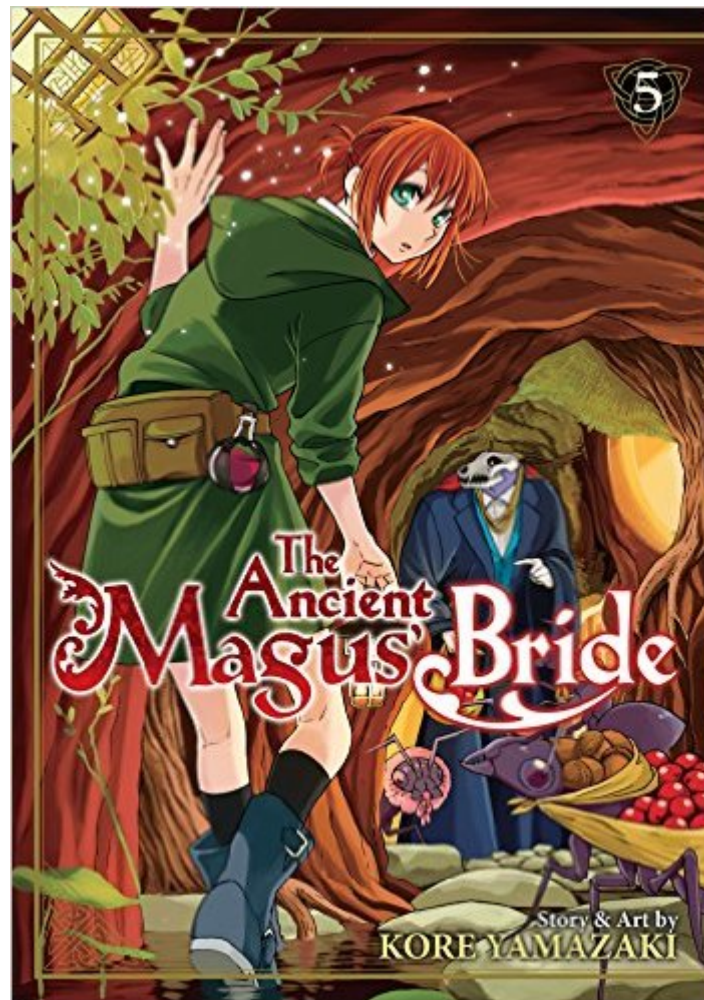


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The Ancient Magus' Bride Vol. 5



Synopsis

Reads from right to left in the traditional Japanese format.

Book Information

Series: Ancient Magus' Bride

Paperback: 180 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (13 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

This series has been hit or miss for me. I loved the initial premise and was intrigued by the setting and mythos of the story. Most manga fantasy deals with Japanese myths and legends. This one borrows from Celtic mythology in creating its fantasy world, and the result is a beautifully illustrated modern-day fairy tale. However, not all the individual chapters or story arcs in past volumes have held my interest. That's why I'm happy to say that this volume has been, for me, the best of the series so far. What makes this volume stand out is that each chapter revealed something new. In this volume, Chise faces a magical challenge that is both emotionally bittersweet and technically difficult for her to do. The consequences of her actions are troubling, but the aftermath takes us to new ground in the story. Even the chapter that is essentially a side story revealed something interesting to me about a minor character. As always, the full-color pages at the front of the book are GORGEOUS. The artist's ability to create a rich, vibrant world for Chise and Elias is one of the reasons why I've kept reading even during the volumes that didn't seem as strong as this one. For all of the above reasons, I'm giving the volume 5 stars. However: if let me take off half a star, I would give it 4.5 stars because of the unfolding romantic relationship. I was initially drawn to this manga in part because of what seemed like an intriguing romance. I don't mind immortal/mortal romances, and I am usually not bothered by a large age gap between characters. But there's no getting around

the fact that Elias and Chise just do not work for me as a couple. I am not entirely sure why. If you look at past reviews of previous volumes, you'll see some readers talking about the fact that Chise doesn't seem to have very good reason for loving Elias. That may be part of the problem. But I think the main problem I have with the romance is the way that Elias seems to move back and forth between being parental and being romantic in his relation to Chise. Throughout the book, characters refer to Chise as Elias' "Fledgling," and talk about him taking her in as a child. And he does treat her as a ward much of the time, as if he were her parental guardian. And yet . . . she is also his prospective bride. If the story had chosen to focus just on his role as her future husband, I would accept their relationship as being an arranged marriage, and I might enjoy the romance despite the age gap. But I'm not comfortable with the way Elias acts like a parent to Chise most of the time with occasional loverlike moments. (Spoiler) The scene with the mistletoe is a good example. The kiss the two exchange is sweet and innocent . . . except for Elias' reaction. If you've already read volumes 1-4 of *The Ancient Magus' Bride* and are just wondering whether to buy the fifth volume, go ahead and buy it. It's a strong volume. If, however, you are on the fence about trying the series and are trying to get a sense of whether you'd like it, consider that this is both a supernatural romance and a teacher/student romance. Not everyone is comfortable with the latter kind of relationship.

Volume 5 of *The Ancient Magus' Bride* is as strong as the previous volume, which also was quite impressive. Chise ends up needing medical attention after her efforts to help a dying man and a fairy prove overtaxing for her. Elias takes her to the fairy realm where she finds herself under the care of a changeling doctor who has curious, if not extreme, methods of treatment. For me, the highlight of the book came with the chapter "There's No Place Like Home", which features the house maid Silky. I've always found her interesting and finally, Silky takes center stage with a very nice story that reveals her origins and will touch the heart of anyone who knows what it's like to wait a long time for their family to return home.

The pace is slow and thoughtful and I am enjoying his rich and ranging take on western mythology. It is basically a quest story with a damaged and resourceful heroine at the center. The side stories and characters add to the depth. However, Kore Yamasaki's art would benefit from a larger format. Plus, I would be able to read the tiniest print without hunting up a bright light and/or magnifying glass.

I am new to manga, but have enjoyed this series. The style of drawing fits the storyline and the

characters, while mystical, have depth beyond what I expected. I look forward to this story going forward and applaud the author for an interesting and entertaining read.

amazing art and story line and I absolutely love the relationship between Elias and Chise. There romance doesn't bother me at all considering when I played the game "mass effect" you can choose who you want to be involved with and I choose Garrus Vakarian. A Turian alien that reminds me a lot of Elias looks! The story line is amazing and the fact that the romance doesn't overtake the story and it's just the right amount is amazing. Love! And can't wait till next year for the 6th and with that being said the time frame for the release of the 6th vol is crazy. It's July and it won't be out till Jan 2017. Oh wells! As long as Yamazaki takes his time and does justice for this amazing manga

Once more author and illustrator Yamazaki Kore surprises us because this is a volume about failure, about how magic cannot fix everything. At the tale end of *The Ancient Magus' Bride* Vol. 4 Chise meets again the peculiar leannan sidhe she first met in *The Ancient Magus' Bride* Vol. 3 where counter to everything everyone knows about leannan sidhe she appeared to be hanging around an old, talentless neighbor. Now she has come crying hopeless tears to the one person who might listen, and Chise responds as expected, exceeding everything expected of her, granting the two a final conscious goodbye, and necessitating for herself an emergency trip collapsed in Elias' arms to the Faerie Kingdom he had once steered her away from, where she meets an extraordinary new doctor. Meanwhile, we get a look into Silky's origin, and the the volume ends with a fae look at Christmas. It will be fun reading new adventures in upcoming series volumes: *The Ancient Magus' Bride* Vol. 6.

Love this series so far. It's got magic and folklore that I enjoy with a touch of that shoujo style I love. I'm looking forward to the anime adaptation.

This is a great manga that is somewhat a divergence from the norm. It is as mysterious as it is entertaining. A must read for any manga enthusiast.

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