SPECIAL MANHWA SAMPLER FOR JADE MAGAZINE READERS

(Note: The following summaries may contain spoilers.)

Ruler of the Land

by writer Keuk-Jin Jeon and artist Jae-Hyun Yang. Published by ADV Manga.

Bi-Kwang Han would rather ogle babes than be the disciple of the powerful Lord of the Thousand Horses, whom he disrespectfully refers to as "that old man." The feared Black Winds, the lord's royal guards, have been reduced to babysitters in the service of their young master. Then Bi-Kwang meets the successor to the honorable fighter Geum-Hwang. Will Bi-Kwang's martial art skills improve? At least his love life?

The Boss

by Jae-Won Lim. Published by ADV Manga.

"As long as my name's still Sang-Tae Hyun, I shall be victorious, even against a hundred men!" boasts the thick-browed protagonist. Sang-Tae is a sophomore at Woo Sang High School who - when he's not making goo-goo eyes at his girlfriend Ji-Hyun - is brawling. He's not a mean kid. It's just there are so many people who deserve to have their butts kicked.

Ragnarok

by Myung-Jin Lee. English version by New York Times bestselling author Richard A. Knaak. Published by TOKYOPOP.

Where is Balder? The balloon-breasted fighter babe Fenris Fenrir searches for Balder's reincarnation, which forces Freya to dispatch one of the twelve Valkyries of Valhalla to kill Fenris before she succeeds. Meanwhile, Chaos and city of Fayon heiress Iris Irine with sword and powerful incantations face down giant face worms for cash. With his incredible sword skills, is it possible Chaos was the god Balder 1000 years ago?

Demon Diary by writers Chi Hyong Lee (vol. 1) and Yun Hee Lee (vols. 2-7) and artist Kara. Published by TOKYOPOP.

Raenef, orphan and thief, is discovered to be Demon Lord Raenef the Fifth. Eclipse, a gorgeous but cruel demon of the highest order, is charged with Raenef's training in the demon lord code of conduct and in dark magic. It is a meeting of "Lord Clueless" and the "Demon Grumpmeister." Fans of this title have hotly debated whether *Demon Diary* is about a tender teacher-pupil relationship or is boy's love (yaoi). Read it and decide for yourself.



Faeries' Landing

by Hyun You. Published by TOKYOPOP.

High school freshman Ryang Jegal gets stuck with Fanta when he accidentally rips her faerie robe so that she is unable to ascend to Avalon and leave the human world. Fanta tries to warn him about 108 future doomed romances, but Ryang nervously disregards her prediction. Let the nightmare and fun begin! A male fan was surprised to learn this video game-like title was created by a woman and not a man due to the way *Faeries' Landing* is written and its style of humor.

King of Hell

by In-Soo Ra and Jae-Hwan Kim. Published by TOKYOPOP.

Majeh was a superb fighter when he was alive, but now he is a soul collector for the King of Hell. When demons in peak fighting form escape into the world of the living, Majeh is assigned the task of retrieving them. Things would have been easier if he had been resurrected in his former adult body instead of a young boy's!

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Open Mike!

Newsworthy

Les Bijoux

by writer Eun-Ha Jo and artist Sang-Sun Park. Published by TOKYOPOP.

Les Bijoux is made up of twelve territories that an icy Habit - Lord Diamond of Neige Mine - wants to bring under his rule. He is opposed by Lapis, a champion from the abused lower class of Spars, and Lapis's guardians. But how can Lapis fulfill his powerful destiny when he is sabotaged by his female personality Lazuli who emerges and transforms his body into a woman's whenever Lord Diamond is around? Sang-Sun's ornate and dramatic artwork makes this literary title stand heads above the rest.

Model

by So-Young Lee. Published by TOKYOPOP.



Jae, a spirited young artist now living in Europe, has finally found her Muse in the beautiful, arrogant vampire Michael. "I didn't cross the ocean just to become your Happy Meal," she tells him, but she can't quite let go of her model yet. This is a spunky title, cleverly and beautifully drawn, that can hold up after several rereadings.

My Sassy Girl

by writer Ho Sik Kim and artist Dae Hong Min. Published by ComicsOne.

Some guys will put themselves through hell for the attentions of a pretty girl. After vomiting on top of a seated train passenger, "Sassy Girl" passes out, but not before arbitrarily calling out to Geon-Woo as if he were her boyfriend. Geon-Woo is a kindhearted but masochistic sucker.

NOW

by Sung Woo Park. Published by ComicsOne.

Bi-Ryu, the adopted son of North Star, is responsible for protecting the book containing the killing techniques of Sanshinmu. Everyone wants a piece of it. There are only two masters of Sanshinmu, Bi-Ryu and Rin Yhun's father. Bi-Ryu, accompanied by his pet cat-girl Cho Ryung, follows an unenthusiastic Rin to meet her father.

Priest

by Min-Woo Hyung. Published by TOKYOPOP.

Ivan Isaacs is resurrected in a deal with the devil Belial. In his new vigilante role, he says amid a slaughter, "The evil that created these demons of the flesh...is the same evil that my dark master sent me to destroy." Can Ivan hang on to his humanity while a dark spirit shares his body? The setting is the American western frontier. Hyung's pen is harsh and tense, strongly influenced by American comics which he read as a child; this title's artwork has been described as film noir-like.

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