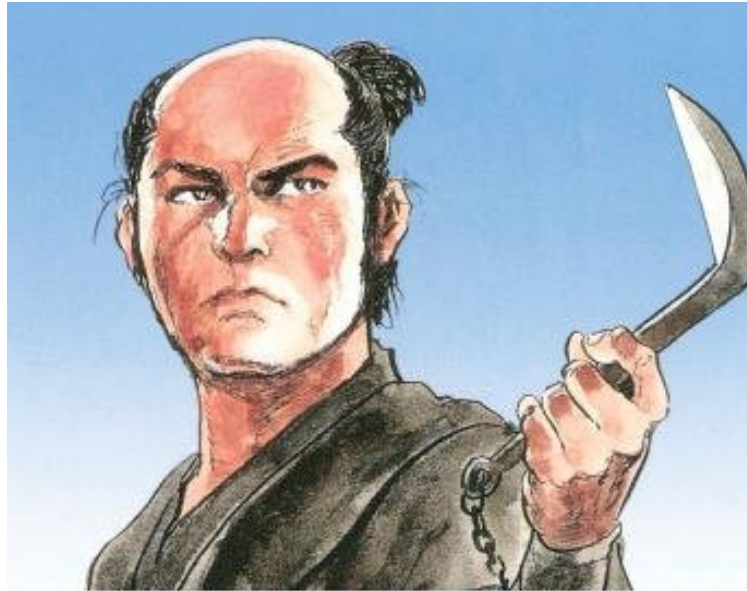


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Kazuo Koike

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半蔵の門 PATH OF THE ASSASSIN

VOLUME 3

COMPARISON OF A MAN

By KAZUO KOIKE & GOSEKI KOJIMA

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Kazuo Koike : Path Of The Assassin, Vol. 3: Comparison Of A Man (v. 3) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Path Of The Assassin, Vol. 3: Comparison Of A Man (v. 3):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Motoyasu becomes a candle flickering in the wind By Lawrance Bernabo There was a moment when I found myself thinking that Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima were the Stan Lee and Jack Kirby of manga, but I really do find that their work has a lot more in common with the films of Akira Kurosawa than anything in the realm of American comic books. My exposure to their work has been dictated by the production schedule of Dark Horse, which means I first read all of "Lone Wolf Cub" and then "Samurai Executioner," and now am waiting impatiently for each new volume of "Path of the Assassin." The Japanese title was "Hanzo no

Mon" because the tale is about Hattori Hanzo, the fabled master ninja who served Matsudaira Montonbu, the young lord who would grow up to become Tokugawa Ieyasu, the shogun who unified Japan and set it on the path to becoming a modern nation. As always there is a Parental Advisory level slapped on the cover to warn about the explicit content inside, but you also should be aware that the series is printed in the original right-to-left format, which takes a wee bit of getting used to. Volume 3, "Comparisons Of A Man," begins with the final four-and-a-half episodes of the series' second storyline, "Chapter on Relinquishing Factions." In the first year of Eiroku (1558), Motonobu has a stunning victory when he captures Mikawa Terabe Castle because of a combination of surprise tactics and Hanzo's stealth as a ninja. Because of this victory, Motonobu earns the trust of Imagawa Yoshimoto, who gives his vassal permission to change his name to Motoyasu. However, as Yoshimoto prepares to move against the capital, Motoyasu is caught between Imagawa's ambitions and the forces of Oda Nobunaga. In No. 5: "It Rains at Home, and It Rains on the Battlefield, Part 2," Motoyasu tries to find a way of lighting a fire in his wife Tsukiyama, while Hanzo considers the coming struggle. No. 6: "Blue Flag and War" finds Hanzo teaching his master how to fight in full samurai armor and then goes on a rescue mission that has an unforeseen consequences. No. 7: "Wife's Horse" has Hanzo and Tsukiyama figuring out their relationship and how to shrink rice to one tenth its size. At Imagawa's war council in No. 8: "When Bitten by a Mosquito," Motoyasu surprises everyone by volunteering to get provisions to Odaka Castle. In No. 9: "Comparison of a Man," Motoyasu's brilliant strategy is revealed, impressing the Baldy Rat, if not his master. The final episode-and-a-half are the opening of the third story, "Chapter on Relinquishing Death." The stage is set in No. 1: "Straw Sandals for Conqueror's Horses," where Nobunaga takes the Baldy Rat's advice regarding fighting in the rain. No. 2: "Hard Crossroad on the Plain, Part 1," covers the fight for Marline Fort, where Motoyasu surprises his officers by ordering his troops to fall back when the enemy come charging out of the castle. By now we understand that there is always a reason to his strategy and tactics, but it is fighting Sakuma Morishige in a duel between the two generals that is the surprise in this one. While the personal interaction between Motoyasu and Hanzo is a key part of the story, I have become more interested in the giant chess match that the future shogun is playing, especially because at this point in the game his opponents are unaware that they are playing. Fortunately Volume 4 is on its way because I am looking forward to the next set of moves. 2 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Into the Fire By Juan C. Depaz War has finally come and both master and servant are thrown into it feet first. As Ieyasu tries to "see tomorrow" all he can see is catastrophe and slaughter. Friends are NOT, and enemies MIGHT not be. Hanzo finds someone to love, in light and in shadow. But all that may be academic if Ieyasu cannot win a duel against a master warrior. With only what little Hanzo has taught him! It is the ending of the age of civil wars in Japan, but before it is over the country will be awash in blood and nothing will ever be the same. For those few who survive it. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Good but complicated By Timoleon Kiritsis Like the other two series "Lone Wolf and Cub" and "Samurai Executioner", "Path of the Assassin" is a very pleasant book for one to read. But unlike the other two series, there is a focus on the geopolitical events of that era in Japan and much less battles. Also it is almost impossible to remember all the different names and characters that take part on the plot.

Koike and Kojima's story of the famed ninja, Hanzo Hattori and his trials and tribulations protecting the shogun-to-be, Tokugawa Ieyasu. Each page builds upon the relationship between the two warriors and the women they love.

From Booklist The third volume of the graphic-novel biography of Tokugawa shogunate founder Ieyasu and his personal ninja Hanzo is nearly all development. Ieyasu walks a tactical tightrope between the factions contending for rule--one led by his de facto father, the other by his older brother--in the run-up to a decisive battle that hasn't broken by volume's end. In the middle of this, Hanzo encounters the female ninja who will be his wife in an ultimately erotic episode worthy of the best in Koike and Kojima's Samurai Executioner. Relatively wordy but brilliantly paced and, of course, drawn. 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.