



Crimson Empire Vol. 1: Circumstances to Serve a Noble

QuinRose , ?? ??? (Illustrations)

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New shoujo series by *New York Times* bestselling author of *Alice in the Country of Hearts!*

Crimson Empire: Circumstances to Serve a Noble is an all-new shoujo manga series by QuinRose, the creator of *Alice in the Country of Hearts* and *Alice in the Country of Clover*.

Featuring a strong heroine who is a deadly assassin yet awkward when dealing with the many male suitors who surround her, *Crimson Empire: Circumstances to Serve a Noble* combines romance, fantasy and swashbuckling adventure. Each volume contains impressive shoujo-style artwork and color pinups.

From the time she was sold into servitude as a young girl and told by a handsome demonic figure that she had a destiny to fulfill, Sheila's childhood was anything but easy. After joining an assassins' guild to undergo rigorous training, Sheila is later taken in by the dashing Prince Edvard to serve as both his housemaid and bodyguard.

As skillful as she is with a blade, Sheila hasn't a clue when it comes to courtly romance. While she uses her talents to help Edvard win the throne, can she stave off the many admirers who vie for her heart?

Crimson Empire Vol. 1: Circumstances to Serve a Noble Details

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From Reader Review Crimson Empire Vol. 1: Circumstances to Serve a Noble for online ebook

Ella says

I wasn't expecting the beginning of the story to have a sad background of the main character - Sheila - which took me by surprised, going from the beginning to the current time. I don't know why, but I found it quite refreshing.

Kim says

Hard to understand at first. The passage of time isn't well depicted. But I kept reading because the story is interesting.

Jenna says

Hm, I'm not sure what to make of this. Amusing to read another game-to-manga series, but rather than an MMO, it's one of those choose-your-love dating sim stories (I don't know the proper term for it). It's even more of a harem than the author's previous Alice in the Country of Clover.

Things I liked: the idea of a female bodyguard who's trained as an assassin, the relationship between the two Princes, and Meissen and Michael.

What I disliked: the inundation of new characters coming from left right and center. If it had just slowed down a tad more, we'd get to know the characteres better and, since it's based off a dating-sim, you'd start falling for them. Right? Or maybe it matches the pacing of the game.

But anyways, was a quick read and intriguing start. The political bits hopefully be increased rather than slice-of-life round the castle, not that it was boring or anything. I'd read more to find out what will happen!

Taylor K. says

Crimson Empire, another series by QuinRose, has my attention in this first volume. With the appeal of a classic drama historical Otome game this first volume sets the stage up nicely as our heroine is displayed as a no nonsense bodyguard to a Prince with a borderline sociopath personality. But you immediately start to sympathize with him after you get the first couple of hints that he had a fucked up childhood.

I'm looking forward to reading the next volume and I'm looking forward to even more stories that might come out by QuinRose in the future.

Artemis says

The drawing and the characters are not exactly the best/my favourite, but the plot is certainly interesting enough... And the names are "white" enough that you can sort of say, it isn't a Japanese mangaka's (failed) attempt to create something that sounds "British" but is entirely "Jap-British"... If you know what I mean. --"

This is an intense manga with a lot (way too many?) characters. I liked it enough that I finished it. But I didn't like it as Shouoto Aya's Barajou no Kiss.

Selena says

When I saw QuinRose had a new manga, I was really excited. I had really enjoyed Alice in the Country of Hearts, so I figured I'd really like this one.

Maybe it was the high expectations, but I was severely disappointed with this book.

Unlike AitCoH, the huge cast of characters fades together. I can't tell one person from another other than Sheila (and only because her designs differ a lot from the others). Their personalities don't make them stand out either, making me go, "meh" to bothering to learn their names (I actually had to look up Sheila's name... She's the main character. That's a little sad).

The plot's a little weak. If you asked me what it was, the most I could tell you is "Assassin Maid?" Because other than that element, there's not much to this.

Hazuki Futaba's art is okay, though it gets covered in speech bubbles so you don't see enough of it to judge. The characters either look extremely different from each other or too similar to tell them apart (adding to the problem I mentioned earlier).

Even if you like battle maids and don't really care about the other stuff, I'd still say avoid it. There's actually not that much "battle-maiding" going on. And for those who like traditional maiding (like Emma), there's not a whole lot of that either.

It's just... disappointing.

Inessa says

Mon avis : <http://betweendandr.blogspot.com/2013...>

Après Alice au Royaume de Cœur, QuinRose nous revient avec une toute nouvelle série, Crimson Empire avec cette fois, Hazuki Futaba au dessin.

J'étais impatiente de découvrir cette nouvelle série. En effet, les intrigues et les complots à la cour m'ont toujours fascinée et j'étais donc très curieuse de découvrir ce que QuinRose nous réservait dans ce manga. Finalement, je dois avouer que cette lecture me laisse assez perplexe. Ce qui m'a le plus gênée dans ce manga est sans nul doute la multitude de personnages. C'est vrai, il y en a tellement, qu'on ne sait plus où

donner de la tête. De plus, l'intrigue n'avance pratiquement pas et au final je suis un peu restée sur ma faim avec plein de questions auxquelles ce premier tome n'apporte aucune réponse.

On fait donc la connaissance de Sheila, une jeune fille qui a été vendue à une guilde d'assassins lorsqu'elle était plus jeune. Ces derniers l'ont entraînée afin qu'elle devienne l'une d'entre eux. Mais Sheila n'est vraiment pas douée pour ce type de boulot et suite à une dispute avec Curtis Nile, le chef de ce groupe d'assassins, elle est « revendue » aux aristocrates. Déguisée en soubrette, Sheila devient ainsi le garde du corps d'Edward, le prince héritier du trône de Luxonne.

Sheila doit donc protéger le prince héritier en toutes circonstances, au péril de sa propre vie et déjouer toutes les tentatives d'assassinat à son encontre. C'est une jeune femme courageuse, très efficace dans son boulot, et très dévouée au prince Edward. Mais cela va-t-il durer ? En effet, le comportement du prince Edward laisse assez perplexe... on se demande si toute cette insouciance dont il fait preuve est naturelle ou si ce n'est qu'une façade. Quant à son demi-frère, le prince Justin, je dois dire que lui aussi il m'a beaucoup intrigué. On se pose pas mal de questions à son sujet, pourquoi aide-t-il Sheila à protéger Edward alors qu'ils sont censés être ennemis ? Qui est Luiz ? Et le démon Mikaël dans tout ça ? Quel est son rôle dans toute cette histoire ? Et pourquoi Sheila a-t-elle accepté de conclure un marché avec lui ?

Vous l'aurez compris, à l'issue de ce premier tome, le mystère reste entier. On se retrouve avec de nombreux personnages sans vraiment comprendre les raisons de leur présence ni même leurs motivations, ce qui est assez déroutant. J'espère que par la suite on aura quelques éclaircissements car pour l'instant au niveau de l'intrigue, ça reste assez confus. Côté dessin, j'ai beaucoup aimé le coup de crayon d'Hazuki FUTABA, qui est assez fin et sobre. Néanmoins, j'ai trouvé que certains personnages se ressemblaient beaucoup, au point qu'on peut facilement les confondre si on ne fait pas bien attention.

Pour conclure, je dirais que Crimson Empire est un manga très intéressant bien qu'un peu frustrant de par tous ces mystères. Étant donné que la série ne comporte que trois tomes, j'espère que les deux suivants progresseront un peu plus au niveau du scénario et qu'ils répondront à toutes les questions que l'on se pose. J'attends donc la suite avec impatience pour me faire une meilleure idée.

Jnyama says

I like the art and the general concept of bodyguard/assassin maids, but the plot is developed in such a disconnected manner, it seems more like a series of short scenarios than an actual story. It doesn't help that there are a jillion guys who are only distinguishable by whether they have white or black hair, and it really doesn't help that Sheila seems to have almost the same relationship with all of them except her main prince. I'll give the second volume a try to see if it develops better, but this first volume was a little disappointing.

Jae's Manga Reviews says

Volume Review: 4/5

I feel like a lot of backstory is missing from this, but I really like the story. Sheila is a strong heroine (literally) and the characters are all interesting, in particular Justin (wow, no surprise that I'd like him the best). I will probably buy the next 2 volumes so I can finish this series.

Series Review: tbd

Jamie Penwell says

This book has a strange plot line. I did like the characters. They have a strange relationship with her working for one of the princes but not likening the other one. I also am kinda confused what the demon has to do with most of the story. Overall it's not bad. It's a quick read.

R says

LOVED! I wasn't sure if I would like it based on the bonus stories in Alice in the Country of [] but I really do like it! I look forward to the next two volumes!!

Mal says

The main reason I picked this up was because it was by QuinRose - and Alice in the Country of Hearts gets such great reviews, and I was starting to like it and everything. But this ... This is nothing like how I thought it would be. It's beautiful, devious, funny, and guess what? Shelia *isn't* annoying! A++ for this one. The ending was fantastic and I simply must get my hands on volume two! Read it guys :D

Alex Hainsworth says

Rating: 3

It sets out interesting character development for hopefully the plot in the next novel, (this one didn't really have much of a plot just introduced the characters).

Emma says

Read - April 2015

Re-read - June 2017

I still enjoy this series. I decided to read it because I've been playing Fire Emblem, and this is set in a similar fantasy world with battles and kings. So far this series is really satisfying my craving for stories similar to the game! I own the first volume, and the library I work at now has volume 2 and 3, so I decided to finish the series. This series has a complex cast of characters, some of which look similar, but they provide a handy "who's who" with pictures at the start of the manga.

Rachel says

Plots, assassination attempts, and secrets fill this game-based otome manga. Sheila is a strong lead. She protects her master, takes her job seriously, and is a good fighter. Fate has placed her as a bodyguard amongst nobility, and much of her time is either spent foiling the plots of enemies, or speaking to her fellow bodyguards. While she is certainly surrounded by a reverse harem, it is far from the typical one, so far, there has been little "romance". While the plot is the more important, it struggles to establish itself properly because of some erratic jumps, and pacing problems. It's limited space is further detracted from by the introduction of so many characters, whom the author does not fully flesh out. Part of this could be because it is an adaption; the game most likely has the time to devote to these aspects. There are certainly some standout elements, and the art itself is of high quality. Hopefully, further volumes will utilize its strengths, to make this series unique.
