



Saiyuki, Vol. 9

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Feeling down in the dumps about losing in the battle against "God", Goku attempts to raise everyone's spirits with a game of Mahjong (sp?). He wins match after match until he scolds them all to snap out of it and shape up, leading to them playing a whole day straight of the game. Ready for another round, the gang approaches "The God's Castle", where they run into a bit of trouble with talking toys, before finally reaching "God". They kick major ass and succeed in beating him in the end. There is a flashback of when Sanzou was younger and had a run-in with a young "God", who was a disciple to Ukoku Sanzou Houshi, a very powerful and wise monk. With the "game" over, the castle around them collapses, but they manage to escape. Amongst the ruins, Ugoku appears and picks up "God"s (I think his name is actually Kouryuu) fallen monk hat and announces that he's ready for another "game". Our heroes drive off into the distance, back to their usual bickering selves, but the story is far from over...

Saiyuki, Vol. 9 Details

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From Reader Review Saiyuki, Vol. 9 for online ebook

Ariel Murray says

Loved it! ^ _ ^

Ruben Monteiro says

Not very interested in the sidetracking, but still fun.

Jana says

It's been awhile so I felt a smidge lost and had to retrace some things that had happened before, and I think I skipped a volume! But still enjoyable. I love Minekura's art style.

Stacy says

A warning: I am biased. This has been my favourite manga series for over a decade and I'm on my sixth (or so) reread. This is as good as I remember. Minekura has given us distinct characters, and even when the speech balloons aren't tied directly to anyone in the panel, you know exactly who is expressing which thought. The art is amazing, and sometimes I'll just stare at scenes trying to soak more in. And the drama/angst jumps in to contrast the humour so suddenly that I will need to stop reading just to process how much I love the moments/characters/everything. Or the humour bumps aside the drama, which is a delightful way to break the tension. In all, that's basically the theme of the whole story. Nothing matters so much you can't joke about it. Though at the same time, everything absolutely matters. Sweet and sour, baby.

My copies of this manga are all beat up, but I know I'll read them again. Everytime, it's a treat.

Emily G says

The conclusion of the Kami-sama arc. The Sanzo party pull together to defeat the would-be God, and we find out the puppeteer behind the puppet...

Definitely not my favourite story of Saiyuki but it does give you more character insight, especially where Ni Jianyi is concerned.

Devann says

I guess this was a decent ending to this arc of the story. I didn't really care about the two entire issues where they played mahjong, but maybe that's just because I don't understand how it works lol. Also I'm kind of confused about the ...linear plot progression of this series I guess? What happened to those four people they were always fighting at the beginning of the series? Are they coming back in Reload? Because I thought Reload was like a 'reboot' kind of thing but I guess it's more of a continuation because these last few volumes here just dropped that plot point entirely... Honestly I have no idea what is going on half the time in this series, but I like the art and I like the characters even though the whole thing is very dated at this point.

alfreeland says

Sanzo and gang continue their journey west.

Nura says

Goku never cease to amaze me. thought he's just a simpleton bakazaru, but he's a gem inside. a nice ending for the arch, Sensei... can't wait to read Saiyuki reload. tapi abis ngintip sedikit malah pengen baca Gaiden duluan deh... masih kangen sama Goku.

Sarah Hayes says

That was just a really good, solid volume and works really well as the conclusion to the first proper arc of the series. I'm looking forward to starting Reload sometime soon and seeing how it picks up all the plot threads set up by these first nine books.

Leila Anani says

Dispondant in their defeat it takes Goku's suggestion of a Mahjong marathon to rekindle the team's fighting spirit. They head up to the bogus Sanzo's castle to face off once and for all. This concludes the 'god' story arc and what a finish! We learn just who is behind the crazy Sanzo and manipulating behind the scenes.

What's interesting is major plot-wise we're exactly back where we started - the friends are united and ready to set out to investigate the minus wave one more. Kou has had his heart removed by Ni and has gone all evil - definitely spells trouble ahead! So the two teams are once again enemies.

Stunning artwork and a really exciting finish to this arc make this volume not to be missed. Can't wait to start Saiyuki Reload!

Miss Ryoko says

[they team up on Kami-sama and start kicking his ass and then when one falls, the next one is standing

behind the fallen ready to kick Kami-sama's ass some more! So bad ass!! And Hakkai!! Oh my god, I couldn't

Illy says

I ADORE this series. I have never found anything like. I have watched all of the anime, read the series over multiple times, and lots of fanfiction. I can't suggest this more. It is cute yet not lighthearted. The characters are great and I love them all so much (I ship Goku and Sanzo forever). If you like m/m then you will like this as the characters have plenty of "interesting" moments. If you simply like an adventure then you will like this. If you like retellings then you will like this. Overall, it's really good and you need to pick it up.

Jody Mena says

Awsome book, a great ending to the series, (as well as a great setup for the sequel!) The artwork, as always, was decadently beautiful, the setting was enchanting, the characters were all as wonderful as ever - not just my favorite adorably degenerate heroes, but the villain was also deliciously deranged! The cliffhanger of seeing that Ni Jiyani was 'kami-sama's teacher and a former sanzo priest was quite shocking, that was the last thing I'd expected. I loved the mahjong sequence, who knew Goku could be that profound? The lesson Sanzo learned at the end was profound as well, that he was bound by the philosophy of casting off all bindings - it's so simple, yet such a difficult revelation for anyone to have. I wonder what happened to Kougaigi and his followers. I can't help but hope they get happy endings in the next series, since they were never really villains in by book. This was such a wonderful series, it was truly a pleasure to get to read it. I've got to scrounge up some money and buy it, because I know I'll read it again and again - it's one of those great stories that you can do that with, because its both profound, giving new insights with each reading, as well as irreverent, and the comedy and chemistry amongst the characters just never gets old! I simply cant' wait to see what they'll get up to in the next series! Only one way to find out!

Tifa says

This volume always makes me sad, partly because it's the last of this part of the series (Saiyuki Reload takes a little different direction, but is great in its own right) and the plot with Kami-sama makes me feel so sorry for him. No spoilers, but the reveal of what happened to him and how he became what he is, makes me feel so terribly sad for him. That's the power of Ms. Minekura's storytelling abilities.

Ms. Minekura outdid herself in these chapters. The story introduces a new character but also delves a bit into more of the mysterious past and actually has a huge reveal of a true villain at the end. She also really develops Goku throughout this volume, and we see more of him maturing and growing. She's subtle in some ways as a writer and never more so here as she lets her art take center stage to show the characters' feelings and reactions.

The art here is simply stunning. There is one scene of the ikkou playing mahjong, but she drew it as though the table is transparent so it shows the game and the guys from a completely different point of view. It's so beautiful and unique. She uses the same beauty in Kami-sama's castle, repeating a gorgeous stained glass window as a background for several crucial scenes, and it took my breath away. I can't imagine how much

work it took for her to draw these final chapters, but they're amazing. Even the way she tricks readers and teases them by not immediately revealing a villain's identity, using the speech bubbles and differing perspectives to hide the identity until she wants a big reveal, is superb. Also, to be the squeeing fangirl I am, Sanzo is incredibly beautiful in these chapters, particularly the way she has drawn his back repeatedly.

Overall this remains one of my favorite manga series ever, and every time I re-read it, I find more to love.

Anna says

A solid ending. I liked seeing the gang defeated in the last volume, but it was neat seeing them rebound and attack again. I didn't mind the tangent, since it seemed to be a natural progression of adventure for them. I am intrigued by Dr. Nii's ultimate role in this story, and am interested to see what happens in Reload with him, as well as Kou.
