



Tokyo Babylon, Vol. 4

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Subaru, the 13th head of the Sumeragi clan, gives peace to the dead. He meets a woman, whose child was killed by a stranger a few years ago, at Yasukuni shrine. She says that she is there for the revenge. She uses a spell, called Inugami, to kill the stranger who killed her child. Subaru tells her that he can call the child to talk to the mother. He thinks that the child will tell her to stop killing the stranger, but the child actually asks her to kill him. Subaru still tells her that the child is asking her to not kill the stranger, though he feels guilty about the lie.

Tokyo Babylon, Vol. 4 Details

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From Reader Review Tokyo Babylon, Vol. 4 for online ebook

Cel Red says

Cada vez se pone mejor, hasta ahora ha sido mi volumen favorito. Por un lado vemos a Subaru en una situación complicada en la que debe decidir qué es mejor, y vivir con ello, y por otro, Seishirou entra en modus Sakurazukamori cada vez más intensamente.

Como siempre, el dibujo es bellísimo y Hokuto es un amor.

Mika says

3.5

The story at the beginning makes me feel so much...but I only realized on this reading that the back cover SPOILS it. How unfortunate.

The cult story hit me right in that the character was believable, but the cult aspect...nah. Not that well executed. Good job on the themes of pain though. I always agreed with that aspect of TB. Nobody has the right to judge others' life or pain.

Olivia says

In yet another episode of "CLAMP was ahead of their time", this volume focuses on gaslighting and how it's a really fucking terrible thing to do to people. Victim blaming is atrocious and those who do blame victims... might come to a messy end.

Seishiro is really giving off some creepy vibes in this volume as well. On to the next volume~!

Harry Smith says

100% rekt

Viridian5 says

I tried to get into the early volumes of *Tokyo Babylon* but couldn't quite. The format, followed over and over, of a troubled person or ghost showing up, going through personal suffering, then learning a valuable lesson at the end makes me sigh. Hokuto annoys me immensely and dresses Subaru funny. Yeah, he's supposed to have a big heart, but letting her do this is taking it too far. Seishirou is so obviously not quite right that it's frustrating watching her push Subaru at him. But then there's volume 4....

There's a woman who wants to call down a curse on the man who killed her young daughter. The justice

system let the killer go for being insane, and she wants him to pay. Subaru tells her that the curse will affect her too, but she's beyond caring about the price to herself, so he calls the spirit of her daughter to talk her out of it and tell her to get on with her life and be happy. Except that the spirit of her daughter is not at peace, in fact she says that she's hurting and she wants her mommy to "beat up" the bad man who did this to her. Horrified, when Subaru hears the woman ask him what her daughter was saying he eventually decides to lie.

It's beautiful, because young children are like that: sociopathic. I'm sorry, but it's true that they're focused on their wants and survival and have to be trained to care about other people. Their first experience of loving other people is when seeing that person suffer makes them feel bad and helping that person makes them feel good. I doubt the daughter really understands what "beating up" the bad man entails, but she died in pain and terror and that's all she needs to know.

So I appreciated that. *g* Plus, Seishirou makes more of his moves, and his relationship with Subaru is depicted as more openly twisted, at least in front of the readers....

David says

A lot of moral questions are raised here. The question of whether it is okay to lie to someone if they are to receive peace, and whether, as Subaru says, that makes him a selfish person. The effectiveness of religion and faith is questioned too, alongside bullying. The dramatic climax and thoughtful speech makes this volume stand out particularly - and it is all tied off with the bloodstained ribbon of the mysterious sakura.

Melinda Beasi says

<http://goodcomics.comicbookresources...>

Jordan says

Seishirou is so mean. He's out to prove that everyone really is dirty and rotten in the inside, and that everyone (including him), deserves to die, while Subaru is out to find the goodness in people. At least, that is my interpretation of the story.

The arcs are all at least a little interesting so far, and if you did not have the whole thing spoiled for you before starting like I did, you really are reading and wondering what exactly Seishirou's bet with Subaru was. And why. And why Subaru can't take his gloves off. And what exactly will happen with it.

The art and pacing get nicer and nicer.

Spoilers:

Hokuto's threat, while made in jest, feels real. Seishirou's sinister behavior builds tension, while being less awful than what is actually going to happen, which is how foreshadowing should be. Knowing what's going to happen, it looks like the story will end with a lot of cynicism, though I could be wrong.

Spoiler end.

Rating PG13

A girl was raped with nothing shown earlier in the series, a woman's child was murdered, and the ghost cries out about the pain, and there is mild violence. Shounen-ai and lots of religious/magic concepts if those bother you.
