being quite bare with one panel taking up the whole page. There was, however, quite a bit of humour, colourful and quirky characterization moments, all quite irrelevant of course, in smaller dialogue clouds and panels amongst the main storyline ones or in those panels in smaller size, that could easily be overlooked, but I found many of them hilarious. They were also somewhat responsible for making Hanzo so adorably dorky with his comments and outbursts.

Overall:

If you like historical, action-packed, on the longer side (with 15 volumes) and with romance full of hindrances manga with a naïve and bothersome heroine, who does improve her ways by a mile and you can follow her in this progress, then this series is for you!

ramy says

love this manga hanzo one of those cool silent types and usagi the one that splashes some love on him

Jill Kenna says

As I started reading this one I didn't think that I was going to like it at all. But as I read on it grew on me! I need to read at least one more volume before I decide if I like the series or not but so far so good!

? says

It started out okay, just like most of them do or can. I liked the idea, of course, but it seems like this one was just once cliché after another. She fell in love based on looks, before she even knew the guy, and pretty much everything after that went downhill.

I understand that heroines in most shoujo are usually the same: klutzy, eats a lot, innocent, always needing to be saved, etc. Only a few manga stories have ever pulled that off. This was not one of them.

Tabitha Murray says

This is a really great book about ninjas and a girl who's trying to become one. Usa, if I recall her name right, is a girl who's having trouble becoming a ninja so her grandfather pretty much gives her off to the head of the village, can't remember his name sorry, in order to become his bride. What'll happen? I know so far, XP

Amelia Fransisca says

manga favorit gw...
keren bgt...

Tyia says

This book is perfect for those of us that like a little romance with our ninjas.
Usagi and Hanzo are a treat and all of their friends make it worth going through 15 volumes with enjoyable ease.
And I love that the author has little spots in each book where you can see your favorite characters in different types of dress.
Very cute.

Megan says

Romance and Ninjas!

Angela Auten says

Taking a quick break from Wing Jones to read this beauty. I can't wait to dive back into this series. :)

Have decided to treat myself. Every 3 books I read I will read a volume of manga. (Taking a break from reading Bleach as well.)

Selena says

Seriously. What possessed me to read this manga?

It's pretty much a lesson in the superficial. Usagi literally wants to marry Hanzo because he's hot. I find that

his ass-hole-like tendencies outdid any positive qualities he might have (this includes his defining feature of "being hot"). Hanzo doesn't really have anything else going for him. Just looks. I seriously can sum him up as, "Hot guy, bit of jack ass, is only nice when we need to remind the reader that he and Usagi are meant for each other."

Usagi's not much better. She's supposed to be training to be a ninja, but she sucks at it. In fact, she sucks at most things. She's seriously too stupid to live. The only thing she's good at is making medicine. She's naive, blindly trusts people, sucks at being a ninja (and yet is convinced she can go on real missions). Hell, she can't even properly seduce one guy, which it is made clear near the end of the volume that ninja should be able to do this too. She drove me nuts because she followed Hanzo around like a puppy dog despite him being a dick and *fawned* over him even when he kept telling her to get lost.

We also have two "romantic rivals." I put that in quotes because unlike Satoshi or Red from Pokemon, in the "real world" Usagi wouldn't stand a chance against them (but this is shoujo manga, so we all know Hanzo's going to end up choosing her for some reason I can't possibly fathom). Anyway, these romantic rivals include "rich bitch" (who even goes so far as trying to poison the competition) and "better than you at everything but is such a wonderfully amazingly great person that you can't hold it against her" princess who is so perfect it's almost sickening. They pretty much exist to show all of Usagi's flaws and I guess to make her work harder or add some drama or something. While I liked the princess (if only because she's actually capable of survival, unlike our heroine), I did not like rich bitch one bit. And princess bothered me because she's all, "Oh noes! Usagi left because she thinks she broke me and my boyfriend up!" when it's obvious she left because Hanzo was totally in love with said princess.

It's like, ugh.

Seriously, why did I even try to read this one? Whyyyyy?

Shannon Thompson says

Such a guilty pleasure. If you want a cheesy shoujo in a historical setting, check it out. Though it follows a lot of the same tropes—clumsy girl, “hot” uninterested guy, and rival love interests—I’m looking forward to reading volume 2.

The artwork is great. The storyline is fun, too. And there’s an adorable little piglet with fantastic comic relief.

Not going to lie. I’m rooting for Goemon.

~SAT
