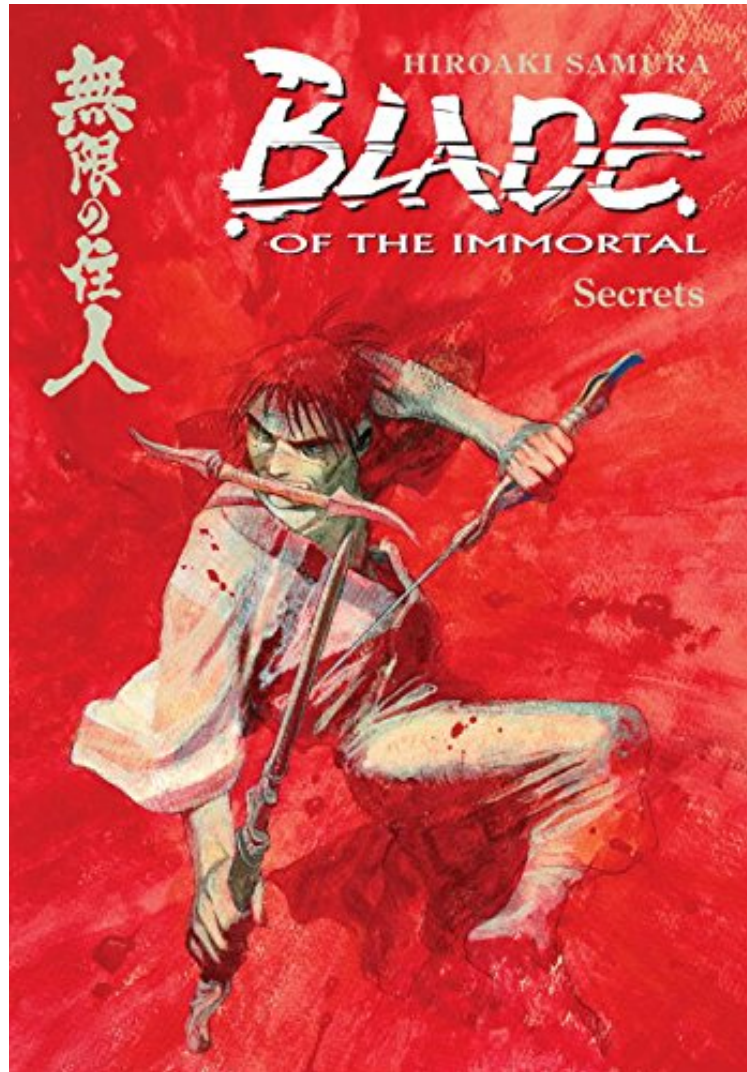


[Ebook free] Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 10: Secrets

Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 10: Secrets

Hiroaki Samura

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Hiroaki Samura : Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 10: Secrets before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blade of the Immortal, Vol. 10: Secrets:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five StarsBy digitaldarrellA+++5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. "What will these hollow men be good for?"By Marc RubyDue to the accident of the order I read this series in, the last several have been horrendously violent. There can be a certain elegance to the dealing of death, but Hiroaki Samura goes beyond the surface ritual and frequently reminds us that it is not graceful technique, but winning that determines survival. This is an ugly lesson, and Samura never fails to make it clear. In any case, I'd gotten to

inured to pieces of people flying all over that I was quite surprised upon reaching 'Secrets' to find the events focused on character development. No doubt, this was intentional on the part of the storyteller, and quite effective. The book opens upon Anotsu Kagehisa making his way through Kaga on his way to the Shingyoto-Ryu sword school. Its master, Ibane Kensui, has decided to offer the school to Anotsu if he will accept one certain condition. Ibane wants Anotsu to marry Hisoka, his ward. This opens a series of interchanges between Anotsu, Ibane and Hisoka that are quite revealing. Anotsu has actually never been portrayed as a completely evil man, and now we discover that he has some very positive reasons for his actions, nor is he the sort to take thoughtless advantage of Hisoka. Back in Edo, Manji is recovering (actually, reassembling himself) at Master Sori's painting studio. Sori was the man who originally funded Rin's quest for revenge, and recently Manji has realized that the painter in blood is one of the Shogun's spies. Manji is, as usual, something of an ingrate, and he still cannot bring himself to trust Hyakurin, the woman spy who rescued him from his last disaster. As Manji puzzles this out, he discovers that there will be one more guest at Sori's home, Magatso Taito of the Itto-Ryu, who Manji has fought more than once. In fact, each man thought the other was dead. Manji discovers that Magatso has left the Itto-Ryu and is searching for the swordsman who killed the woman he loved. Surprisingly, Manji knows the killer as well - Shira, who has a grudge of his own against Manji. The two swordsmen find themselves drawn together against a single enemy. With all this happening, Samura still takes time to show Rin, who is having her own struggles making her way to a showdown in Kaga. Taken in total, this is one of the best of the series, reinstating the sense of story line and helping the reader to see some of the characters in a different light. Some mysteries are resolved, and some new questions allowed to surface. This is truly a showpiece of illustration and narrative.³ of 3 people found the following review helpful. Some of the best manga ever! By Amanda Green As with all previous volumes of the Blade of the Immortal series, this is an excellent piece of work; superb art, complex story, wonderfully detailed characters. Detailed in this volume are Rin's travels -- hard and frustrating, without Manji at her side -- to find Anotsu. Anotsu ascends to take over a remote dojo, but finds himself in a sticky situation when the current master has a request: that he take his daughter as a wife when he takes over the dojo! And of course... Manji mends from his near-fatal (even for the immortal) fight with three of the Itto-Ryu, and discovers that his attempt to get a pass has failed, and that he has a new ally he never expected... If you're a BotI fan, you can't justify NOT buying this volume! Too much important storyline comes to light here; Manji's limitations, the secrets of the Mugen-Ryu, and the Itto-Ryu's goals... This and more!

Anotsu Kagehisa, murderous leader of the rogue Itto-ryu, has journeyed to the mountains far from Edo to the remote Shingyoto-Ryu dojo under invitation to bring the sword school under his wing. But instead of a warm welcome, Anotsu finds a dojo full of angry young men who don't want to take orders from an upstart, unless he can prove he's tougher than the best of them! That suits just fine with Anotsu, who has dedicated his life to putting the killing back into Japan's formalized sword schools, but Anotsu suspects that something more than proof of his worthiness lies beneath the challenge. Meanwhile, the immortal swordsman, Manji, is recovering from a battle that left him literally cut to pieces. His charge, Rin, is still nowhere to be found, bound for vengeance against Anotsu, but soon his troubles may become a bit more immediate, troubles that even an immortal may not survive! Collecting issues #58-#65 of the ongoing series.

From Publishers Weekly This multivolume series first arrived on the American comics scene in 1995, and manga fans went wild. Not since Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima's Lone Wolf and Cub has a samurai series gathered such a devoted following. It's the story of Anotsu Kagehisa, founder of the Itto-ryu sword school; Rin, a beautiful swordswoman whose parents have been killed by Anotsu; and Manji, Rin's bodyguard, who accompanies her on her quest to avenge her parents' death. With skillful storytelling and masterful artistry, Samura takes the tension and stoicism of Lone Wolf and fuses it with a postmodern irreverence and casual, contemporary vocabulary (e.g., Manji says things like "shaddap!"). Indeed, irreverence is Samura's strength, allowing him to write without much worry about the accuracy of his portrayal of historic Japan. In this volume, Anotsu travels to Kaga province. Unknown to Anotsu, the injured Manji is resting there while bloodworms work to reattach his limbs after a bloody fight with Itto-ryu swordsmen. Meanwhile, Rin, now separated from Manji, has been robbed and left to fend for herself in the wilderness. Like a soap opera, this story is more anticipation than immediate action. Some readers may need a bit of plot information if they're just beginning, but Samura's dialogue is helpful. His black and white drawings are gestural but precise and leap convincingly between meditative scenes of nature and dynamic fights and battles. The thin, fast lines of his drawings suggest a vibrant informality, as if readers were peeking at his sketchbook. Thrilling, violent action combines with a dash of science fiction in an unusual manga melodrama. Copyright 2002 Reed Business Information, Inc. About the Author Hiroaki Samura is a Japanese writer/illustrator and creator of Blade of the Immortal, as well as several other short works. He has also done various illustrations for magazines.