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Get Jiro!



Synopsis

Ã A New York TimesÃ A BestsellerIn a not-too-distant future L.A. where master chefs rule the town like crime lords and people literally kill for a seat at the best restaurants, a bloody culinary war is raging. On one side, the Internationalists, who blend foods from all over the world into exotic delights. On the other, the "Vertical Farm," who prepare nothing but organic, vegetarian, macrobiotic dishes. Into this maelstrom steps Jiro, a renegade and ruthless sushi chef, known to decapitate patrons who dare request a California Roll, or who stir wasabi into their soy sauce. Both sides want Jiro to join their factions. Jiro, however has bigger ideas, and in the end, no chef may be left alive! Anthony Bourdain, top chef, acclaimed writer (Kitchen Confidential, Medium Raw) and star of the hit travel show, No Reservations, co-writes with Joel Rose (Kill Kill Faster Faster, The Blackest Bird) this stylized send-up of food culture and society, with detailed and dynamic art by Langdon Foss.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Q&A with Anthony Bourdain What made you decide to write a graphic novel? Were you always a fan of the medium and had this story on your mind for a while? Anthony Bourdain: I've been a comics fan since childhood--when I was a serious collector of early Marvels (1960s, MAD, horror comics--later began collecting EC's, a few Golden Age, and late 60's West Coast Undergrounds). An early ambition was to be the next R. Crumb. Sadly, my illustration skills--while decent--were not

up to anywhere near that standard. When Joel Rose brought the idea back up after an earlier discussion, I thought, "What red blooded American boy in his mid fifties wouldn't do a graphic novel if given the chance? Let's try! As long as we can do it right." The fact that Vertigo, very early on, was supportive of the kind of high quality art we were looking for made all the difference. How have your travels across the world informed this story? Did you draw inspiration from anything specific? AB: Well, I clearly love Japan--and am obsessed with hyper-fetishistic, uncompromising old school style sushi, and due to my travels, have been lucky enough to spend a lot of time there. But the book reflects a lot of my food obsessions (funky classic brasserie/bistro) and prejudices. Travel changes you. It exposes you to things. My love of street food is certainly a product of my travels. Food culture as a whole has been a bit of a phenomenon in the media over the last few years, but not so much in comics. Was that part of your motivation for wanting to create Get Jiro? AB: I think the explosion of interest in chefs and restaurants is certainly easy fodder for satire. But my motivation was really nothing more than to help tell a story that would be fun, extremely bloody, beautifully illustrated--and insanely detailed as to the specifics of cooking and eating. I'm a big fan of classic Japanese cinema, Hammett's Red Harvest, spaghetti westerns and food--so these were obvious elements. Your co-writer, Joel Rose, and artist Langdon Foss have both done comic work in the past. What was it like working with them, and how did their experience with creating comics help shape the book? AB: Joel is the very first guy in the world to have ever published me--back when he ran the legendary Lower East Side literary magazine, Between C and D. He's a friend, whose books I admire enormously, who's been supportive--an even instrumental--in my career since the beginning, for over two decades. It surely helped that he also worked on some of the most influential graphic novels of the last decades and that he had previous relationships with Vertigo. Most importantly, he knows how to tell a story. I care less about that. I'm all about dialogue and atmospherics. I think we complement each other's work nicely. I hope so. --This text refers to an alternate Paperback edition.

"Get Jiro!" unfolds in a dystopian version of Los Angeles where today's (mostly) polite and academic discussions about food have evolved into grisly gastronomic feuds.... In some ways, "Get Jiro!" represents a coming-full-circle thing for Mr. Bourdain. "The New York Times" What's an ex-yakuza enforcer turned sushi chef to do, ask culinary expert and author Bourdain (Medium Raw) and co-writer Joel Rose (La Pacifica) in this boisterous lampooning of food culture, a pet project for Bourdain, who seems to revel in the unrestrained narrative allowed in a comic book. Their answer will be enjoyable to anyone versed in samurai revenge stories or the films of Sam

Peckinpah.... The book's saving grace is the wonderfully clean and detailed art by an all-star team of artists led by illustrator Foss, whose meticulously researched and composed visuals mirror Jiro's precision with a knife and produce equally appetizing results." — Publishers Weekly

Bourdain...promised 'an ultra-violent slaughter-fest over culinary arcane,' and he delivers pretty much exactly that....Bourdain let's his foodie id run wild, extolling the elegant simplicity of a peasant dish like pot-au-feu here and caving in skulls with sauté pans there. Foss' stubby, dough-faced figures walk a fine line between goofy and thuggish, and fall apart with great ickiness when dismembered. Equal parts blunt culinary opinion-mongering and satiric takedown of the very same chef-worship culture Bourdain helped create, this amusing diversion coasts comfortably in the wake of the standard bearer of gore-soaked foodie comics..." — Booklist

First graphic novel (aka comic book) I've read since I was a kid, waiting for my hair cut at the neighborhood barbershop. Fast forward a half century later... A captivating read with outstanding illustrations and storyline any foodie would fondly enjoy, notwithstanding the creative license given to the plethora of gore comic book fans tend to love. Living just blocks from the intersection Shopulveda and Ventura Bl., the undeniable sushi byway of the world, gave this a Twilight Zone-ish futuristic aura. Like all great comics, it's left itself wide open for a future of sequels that I'll be anxiously awaiting .

Read artwork and amusing story line. I love you into the future?

After reading many of the reviews here I'm a little confused. I guess many thought this was going to be a ground breaking comic, I read a few of the advanced reviews before I got my copy and thought "no way what happened". When I got mine and read the first few pages I loved it. It's a short love letter to things near and dear to Anthony Bourdain. If you have watched No Reservations, Layover or read any of his books you'll pick up the humor and subtle quips Tony is known for. There are political undertones but it's all comical and pretty interesting. This is pure entertainment! If you are a foodie or a Bourdain fan pick this up if your a Jiro hater order a California Roll next time your out, maybe that quite sushi chef has something extra for ya!

Gift

The overall concept of a comic book by Anthony Bourdain is an awesome one. The art in the book

is really cool and overall entertaining for the average foodie and Bourdain fan, but the delivery of the story arch was sub-par. Don't expect anything too riveting or grasping in the story, but overall it's a worthy collector's item or coffee table book.

If you are a fan of Anthony Bourdain's "No Reservations" television show and you even remotely like reading comic books (graphic novels, for you snobs), then you need this book. It's not the best comic book in the world, but if you go into it recognizing Bourdain's humor, thoughts on what good food is, and how important food is to Bourdain emotionally, psychologically, physically, and even romantically, you'll get and love the ridiculous storyline and witty humor. And pay close attention to the Langdon Foss' illustrations, cause the subtle but stereotyping humor is all over the cityscape. There are severed heads and limbs right from the beginning and the humor is geared toward foodie adults, so not for kids. Otherwise, highly recommended.

I've been a comic reader for 3+ decades now, though I fortunately fallen off the wagon a few years ago. I read about Get Jiro! on the fantastic web comic, Unshelved, and realized I needed it. So I got it. The story was excellent, the art supported it nicely. Lots of fun, but as most comics like this are, you feel kinda like you spent too much money for a comic. One thing that I thought was awesome cool was that a few days after that President Obama ate at the actual Jiro's in Tokyo during a state visit.

I really enjoyed this. It was a well written, interesting story with good characters. The illustrations are very well done, what more can I say, if you like Tony Bourdain, you'll like this.

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