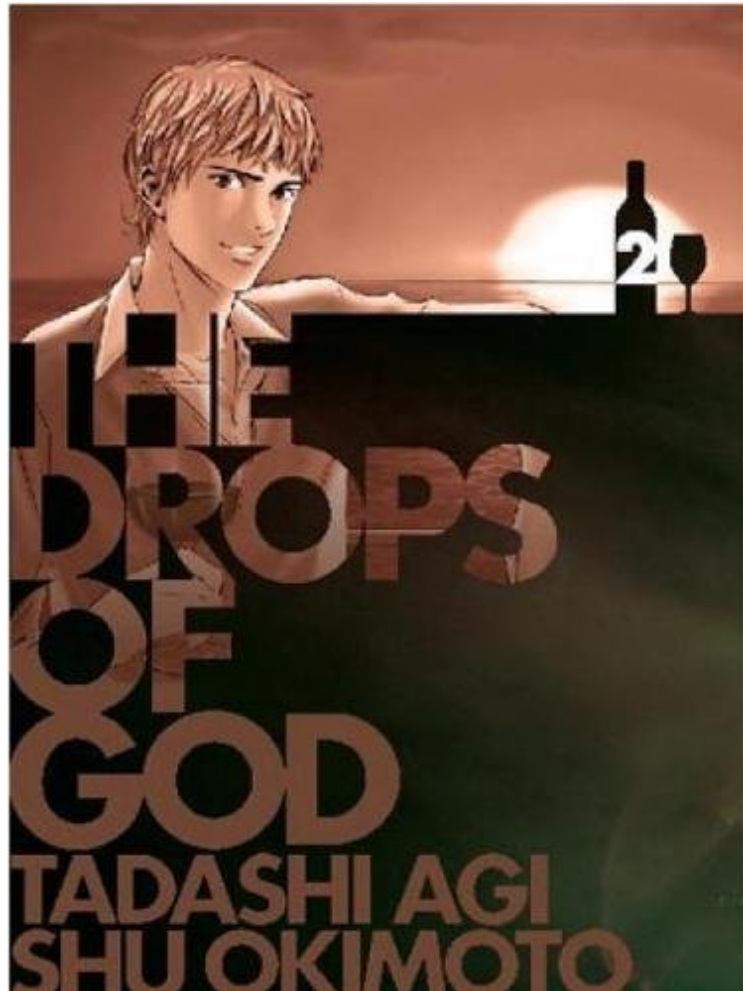


Drops of God, Volume '02: Les Gouttes de Dieu

Tadashi Agi

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Tadashi Agi : Drops of God, Volume '02: Les Gouttes de Dieu before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Drops of God, Volume '02: Les Gouttes de Dieu:

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A solid continuation to an ambitious seriesBy J. C. KinderManga (Japanese comic books) are a bit different from American comic books, in that they cover a much wider range of topics. There are, for example, extremely detailed and accurate sports manga, gambling manga, educational manga and, most relevant here, cooking manga. It's not all people with enormous eyes and stupid hair punching each other. This manga focuses on wine, and treats it with an impressive balance of seriousness and humor.The central conceit is that the main character has a superb ability to taste and appreciate wine, but no experience drinking or buying it. It is through his eyes that the reader is introduced to various concepts in wine. That the teaching is delivered via a

combination of superb art and cheerful humor certainly helps. This volume focuses on two main stories- a restaurant which must impress a stern critic with its pairing of wine with each dish, and a competition between French and Italian wines at reasonable prices. This calls for many tastings, discussions of terroir, the villages and grand crus of Burgundy and Bordeaux, and a rather amusing discussion of introverted pino noirs. As opposed to the extroverted pinos of California or New Zealand, for example. In context, it all makes sense, and I certainly have found that some wines strike me as cheerful and approachable. My only critique is that these books have a profound bias towards French wine. It's not that the authors dismiss wines from other regions (in this book the main character says that he is blown away by the quality of an Italian wine) it's just that they like French wine better. They have said as much in interviews. Rather wonderfully, they compared California reds to Americans- big, cheerful and just a little too friendly for Japanese people. French wines are a bit more restrained and take more effort to get to know, a more comfortable arrangement for a reserved Japanese person. I rate these books so highly because I know just enough about wines to know I don't know much at all. These books put into words and images a great deal I have often felt or thought about wine, and inspired me to learn even more. I strongly recommend it to anyone with even a passing interest in wine. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. great! By Bob from Michigan The whole Drops of God series is amazing. It drops a lot of really good wine knowledge, is extremely entertaining, and a very easy read. Not to mention the fact that it's one of the most influential wine books of all time. A must read for anyone who loves wine! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Andrew the best manga/comic about wines.

Shizuku Kanzaki is the son of a recently deceased, world renowned wine critic named Yutaka Kanzaki. In order to take ownership of his father's legacy, an extensive wine collection featuring some of the most rare labels of the last 30 years, he must find 13 wines, known as the "Twelve Apostles" and the heaven sent "Drops of God" that his father described in his will. But despite being an only child, Shizuku is not alone in this unique wine hunt. He has a competitor. Issei Tomine, a renowned young wine critic, was recently adapted into the Kanzaki family and is also vying for this most rare of prizes. Shizuku has never drunk, nor had any previous knowledge about wines, but with strong senses of taste and smell, honed from years of time spent with his father, Shizuku accepts the challenge, albeit with a little push from a young sommelier in training named Miyabi. In many ways his mentor and his muse, Miyabi teaches Shizuku the basics of wine and allows Shizuku to nurture his given talents as he begins his journey across the globe in search of the 13 bottles his father has selected for him to someday taste. In the second volume of the Drops of God, Shizuku has lost his family home, and now he must go search for the first of the Twelve Apostles of Wine. Not knowing where to start, he turns to his new friends and collaborators for guidance. However, this poses a new problem. The world of wine is vast and is full of history. Where does a complete novice start? And with a co-worker who is madly obsessed with Italian wines, how will he ever find the proper perspective and direction needed to take on someone like the prince of wine criticism, Issei Tomine? To prepare himself Shizuku volunteers to participate in a unique wine tasting by one of Japan's up-and-coming wine traders and producers Saoin Wines. The same group that is funding Shizuku's rival Tomine have established an event that showcases 100 unique wines together in a formal setting. This is a high-stakes wine event, where the most enjoyed wines will certainly be bought up at top dollar by the finest food and wine establishments of Asia. As a member of Taiyo Beers new Wine Sales Division, Shizuku must select the best wine at this event. And even if the labels are not the best known, he will have to trust his senses and his own judgement of taste to pick the one true wine worth sales on the market today.

"Through the dramas of their wine-drinking characters, the (Tadashi Agi) instructs readers on how to taste wine. Its hilarious, for sure, when a young woman swoons over a man's decanting skills, but it's also a great way to draw attention to the technical proficiency of a beautiful pour without getting too technical. And that's what's truly extraordinary about Drops of God: It makes learning about wine which, let's face it, can be a totally tedious thing for the non-obsessed really fun... Seriously, this is juicy stuff!" -- GILT Absolute page-turner Its the sweeping two-page illustrations of taste-transporting moments (a shirt-tearing jam by rock band Queen, a maiden fleeing through strawberry fields) that better capture wine's great allure than a thousand dry scribbles on history and weather conditions. Time Out New York An almost psychedelically beautiful work Its like Speed Racer crossed with Wine Spectator. The Daily Dish (LA Times) Visually stunning and effortlessly entertaining To top it off, reading Drops is a trippy literary experience Dont be surprised if you crush this book in one night. Its pretty impossible to put down once you pick it up. Bottlenotes (The Daily Sip) I have already ordered the second volume (out in December) and I guess that in terms of reviews that is a definitive statement. Wine Psych Presents some complex wine topics in an easy to understand manner, without talking down to the consumer I urge all wine lovers to take a look, with an open mind, at The Drops of God. Give it a chance and you might be surprised at how much you enjoy it. The Passionate Foodie Penchants for French wines drive the selection of vinos described with dramatic, often fanatical detail. Wine Enthusiast About the Author Tadashi Agi is the penname used by the best-selling brother and sister duo Shin and Yuko Kibayashi. Veteran writer the Kibayashi's debuted on the Japanese scene with the award-winning and best-selling comic series Kindaichi's Case Files (published in English by Tokyopop). Agi's next hit was the series GetBackers,

which would cement the pair as Japan's most innovative thriller mystery writers of the early part of the new century. GetBackers success would extend across the globe becoming a strong seller in the US. Yuko and Shin Kibayashi are also well regarded wine enthusiasts who were also voted one of Decanter magazine's 50 most influential people in the wine industry in 2009. They have been featured in interviews with the New York Times, CNN, and Wine Aficionado regarding global wine trends. Shu Okimoto is a veteran comic illustrator and book jacket designer.