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Orion

Shirow Masamune

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Shirow Masamune : Orion before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Orion:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Weird, Wacky Dark Science-Fantasy By SomeRandomGuy This often overlooked gem from "Ghost in the Shell" and "Appleseed" manga artist and writer Masamune Shirow is in my humble opinion his superlative work. As one reviewer has already mentioned, one of the fatal flaws of Mr. Shirow's works is a tendency to meander all over the place, with no specific beginning, middle, or end. Often he will start with a great concept, like he did in M-66 Black Magic, only to just stop the story at a critical point. What sets this apart from the other works, is not only does Shirow develop an amazing world, with its extremely high concept Buddhist and

Hindu religious references, tying it in to real-world computer programming and applied sciences to create the "Psycho-Science" of the story, but does an incredible job, beginning to end of keeping it coherent and consistent all throughout. On top of that there is a satisfying ending to the story, but still leaves some room for future stories to be told. But what is a story and world without great characters? Orion has this in spades; From ditzy Seska, daughter of Fuzen, the Buddhist-style priest who is trying to stop the Yamada Empire from making a potentially fatal mistake in using a Naga to eat all the negative karma to the real character of the story Susano Orabatos, a wild, chaotic God of Destruction, who goes about "helping" Fuzen, his summoner, in a sometimes less-than-helpful manner, even causing horrific death and destruction on the slightest provocation. For some readers, this level of darkness, which we have seen before in Shirow's other works, may be a bit off-putting, particularly when Susano goes about destroying a city and it's inhabitants simply because of resistance from one of the Yamada Empire officials, Dr. Hebime, to the God of Destruction's plans to prevent the Naga from being activated. But this darkness is at least alleviated by the wacky sense of humor pervading the whole story, and at no point does it detract from the dark drama, and vice-versa, and Shirow does a masterful job of even blending the two. No mean feat. So if you love Shirow's other works, and you want to read a complex, interesting story with very colorful, over-the-top, and well-developed characters, I cannot recommend this manga highly enough. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. guaranteed to make you feel small and stupid- yea! By Steven Dunne Pretty much a standalone story by Shiro Masamune (ghost in the shell) basically its in a futuristic world where planetary travel is the norm and technology is fused with eastern spirituality or wizardry based on science and psychic power. Weapons are forged to enhance them and there are military leaders/scientists who want to create what is called a nine headed naga dragon which is supposed to Hoover up all the negative karma of the universe. But a wise shrinemen sees the folly of this, so tries to hide the formula to create it by turning it into a full body tattoo on the body of his sexy daughter Seska (her day job seem to be some sort of powerful spiritualistic traffic controller). With mad scientists banging on the door the shrinemen only hope of protection is to summon a powerful god called Susano and thus starts a power struggle for the fate of the world. Meanwhile, Seska gets a little confused on what side she's supposed to be fighting for after she gets swallowed and spat out by Susano and ends up a little more powerful than usual. Suffice to say you may not comprehend what your reading; its fun to follow, and has beautiful drawing. Its kinda like Dominion conflict 1 (second tank police book), fun and a little silly. 4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. Shirow's best path By R. Mutt Shirow Masamune had all kinds of sci-fi paths he first created, then wandered down. Some he followed farther than others. Orion is the best example of a path he followed just far enough. Originally only six issues (I think), this comic mixed non-stop, insanely fast-paced battles with some incredibly interesting "fusion mysticism" which, in this particular compilation, is explained to some level of detail in an appendix. I loved it enough to want more, but feel better knowing Shirow quit while he was ahead. Orion provokes thought, rewards multiple readings, and while it has its share of images of the scantily dressed villainess/heroine Seska it's not blatantly tasteless like Shirow's more recent work. As an avid non-manga reader I'd say this is definitely a must-read.

In the mighty Yamata Empire, magic and technology are one and the same. Now, the Empire is preparing its ultimate feat of psycho-science: the destruction of all the negative karma in the galaxy! But will this mystical purification be the salvation of humanity or the trigger of its ultimate destruction? Only one being can save the Empire from its folly: Susano, the God of Destruction. Wild, arrogant, and homicidal, Susano has come to teach the world the true nature of power! Shirow Masamune, creator of Appleseed, Dominion, Intron Depot and Ghost in the Shell, has earned a huge worldwide following with his unique, eclectic, and visually stunning blend of science-fiction and fantasy, and Orion is Shirow at his wildest, and now for the first time in America published in right-to-left reading format, as originally published in Japan. Plus a variety of great bonus features: art gallery, Orion glossary and notes on the text composed by Shirow himself!