



Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol. 01

Magica Quartet , Hanokage (Illustrator)

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In this world, there exist strange creatures who have the power to grant one wish to a chosen girl. However, in exchange, that girl must then become a magical girl and use their powers to fight against witches, evil creatures born from darkness that are responsible for murders and suicides.

In the city of Mitakihara, a schoolgirl named Madoka Kaname and her friend Sayaka Miki are approached by a familiar named Kyubey, who offers to grant each of them one wish in return for making each of them a magical girl. Another magical girl named Homura Akemi tries to prevent Madoka from making such a deal, while Kyubey urges Madoka by telling her she will become the most powerful magical girl. However, contrary to the glamorous notions one would expect, a magical girl finds herself dealing with death, isolation, loss of humanity, agony over the value of her wish, and existential crisis. Madoka, following her friends, soon sees the darker side of being a magical girl, and because of knowing the truth about being a magical girl, she questions if she should become one as well.

Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol. 01 Details

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From Reader Review Puella Magi Madoka Magica, Vol. 01 for online ebook

usagi ?? says

Note to self: Don't make a contract to become a magical girl with a fluffy cute creature unless I want to keep my soul.

This series, when the first information hit the web in December, really fired up both fans and critics of Studio Shaft (the studio responsible for the TV anime). People were pretty evenly divided, since Shaft now has their own individual signature animation style, and everyone was wondering if this was just going to turn into another typical Shaft-style show. I myself was wondering the same.

I love Shaft, though they aren't my favourite studio out there. Of course I had to give the show a try, and I loved it from the first episode onward. And then out came the manga, and my love for it only grew.

This isn't your typical Shaft project. It's nice the directors mixed up their usual style on backgrounds and character design, and it's even better that that translated into the manga project as headed by Magica Quartet. This series makes no apologies about its content, which is pretty contraversial within the anime/manga world. The "magical girl" genre has been around since the late 1960s, and has only grown in popularity since then. If you've heard of "Sailor Moon", then you know what a "magical girl" is – usually a girl with magic powers as the protagonist, going through rough battles in order to come out a better person in the end. Usually those that grant her magic powers (if she isn't born with them in the first place) are usually benevolent non-human creatures that only want to improve the world and save it from evil.

Magica Quartet turns this on its head and asks us the question – "well, what if those benevolent magic power granting creatures didn't really give a shit about saving the world from evil?"

This story isn't one of the usual magical girl tropes, it's an exception to the genre and, even when it's at its most unbearable/painful in content, it's still one of the best new stories to come out of Japan within the last year. It's not all sunlight and awesome transformation sequences. It's not all about justice and selflessness – if anything, it's the opposite. You're sacrificing yourself, fighting Witches and Familiars for the power to make the wish YOU made come true. No one else can do that but you.

I applaud Magica Quartet for making us think on this one. What would you do if you were offered a wish and the powers to make it come true? Would you question the price? Would you question your future should you choose to take Kyuubei's deal and get your wish and powers at once? Magica Quartet makes us question our deepest desires and animal instincts and these days, in any kind of fiction, that's pretty rare.

(crossposted to [librarything](#) and [witchofthetheatregoing.wordpress.com](#))

Xwirus says

[No todas las chicas mágicas conseguirán acabar este manga/anime

Ilias says

Don't be fooled by the cover

usagi ?? says

Yen Press/Orbit/Hachette did an absolutely fabulous job with this translation. I'm really happy with it - and hopefully now they'll pick up the rest of the Madoka manga (and its spinoffs) for US publication, too!

Nicko (The Cover Hoarder) says

As my sister is ever so insistent on making a Homura Akemi doll out of paper modeling clay (and I think it's going to turn out awesome!) I was thinking that rewatching the Puella Magi Madoka Magica anime would take too long so I remembered stumbling across the manga on Goodreads and thought to give it a try.

Now taking note that I have seen the anime in its full in March 2013 I will note the differences between the anime and the manga adaptaion so I will be very thorough. Oh and if you did not guess it already:

Spoilers! Dead Ahead!

Firstly I really like the art style it's a refreshing take of the Madoka Magica universe and it has some really great character renderings. I personally like Homura and Mami-san's designs very much, I find them to be gorgeous.

Taking a step back though from the praise I will note some things that the anime had and the manga does not convey:

1. Time. The anime had time to develop the characters, make the viewer feel sorry for them, cry when they die and cheer when they manage to survive (which was rare for Gen Urobuchi). In the manga we have little time to actually know the characters and when Mami-san's death occurred it took only 2-3 pages and I was left wondering "What the hell just happened?" In the anime, while it does not take all that much time to display her death it does show signs, though eerie music, the indication that Mami is too confident in her powers - that something is going to go horribly wrong.
2. Colour. The manga is all black and white, naturally, yet it takes away from the experience of the very diverse and otherwise really pretty Witch labyrinths. Ok, I am going to be harsh here and say that the mangaka butchered them.
3. Music. The track for the anime done by Yuki Kajiura is so gorgeous I have it since March 2013 when I first watched the anime and I am still listening it to this day. When I read manga and/or comicbooks I have no background music in my mind so it's complete silence in my thoughts with the added reading of the lines written there. The music gave the Madoka Magica anime atmosphere, a thing that is not properly conveyed in the manga.

There are also some additions that I found rather irking, like Homura's more passionate/aggressive behavior is not in character. Until her breakthrough in episode 9 was it, when she breaks down into tears, she was calm and calculated, unaffected, which properly shows her as a potential antagonist. Here it already gives hints that she is part of a bigger picture.

Kyubey has facial expressions. I do not buy that one bit. Being an alien and not understanding human

emotion, Kyubey, in his own words, cannot feel fear, regret, enthusiasm, worry and other some such emotions displayed in the manga.

The addition of the comedy is not to my taste, because it makes the characters look rather shallow.

All and all for the first volume I shall award a 3 stars with the above commentary as the proof as to why I opted for such a neutral rating.

My other reviews :D

Naailah says

Kyubey you dirty liar.

Dorkthropology says

Anime did a much better job conveying the subtle creepy tone and atmosphere.

✿ cassandra ✿ says

What a misleading title! I already knew that the story itself was completely different from the cutesy cover, but wow. That was more violent than I thought it would be.

There were some parts that were boring, and I hope the story picks up speed in the next volume. But other than that, I really enjoyed this!

Shannon says

Somehow manages to be incredibly cute and incredibly evil.

I like it.

Gusfina says

--- Puella Magi Madoka Magica 1-3 ---

Plot: ...gamblang dan tidak setengah-setengah.

Gambar: Ok

Penokohan: Setiap tokoh memiliki karakterisasi yang baik-meski-umum. Desainnya juga manis-manis^^

Ibu:

Semakin ia keras kepala kalau dirinyalah yang paling benar, kebahagiaan akan semakin

menjauh darinya. Menyedihkan, ya.

Madoka:

Apa ada yang bisa kulakukan?

Ibu:

Untuk yang macam itu, hasilnya tak akan bagus meski orang lain ikut campur.

Tapi kamu masih tetap mau menyelesaikannya?

...

Kalau begitu, lakukan saja hal yang salah.

Termasuk untuk dia yang terlalu benar.

Biar seseorang melakukan kesalahan untuk dia.

Madoka:

Melakukan kesalahan...

Ibu:

Benar.

Berbohong atau melarikan diri dari hal yang menakutkan.

Awalnya mungkin memang sulit dipahami, tapi akhirnya dia juga sadar bahwa itu benar.

Kalau memang tak tahu harus berbuat apa, berbuat salah juga salah satu pilihan.

-Puella Magi Madoka Magica #2 - Magica Quartet

Saya membeli komik ini karena banyak yang memberikan rating tinggi //uhuk.

Saya belum pernah menonton adaptasi animenya, tetapi telah banyak melihat fanart dari judul ini yang bertebaran. Hasilnya? Saya merasa komik ini memang bagus seperti yang dibilang, tapi mungkin tidak sebagus jika saya menontonnya duluan.

Ya. Ya. Saya serius.

Menjadi seperti seorang gadis penyihir yang menyelamatkan banyak orang-orang tak bersalah dari ancaman penyihir terdengar sangat hebat. Paling tidak itulah yang dipikirkan oleh protagonis utama kita.

Tapi apakah memang demikian adanya...?

Selama membaca... gelombang otak saya agak ~~kontras~~ luminosity dibandingkan orang lain yang sudah menonton animenya //luminositykarena... //kontrassudahterlalumainstream XD.

Pertama, adegan bertarungnya menurut saya... hmmm.... agak... kaku-kaku gimana gitu. Tidak fleksibel dan semacam langsung-langsung saja. Saya tidak mendapatkan aksi yang bisa membuat saya ikutan "Jeger-jegerr!!"

Konsep pertarungannya yang terlalu magis ini pasti akan lebih menggetarkan jika dinonton. Begitulah pendapatku. Tapi tetap saja, saya suka susunan ceritanya yang langsung seperti itu. Diangkat dan dijatuhkan, kesannya tidak setengah-setengah. Intinya sih seperti itu^^

[7.6/10]

Sesana says

This starts off as a fairly standard magical girl manga, with some really nice art. But by the last chapter, it becomes clear that this isn't going to be a typical series. It starts in a pretty standard way, with schoolgirls Madoka Kaname and Sayaka Miki getting the call to become magical girls and fight witches. They're guided by Mami, a more experienced magical girl, and Kyubey, an adorable, talking, magical critter. So far, quite normal, and it's only the art style that would make the series stand out. When the girls fight the witches, they enter into surreal, beautiful, creepy landscapes that are unlike anything I can remember seeing in the genre.

The last chapter throws quite a curveball, though it still leaves a ton of unanswered questions. This is the part where I really started to take notice. I don't know where this is going, but this is clearly not an average magical girl series, and I'm hooked.

Victoria ? says

I decided to re-read this because I've been wanting to get to all the side stories and I'm finally gonna do it! So I'm starting with the base series of course.

This volume is just as amazing as I remember it to be! The world is so magical (obviously!!) yet so creepy at times and it's a great first volume. I really love Homura, she's probably my favourite girl and I just want her to be happy :')

I really recommend you try this series, just because it's so different than your conventional magical girl series and it's so unpredictable!

Lina says

3.5

I do not want to discuss this too much since I have already watched the anime that this manga was based on, but what I will say is that this is a very abridged version of the first 4 episodes of the anime. It is not bad, but a lot of the emotional impact and sense of adventure is limited by the super fast pace in this adaptation. I am excited to read all of these and re-vist the world of Madoka, it really did amazing stuff for the Magical Girl genre and I recommend the anime to everyone who enjoys anime.

Alexis says

Before I get on with reviewing this, I have to admit that I had a little trouble finding this series by volume since it goes by a plethora of different names. Wikipedia told me it was chapters 1 through to 4 that make up the first volume, so I went with that. Apologies if I made a mistake.

On with the show!

Now this one was recommended to me by Vanessa, who has recommended two other titles to me so far. The first was Black Butler, which was so frivolous and disappointing that I actually fell asleep reading it. The second was Monster, which is already one of my favourite manga of all time. So far, then, the score is 1:1. Let's make that 2:1 in favour of the involuntary 'headdesk'.

No, really, self-inflicted cranial trauma was the only way I could honour my commitment and finish this volume.

I have a couple of major issues, and the rest are just a ton of screencaps where I found problems. I hope that's ok but I don't really care about the approval - my last few posts were highly verbose and it's about time I tried a different way of expressing my frustration and/or disappointment. Since in this case I feel both those things, be prepared for a barrage of screencaps and snide comments. I apologize for nothing.

The cover was my first indication that something was about to go spectacularly, kill-the-spare-ingly wrong. This art is distinctly reminiscent of things (yes I'm looking at YOU, Cardcaptor Sakura) that I adored deeply as a child but even then felt bad about watching because it seemed too childish. Even as a ten-to-twelve year old, I felt like I was too old to be watching something that ridiculously girlish and immature. While Cardcaptors, and mostly Touya, hold a very firm place in my heart, PMMM is way out of my comprehension level. I repeat, sirs and madam, that I just cannot goddamn compute.

This kind of artwork was cute when I was in grade school. Now it just makes me roll my eyes, because I don't feel like I'm young enough to be able to appreciate it. For a manga that's trying to be 'gory' (there's one pathetically executed beheading that's less scary than the Scary Movie series) this isn't the artwork it needs. It cheapens the content and any attempt to be serious is blinkered by all the frills and ribbons.

Oh, and speaking of Cardcaptors, what's with the rodent? So it goes around making deals with random people it deems acceptable to stop witches making people commit suicide? Two things here. First:

He calls himself Kyubey but he's just ringing across as a Keroberos ripoff. Secondly, suicide is an epidemic in Japan, or it was for quite some time at the very least. Where the hell do these people get off eliminating the concepts of circumstance and choice in these scenarios? No, you must physically reinforce the concept of life onto people, because the only reason they want to commit suicide is because they're demonically possessed! Suicidal people are all possessed by the devil and therefore they're all going to hell! Man, Christians must love this series.

Speaking of chosen, are these kids picked off the street at random or something? Kyubey mentions that Madoka has a lot of talent, but at NO POINT in this volume is her talent made explicit, except for when Kyubey conveniently points it out. She never sticks up for herself, she never asserts herself, never has any opinions and just sits around whining and letting people clean up after her. Way to be, you imbecile.

If I weren't so against being casual about suicide, I'd tell you about how this stupid waste of space whining endlessly made me want to kill myself too. Maybe that's why people around her keep dying. It's not witches, they're just trying to get the hell away from her.

Okay, okay, that's too far. Not because she doesn't deserve it, but because people who are losing the will to live don't deserve to be associated with something so meaningless as PMMM.

I also adore the cheesy dialogue, a lot of which occurs when a battle is about to occur. My favourite is when Madoka leaves her friend to watch over a Grief Seed (which would hatch into a witch that could kill her) and goes to Mami for help. Instead of rushing to Miki's aid, however, Madoka and Mami just decide that they just want to have an emotional bonding session with heartfelt chit-chats, because hey, it's not like their friend's life is on the line, right? Oh wait, yes it is!

The least annoying character, Homura, isn't an exception to this cheesy-speech rule either. It's sad that a majority of this manga follows on in this vein. It just comes off as rehearsed and preachy, which just makes the characters sound two-dimensional and unrealistic, making it even harder to get attached to them or give a goddamn when they get beheaded.

I also love how so much of it isn't explained. How the girls are chosen are not explained, they're just speshul snoflakes with supah kawaii magikal powahs desu yo.

It's great how the characters always know where to be and what to do. Our main characters sacrifice nothing and are perpetually kept safe by other people. Nobody has to work for anything here, you just get GIVEN huge amounts of power so you can perpetuate the concept that there is no free will when it comes to despair. Expletive you.

I had a couple other allergic reactions to this volume too but those are better expressed via pictures. I copied 95% of the review onto here from my blog though so even if you don't follow the link you won't miss much, maybe just a Crash Bandicoot joke.

Yehey!

Clair says

In 2011, I started watching the anime Puella Magi Madoka Magica as it was airing in Japan. I don't normally watch anime this way (but when I do – *shot*) but Madoka was incredible from all technical standpoints. The writing, the art, the animation, the music, the character and background designs, everything about it was so wonderfully neat and polished. (Yes, like all anime it had its quality and off-model moments, but man. I'm currently saving up for the series on Blu-Ray, because it's simply too gorgeous to only behold in standard definition.)

So naturally, I picked up the manga when it came out over here. I just couldn't get enough of this delightfully dark and subversive magical girl story, which made me bawl my eyes out during the last episode, so hard that I actually needed to be comforted by a family member. The anime is that good.

Hanokage and Magica Quartet's manga adaptation follows the anime to the letter, and while this is usually a complaint, I have no qualms with it whatsoever. It still feels fresh. It's nice to look at the slight differences in art, character expressions, dialogue, and compare and contrast them. I mean, I had no idea that the manga would actually go as far as showing Mami having her head ripped off by Charlotte the witch, and all the blood and gore that went with it. The anime cuts away to Homura breaking free of the binding spell Mami cast on her earlier, and Madoka and Sayaka's shocked reactions as Charlotte throws Mami down to the ground and starts devouring her off-screen.

Charlotte also looks a hell of a lot scarier than I remember her in the anime. Okay, in the anime she's kind of cute and goofy, until she unhinges her jaw like a snake and unveils her rows of razor sharp teeth, but uh... the manga forgoes any attempt of that and just shows us this:

I also really love Madoka Magica for just how grounded in reality it really feels, despite dealing with... you

know, magical fantasy. There's serious gravity and emotional consequences to the girls' choices, and there's one particular scene with Sayaka asking Mami if she should use this one wish (that Kyubey grants in exchange for them becoming Puella Magi) for somebody else's sake. Mami replies: "Do you actually want them to have their dream come true? Or do you just want them to be indebted to you for making it come true?"

Having seen the anime, there's also a great scene where Kyoko confronts Sayaka about it – because surprise surprise, when Sayaka makes the wish for her injured friend Kamijou's sake in the hopes he might reciprocate her affections and return to his one passion in life, he starts dating her best friend instead. Ouch. (Also, the writer of the anime himself commented that even if Sayaka and Kamijou had this 'happy ending' where they started going out with each other, it wouldn't necessarily work out for them in the least.)

Okay, now, back to the manga. I love the artwork and character designs. All the inking is so light and airy, and everyone just looks so adorable. Kyubey reminds me more so of one of those super cute Normal-type Pokémon, like Minccino, Eevee, or Buneary. Maybe it's because Kyubey doesn't have those soul-sucking red eyes in the manga, and they have more expression to them in this medium than in the anime.

Still, it's not like Kyubey isn't scary in the manga, right?

...Right?

(Christ, it's like the artist looked up an image of the Jeff the Killer meme and thought of the best way to translate it to the face of a Pretty Cure mascot.)

Nope, Kyubey's still his manipulative, conniving and ever so adorable self. Granted, the former descriptors don't really happen in this volume, but you still get the hackles on the back of your neck raising when he's prancing around Madoka halfway through and telling her she's so naturally talented, her magical powers would be on par with a goddess. Right at a moment when Madoka is pondering about her insecurities and how weak she feels. Oh, and he's perched not a few feet away when Sayaka visits Kamijou in hospital for the second time, when he's feeling absolutely terrible and Sayaka just wants so badly for him to stop being in such pain.

Damn you, you little cat-weasel-fox-alien thing!

The supporting characters are all great too. Mami's her usual playful self, and her horribly sad backstory strikes a more poignant chord for me in the manga than it does in the anime. You see, Mami was dying when Kyubey pounced in front of her and offered her the choice to become a Puella Magi. Thus, she wants Madoka and Sayaka to think very carefully about their wishes, since she never had the choice herself. And it's ultimately tragic, because Sayaka rushes into her decision not one chapter after Mami is killed.

I also can't wait to see more of Kyoko in this manga. She was one of my favourite characters in the anime, but I'm going to have to read the second volume, of course.

To conclude, Puella Magi Madoka Magica is a very well done manga, a darker version of your typical magical girl series, accomplished by mixing it in with some pretty nightmarish images contrasting some feel-good fluffy shoujo art, and a Faustian contract with a bucketload of angst. 5/5.

(This review is also available on my blog: <http://book-wyrm.blogspot.co.uk/2013/...>)