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R to L (Japanese Style). **The Fearsome Power of Piccolo**The Great Demon King Piccolo is all set for world domination--but first, he needs to gather the seven Dragon Balls to restore his youth and power. Son Goku and his friends pit themselves against this heartless monster, but it's looking more and more grim for the side of good as Piccolo picks them off one by one...Their only hope is a martial arts move known as the Mafu-Ba, a technique that managed to imprison Piccolo many years ago. Unfortunately, the move is so powerful that it killed the last person who used it. That won't deter Kame-Sen'nin and Tenshinhan from trying the killer move though, even if it means forfeiting their own lives in the process!

Dragon Ball, Vol. 5 Details

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From Reader Review Dragon Ball, Vol. 5 for online ebook

Heather says

Loved the ending, can't wait to get the DBZ collection.

Rees Malwin says

"You are also the one who made it possible to defeat Piccolo. Without the dragon balls you created, Goku would never have become what he is. None of these heroes would have. From just one dragon ball, this saga was saved, and so the world began." ~Kame-Sen'nin (The Turtle Hermit)

This is probably one of the cutest, most fun, beautifully written, hilarious, dramatic, suspenseful, lovely, and anything else-ly manga series I've ever read in my entire life. The only manga I've read all the way through is Doubt, so I can't say I've read a lot. But I know for sure that once I finish collecting the entire Dragon Ball Z series, I'm going to read those and probably laugh, scream, cry, cheer, and sing my ass off. I loved this entire series from the beginning. I love being able to look over the five years of Son Goku's life, and being able to feel like I'm with him as he grows, becomes more pure, and finds even more ways to strengthen himself to a more powerful human being. (I just really hope Piccolo doesn't get in the way in Dragon Ball Z.)

Yukiraking says

Okay. Since I decided to read this whole series in such quick succession, I decided to just do a single review for it all. Simply put: I loved it! I didn't think I would. I thought it would be a strictly 3 star series, since I think I only rated Dragon Ball Z 4 stars across the board. I watched both Dragon Ball and Dragon Ball Z religiously as a child. I've seen every season so many times that I've lost count. And every time, Dragon Ball Z was my favourite. I thought that opinion would probably transfer to the manga, but it didn't. Dragon Ball was so much more than I ever expected it to be. Some of my favourite plots from the show didn't make an appearance at all, but I still loved it to pieces. It was so funny, and there were a lot of little gags thrown in there too. The plot moved along swiftly, and even some of the characters (such as Yajirobe and Master Roshi/Kame Sen'nin) that I thought for certain would irritate me didn't. They were just as much fun to read about as all of the others. Perhaps the next time I'm in the mood for some Dragon Ball, I'll just re-read this series rather than watch it. It takes less time and was far more enjoyable.

Brandon says

As I was reading this, I was simultaneously drafting an absurdly long review in my head, but now that I'm here, I'm too lazy to write one. Regardless, I love this volume, and in re-reading this material I must admit to myself that I can never not love Dragon Ball as a series. Maybe stuff gets wonky in Z, I don't know, I haven't yet begun re-reading those chapters. But in America, at least, we do have the manga divided into pre-Saiyans and post-Saiyans series, being separate entities, and indeed volume 16 in this compilation ends in a strong enough conclusion that we could (if we so desired) ignore the existence of Z (though I'm pretty sure the

original Japanese publication included the last couple Piccolo, Jr. arc chapters in the tankobon that kicked off the Saiyan arc).

Anyway, this is great. Old, wrinkly King Piccolo looks kinda too silly to be as menacing as he's set up, but everything smooths out alongside the man's wrinkles after he makes his wish on the balls. I completely forgot Piccolo successfully killed Shenlong, which is kind of an "oh shit" moment at this point in the series, but ends up seeming dumb in hindsight, after having seen/read the Z stuff, since Freeza never planned on killing Porunga after wishing on the Namekian balls (or at least I don't think so), nor does any other villain think of killing a Dragon God in order to negate the usefulness of the balls. But regardless young-ish King Piccolo really rocks his Namekian body with its weird lines and pink/purple parts. Very unconventional for a demon king, a bit more conventional for a space alien, and it isn't so bad that God and the Devil in OG Dragon Ball end up being aliens some few volumes later.

Goku takes a much needed break from being such an airhead earlier in the series to become incredibly badass versus King Piccolo. First you have the "You took away a lot that I really cared about... You won't get away with it!" lines after jumping in and kicking his ass a little. Then shit really gets crazy when Goku fucks Piccolo up with that little elastic Kamehameha, angrily telling Piccolo to stop being a little pussy with his "Get up! It couldn't hurt that bad! That was just a bluff Kamehameha anyway!," to which Piccolo, the fucking Demon King who not too long ago hijacked the world throne away from the previous king, responds by calling Goku a monster. It does well to foreshadow the ferocity of a Saiyan's anger, particularly Gohan's rage against Cell's destruction of Android 16, prompting the SSJ2 transformation and the ensuing beatdown of Cell's bitchass.

Also, Chi-chi was kawaii as fuck back in the day. Actually, I recall being attracted to milf!Chi-chi in the beginning of Z as like a 6-year-old, but 23rd-Budokai!Chi-chi is veritable waifu material. I need to get back into Super Dragon Ball Z, since her inclusion among the playable cast, and her use of Goku's Nyoibo and the magic fan, makes her a very fun character (though of course Krillin is still my nigga).

When I first received this volume and the previous VIZBIG in the mail, I flipped through the last few pages of this volume, for no reason in particular. I am not ashamed to admit I choked up a little when Goku fed Piccolo, Jr. a senzu bean so that he might regain his strength, train further, and become a great new rival to test Goku's power. Though of course it is a shame that I know it wouldn't take too long before Vegeta would become Goku's real rival, Piccolo only sharing enough screentime with Goku to give himself a good reason to kill Goku along with Raditz during the beginning of Z (he gets a lot of screentime before Goku and Vegeta become bros, but most of this is spent either with Goku dead and training with Kaio-sama, or otherwise hanging around Namek while Goku rejuvenates aboard his spaceship).

Postscript. With the advent of Dragon Ball Super and Goku's reception of "God ki," it's pretty funny that Goku would refuse Kami-sama's offer to cede his dominion over Earth to newlyweds Goku and Chi-chi. Why rule over Earth as god and goddess when he can just get godlike power for free without ever having to fuck his bitch wife again? (Doesn't Super also reveal that Goku's never kissed his wife, despite having fucked her at least twice? Is the implication that Chi-chi jacked him off in his sleep and rubbed the seed into herself? Shit's weird, man.)

Matt says

This seems to have gotten less intentionally silly as it gets more into the adult storyline.

Jay says

This series was definitely a great series to read. I know it's not over by a long shot. I never really got into watching or reading Dragon Ball as a kid... seemed a little boring since I knew about Dragon Ball Z already and the awesome action in that. I am glad to finally have read the series and understand the whole story so far.

Adam says

This volume definitely marks a transition from the Comedic Adventure manga that the series started out as to more of an action/fighting manga. And the fights and sense of scale in this volume are more grounded; true absurdity is still some ways off.

Volume 12 might be the most scattered; in the aftermath of the last tournament and Kuririn's murder, the Great Demon King Piccolo is trying to take over the world. The Muten Roshi and Tenshinhan attempt to get the Dragon Balls together to wish Piccolo's death, but Piccolo outsmarts them. Kame'sennin fails at the Mafu Ba, and he dies. Piccolo then kills Chaozu as well and is granted eternal youth, and kills Shenlong. Piccolo takes over the world by invading the King's capital. Meanwhile, Yajirobe takes Goku to Master Karin, who gives him the Super Water of the Gods to bring out his true strength. Goku is the first to survive drinking this water. Karin gives him a new Kinto'un, and he flies off to confront Piccolo, as Tenshinhan also does. Tenshinhan is nearly defeated by a demon called Drum, but Goku arrives just in time to defeat it, and challenges Piccolo.

Goku and Piccolo's battle lasts many chapters, into the next volume, and it is vicious. Piccolo is purely evil, and Goku is angry enough to stop him, eventually powering through by boosting with a one-handed kamehameha and plowing through Piccolo's chest. Piccolo managed to spit out one last egg, though. The rest of the volume is setting things right. Yajirobe takes Goku back to Karin, and Karin gives him the idea of going to visit God to bring Shenlong back to life. He needs to use the Nyoibo to rise to Kami-sama's sanctuary, but Goku left it behind. He goes back to the battle site, and then to visit the All-Seeing Crone who tells him it's at the Turtle House. Goku goes and rides the Nyoibo to Heaven, and is tested by Mr. Popo, who is on another level that Goku can't touch. Kami-sama comes out and explains his history with Piccolo, revives Shenlong, and has Shenlong revive everyone Piccolo killed. Everyone trains, until the next tournament, where a reunion is held, and most of our heroes easily make it through, with the exception of Chaozu, who is defeated by Taopaipai, and Yajirobe in disguise, who is beaten by Shen.

Volume 15 starts the tournament. Cyborg Taopaipai fights Tenshinhan, and manages to scar him, before Tenshinhan one punches him and gives him back to the Crane Master. Chi-Chi fights Goku, who agrees to marry her, in a rather comic chapter. Demon Junior fights Kuririn, who gets some licks in, but is easily defeated. Yamcha faces Shen, who we find out is actually Kami-Sama in disguise. It's a bit funny at first, and Yamcha breaks out some good moves, but he's no match for God. Next, Goku and Tenshinhan fight, and Tenshinhan has upped his game, but he has to really work to even make Goku break a sweat. Goku takes off his weighted training clothes, and Tenshinhan responds by splitting into four of himself, to try and trap Goku. Goku sees through it, however, and is able to dispatch each Tenshinhan, because 4 of them means they each only have a quarter of his power. After that, Shen reveals to Goku that he is really Kami-Sama, and

fights Demon Junior.

Volume 16 opens in this match. They fight, but Piccolo is stronger. Shen attempts the Mafu-Ba, but Piccolo reverses it and traps Kami-Sama. So this leads to the final match, after our heroes can talk, and this fight lasts for a whole volume. Goku has a stubborn insistence on winning the match fair and square; he's wanted to win the tournament for 6 years. Piccolo tries to destroy the crowd a couple of times, and when he is revealed, the crowd runs away, leaving Kame'Sennin, Kuririn, Tenshinhan, Yamcha, Chi-Chi, Bulma, Lunch, Oolong, Puar, and the referee to watch Goku and Piccolo. It's very fitting to have our cast altogether. Piccolo grows to giant size, and Goku goes inside him to rescue Kami-Sama from his bottle. Goku then insists that Kami-sama does not join the fight. Goku knocks Piccolo down hard, but lets his guard down as the referee counts and has a blast go through his shoulder. Piccolo breaks his other arm and legs, and then is about to destroy him, when Goku uses Buku-Jutsu to knock Piccolo out of bounds and win the tournament. Then Yajirobe shows up with Senzu beans to revive Goku, and Goku stops Kame from killing Piccolo, and Master Roshi gives an inspiring speech about the Dragon Balls and the heroes. Goku gives Piccolo a bean, turns down an offer to be God, and flies off with Chi-Chi. It's all a rather sweet ending, and a great finish to the volume.

Naty says

Fighting Piccolo Forever. The series falls into a comfortable rhythm of achieving strength, showing off, then wanting to become even stronger when met by a more powerful adversary. Onward. Into infinity. As the major corner stone of the action genre coming out of the 80s, Dragon Ball still does it best.
