



Battle Angel Alita Deluxe Edition Volume 1

Yukito Kishiro , Yukito Kishito (Translator)

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After more than a decade out of print, the original cyberpunk action classic returns in glorious 400-page hardcover deluxe editions, featuring an all-new translation, color pages, and new cover designs!

In a dump in the lawless settlement of Scrapyard, far beneath the mysterious space city of Zalem, disgraced cyber-doctor Daisuke Ido makes a strange find: the detached head of a cyborg woman who has lost all her memories. He names her Alita and equips her with a powerful new body, the Berserker. While Alita remembers no details of her former life, a moment of desperation reawakens in her nerves the legendary school of martial arts known as Panzer Kunst. In a place where there is no justice but what people make for themselves, Alita decides to become a hunter-killer, tracking down and taking out those who prey on the weak. But can she hold onto her humanity as she begins to revel in her own bloodlust?

Battle Angel Alita Deluxe Edition Volume 1 Details

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Author : Yukito Kishiro , Yukito Kishito (Translator)

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From Reader Review Battle Angel Alita Deluxe Edition Volume 1 for online ebook

Joshua says

Yukito Kishiro has written a fantastic story, in the purest sense of that word, and while the visual spectacle of this book can leave the reader breathless, the story rings with a real concern for humanity. While there are characters that can at times revert back into the caricature that is their visual form, almost every character in this story possesses a depth and complexity that I honestly didn't expect going into this book.

For my own part, this book is a comics-lover's dream as every frame of this book demonstrates a concern for composition, and even at the simplest Kishiro has an amazing lifework that leaves me breathless and jealous for days.

Katie McMahon says

I'm not sure what I expected when I sat down to read this comic. I was probably thinking it would be fanservice-y and loaded with over-the-top, gratuitous 90's violence. There's certainly violence in abundance, but overall I felt that "Battle Angel Alita" had more to do with the struggle of defining your identity and finding your place in the world. It was strangely lighthearted and hopeful, for all its dark antagonists and grim setting.

Alita, the main character of the comic, is cheerful and kind android who doesn't remember anything about her past. When she is given a more battle-ready body, she finds she responds to combat situations without even thinking about it or knowing how she's doing what she does. Despite being exposed to the worst that humanity has to offer, she doesn't let that stop her from striving to do what good she can. She never hesitates to put herself in harm's way to protect people who can't protect themselves.

Alita is a waifish sort of badass, which nowadays has become a bit of a trope. But unlike the "born sexy yesterday" trope (see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0thpE...> for more on that) Alita is rarely ever portrayed as a sex object. There is one moment in the beginning where she's being put back together where I stopped to wonder why most of her was destroyed and there was a single, unblemished, perfectly articulated, perky breast left attached to her chest. Other than that moment, she is treated as an innocent. Someone still figuring out the world. When she does find someone she likes (and thankfully it's not her little-bit-of-a-creeper rescuer, which further removes her from the "born sexy yesterday" trope), she is the active party. She seeks after him and pursues that relationship.

I could be seeing things through very rose-colored glasses at the moment, so my thoughts and feelings may change once I go back and re-read it more critically. For now, I am content to be delighted by Alita and how refreshing she is. She is constantly expressive and filled with joy just as often as she is a badass who kicks all the bad guy butts. She's not a stone-cold Strong Independent Woman Who Don't Need No Man. She reads as being significantly more nuanced than that, which in my mind makes her much more valuable and interesting.

Shannara Petty says

[the mention that the main bad guy was in love with Alita. It was confusing and strange and I wasn't really on board with that. I personally thought it was unnecessary. (hide spoiler)]

Daniel Gargallo says

I can't remember the last time I finished a book and dreamed about what lies beyond for the characters and the world. My first impression after finishing this book is that I can really feel the distinction between leaving somebody on a cliffhanger and making somebody fall in love so deeply with your world that they have to go back.

This book is cyberpunk and not superficially so. The reality of power dynamics and the role they play in shaping individuals and society are meaningfully addressed here, as present as a series like Berserk, though I may add that it is covered with a maturity and depth uncharacteristic of the medium.

I almost never read in Japanese anymore, but this is a series I wouldn't mind taking the energy to go through with my kanji dictionary in hand. The clever wordplay digs into the parlance of academia in a way that often impressed me.

Another striking dimension of the book is the influence it exerted on Cyberpunk and science fiction in general. I was amazed by how freely Final Fantasy VII borrowed visual and narrative elements from Alita. If you played the 1997 Square Enix game, you will see some of its most iconic moments here.

In this first volume there are two main story arcs following the beginning. Without spoiling anything, I should say that the latter story arc is a masterful achievement because it doesn't rely on the physical power struggle between one beefed-up antagonist against the protagonist. Structurally, it was more like Othello in the sense of "human connection versus external circumstances and some meddling."

Finally, the art is wonderfully balanced between simplicity and complexity. The character designs are unique and nothing could be more charming than our heroine Alita. We see her not through the gaze of a friend or lover, but from the perspective of a parent. Unacquainted with the parental gaze, I found this book spell-binding.

Nathalie says

Re-reading this before the movie comes out was a great idea. still my favorite.
I recommend this for everyone who loves a good a action-packed, but heartfelt cyber-punk story

Gabriel Wallis says

Wow! Loved reading *Battle Angel Alita* (Deluxe Edition), volume 1. I immediately became interested in *Battle Angel Alita* after seeing the preview for the new *Alita: Battle Angel* movie coming out this year. I

borrowed the graphic novel from my local library, and wasn't disappointed. The storyline was intense and amazing, and the illustrations were great to look at. Looking forward to reading the next volume in the series and watching the movie in the theater.

Diana says

If there is a manga I've loved, is this one. I remember when I first opened its pages and found that half angel half cyborg laying on ruins... it blew me away. In "Battle Angel Alita" we follow the satory of a combat cyborg from another plante called Alita, who gets picked from a pile of debris by a scientist named Ido, who decides to reconstruct her and does much more than just that as he begins to be a paternal figure for the sweet Alita. Because she is a gentle sweet creature until she has to defend Ido and herself and something like muscle memory springs fort and shows us how brutal Alita can really be. But she is not only brutality, as all she does is tempered by her concience and her beliefs.

Alita is just one of these series I love. We follow the story of this cyborg trying to reconstruct her life, remember her past and find her humanity alongside her place on the world. And all the chacraters she finds on her journey, be they good or bad, are so full of life and so real, that is just amazing.

Paulo Vinicius Figueiredo dos Santos says

O que define quem somos? Qual é o nosso lugar no mundo? Essas são algumas das perguntas que Alita faz a si mesma quando "nasce" no laboratório de Ido no começo da história. Tendo sido achada junto a um monte de sucata, Ido percebe a beleza e a doçura presente nos olhos da protagonista. Junto de Alita vamos viver aventuras, alegrias, tristezas e todo o mistério por trás dela.

Yukito Kishiro tem uma boa mão com o mangá. Ele sabe dosar muito bem textos e cenas de ação. Em alguns mangás, a gente fica incomodado com a quantidade de texto ou onomatopéias espalhadas por todos os quadros. Aqui não temos este excesso. Os textos que ele coloca são apenas o necessário para que possamos entender o que está acontecendo nas cenas que seguem. É um roteiro bem simples, mas muito bem executado. Outro elemento que me chama a atenção é como o roteiro é interligado. Nesse primeiro volume da JBC (uma edição BIG que constitui 2 volumes da edição tanko japonesa), eu não senti desgaste na história. Normalmente em mangás BIG como Blade ou Eden, eu preciso dar uma pausa a cada 4 ou 5 capítulos para recuperar o fôlego. Aqui não: o roteiro é dinâmico e deixa o leitor com vontade de saber o que vai acontecer a seguir. Curiosamente, essa não é a primeira vez que eu leio Alita (li na edição antiga). Mesmo assim consegui capturar novos nuances sobre a história e o mistério por trás da personagem.

Apesar do traço não ser dos mais revolucionários do mundo (eu adoro o traço do Takehiko Inoue ou o do Goseki Kojima), mas Kishiro tem uma boa pegada de personagem e de plano de fundo. As cenas em plano elevado com a Cidade da Sucata e Zalem no topo são super detalhadas. O autor dá individualidade às habitações e até mesmo à Factory. O leitor consegue identificar o prédio mesmo em um plano distante. O design de personagens é bem legal, com destaque para a Alita. Ele deu uma aparência linda para a personagem. Não é uma personagem sexy, mas parece uma menina doce e meiga em algumas cenas enquanto em outras se torna totalmente selvagem. A protagonista é muito expressiva seja em momentos leves ou de combate. Tanto olhos como o rosto por completo servem como painéis para o autor trabalha um dado sentimento. Gostei também do design do Makaku que passou toda a selvageria do personagem. Em alguns quadros, o autor usa um efeito muito bacana em que enxergamos o personagem de baixo para cima, dando magnitude e perigo a ele. As cenas de combate também são incríveis. Conseguimos identificar

claramente como é o estilo de combate da Alita, o Panzer Kunst. Apesar de ser uma técnica de luta ficcional, o leitor consegue entender que se trata de uma arte marcial que usa as pernas e os giros do corpo para tornar os golpes mais eficientes. Alita usa o Panzer Kunst seja para golpear um personagem, ou para saltar uma grande distância. Aí mostra a genialidade do autor em apresentar algo que faz completo sentido.

"Não tenho lembranças do meu passado... Por isso, não sei que tipo de pessoa eu era. Ainda não sei direito qual é o significado de estar viva. Se é algo bom ou ruim... Se devo me orgulhar ou me envergonhar disso... Não faço ideia ainda. Mas um dia quero descobrir tudo isso! Eu me tornei uma guerreira caçadora para encontrar o meu verdadeiro eu enquanto luto! Não tenho nenhum interesse em porcaria de recompensa!!"

Temos duas histórias principais acontecendo neste volume BIG. No primeiro arco temos o "nascimento" de Alita e seu confronto com Makaku. Neste primeiro momento a grande questão é o que somos e para quem vivemos. Alita começa como sendo uma espécie de "criação" de Ido já que ele corre para buscar pedaços de corpos para a personagem. Seu desejo é dar uma vida digna à personagem como a criança que ela parece ser. Mas, aos poucos Alita vai tendo seus próprios desejos: viver por si mesma, ajudar e proteger Ido. Uma das falas impactantes desse primeiro arco é quando ela recrimina o doutor por transformá-la em uma espécie de boneca para si mesmo. Foi apenas quando Alita expressou suas intenções é que ele entendeu o erro que ele havia cometido.

É curioso como a trajetória de Makaku é o espelho do de Alita. Dá para traçarmos várias associações e até entender os motivos por trás das barbaridades cometidas pelo personagem. Se Alita não tivesse encontrado Ido talvez ela acabasse como o seu inimigo. Pior é quando Ido descobre o verdadeiro sentimento que move Makaku rumo à Alita. Ao mesmo tempo em que se desenvolve este conflito, vemos outros detalhes sobre a Cidade da Sucata: os guerreiros caçadores, a Factory, como funciona o sistema de procurados (que vai ter um papel essencial no próximo arco). O legal é que o autor faz tudo isso sem pesar demais a trama. Em pouco tempo já estamos familiarizados com tudo.

No segundo arco, somos apresentados a um jovem que deseja ir até Zalem, a cidade que flutua no espaço. A construção de mundo aqui serve para nos apresentar como as duas cidades se relacionam e a colocar o imenso abismo que existe entre ambas. Neste momento sabemos pouco sobre Zalem e mais sobre como os habitantes embaixo pensam sobre o que se passa lá em cima. É quase como se os habitantes de Zalem fossem como deuses para aqueles que se situam no meio do lixo (literalmente).

Sonhar com algum objetivo pode ser uma motivação poderosa. É capaz de nos levar a ações drásticas que em outras oportunidades jamais faríamos. É exatamente isso o que acontece com Yugo. Acho até que a ideia para este segundo arco é ligeiramente associado ao mito de Ícaro que queria alçar os céus e ser livre. Yugo deseja chegar a Zalem não porque ele quer ser rico ou poderoso, apenas por acreditar que ser capaz de chegar até lá significa alcançar a verdadeira liberdade. É até legal o título do primeiro capítulo deste arco: "O menino que olhava para o céu". A ideia é essa mesmo.

Não vou comentar muito sobre Alita nesta parte porque seria dar spoilers demais acerca desta parte. Só vale deixar aqui que a personagem amadurece bastante e ao final vemos uma personagem com uma outra visão de mundo. Como os acontecimentos deste arco vão afetá-la só iremos saber a seguir.

Lee Benkers says

Really enjoyed this volume!

June says

This is my first time reading a manga. Other than I need to remember the correct way to read this, I have mixed feelings about this one. The artwork is good but with the battle scenes you lose the flow of what is happening. The manga is predominantly black and white but there were a few colored pages and I wish there were more of those. The story was choppy in parts and that may resolve with further volumes. Personally I wanted a bit more backstory but I'd be willing to read more issues to better understand the plot. There is violence but not excessively graphic here. Despite the dark nature of this manga, this seems to be a good start to this cyberpunk graphic novel series.

Thank you to NetGalley and the publishers for making this classic manga available for a wider audience. This would interest those who enjoy cyborg stories, manga fans as well as those who loved the original series.

Sarah says

Artwork was perfection, simple but so beautiful. The story was one of the best manga stories I've followed. Deep, complex characters, amazing and in depth world designs and a storyline that makes you never want to stop reading. Can't wait for volume 2 <3

Lashaan Balasingam (Bookidote) says

You can find my review on my blog by clicking [here](#).

What do you get when you put innocence, beauty and destruction together? This chick. Battle Angel Alita Deluxe Edition 1 collects the first two volumes of this famous cyberpunk action classic featuring the little cyborg girl and her pursuit for answers. Recovered from a scrapyard without a body or memories of her past life, cyber-doctor Daisuke Ido vows to build her back whole. Blinded by his desire to create something perfect to his eyes, Ido quickly finds out that his selfishness has been excluding anything and everything Alita might feel. It is this look into her adaptation to her new life that pulls this story in intriguing directions.

Throughout this collection, readers are introduced to Alita and discover that she still withholds lingering muscle memory in the form of extremely dangerous and kick-ass martial arts. The story then investigates some important philosophical questions in a very minimalist fashion while giving readers a gore-filled action-packed excursion throughout the Scrapyard. With the floating space city of Zalem above them continues to convey a dystopian atmosphere, the world in which Alita finds herself remains mysterious at its core, but also riddled with dangerous beings that will force her to seek her most precious and powerful survival skills.

It would honestly be an understatement to say that this volume contained a lot of headless bodies. While Alita is portrayed as a little girl with a bubbly face and a woman's body, her strength is immeasurable and the damage she can cause is irreparable. There often seems to be a focus on asserting a certain distinction between what is of the mind and what is of the body, which might also explain why the violence in this series is often always aimed separating the head from the body. The art style also greatly focus on her character and the insane acrobatic moves she's able to accomplish. It really highlights the importance of the freedom of movement, and there's nothing better than a hitgirl like Alita to showcase it in all its grace.

The author also inserts bits of scientific or philosophical terms throughout the story that are accompanied by footnotes to wrap the reader within its universe. They are not all factual, but they do serve their purpose in suggesting certain ideas believed by the characters in this story. It's also worth reiterating that this series is much more focused on the action sequences rather than on the dialogues, but whenever there is a dialogue, there is also a profound examination of the life of a cyborg, of a machine. From ideas of happiness to beauty, this series isn't just a silly story wanting to create a kick-ass female character. In fact, Battle Angel Alita is a reflection of the consciousness and of perception of mankind through the eyes of a cyborg.

Yours truly,

Lashaan | Blogger and Book Reviewer
Official blog: <https://bookidote.com/>

Michael says

I enjoyed the depth of characters in the book. How the good guys aren't just two sided, but rather fall into a spectrum, doing good or bad based on good or bad motivations. And the world that is built in the story is very interesting, to say the least. The artwork is badass as well.

Derek Royal says

My first foray into Battle Angel Alita stories. I actually liked this better than I thought I would, as I'm not the biggest fan of extensive fight scenes (in manga or other media). The premise laid out in the first several chapters really captured my attention, driving me to read on. This is a series I'd like to continue, and I'm glad Kodansha is releasing these new, hardbound deluxe editions.

Kenny says

Kickass cyborg hitgirl in a dystopian future.
