



King of Thorn, Vol. 1

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Kasumi and her sister, Shizuku, are infected with the Medusa virus, which slowly eats away at the body. There is no cure, but of the two only Kasumi is selected to be cryogenically frozen with 159 others until a cure is found. At some point in the future, Kasumi awakens to find herself in an unfamiliar world with violent monsters. Older teens.

King of Thorn, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Yuji Iwahara , ????

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From Reader Review King of Thorn, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Nikki Sojkowski says

It's about this girl Kasumi, who has a disease called Medusa. Basically, your cells turn into a clay like substance and you die. 160 people were but into cryotubes until a cure was created. When they awaken from their sleep the lab is overrun with thorns and there's dinosaur-like creatures running about. A group of seven, the only survivors, are trying to escape without getting themselves killed. The main character is completely obsessed with her twin sister (who's probably dead) and never stops thinking about her (which sucks because we read all of her thoughts). She's really kind and sweet and all but she doesn't want to live because she's not with her twin and it's pretty depressing. The only other character of note is Tattoo guy who we find out is named Marco. He's really badass and fights the monsters, saves the group countless times, and is also an expert hacker. How will that come in handy in this apocalyptic book? I guess we'll find out!

Kara says

Never read manga before. I wasn't sure how I'd feel about it. I liked it! Read this book in about 30 minutes. Going to read the next couple books too.

Chloe says

This graphic novel was really creative, I felt like some of it was a little bit rushed and could have been done better so that's why I only gave it 3.5/5 stars instead of 4/5. I still recommend reading this series though as it gets better as the series goes on. :)

Nick says

Overall Rating: B+

Synopsis: The series is a science fiction and mystery manga by Yuji Iwahara. The story follows Kasumi after she awakens from being cryogenically frozen. She, and 159 others were frozen after contracting the Medusa virus, which causes your cells to solidify into a clay-like substance. The result is similar to being turned to stone, hence the name. Kasumi and her twin sister contracted the virus, but only Kasumi is frozen. The 160 survivors awaken from their suspended animation in an undetermined future where blood-thirsty monsters and strange plants seem to have taken over the laboratory, and they must fight to survive.

I was first drawn in by *King of Thorn's* art. I usually find new manga by reading blurbs about what's coming out, flipping through a few pages in the store, and/or hearing good things about the series. It's very rarely the art that draws me in, even though art is so clearly an integral part of any manga. *King of Thorn* was different. There is something about the style of the art that made me want to like the book. Fortunately, after reading it, I can say the story (at least in the first volume) doesn't disappoint.

I'm big on science fiction and mystery, so this is a win-win for me. I want to know how long the survivors have been asleep, and where the creatures come from. What happened to Kasumi's sister, did she die of the

Medusa virus? What is up with Marco Owen, the mysterious tattooed man? I would have given volume 1 a higher rating, but I don't know how the rest of the series is going to turn out. The first volume is high on suspense, builds lots of questions, and gives very few answers. Here's to hoping the series will play out well, I am definitely drawn in.

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Liam says

Well that was a long time coming - I've owned the first three volumes of this manga for years, but due to Tokyopop's implosion (rip Tokyopop I hardly knew ye) volumes 4-6 are incredibly difficult to find for not-astronomical prices. In the interest in completion I eventually bit the bullet and spent far too much on the last three and read them back-to-back over the space of a few days.

Final verdict: Alright. Really nice art and designs, and the story is interestingish with a few twists - it's very obviously trying hard to be intelligent and unique and, for the most part, it is. A few niggly little things that don't really make sense and a bit of inflated sense of self-importance, but I enjoyed it well enough.

I'm just glad I have the whole series on my shelf now.

Luca Conti says

Starts as a nice survival horror, but towards the end becomes a fantasy-superheroes-action thing; and it gave me the sensation that the plot had holes or was unnecessarily complicated. Good occasion wasted.

Lör K. says

[Written on mobile; apologies for mistakes]

When I saw *King of Thorn, Vol. 01* when I first got into my manga stage in the library, all the way back in 2014, I had to read it. The plot seemed unique, the cover had amazing artwork on it, and I was completely sold already. I'd never read anything by Iwahara Yuji before, but I was ready to take the plunge into the world they had created.

Within this series, the world is ravaged by a disease that turns the victim into stone over time. Two twin sisters end up falling victim to it - however, there's hope. Scientists have funded research into the Medusa disease, and 160 sufferers are allowed to take part. Kasumi is chosen to take part in this experiment, but her twin sister is not.

After being cryogenically frozen for an unknown amount of years, Kasumi and the other 159 awaken after something apparently goes wrong. They awaken to a dystopian world, where plants have overrun the facility they were asleep in and some form of horrific creatures hunt them down.

Kasumi must fight to survive and see if her twin sister is alive, whilst trying to dodge the horrors that are in this world. To make matters worse, now that she's no longer cryogenically frozen, the Medusa disease is now

gripping hold of her body again, and she's on a time limit until she turns to stone.

There is so much about this volume that I loved. The concept of it was one of them for sure - I'd never read any form of dystopian that had such a premises as *King of Thorn* does. It kept me entranced throughout the entire six chapters and left me hungry for more. (Unfortunately, my local libraries only had volume 1, and I didn't know that I could read manga online at this point in my life).

The artwork in this is really well done. I loved how smooth it was, how it all just seemed to flow, and I loved the general feel of it all. It was sort of spooky and made me shiver and smile.

It's hard to tell which direction the manga is going to go - there are numerous that it could take, and it's a definite cliffhanger. An annoyingly good one, it's haunted me since 2014.

All in all, I'm definitely recommending this manga. I'm reading the whole thing this year for sure and I cannot wait to dive back into the amazing universe that Yuji has created.

Kim says

A graphic novel that will appeal to teens who enjoy the genre in general as well as those who enjoy mysteries or a setting similar to television series like "Lost", which has a similar premise.

The main character, Kasumi, is a little irritating because of her general helplessness throughout the volume. She is rescued numerous times by one of the other characters, and she spends most of her time pining over her lost twin sister. However, when on the verge of death, it is her love for her twin and a kind of vision of her that sends Kasumi back to fight to survive.

The other characters are a little stereotypical -- the mysterious tattooed punk, the crass and selfish white senator, the cute little boy, the willowy girl, and the token black. The conflicts between the characters are fairly obvious given the cast, but since this volume merely sets the stage, the reader will have to move on to the second volume to find out what happens as the characters develop.

VOYA codes: 4Q, 3P, S, G.

Nina (Death, Books, and Tea) says

Review: Kasumi was infected with a virus called Medusa, an incurable virus that turns its victim to stone. She is sent to be cryogenically frozen until a cure is found. Then she wakes up with thorns growing all around, and dinosaur-like creatures everywhere. The majority of the people waking up get eaten. She and a small group of survivors must work out what it takes to live in this new dangerous world. Kasumi is also looking for something else; her twin Shizuku who wasn't chosen to be frozen and saved. Kasumi now wants to know what became of her sister, which shouldn't be too difficult if they're in the near future. All this while slowly turning to stone.

The concept is very different to what I'd normally read. This is more an action/science fiction manga more than the romantic comedies I tend to read. So a bit different, but very good. The cover shows the main characters, a beast in the background, and a few thorns, without giving too much away.

The opening chapter happens very quickly, with the majority of the characters dying halfway through and a group of survivors being established by the end. The rest of the book follows these survivors break out of the

cryogenics centre, find somewhere to shelter, and uncover a few secrets regarding one of the character's backstories.

So yes, a lot happens. And it's happening throughout. The characters get a couple of pages to rest, then are thrown into another life or death situation.

The characters were interesting. They had very clear personalities, and stories could be worked out from looking at them and their actions. Which is good, as we aren't explicitly told exactly who they were. I found it interesting how we only get told three names-Kasumi, Shizuku and the tattooed guy, who's name and backstory would be a spoiler, so I won't include it. I'm still deciding whether the lack of names is good or bad.

The art is almost completely in black and white, the shading being done with lines varying distances from each other, and very occasionally being done with screentone. The action scenes are fairly detailed, but leave a little to your imagination. Which, with the amount of action, is very good.

Overall: Strength 4 tea to an action manga series I'll definitely try and find the next volumes.

Monica says

No soy una gran entendida en el tema manga (dibujos y demás..), pero me parece que tiene el típico dibujo clásico llano, tipo El gato del espacio y todas esas ralladuras de bola de Dragón que reflejan acción o enfado; salvo excepciones es normalito de dibujo, lo mejor son los monstruos a nivel visual.

Respecto a la trama, es de misterio, de varios personajes encerrados en un castillo cedido por una persona rica que quiere sanarlos de 'Medusa' un virus que te acaba matando y surgió de forma misteriosa. Todos ellos están encapsulados hasta que un día, despiertan y ven que el castillo está roto y lleno de feroces bestias. deben huir, aliarse e intentar desentrañar el misterio..

Entre los personajes, está la chica tímida y traumatizada, el típico matón, el calmado, el niño, el politicucho corrupto...vamos, un conjunto digno de ' la aventura del poseidón' con sus estira y afloja.

Hay básicamente en éste volumen acción, peleas entre ellos y flashbacks de la chica que se supone es la protagonista y su particular historia con su hermana gemela.

A destacar ciertos toques humorísticos, muy frikis que me han hecho reír.

En resumen, entre un film de serie z y uno de catástrofes. Entretenido. Seguiré con los demás volúmenes..a ver qué depara.

Gabriel Wallis says

Another unique story. I had absolutely no idea what this storyline was about when I picked up the manga. I did catch a glimpse of the anime at the 2012 Kumoricon, though. But when I started reading the manga, I was instantly hooked. I couldn't put it down. I just had to keep reading. I'm looking forward to reading volume 2 now. I do recommend it. Adults only... no kids. There is a couple of gory scenes... people being ripped in half, eaten, sliced by thorns, etc. It was really good, though.

Arwena_Demonia says

Voici la petite histoire:

160 personnes sont sélectionnées pour participer à un programme de cryoconservation afin d'échapper à un mystérieux virus appelé "médusa". Ces personnes sont placées dans des capsules en attendant que les

recherches aboutissant à un vaccin aboutissent. Parmi elle se trouve Kasumi, une adolescente dont la jumelle également malade n'a pas été sélectionnée. Lorsque Kasumi et les autres se réveillent, le centre de recherches a fait place au chaos et à la désolation. Une flore et une faune sortis directement de l'ère jurassienne (ou qui s'en rapproche) attendent les survivants. Combien de temps sont-ils restés en hibernation? Sont-ils guéris? Pourquoi le centre est-il infesté de bêtes carnivores?

A été adapté en anime. Je dois patienter encore avant de pouvoir me l'offrir. Que ce soit pour l'adaptation en anime ou la version papier, les graphismes sont pointus et de toute beauté.

Jetez-y un œil, les graphismes valent le détour car inspirés par le cinéma hollywoodien. De plus, la série a été adaptée en film et d'après les captures et autres supports extraits du film, là aussi les graphismes valent vraiment le détour. Si effectivement le marché de mangas est "saturé" sur certains points, pourquoi ne pas produire un peu moins mais de bonne qualité et surtout en respectant la santé et le rythme de vie des mangakas?

Vicenç Sanz says

No dejo pasar un día desde que termino con La Cumbre de los Dioses para ponerme con King of Thorn, el motivo de elegir éste manga para la relectura? Que guardo un buen recuerdo de él y que me cabe en el hueco que tengo ahora en la estantería.

King of Thorn es un manga con apenas seis tomos de duración que cuenta con historia y dibujo de Yuji Iwahara, un autor que sigue publicándose a día de hoy en nuestro país pero del que no he tenido el placer de leer nada más.

La historia nos lleva a un castillo aparentemente medieval donde se pone en animación suspendida a un grupo de 160 personas con una extraña y mortal enfermedad, con la esperanza de despertarles cuando se haya encontrado una cura. Y un momento más tarde despiertan en el mismo sitio, pero cubierto de plantas y con unos extraños seres similares a dinosaurios que van acabando con ellos.

La intriga, la acción, la presentación de personajes (con una protagonista un tanto enigmática) y el no saber qué es lo que está pasando hacen de éste tomo una experiencia muy grata, una apertura para una obra que ya veremos cómo evoluciona, pero que en ésta primera entrega promete mucho.

Los personajes actúan de forma racional, con su supervivencia por delante, y está igual de descolocados con lo que sucede que el lector, algo que ayuda mucho a identificarse con ellos.

Además el dibujo acompaña, siendo limpio y de trazo gordo, además de tener mano para la acción y los rostros. Un manga muy agradable de leer gracias a éste apartado.

Vamos, que empieza bien.

?♥?Kotyonok?? says

Love the plot, the setting, the group of characters. I ship Kasumi and the tattoo guy so hard <3

Bas says

Awesome art, an interesting (if clichéd) premise and some genuinely tense moments make for a great manga! Partly reminds me of 'Eden: It's An Endless World' seeing as the Medusa virus here is very similar to the Prohibitor Virus in Eden.
