



Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 26: Struggle in the Dark

Kazuo Koike , Goseki Kojima

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One could believe the old adage about the grass being greener on the other side. But, if you're referring to the "other side" of the Sanzu, the river between life and death, chances are it will be white, the color of a samurai's death robes. And a lot of that "grass" was probably dispatched by the hand of Itto Ogami. The Yagyu "grass," spies planted for years in local citizenry, has been on the move, gathering in Edo for a final battle. The ronin Itto Ogami has walked a path of demons with Daigoro at his side, on a quest of vengeance and death that has shaken the very foundations of the samurai caste and the shōgunate. No one has been able to stop him, not even the crafty, Abeno Kaii and it looks like he's about see his final day, but he won't go out without a battle of wits! Only three more volumes until the long-awaited conclusion of *Lone Wolf and Cub*. And when it's over, you'll only want to read it again.

This volume contains the following stories:

Tales of the Grass: Nindo Ukon
Struggle in the Dark
Song of the Spirit
Great Reversals
Scarlet Summer, Silver Fall

Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 26: Struggle in the Dark Details

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From Reader Review Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 26: Struggle in the Dark for online ebook

Jason says

Though experts say that most graphic novels today contain manga elements, this felt to me more like a true manga than anything I've read in ages. I appreciated the metaphors throughout the storyline. I was impressed with the crisp artwork and the amount of shadow in what appeared to be pen or pencil drawing. But, all in all, I wasn't wowed by this as I expected myself to be.

TJ Shelby says

Great final chapter in this volume.

Pedro says

Finally the end of the probably greatest enemy in the story. Incredible volume. The samurai path is truly something that is hard to understand, but easy to admire.

Paul Goodman says

The greatest manga of all time.

James T says

26 down...2 to go. Bye bye Abe...

Helmut says

Bekämpfe nicht dein Schicksal... deinen Tod.

"Tales of the Grass: Nindo Ukon"

Der Wille zur Tarnung der Shinobi ist so groß, dass sie sogar Freunde betrügen, um in aussichtsreiche Positionen in einem auszusponierenden Haushalt kommen. Doch das Wolfsfeuer macht alles zunichte - es gibt wichtigeres zu tun, als zu spionieren.

"Struggle in the Dark"

Abe kämpft im Dunkel; er kommt einfach nicht dahinter, wie Yagyu Retsudo so lange gegen Gift und Hunger aushält. Der alte, listige Fuchs kennt alle Schliche, und er hat geheime Helfer.

"Song of the Spirit"

Die Zeit des Versteckens ist vorbei. Itto kann sich einfach nicht in den Palast schleichen, ein Samurai würde das nicht tun. Also geht er offen vor aller Augen mit der größten Selbstverständlichkeit an den Wachen vorbei hinein. Seine Würde und die Autorität, die er ausstrahlt, lassen ihn ungehindert passieren - die Verkörperung des Samurai zieht alle, vom kleinsten Torsteher bis zum erfahrenen alten Priester in den Bann.

"Great Reversals"

Das Feuer, das den Palast verunreinigt, zieht mehr nach sich als nur den materiellen Schaden. Abes Stunden sind nun gezählt: Er ist verantwortlich und soll daher Seppuku begehen. Als er Itto nocheinmal begegnet, versucht er einen letzten Schachzug, um dem Unausweichlichen doch noch zu entkommen.

"Scarlet Summer, Silver Fall"

Ein ehrenvoller Tod - für Samurai war Seppuku vielleicht eine Möglichkeit, einen Fehler zu korrigieren. Für alle anderen normalen Menschen, und Abe gehört trotz seines Halbwahnsinns dazu, ist es einfach nur ein grausames, auferzwungenes Mordritual. Und so kommt es dann auch, dass sich der lebenshungrige Abe nicht einfach so selbst richtet, wie es für seine Vorgesetzten bequem wäre.

Tatsächlich spürt man nun, wie langsam die Musik zum Finale ansetzt. Die Protagonisten werden immer überlebensgrößer, ihre Schatten verdunkeln den Himmel. Sie nehmen die Leinwand komplett in Beschlag, und der grausame Tod Abes, der nur durch Ittos Anwesenheit noch erträglich wird, ist dabei nur ein Sinnbild für die monumentale Ausstrahlung, die die einzigen übriggebliebenen wahren Krieger auf die zu Zuschauerpositionen verdrängten anderen Personen haben.

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Lone Wolf and Cub, Vol. 26: Struggle in the Dark (Lone Wolf and Cub #26), Kazuo Koike, Goseki Kojima

Ashley says

"Abe-no-kaii, as sinister as his poison. Yet, somehow, impossible to hate."

Neither were we meant to like him, but he was an impressively developed character. Consistent, brutally honest, tenacious to a fault, and reflective - he was a mirror examining the class system of Edo-period Japan.

Jedi JC Daquis says

This doesn't top the list as my favorite volume so far, yet this gave me the most satisfying feeling ever in the series. Farewell Abe, you pathetic fool! You deserve such a fate, a painful, pitiful end for such a character who does not know even a morsel of respect and bushi.

Ogami Itto is now inside the Edo castle, dressed as a true samurai, ready for the battle four years in the making. And Retsudo Yagyu, his clan forever shamed and tainted with his own doing, waiting for him, for killing the Wolf is the Tigers only hope for restoring the name of his clan, the Yagyu honor.

This is a manga where I felt it had really happened sometime in Japan's history. It is oozing with authenticity

and bushi badassery that I personally wanted to see what happened there real time (and hope not to be killed, heh heh).

Two volumes left. I am ready. My sword is ready.
