



Vinland Saga, Omnibus 3

Makoto Yukimura , Stephen Paul (Translator)

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A BLOODY COMING OF AGE

In a gambit to become the power behind the Danish and English thrones, Askeladd has taken the prince, Canute, and plunged deep into a winter storm behind enemy lines. Canute's father, King Sweyn, gives him up for dead in his haste to suppress English resistance. But Askeladd's small band can't outrun the tenacious maniac Thorkell forever, and when the warriors finally clash, a storm of sweat and gore ensues that will turn a boy into a man and a hostage into a ruler of men!

"Gripping doesn't begin to describe Vinland Saga. 5 stars." – ICv2

"Deeply engrossing... If you have any interest at all in Vikings, the Medieval period, or pirates, this is not a series you want to miss." – Anime News Network

"For those who love Berserk, you'll love this too... Worth the long wait." – A Case Suitable for Treatment

From the acclaimed author of Planetes

Vinland Saga, Omnibus 3 Details

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From Reader Review Vinland Saga, Omnibus 3 for online ebook

Karissa says

This is the third volume in the Vinland Saga Omnibus series. It was just as wonderful as earlier books in this series. The story is so epic and just draws the reader in and the illustration is absolutely stunning.

Askeladd has taken Prince Canute and gone deep behind enemy territory. Thorfinn is given the task of protecting the Prince. However finally the inevitable happens and the war hungry Thorkill catches up with Askeladd's army. Thorkill wants to finish his fight with Thorfinn once and for all.

The fight scenes are epic and the story is absolutely amazing. This book focuses a lot on Askeladd and Thorfinn. We also learn a lot more about the history between Thorfinn's father and Thorkell.

Even more touching is the story of the unwanted Prince Canute. Prince Canute is a soft-spoken boy who had a gentle upbringing not suited for all this war. However as events unravel we finally get to see the true metal within Prince Canute.

I continue to enjoy the summaries between chapters that show Thorfinn's journey so far and the small comments about how this story follows the history of that time period. It's all incredibly interesting.

The illustration remains top notch. There is just so much beautiful detail in this book. It is a pleasure to look at and to read.

Overall an absolutely fantastic addition to the Vinland Saga series. I highly recommend this series to all manga fans out there. This has been an incredibly well done epic historical manga with engaging characters, awesome action, beautiful illustration, and an epic story too! It's just fantastic and I can't wait to read the next one in the series!

Sud666 says

The exciting action-packed manga Vinland Saga continues with Volume Three.

Askeladd and Thorkell are racing to find and capture Prince Canute. We learn a great deal more about the motivations for all the main characters. This is an important volume in the story as we see Thorfinn learn about his father's history and Prince Canute, losing a close friend, begins to grow into the leader he is supposed to be.

The action continues unabated in this volume. The artwork is top-notch. The historical setting is phenomenal. Makoto Yukimura does a great job of creating a typical Japanese manga story and setting it in 1000 AD England. Instead of Samurai we have Vikings. I also appreciate her slightly subversive take on how the women in these societies viewed all the killing- not as Vikings, but as mothers and sisters and daughters. Well done! Full of great action and superb fight scenes-this is a violent and graphic story. That's why I enjoyed it so much. Great series so far!

Ruth says

In various author notes throughout the volume, Yukimura references the importance of violence and what he wants to say about it in this work. It's why he chose vikings as the subject of the series, it was best suited to explore violence. Volume 3 certainly has its share of blood and decapitation, but his message is starting to come forward through the actions and words of the characters. Canute transitions in his grief from a limp shadow of a person to someone of royal bearing. Askeladd's feelings about the world in which he lives are painted in broad strokes as he faces defeat. Thorkell's confusion about Thors' decision to leave the life of the warrior guide his interactions with both Thorfinn and Canute. And as for our main character? Thorfinn has to learn to control himself and listen to guidance from undesired directions if he wants to live. Violence is still his worldview, but should it be? While he himself hasn't started questioning that view, those around him with more years under their belts certainly have, and in part because of him and his father.

While not as graphic as something like *Wolfsmund*, *Vinland Saga* is still incredibly brutal. Desertion begets death--and not even from the one that was abandoned. Surviving the plundering of a village doesn't mean you'll actually make it to the next village. Fragile allegiances are easily shattered if someone's death might do more good than their continued life would. On and on, the bodies pile up and just when the senselessness of the violence gets to be too much, there is that brief moment of clarity through the red haze. It might not be reason or logic, but it is a clearer sense of what and why the violence is happening.

Not everything is deep and meaningful (or extremely brutal). More and more it feels like moments of levity are entering the series, usually jocularly while drinking or when English are dealing with the insatiable hunger and thirst of their conquerors. I think I would appreciate this more if the artwork didn't take on a more cartoonish style through these scenes. It reminds me of Tezuka and the parts of his work that I like the least about it--comedic self-insertions or anachronistic cameos in the midst of otherwise serious works. Yukimura hasn't dipped to that level in those panels just yet, but when his closing remarks in the volume questioned whether he should possibly add more jokes, I found myself cringing. Here's hoping he keeps the current balance, at minimum. Save the jokes for Ylva's adventures in the bonus manga at the end of the volumes.

Ctgt says

Artwork is still strong but there was a sequence in the middle about what makes a true warrior that didn't really work for me. Hopefully that will be expanded on down the road. Shifting alliances and the emergence of a prince push the story along.

6/10

Mike says

Quick thoughts: The best volumes so far by a large margin, which is impressive given how incredible the first four were. A lot of shake ups and twists of fate here, with dramatic changes to the status quo and signs of intense conflicts to come. The depth of character and story is just amazing. Thorkell, Thorfinn, and

Askeladd are compelling, exquisitely realized leads that make it impossible not to get caught up in their struggles.

kim song ng says

This is going to become one of my top favorites x) so darn good.

Ericka says

Excellent art, breathless pacing, and great characters. It would be too easy to make a manga about vikings all about the hack 'n slash, but this author gives the story a lot of dimension and backs up his work with a lot of research.

This volume chases action-packed battle scenes with touching character development. It's wonderfully dramatic. I can't wait to start the next volume.

Evy says

4.8 stars

Nidah (SleepDreamWrite) says

Good volume.

Nicole says

I started reading this series a few years ago, but put it on hold due to lack of time. During those few years, I happened to take a class dedicated to the Anglo-Saxons. Coming back to Vinland Saga with far more knowledge about the setting and history turned out to be a great thing, because it turns out that it's based on actual historical events. Canut and his father Sweyn, Thorkell the Tall and the Jomsvikings are all historical players in the history of England. (Knowing the history that Vinland Saga is based on might count as a spoiler of sorts, so only click and read the links if you're fine knowing the presumed general arc of the story).

I particularly liked the mention of the Battle of Maldon and Byrhtnoth, because I had to spend way too much time on that poem.

James DeSantis says

I knew this volume would be something special when a man punches a horse in mid-move and knocks it the fuck out.

So this volume is just a ton of backstabbing and betraying, but in the best way possible. On top of that we have a rematch we've been waiting for. Thorkell is hot on the trails of the band and he wants some blood. Thorfinn would gladly face off again and this time the match goes for a lot longer. Tons of "oh shit moments" and a lot of great fights. Deaths all around and this series starts to really pick up drive by the end.

Good: The art is damn amazing. The fights, small or big, have such power behind them you can't help but love it. The dialog ranges from sad to laughing out loud without losing itself to anime cliches. I also thought the ending sets up a whole new chapter in most of these character's life. Very interesting direction.

Bad: Some of the stuff with the prince was really boring.

Overall this was epic as all hell. I thought volume 2 was really good but this is finally great. A 4.5 out of 5.

Kaleb says

Plowed through the first three omnibus editions of Vinland Saga and I am blinded by its brilliance. It's giving me the same vibes Vagabond did, although it's not nearly as tranquil. It's taken on a similar theme of going down the path of pacifism and coming to understand the beauty of life through empathy, striving for an existence not riddled with violence and death. The writing and pacing are incredibly strong. And the art!!!! I look at every page and I'm always astonished an actual human being made this! It's maddening! Each panel, every piece of fauna, every ship, every character is drawn the excruciating detail and like every mangaka I fear Yukimura is working himself to death making this.

Julie (Manga Maniac Cafe) says

5 stars.

Holy CRAP! this is such a good series. Brutal, bloody, utterly engrossing. I don't even like most of the characters, and I still keep coming back for more!

The_Mad_Swede says

Following the events of the second omnibus, this book follows Askeladd's Viking band, including the fierce little warrior Thorfinn, as they are trying to help the young Prince Canute, son of the Danish King Sweyn, to reach the safety of his father's territory. On their trail is the fierce Viking leader Thorkell, who fights on the side of the English (primarily because he finds it more challenging to fight other Vikings) and who has an apparently vested interest in young Thorfinn, the son of Thors.

This far into Makoto Yukimura's Viking saga, I am impressed, both by the detailed level of the visual composition and the strong narrative drive.

All in all, I am by now very much committed to this series.

Dorkthropology says

Man, this arc is still such a marvel. It's so rare to see a well-executed sudden character shift like the one here. His pivot and the way other characters and the entire plot changes as a result is amazing.

Faith Hicks says

This series continues to be excellent.

Brandon says

Best of the serialized manga I have read yet

Best of the serialized manga I have read yet

Attack on Titan is good but confusing. It jumps around quite a bit. I wish there was more manga available on kindle, but Vinland has been a great find. Great story, interesting and differentiated characters, and just enough historical context to prompt me to want to go learn more.

Evelyn says

After murdering an entire village, Askeladd's band's karma is turning sour. Thorkell is on the march, chasing them through England again. He's after Canute...and Thorfinn.

Bloody, gross, and awesome; but also deep and philosophical at the same time. Thorfinn struggles with the question "What makes a true warrior?" while Canute struggles with the question "What is love?"

Will either find an answer?

Skjam! says

Note: This review will contain SPOILERS for the first two volumes. If you do not want to be spoiled, see the reviews for those volumes instead.

It is the Twelfth Century C.E., the age of the Vikings. Thorfinn Thorsson serves as a Viking warrior in the band of Askeladd. But he does so only for the eventual chance to kill the treacherous murderer of his father in an honorable duel. Askeladd himself holds secrets about his heritage and true loyalties.

In Volume Two, Sweyn Forkbeard invaded England. His son, Prince Canute, has fallen into the custody of Askeladd's band, who are trying to get him back to his father's camp in the middle of a harsh winter. They are pursued by the English warriors under the command of Thorkell the Tall, a near-superhuman fighter who switched sides to get better battles.

In this volume, Thorkell and his men catch up with Askeladd's band. An epic battle between Thorfinn and Thorkell is the centerpiece, with Thorkell revealing some things about Thors that Thorfinn was unaware with. Meanwhile, Prince Canute comes to a realization about his fate and makes a decision that may change the course of history.

As with previous volumes, the author's research really shows (and he talks a bit about it in an interview at the back of the book.) The art is detailed and dynamic, and the writing is layered. Thorfinn remains something of a one-note character, but we can see the chips being made in his monomania, and ask what will become of him if he ever achieves his goal.

On the cautionary side, there's a lot of over-the-top violence, so it's for older teens and up. There's also some theological discussion as to what "love" is that may be uncomfortable for some readers.

If you enjoyed the previous volumes of Vinland Saga, this one continues to be worth reading.

Koen Claeys says

Superb!!!!
