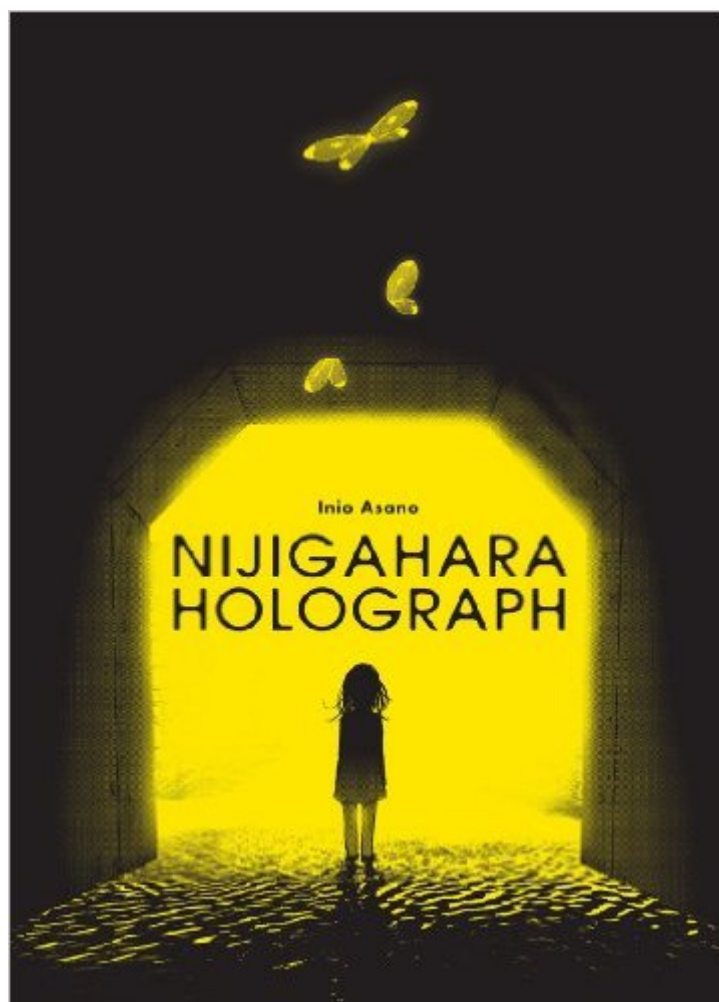


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Nijigahara Holograph



Synopsis

In this manga, acclaimed cartoonist Asano tells a complex, oblique tale about how an tense atmosphere, symbolized by proliferating butterflies, lead schoolchildren to a sacrifice • a fellow student, and how that act impacts various characters across two timelines. Fantagraphics is proud to welcome the great Inio Asano (Solanin, What a Wonderful World!) to its acclaimed literary manga line. Even as butterflies ominously proliferate in town, the rumor of a mysterious creature lurking in the tunnel behind the school spreads among the children. When the body of Ari© Kimura's mother is found by this tunnel's entrance, next to apparently human traces, the legend seems to be confirmed. Is the end of the world coming? In order to appease the wrath of the beast, the children decide to offer it a sacrifice: The unfortunate Ari©, whom they believe to be the cause of the curse, is shoved into a well that leads to the Nijigahara tunnel • an act that in turns pushes Komatsuzaki, the budding thug who has carried a torch for Ari© for a while already, entirely over the edge. But this is only the beginning of the complex, challenging, obliquely told Nijigahara Holograph, which takes place in two separate timelines and involves the suicidal Suzuki; Higure, his stalkerish would-be girlfriend; and their teacher Miss Sakaki, whose heavily bandaged face remains a mystery; and many more • brothers, sisters, parents, co-workers, teachers, aggressors and victims who are all inextricably linked to one another and all will eventually • ten years later • have to live with what they've done or suffered through. Black & white.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

A darker story from the mind of Inio Asano, this tale takes a serious role of investigating a town and an ongoing series of murders, and just how it connects to past events to interweave into an intricate

and detailing story. Beautifully compiled in this full-collection hardcover, this story keeps you grossly engaged with it's intriguing mystery and, as per usual of the producer, highly-developed characters that each have a life of their own that is explored throughout the story. Although a bit more complex, it's worth the re-reading if you feel the need to revisit events to grasp the entirety of the situation, and the art is quite lovely, as is to be expected..

I really really liked Nijigahara Holograph. The past and present go together nicely and all of the characters have something to do with one another in some way. It's intriguing and slightly disturbing. The story is mysterious in the fact that Asano doesn't clearly state how the ending should be interpreted; it's up to the reader to connect the dots and come up with the ending. All in all, a great short story to read.

Great story by Inio Asano. This isn't a book for young kids - it's very dark take on life. If you enjoyed Solanin and What a Wonderful World (series), you'll enjoy this as well. Okay, well, maybe not as good as Solanin but I am definitely glad I read this book. Asano's books are like reading his finger prints. The hard cover book itself is well put together - as usual, my only complaint is that there is no color to accompany the fine illustrations...but that tends to be the norm for this genre.

Another great read by Asano. I am a fan of his art and storytelling and this was a very good addition to my collection. I read it and immediately went back and read it again. Fantagraphics also did a good job. It is a larger format to really showcase the art with a nice hardcover. Well worth the money.

Back in April when I was visiting my girlfriend who lives in Michigan, we went on one of our usual Barnes and Noble trips. There I purchased two mangas: the first half of Orange, and Goodnight Punpun by Inio Asano. I later searched my library's catalogue to see if they had any more of Inio Asano's works, and they did - Nijigahara Holograph. I went ahead and put a request on it. I really enjoy Inio's art style, it's really unique and detailed. You can tell a lot of time is spent putting thought into how each panel should look. I haven't read all of Goodnight Punpun yet, but that one I'm enjoying so far. As for Nijigahara Holograph, I just found it nothing but confusing and even once finishing it I really did not have much of a grasp of what I had even read. The story takes place in two separate timelines, switching without warning. You could kind of tell when it jumped from one timeline to another, but the constant jumping around and the fact that there is only so many words

due to it being a comic, it made it incredibly hard to follow what exactly is going on. It's like when someone's talking to you and you're focused on something else. You hear them and what's said, but it doesn't really register - it goes in through one ear and comes out the other rather than being embedded in your brain. Nijigahara Holograph is just like that. I read it but what happened just never stuck with me. It's a messed up story though, that much I was able to grasp. There is a brief and unexpected rape, plus it involves human sacrifice and even a suicidal boy. Luckily online you can find notes that better explain what happens in the story. Here's to hoping I finish reading my copy of Goodnight Punpun with different thoughts than I do on this manga by Inio.

This is a great read if you are interested in a dark and mind-bending story. The artwork is excellent. Expect that you will need to read it at least twice to grasp everything that is happening in the story, the lives of the characters are intertwined and the timeline jumps around a lot. I finished it in a day and I enjoyed it, but I was confused enough to read it over again the very next day.

I'm not smart enough to write an in-depth review of this book. I'll probably need to read it a couple more times before I can even describe it well. It's not an easy book to read. The cast is complicated, and the story moves between different timelines. The topic is also difficult: interpersonal violence, from childhood bullying to sexual assault and murder. So why am I recommending it? Because even if you're not completely following the events, Asano creates such a feeling of dread with both the human and supernatural elements of the story. It's dark, but not hopeless, and the events aren't just horrible for the sake of horrible. It's extremely well-written by someone who's clearly very smart. It makes you want to figure out all the interlocking puzzles. Asano's art particularly shines with details, such as the irises of someone's eyes as they stare. He also mixes dialogue and narration well, devoting some panels entirely to narration instead of crowding the art - and the pacing of the story is stronger as a result.

Everybody suffers, everybody hurts others, everyone is selfish and this world is terrible and should be destroyed. This book is a disturbing mystery that leaves you with an unsettling feeling in your gut.

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Nijigahara Holograph

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