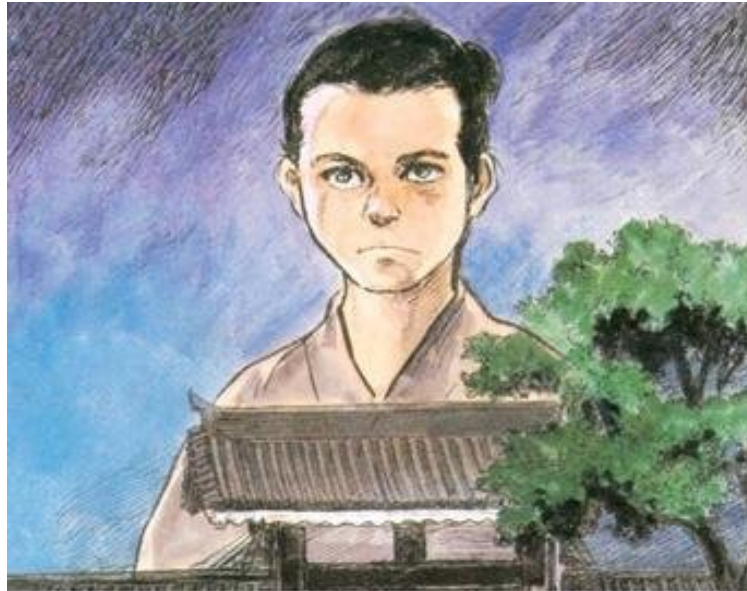


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Kazuo Koike

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半蔵の門 PATH OF THE ASSASSIN

VOLUME 2

SAND AND FLOWER

By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

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#1200986 in Books Koike, Kazuo 2006-09-12 2006-09-12 Original language: English PDF # 1 5.97 x 1.02 x 4.171, .43 #File Name: 1593075030312 pages | File size: 28.Mb

Kazuo Koike : Path Of the Assassin, Vol. 2: Sand And Flower (v. 2) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Path Of the Assassin, Vol. 2: Sand And Flower (v. 2):

1 of 2 people found the following review helpful. "A mountain is a problem, but a horse is too" By Lawrence Bernabo "Hanzo no Mon" ("Path of the Assassin") is the story of Jattori Hanzo, the fabled master ninja whose duty was to protect his master Tokugawa Ieyasu (called Motonobu at this point), who in the fullness of time would become shogun, unify Japan, and create a modern nation. While Hanzo uses his formidable talents as a ninja to serve the young Ieyasu "in the dark," the two form a relationship that goes beyond master and servant, teacher and student, and

even friendship. In Volume 2, "Sand and Flower," we see the young Motonobu start to exhibit the skills that would make him shogun and the balance in their relationship tips decidedly towards him. This is the third manga series published by Dark Horse featuring the work of writer Kazuo Koike and artist Goseki Kojima following "Lone Wolf Cub" and "Samurai Executioner," and solidifies their spot in my mind as one of the great "comic book" teams of all-time. Once again there is a Parental Advisory for explicit content but this time the series is being printed in the right-to-left format of the original. Volume 2 begins with the final three chapters in the opening saga, "Chapter on Relinquishing Pain." Motonobu has been married to Tsukiyama, a daughter of Sekiguchi Yoshihiro, the key vassal of Imagawa Yoshimoto. Following the birth of his daughter, Motonobu is given permission to return to Mikawa, where the young man must decide whether to stay in Mikawa and defect from Imagawa, or to go back to Sunpu and remain a hostage. Yoshimoto is testing the young Motonobu, who must make a pivotal decision in his life. In Chapter 8: "Neyasu Samehan," Motonobu is thinking of changing his name now that the New Year has arrived and the name of the era has changed, trying to find the perfect name for the person he wishes to be. But while he desires a life of quiet idleness, his inability to fly a kite or even climb a tree without Hanzo's help makes him doubt that he can survive the war that is coming. Chapter 9: "Crisis--The Tree at Risk," is when Motonobu is sent back to Mikawa to force his hand. He sees a tomorrow full of terror, which is why Hanzo knows his lord will survive. Meanwhile, a "baldy rat" is sent to spy on Motonobu. Chapter 10: "Complete Absence," is where Motonobu makes an initial decision on what to do. The rest of Volume 2 is devoted to the first half (really) of the nine chapters that make up the next story line, "Chapter on Relinquishing Factions." Chapter 1: "A Mountain Is a Problem. But a Horse Is, Too," begins with Hanzo discovering the presence of the "baldy rat" and the two have an interesting conversation. Chapter 2: "Monkey and Pull," finds Motonobu considering the consequences of his actions. Chapter 3: "Sand and Flower" is an interlude in which Hanzo tries to stay alive long enough to say farewell to his bride. Chapter 4: "Fire Attack" finds Motonobu and his samurai laying siege to a castle in the pouring rain and to the surprise of his men ordering a fire attack. This seems madness, but of course Hanzo provides the method for it to succeed and for the first time we have a clear proof that Motonobu could one day be shogun. Chapter 5: "It Rains at Home, and It Rains on the Battlefield" (Part 1) has Hanzo giving his master the gift of a telescope as the next battle approaches. For the rest of the story you need to go on to "Volume 3: Comparison of a Man," but if you have gotten this far in the "Path of the Assassin" series I have to believe you are in it for the long haul. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Five Stars By Harvey A great way to learn about Japanese culture during the Shogunate era. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. History as it Happened By Juan C. Depaz Hanzo the ninja and the future master of Japan continue learning about life and each other, encountering historical personages and personal heartbreak. Ieyasu must continue to walk on the edge of a knife as he tries to be a feudal lord and not make the lord who keeps him as a hostage see him as a treat and kill him. It will only get harder. And he can find no joy at home with his cold, unloving wife. Although he has a plan to make her less cold...

It's not easy being Hattori Hanzo. If he's not teaching the young and upcoming shogun how to love, then he's either behind the scenes teaching Ieyasu how not to die in case of a momentary lapse of protection. Or he might be in the shadows making sure Ieyasu's leadership is effective by any means necessary. If you thought you had a tough job, try taking a pudgy, protected youngster, and making him into the leader who would unite Japan under his singular rule. In this quasi-historical tale from the masters of Japanese samurai culture, Path of the Assassin shows a side of feudal Japan that entertains with action as well as political drama.

From Booklist In the second installment of Koike and Kojima's dual-biography, Ieyasu Motonobu, founder of the Tokugawa shogunate, and Hattori Hanzo, his ninja bodyguard, move onto the historical stage and advance their love lives. Anticipating that he won't be able to serve both master and wife, Hattori turns away the young woman he won in *Serving in the Dark* (2006). To learn how to fulfill his wife, Ieyasu has Hattori spy out how a studly warlord pleases his. Here, instead of the many stories of the episodic Samurai Assassin, Koike and Kojima are unfolding a huge story arc, with comparable artfulness. Ray Olson Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved About the Author Kazuo Koike is a prolific Japanese manga writer, novelist, and entrepreneur. Early in Koike's career, he studied under Golgo 13 creator Takao Saito and served as a writer on the series. Koike, along with artist Goseki Kojima, made the manga *Kozure Okami* (Lone Wolf and Cub), and Koike also contributed to the scripts for the 1970s film adaptations of the series, which starred famous Japanese actor Tomisaburo Wakayama. Another series written by Koike, *Crying Freeman*, which was illustrated by Ryoichi Ikegami, was adapted into a 1995 live-action film by French director Christophe Gans. Goseki Kojima was a Japanese manga artist known for his collaborations with Kazuo Koike. The team was often referred to as the Golden Duo. Kojima's best-known work was *Lone Wolf and Cub*. Other titles attributed to Kojima are *Samurai Executioner* and *Path of the Assassin*. In 2004, Kojima won an Eisner Award.