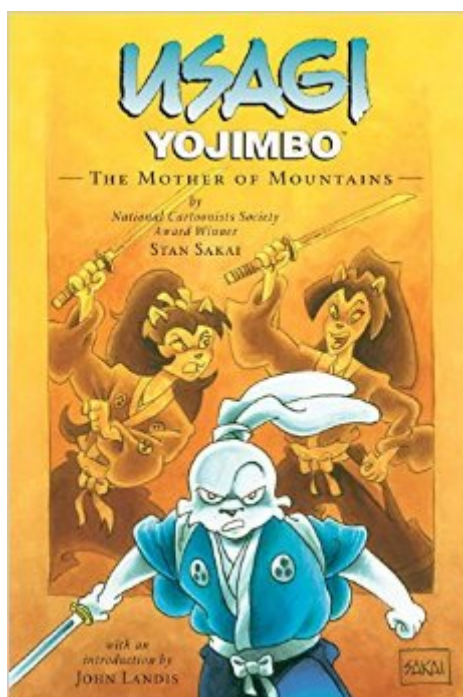


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Usagi Yojimbo Volume 21: The Mother Of Mountains (Usagi Yojimbo (Dark Horse)) (v. 21)



Synopsis

The discovery of gold ignites a struggle of striking proportions as a power-mad tyrant's lust for wealth threatens to destroy not only Usagi Yojimbo and his companion Tomoe but an entire innocent village! When plague strikes a border town in the mountains of the Geishu Province, Lord Noriyuki sends his loyal bodyguard Tomoe to investigate. Once there, she and her retinue discover a truth far more terrible. Meanwhile, back at the castle, the sycophantic Lord Horikawa sets in motion a plot to eliminate Tomoe his own way. Only the rabbit ronin Usagi could extricate a friend from a predicament this perilous-if he hadn't ended up landing in the same one himself! Usagi and Tomoe must use every ounce of skill and wit if they are to survive "The Mother of Mountains," an adventure in the spirit of the award-winning epic "Grasscutter" by internationally celebrated storyteller Stan Sakai!

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Usagi Yojimbo is the kind of quality work that transcends time, genres, demographics, and even age groups. It crafts a delicate and beautiful balance between honor and savagery, cute innocence and dark brutality, simple heart-warming stories and multi-part epics that shape a dense continuity. Whether or not you've ever been a fan of feudal Japanese culture, furry anthro characters, or independent, non-superhero comics, Usagi Yojimbo is a comic that can't help but impress even the harshest critic. It seems insulting to judge a creator's work for not being his or her best, but Stan Sakai has outdone himself, time and again, throughout Usagi Yojimbo's 25 year run, and The

Mother of Mountains (vol. 21) fails to reflect this. It's a good story with plenty of action and plot developments, but it doesn't go the extra mile in the way that so many other amazing Usagi volumes have. In the seven part story that takes up this entire volume, Usagi and Tomoe Ame find themselves trapped in a slave camp run by Tomoe's newly introduced evil cousin, Noriko. Noriko seems just a little too over the top for me: the meanest of the mean with little character substance to back it up. The story also introduces Motokazu, son of the deceased General Ikeada, who Tomoe looks after as he begins his slow rise through the Geishu ranks with the hope of one day becoming a samurai. He is likeable enough, but it's hard not to measure him against Jotaro (from vol. 18 and 19) nor the long procession of other compelling child characters introduced throughout the past few volumes. Like Noriko, he simply seems unnecessary as a new character, though this will hopefully change in later volumes.

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