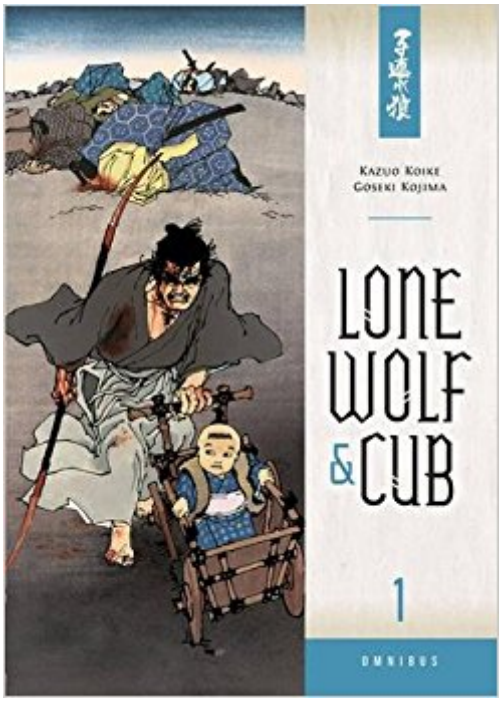
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Lone Wolf And Cub Omnibus Volume 1



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Synopsis

A samurai epic of staggering proportions, the acclaimed Lone Wolf and Cub begins its second life at Dark Horse Manga with new, larger editions of over 700 pages, value priced. The brilliant storytelling of series creator Kazuo Koike and the groundbreaking cinematic visuals of Goseki Kojima create a graphic-fiction masterpiece of beauty, fury, and thematic power.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Like a lot of people, I first became aware of Lone Wolf and Cub by watching Shogun Assassin. I was working in a movie store, and a regular customer would talk about martial arts and samurai movies with me regularly, and one day, he came in to lend me his copy of Shogun Assassin. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢d never seen anything like it before, and fell in love with the character of Ogami Itto, who may very well be the original one-man army character. I looked up as much info as I could about it, and found out that it was actually an edited version of portions of a series called Lone Wolf and Cub, which was based on a very long comic series. I set out to read the comics in no time, and quickly became addicted. About 10 years has passed since I finished the series, and now that these huge collections have been released, IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m going though it again to see how it holds up. IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m happy to say that this comic, which started all the way back in 1970(!) very much holds up, and a lot of comic artists and writers could learn a thing or two by reading just one story in any of these volumes.Ogami Itto was the shogunÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s executioner, and has chose to live the path of an assassin, offering his sword and son, Daigoro, to anyone willing to pay

for his services. Itto has more than enough skill to deal with the most feared foes, armed with his dotanuki sword and expert tactics. He does whatever it takes to get the job done, even if it means appearing weak. One case has him allowing himself to be captured by the enemy, dismantling them from the inside out once heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s in their lair. Another has him entering a prison with some of the toughest criminals out there, getting unceremoniously beaten, then allowing himself to get put on death row after he kills a few of the guys that beat him after he gets the info he needs. The funny thing is, with all these dangerous situations, the guyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s rarely in any serious trouble because heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s just -that- good. This first volume of the Lone Wolf and Cub Omnibus contains 16 chapters in the series, with each chapter showing why Ogami Itto is probably the baddest fictional dude to grace any form of media.As much as I could go on about how awesome the brutal fights are in this series, I think that everyone gets that by now. Fights are over very quickly in Lone Wolf and Cub, making you wonder what happened to manga where many fights are drawn out over the course of several books in some cases, usually just to showcase how powerful characters are, or worse- letting characters ÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Å“power upÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã Â• over several chapters. Goseki Kojima does a fantastic job showing how skilled Itto is with any weapon in just a couple of panels, never wasting a single space with unnecessary flash. Kazoo KoikeÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s writing is top-notch, and there is some very clever stuff in here. Ogami Itto isnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t a mindless killing machine- he has reasons for doing things the way he does them, and the majority of what he does in this volume is all planned out in advance. There were a lot of times I found myself smiling because of how tricky something was.To be completely honest, I loved every single chapter here except for one which felt like a short filler episode. But even that one wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t bad by any means. It just wasnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t anywhere near as good as the others. Some of my favorite were:-Chapter 5: Suio School Zanbato. Ogami Itto has a duel with a high ranking samurai, even getting a written note from the guy stating that he agreed to the duel. After dispatching him, the samuraiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s men seek revenge on Itto, planning to ambush him on horses.-Chapter 8: Wings to the Birds, Fangs to the Beast. Probably one of the more well-known chapters here. Itto and Daigoro head to a hot spring thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s ruled by outlaws at the moment, whoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ve taken the nearby village hostage. Itto does a very noble thing to save a prostitute, and deals with the outlaws in a way that only he can. Having a baby cart thatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s full of built-in weapons sure helps.-Chapter 9: The AssassinÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Road. This is the one chapter where we learn something about Ogami Itto and Daigoro, going over part of what led them to this path they walk. One of the duoÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s most memorable moments comes at the end of the chapter during a duel

where Itto bows his head down while dashing at his opponent, revealing Daigoro on his back wearing a mirror on his head to reflect the sunlight at the opponent, blinding him.-Chapter 12: Tragic O-Sue. This is basically a Daigoro story. With his dad sick, resting in a small temple somewhere (and having some pretty gnarly nightmares about demons), Daigoro is left to fend for himself after he gets imprisoned by a high ranking samuraiÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s family. The master of the house wonders if Daigoro is the son of the infamous Lone Wolf and Cub assassin heÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s heard so much about.-Chapter 16: Half Mat, One Mat, A Fistful of Rice. Finally, we end the book with the first opponent who actually stands a chance against the assassin. A highly skilled samurai turned sideshow attraction takes the father and son out for a meal after accidentally almost harming Daigoro. He doesnÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢t like the path that Ogami Itto is on, and wishes for him to stop, for his sonÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s sake. Itto refuses, for both him and his son have chosen it. As a result, he chooses to stop the former executioner himself in a duel. This leads to a very intense moment where the two stare down each other, and visualize several possibilities of whatÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s going to happen when they make their moves.And keep in mind those are only 5 of my favorites, and there are at lest 5 others I could go on about! What are you waiting for? This is a crazy-good deal for so much of the story. My only issues are that it would be so much better if the volumes were in hardcover format, because the paper covers do start to wear down quickly due to how much content there is, and IÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢m still not happy that they reversed everything. Yes, this reads like a standard US/European comic, from left to right, and as a result, all the artwork is reversed too. Dark Horse has a reason for it, and itÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s not a very good one. Maybe in another couple of decades theyÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢ll finally put it out as it was originally published?Those minor complaints aside, nothing should keep you from buying this book.

Lone Wolf & Cub Omnibus Volume 1A very nice thick manga from Dark Horse Manga, over 700 pages of pure black and white action, intrigue, and self exploration in this book.This is my first manga, I believe. The closest I ever came to this type of stuff was Scott Pilgrim and SharKnife, the latter being absolutely deplorable.The story revolves around a Ronin out to atone or avenge the death of his wife, carrying his son with him. Why he has his son at all is revealed halfway through the book and is one of the more powerful scenes so I won’t go through it now with you.Basically, he’s an assassin. He often uses his son and puts him in grave danger to meet his mission, but his reasoning is "Even a Wolf Cub is still a Wolf", seeing as his son is strong and can take care of himself.This is absolutely brilliant and I for sure will be buying volume two in this series. Lots of action, lots of neat problem solving and unique murders and stories to keep you guessing each

time. It did end softly with the last two stories but 98% of the book is gold.Definitely check it out, even if you've never read this sort of thing (like myself), you might like it.

The series is one of the best Japanese comics ever created, up there with the likes of Akira and Berserk...I think. For whatever reason, when Dark Horse decided to pick the series up and reprint it as they've done with numerous Japanese comics in the past, they decided to release it in an incredibly small size, smaller even than the usual "digest" size manga softcovers that people are used to. I started reading it quite awhile ago, but found that I couldn't fully enjoy the artwork (or read the text) due to the insanely small print.Well, Dark Horse has finally come to their senses and release the series in the usual "digest" size they use for all their other reprint manga properties. Not to mention, they also added more story (the volume contains the contents of the first two and a half original LWAC books). Why they didn't do this sooner, I can only imagine. But I look forward to reading (and in some cases re-reading) this series from the beginning.

Koike and KojimaÃƒÂ¢Ã â ¬Ã â„¢s Lone Wolf and Cub feels of a different era of manga, and that is largely because it is. First released in 1970s, translated and re-released by Dark Horse Manga in the late 1990s and early 2000s, this Manga gives several of the Lone Wolf and Cub stories. Unlike most later manga, Lone Wolf and Cub is largely episodic, and while details about the backstory are left like bread crumbs, this does not have to be read in order. The violence, while not super graphic by modern adult manga standards, was fairly graphic for the time, and nudity is common, although it is not portrayed in the modern comic--manga or "western"--hyper-sexualized manner.The art is stunning and very naturalistic. It seems to mimic figure work from more traditional Japanese sources and the highly archetypical Edo-period feudal Japan is rendered convincingly, although I am not entirely sure how accurate this is to the real world Edo Japan. The plots do get repetitive although the art does carry me through. Part of the problem is that later Manga and Samurai stories draw a lot from the Koike and Kojima which makes it feel less fresh than it did originally. Kazuo Koike's plots and character though work remarkably well for how compacted his stories often are. While I would suggest lingering with this one instead of binge reading it, it's an excellent early manga.

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