



## Loveless 09

*Yun Kouga , Ai Aoki (Translator)*

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Reads R to L (Japanese Style) for T audiences.

When his beloved older brother is brutally murdered, Ritsuka is heartbroken but determined to search for answers. His only lead is Soubi, a mysterious, handsome college student who offers him an intimate link to his brother's other life: a dark and vibrant world of spell battles and secret names. Will Ritsuka's relationship with Soubi ultimately lead to the truth or further down the rabbit hole than he imagined possible?

Seimei is very much alive and has torn through the Seven Voices Academy like a whirlwind. As Septimal Moon struggles to right itself and keep its secrets from spilling out, a new enemy takes center stage: the unit named "Bloodless" wages a crippling psychological war, ending battles without spilling a single drop of blood. Yet Ritsuka and Soubi must emerge victorious against them—or lose Kio.

### Loveless 09 Details

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Author : Yun Kouga , Ai Aoki (Translator)

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## From Reader Review Loveless 09 for online ebook

### Mere says

A slower pace then earlier volumes

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### Meg Laverick says

Words cannot even describe how excited I was when this arrived in the mail today. There may have been a slightly embarrassing happy dance involved. There also may have been some squealing. After four years since the last instalment I was just a *bit* excited.

Needless to say, I immediately pulled out my Loveless collection and began reading from the beginning just to refresh my memory and to make sure I didn't miss anything.

I had forgotten how much I love Loveless as a series. From the intelligent way it explores things like identity, love and sexuality to the way it flirts with the boundaries of uncomfortable subject matter (view spoiler) without ever going too far, this is still most definitely one of my favourite series. And all of that is without mentioning Yun Kouga's absolutely stunning artwork. Something about it is so delicate and vulnerable (especially the way she draws Ritsuka and Soubi whenever they are having a particularly angstastic moment) that it just makes my heart ache.

This volume in particular? Was a little meh. In context, I suppose it makes sense. The last two volumes were full of crazy bombshells left and right (view spoiler). So I suppose that the break just came at a really awkward time. After so much story happening in volumes 7 and 8, this one was a bit of a rest where not much happens. We find out some more of Kio's backstory with Soubi and we're introduced to a new pair that have an interesting relationship (Apart from Seimei, obviously, I think this is the first pair we've met that doesn't care about each other). I guess after such a long break I was hoping for something a bit more epic but I suppose that in the context of the series what we got makes more sense for the story.

That's not to say, of course, that this volume didn't make me squiggle inside. I'm an unashamed Loveless fangirl and the next volume comes out in January next year!! Could not be more excited!

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### Olivia says

So much happiness when I found out that Loveless had been picked up by Viz Media. It's been about two years since I read vol. 8 and I don't have access to it right now so I couldn't refresh myself, hence the 4 stars. From what I could remember I liked the way this volume continued with the story but my favorite part was the art. Kouga's stark style is extremely pleasing to the eye.

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### Titan says

Yeah, this was a pretty huge letdown for me as a fan. The art was rushed, the storyline was perfunctory and even the characters seemed stiff as cardboard. I don't know what happened to the magic in this volume, but I

hope it comes back. Things seem to get stranger and stranger with no real rhyme or reason.

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## Ottery StCatchpole says

\*sighs\* I must be having bad luck with manga recently, though honestly I don't blame One Piece as much as I blame the fact that I'm watching the anime and reading the books simultaneously. This is the first new volume of Loveless printed in the states since Tokyopop went under and I haven't read the stories that came before it in a while, so I came to the book without being prepared. Sadly, I know Seimei played an important part, and he is completely absent in this book. As if that isn't reason enough to go, "What the devil is going on here?" Ritsuka, the hero of the story is also mostly absent in the book not making an appearance until about halfway through the book. All the momentum built up in the previous volumes comes to a screeching halt. Its as if the author has completely lost interest in the story, didn't bother to go back to recap and tried to remember what was going on. Except nothing happens in this volume. The big battle towards the end of the book is such a let down I can hardly call it a battle and all the sage advice that everyone loads Ritsuka up with before the battle is . . . quite honestly, useless to the battle.

The artwork at least is gorgeous. \*sighs\* I look forward to the next volume in the hope that the author will regain her interest in the work. And the note at the end saying she doesn't like writing Boy Love stories but just stories like them maybe, slightly ambiguous helps to explain why there are no more cute Ritsuka and Soubi moments. As a matter of fact, the book is completely lacking in any kind of gay boy love cuteness like the previous volumes.

A big disappointment given the long wait. I hope the series wraps up soon with an ending worthy of the story that preceded this volume.

If not, at least the art is cute. Even if in half the pictures Ritsuka looks like someone who adores having wardrobe malfunctions and not someone who likes drag or playing at ambiguity of gender.

Buy it for the art, and only for completists. Viz threw a color plate at the start so there is that. Also, the end stories are really badly drawn side stuff that has nothing to do with the actual main story. A letdown of a volume.

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## Kate says

Finally, Volume 9! After 4 years! So, my vague memories of the events in Volume 8: Ritsuka and Soubi were at the academy, and Seimei and his sacrifice Nisei had attacked. This volume has Nisei being held hostage by Soubi and Ritsuka, while Kio is being held hostage by a fighting pair called Bloodless, in league with Seimei. They fight by bringing out their opponents' worst fears... Ritsuka must face his true feelings about his brother.

As usual, the art is gorgeous, although I felt the way some characters were drawn was uneven. There were several cute moments between Soubi and Ritsuka. I had forgotten about many of the other characters, and there were two bonus stories featuring characters not in this volume. All in all I am glad the wait is over and look forward to volume 10 (I have an advanced copy to read!).

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## Spring Holbrook says

The Septimal Moon chapters continue, although there's only two in this volume, but they are weighty.

The more plot that's revealed, the more mysteries get uncovered. It seems a bit random, but it's still totally intriguing.

I especially liked seeing more of Kio and Soubi's early "friendship." Kio is one of my favorite characters.

The chapter at the end featuring my other favorite Yuiko, talking about English being taught in Japanese schools is super cute.

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## Sarah Hayes says

Oh, Loveless. It's been so long! The last time I had a chance to read this series, Tokyopop had just published the eighth volume, back when it was still a viable, relevant publisher of manga. Getting back in the groove with Ritsuka and Soubi and the others is like revisiting friends, albeit seriously screwed up friends with problems one cannot think of fixing, ever. Good thing Yun Kouga is so good at making oddly fascinating characters worth reading.

You can read my complete review of LOVELESS volume 9 at my blog, Nagareboshi Reviews:  
<http://nagareboshi-reviews.blogspot.com/>

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## Megan says

Finally after all these years I got my hands on Loveless vol. 9. A lot of things happened between when I read vol. 8 and vol. 9. Yun Kouga put Loveless on a hiatus, the English translator company Tokyopop went bust so another company Viz picked up the rights, Kouga started the manga again and my life moved on. Also when I wanted to pick up the series again, costs had gone up from around \$7.99 / book to \$9.99 *and* I didn't want to pay that much per book. In the end, thanks mom, for giving this for my birthday.

### \*SPOILERS\*

So checking up from vol. 8 and 9. Soubi and Ritsuka have kidnapped Nisei. In turn, Seimei has the team Bloodless kidnap Soubi's best friend, Kio. We good?

I felt this volume was very focused on Kio. Soubi and Ritsuka were very concerned over getting Kio back, trying to strategize and stuff. Kio is stuck in a cell being watched over Bloodless. There's also a lot of flashbacks featuring Kio and Soubi going back to when they first met. There's a battle of spells between Loveless and Bloodless as well to determine the fates of Kio and Nisei.

In this volume we learn a lot of new information:

+We get to see how Kio and Soubi met in college.

+We get a new pair called Bloodless, Hideo & the Great Yurio. Yurio was actually a blank fighter assigned

to Hideo, even though he already had a partner.

+Kio learned that he have a twin sister.

The art and story was still great. It was fabulous to read Loveless again after all this time. But I admit that things seemed to be erratic and jump around.

Most amazing Loveless quote ever:

"Everyone had words to give me. I always thought words were just empty noise. I always thought that I couldn't trust in people who were all talk. That hasn't changed but right now I as I leave. If nobody had said anything then what? I think they gave me the words that I need. It's strange. It must be that words are meant to communicate what is in the heart. Wheather it's love or hate. Words say what's in the heart. That's why it's wrong to hold back and say nothing!!

Trigger warnings for: torture.

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### **scarlettraces says**

why my library thinks this is more suitable for its very limited manga collection than some of the other series out there is a mystery. maybe the acquisitions staff are catboy fans. i did not borrow this copy, it was lent me by a friend, who may or may not be a catboy fan. there's a lot of it about.

Seimei livens up this volume with his evil plans, and we get yet another fighter/victim pair. is this going to be one of those series where i have to refer to a character spreadsheet before reading the next instalment?

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### **Miss says**

AND 500 YEARS LATER LOVELESS RETURNS

anyways i don't even remember what was happening when we left off but it looks like ritsuka's finally gonna get to confront seimei now in person so go ritsuka, go

3 stars

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### **Sarah Lu says**

Yay! Loveless has been picked up by Viz. :)

This was a bit of a transition installment. Ritsuka and Soubi encounter a new fighter/sacrifice pair, Bloodless, while they go to save Kio and give Nisei back to Seimei.

We also get some nice backstory for Kio, from when he first met Soubi, and a little bit of an idea of why Kio doesn't like Seimei, even though he hasn't met him.

There are two cute side-stories at the end. The first involves Valentine's Day and White Day, featuring team Fearless. The second story is of Yuiko going around asking students their opinion of English now being taught starting in elementary schools instead of middle schools in Japan. They are both cute little stories.

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## **Judy (Geeky Reading) says**

~4/5

[Read more at my blog, Geeky Reading!]

I'm just plain enjoying this series. I love the characters, and I enjoy getting to see little pieces of the minor ones developing along with the main. There are surprising little twists and turns. It's a little messy at times, sure, but it's just good.

I feel bad for Ritsuka. And I'm anxiously waiting for his show down with Seimei. It's got to happen at some point. I'm guessing there are going to be some more surprised before it happens, but I'm waiting. It's not going to be good, and Seimei is obviously up to something bad, but it needs to happen.

As I said in the previous review, I like all of the minor characters. I can't remember any of their names', but I like them. We met some new characters, some fighters that I'm not a fan of, and then a somewhat mystery surprise character. There was a bit of Kio in this volume, and I like him. It seems like he's going to be playing a bigger part in the story in the future, and I'm intrigued by that.

There hasn't been a lot of down time in the last few volumes; it's been very plot heavy. I'm enjoying it, but I do hope something character driven will happen soon, particularly between Ritsuka and Soubi. I just want more of them together.

I'm glad that the color pages and extras after the chapters continued into the single volumes. I really enjoy them.

Now, off to the next volume.

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## **Roxana-M?lina Chiril? says**

I think I really enjoy messed up stories, as long as they're not depressing - and "Loveless" fits the bill. It's a very cheery sort of messed up, with all sorts of reveals, psychotic characters and MORE. So, naturally, the moment I ran out of owned "Loveless" volumes, I ordered more.

For a bit of history regarding the series, which I didn't know when I picked it up because it was in a bookshop and it looked cool and I liked what I read on Wikipedia on my phone, book in hand: the manga series is written slowly, not in the "one chapter per week" style of Bleach and Naruto. Yun Kouga writes slowly, and gets delayed - luckily, I ended up starting it when it's nearly done, so I won't have to wait as long as others for it.

The first 8 volumes were translated into English translation by a publisher who went under in 2009 (Tokyopop), and the series was only picked up a few years later by Viz Media, which republished the first part of the series in the 2-in-1 volumes I happened to pick up, so "Loveless" was interrupted for English fans for three years, unless they happened to arrive late at the scene, like I did.

And I'm talking about all this stuff because it's hard to review volume 9 of \*anything\* without spoilers for previous volumes or talking apropos of nothing.

But how does volume 9 hold up? Well, it's maybe less exciting than some others, because there have been too many reveals and now there needs to be a break or it all crashes down like a house of cards - but it's still good. While the core of the series is psychological a.f., it still had a helluva lot of elements of fighting/shonen manga complete with ass-kicking, so were introduced to another interesting pair which does battle; except this one fights by using psychological battles, so we get a bit of character development as everyone battles inner demons. It's cool, I'm still hooked.

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## **Sophie says**

Now that I've thought about it my main problem with this series that it doesn't seem very planned. It's all over the place, with characters popping up all of a sudden and some plotlines are never really finished. Of course, that may all change later, but the main plot is dragging on and on and on. I still like the basic idea, and I love the way the different facets and faces of love are getting explored here. It's a pretty dark book, something I wouldn't have guessed at the start. But I hope the mangaka knows where she's going with this.

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