



Blade of the Immortal, Volume 17: On the Perfection of Anatomy

Hiroaki Samura , Dana Lewis (Translator)

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Manji, the immortal swordsman, lies imprisoned in the bakufu stronghold of the mysterious Habaki Kagemura. Seeking to impart the life-extending powers of the Manji's kessen chu bloodworms to other humans, Kagimura orders his medical examiners to discover the secrets of Manji's amazing regenerative abilities. Using a series of convicts as live subjects in an increasingly grisly series of twisted experiments, Burando, Kagimura's lead medical examiner, begins to grow more desperate and sickened with each horrifying failure. And through it all, Manji lives, and regenerates, and bides his time for the moment that he can pay back his tormentors... limb by limb!

Blade of the Immortal, Volume 17: On the Perfection of Anatomy Details

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Author : Hiroaki Samura , Dana Lewis (Translator)

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From Reader Review Blade of the Immortal, Volume 17: On the Perfection of Anatomy for online ebook

Shea says

Guro porn is good porn.

John Wiswell says

The most tenuous volume, at least for me. Burando's experiments fail time after time in what's simply the most disgusting visuals in the series, and if someone called it torture porn, I couldn't defend it. Does it add further weight to the difficulty and mystique of Manji's immortality? Yes, but that's not enough to justify what fills up this volume. It's not the same as the endless battles in some volumes; these are convicts steadily and uncommittedly marching into medical slaughter. The lack of agency and higher frequency of gore makes it feel more like torture porn than I'd wish on this series.

The art remains strong – weaker than *Shortcut*, but still nuanced and detailed on level with any other manga I've read. But Rin sits around for a month, not searching for Manji, and the Itto-Ryu members she met have no plot progression despite the cliffhanger from *Shortcut*. The character progression is exclusively those few people (mostly Manji and Burando) who resent the medical experiments more and more. It'd be lying to say I disliked it, for I read through the book in three sittings, only putting it down when the violence became too graphic for me to put up with in the moment. It's still a morbidly fascinating story arc, but it's one that really ought to have wrapped up by now, and feels padded for time. That the padding is visual Body Horror simply isn't for me.

Rin's side-chapters suggest everything will come to a head by the winter. There are people already in motion, even though they've been missing for volumes. There's one character (who I won't spoil) who has doubtless needed these weeks of downtime, and is likely setting up a huge return. That's an uncanny strength of Samura's *Blade of the Immortal* - even when the current arc feels like it's dragging, there's the perception of payoffs on things set up before it.

Matt says

This takes a break from the swordfighting and moves to a story about a doctor charged with discovering the secret of Manji's immortality. His moral dilemma coupled with the consequences of his failure is actually pretty interesting. As usual, I have lost track of all the other characters except Manji and Rin.

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OK, now that I've got a hold of all the characters, Samura is very good at diverting. He's like a salesman that steers you to the more expensive product: "Sure I could continue to talk about the blood feud that drives the plot, but wouldn't you much rather hear about the crazy, unethical doctor?" And it works. I also get more and more curious about his opinions about the Western influence on feudal Japan. Not only is there the "whatever works" school of thought on the swordfighting, but not the influence of Western medicine. Manji,

for all of his cynicism and practicality, has a part of himself that is mystic. The conflict seems to be whether to let the mystery of tradition and magic go forth or whether to dissect it both literally and figuratively. Manji's body resists the science.

Lord says

So far my least favourite volume of this fantastic series. It just takes place in prison and no nice things are going on there, that's for sure. As for the art, it reaches a new level of simplicity, especially in the first chapter. But of course, only compared to another volumes of BotI, otherwise the art is still better than almost everything else that you can read in manga genre. I just wish for more sword action and less torture action in the next volume.

Kurtis Burkhardt says

Ok manga....Overall story?1/10 But on the plus side pretty decent samurai/Feudal japan type manga with lots of Explicit Violence(Heads,ears and other body parts flying all over the place)??????

Matthew says

An interesting turn of events, but the pacing went to complete shit.

John says

My biggest complaint is that nowhere on the outside does this book say it is volume 17 . I thought it was a stand-alone.
