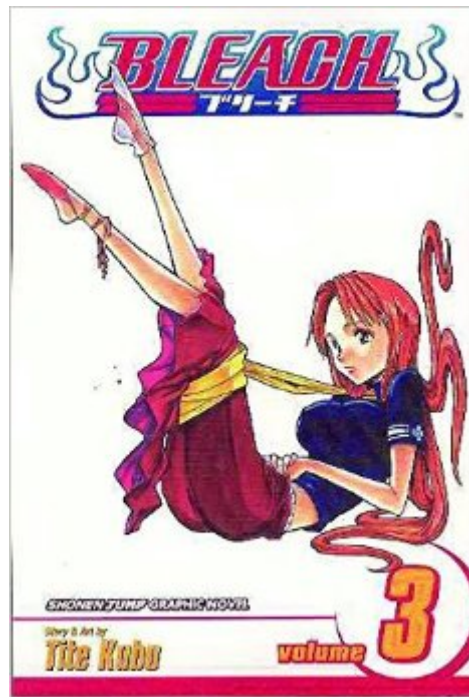


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## Bleach, Vol. 3



## Synopsis

Hot-tempered 15-year-old Ichigo Kurosaki, the hero of the popular fantasy-adventure Bleach, has the unsettling ability to see spirits who are unable to rest in peace. His sixth sense leads him to Rukia, a Soul Reaper who destroys Hollows (soul-devouring monsters) and ensures the deceased find repose with the Soul Society. When she's injured in battle, Rukia transfers her sword and much of her power to Ichigo, whose spiritual energy makes him a formidable substitute Soul Reaper. But the orange-haired teenager isn't sure he wants the job: too many risks and moral dilemmas.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

I watched the anime first, but wanted to see how different the manga was. Lets just say It's great. I haven't been able to put it down and the 3 in 1 volume is so nice. Takes up less space , save money, and you get to read longer.

Tite Kubo, Bleach: Memories in the Rain (Viz, 2002) Memories in the Rain shows why Bleach is such a well-loved and long-running series. Kubo completely shifts gears here and pulls it off with aplomb. While there's still a good deal of action to be found, the core of this volume is Ichigo at his mother's graveside, contemplating her death and his part in it. Kubo does reflective as easily as he does action, and there's some real emotion to be found in these pages. Strongest volume in the series so far. \*\*\*\*

In this volume of *Bleach*, things took a turn for the more dramatic, and more serious, as the story changed tone dramatically. This is because three things occurred. First off, we learned some more of Ichigo's back-story, and that of his family. This gave him more of a human face so that he is somewhat relatable. The second and third changes are that it seemed this volume abandoned the "monster of the week" formula for a sustained story arc and Ichigo loses a fight. What I mean to say isn't that *Bleach* didn't have story-arcs before now, because it did. But they were short and, other than some small threads here and there to keep the story going, they weren't much related to each other. That all changed with this story which, as of this volume, still isn't really over. The other difference is that things are more serious for Ichigo. He loses a fight with a Hollow. While Rukia tries to argue in text that it was a victory because he survived a Hollow that has been around for many decades and is hugely powerful and experienced and the Hollow didn't eat anyone, it still is a loss in general for our Soul Reaper. You see, Ichigo barely survived while the Hollow was in much better shape than he was. So yeah, it was the Hollow's win. For explanation, it was sort of a bit like the scenario common to media where the good guy has to lose to teach him not to be so careless. Like on *Arrow* season one when the Dark Archer kicked Ollie's ass, or other scenarios where the hero loses, but manages to eke out at least survival or some other partial victory. What I liked about this is that the author emerged here from more simple, safer story-telling to something more ambitious. Time will tell if he stayed good to read or fell victim to overly-long arcs with lots of filler. Long-running series can be really good, really bad for dedicated fans, or a bit of each at times. We shall see. One thing I appreciated was how the idea of fighting for your "honor" and so not being interfered with, was handled. This is somewhat of a Japanese trope, but the author actually mocked it to some extent. Fighting for your honor is one thing and a personal thing, a person choice, at that, but you don't eschew help from friends and allies and expect to succeed in life. The art isn't bad, but after seeing the artwork in some other series like *Sailor Moon* or *Fruits Basket*, or not as good but still nice beauty of *Rurouni Kenshin*, it didn't do a whole lot for me either. It was good enough for the story, but not exemplary. Then again, maybe I am using unusually good art to present a standard not possible to reach. All in all, I great volume and I look forward to the continuation of this story arc.

The show did a great job starting itself off in the first volume and now and kept it going well in the second volume. Now third volume tells some of Ichigo's back story and gives him more depth as a character. It brought more excitement and thrill into the fight for me.

*Bleach* is one of the most popular shonen in Japan. And with good reason. I was first introduced to

the anime series in 2006 by a friend. I decided to watch it online and was hooked. In a matter of days I had blown thru all the current episodes. I was addicted. So addicted in fact that I decided to start reading chapters online to find out what happened next. If I was just addicted at first I just became obsessed. The manga was much more intense than the anime, as I found out, and I just couldn't get enough of it. I lived to read the new scanlation week to week for all these years and still do. I figured if I enjoyed the series this much I might as well just start buying the series. I had acquired several from my brother who had gone and bought them. Now I'm just filling in the blanks and I'm going to keep going until I have every last one! I could read these over and over (I have already)! If you haven't read the manga yet and are thinking about it, stop thinking and start doing! There is a reason this series is so wildly popular! It has most elements a shonen should: humor, action, awesome and intricate character design, an amazing story line... did I mention humor? In my own opinion, the manga is far better than the anime series and is more than worth having around.

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