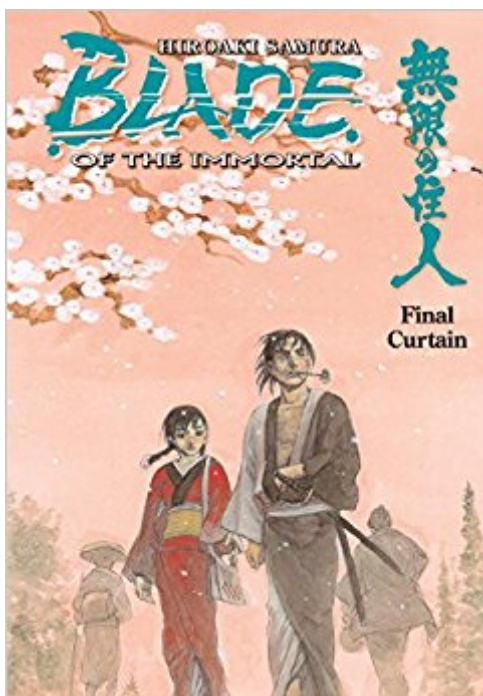


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# Blade Of The Immortal Volume 31: Final Curtain



## Synopsis

The harrowing, bone-crunching finale! Hiroaki Samura's long-running manga series ends with a massive, 280-page volume filled with action and suspense. Who will survive? Disgraced Edo officer Habaki faces the devious Anotsu in a decisive showdown, while Manga, Rin, and only a few others witness the end of an era. Rin's quest concludes with a violent bang--then things get weirder! Hiroaki Samura's final volume overflows with heartbreak and bloodshed! Blade has won many awards across the globe, including the Eisner Award in America, the prestigious Media Arts Award of Japan, and multiple British Eagle Awards.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Hiroaki Samura is a Japanese writer/illustrator and creator of Blade of the Immortal, as well as several other short works. He has also done various illustrations for magazines and ero guro (a literary and artistic movement originating in 1930's Japan). He has an ero guro book out that is mostly a compilation of the work he has created. His favourite bands are Queen, Black Sabbath and Jittarin Jin. He likes Black Sabbath so much he named one of his characters, Kuroi Sabato (literally a translation of Black Sabbath), in Blade after the band. The author lives in Tokyo, Japan.

After a long and enjoyable journey, Blade comes to a conclusion. I have no words. This is beautiful. It's poetry. Blade started being published in Brazil a while ago and when the Japanese volumes were caught up, the publisher paused and never returned. With my poor English at the time I turned

to Dark Horse and their exquisite volumes. Now it's over and I have to say that Blade of the Immortal, since the first issue I read, is the best comic book/manga series ever! No Watchmen, no Dark Knight Returns. ..Mr. Samura's work will be forever in my heart. It took me a while to finish this volume because I knew that, once the last pages were turned, no more. I bought in April and finished it today. I couldn't wait anymore. I still hope we can read about those 90 years jump... Rin... Manji... Hyaku... Anotsu (oops! You haven't read yet?!)... Did he make it? Thank you Dark Horse. And a huge thank you so much Mr. Samura. I'll be waiting for your next work, as I've been reading everything you do. Your masterpiece has been inspirational. A real delight. Looking forward to seeing what you gonna do next.

Plot wise it tries to tie up most of the loose ends of the various characters as much as possible. I found Rin's resolution with Anotsu satisfying in one way but a bit of a let down in terms of Anotsu's character arch. I guess we are meant to see him as a tragic figure who tried and failed to have his ideology take root. I actually wound up sympathizing with his character more than either Rin or Manji and indeed his arch took up most of the preceding several issues. Several other characters ended their story arcs tragically as well which may disappoint fans of this series. Manji himself, the Blade Of the Immortal of the title in the end really serves as nothing but a plot device for the development of the characters around him and his ending in this book reflects that. Does this issue tie up every loose strand in the series? No. Is it a good jumping off point for the series, for newbies? Absolutely not. It builds heavily upon all the previous episodes. A newbie has a long way to go before any of the events make a bit of sense. Is it a good stand alone work? In terms of action yes, but in terms of story, the whole Blade Of The Immortal run is really one long novel in serialized comic form so buying this book on its own would not make sense to the casual fan.

Samura provides a satisfying (if crowded) conclusion to his epic series in this final chapter of the Blade of the Immortal Series. There are many story lines to conclude, so it does tend to feel a little crowded. However, if you're a fan of the series, you won't be left entirely disappointed. Of course, if you've come this far, there's probably nothing I could say to talk you out of reading the book anyway! The final ending was, to me, unexpected but still enjoyable. The era that our characters (beloved and hated alike) have inhabited has come to a close, but time and the rest of the world carries on.

Lots of storylines to conclude, and it gets a little bit crowded, fitting as it does the last duels and

wrapping up soliloquies. Samura shines again with his last chapter, a clever acknowledgement of Rin's and Manji's lasting bond.

A great read over all, and the art work is still amazing 30 volumes later. If you are new to the series, or like me, put the series down halfway through this may not be the book to jump into. After reading through Final Curtain it made me want to read the volumes I missed out on, and re-read the ones I've already read starting from Blood of a Thousand.

Absolutely my favorite manga of all time! Such a bittersweet ending :')

It arrived in a timely fashion and was exactly as listed!

Great Condition

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