

Uzumaki

By Author, Junji Ito

Reviewed by: Jake 16

Star Teen Book Reviewer of Be the Star You Are! Charity

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Kirie Goshima is a high-school student in the Japanese town of Kurozu-cho. Her boyfriend, Shuichi Sato attends high school in another town, and is the first person to notice the strange occurrences in their town. Ultimately, each event seems to be connected with spirals in some way. He wants to run away with Kirie, but she refuses because she doesn't want to leave her family. The unusual occurrences start with Shuichi's own family, and both his parents end up dying in unexplainable ways. Following each death, when the bodies are cremated the smoke creates a spiral that is sucked into Dragonfly pond in the middle of town. Eerily, Kirie's home is located next to that pond. Shuichi becomes a recluse but helps Kirie as she gets involved with cursed people. Each chapter focuses on a different event, but these incidents are interconnected. As Kirie and Shuichi investigate the cause behind the tragedies, they find hope and survival with each other.

This graphic novel is meant for a more mature audience, ideally teens who are eighteen or older. The plot focuses heavily on cosmic horror, though it does have graphic depictions of body horror. The book's focus on themes of death and pseudo-cannibalism grasps your attention but is geared towards hardcore horror fans. The book is harder to come by, and I would suggest buying it for the horror aficionados in your life. Ito's subversion of spirals into horror, despite previous positive symbolism in other media, creates an even scarier tale. This graphic novel has beautiful artwork and a strangely compelling story, that will leave a lasting impression on its readers. This novel takes a look at the cyclical nature of time and finding love in a hopeless situation. Ultimately, this graphic novel is best for an older audience interested in cosmic horror and unafraid of darker themes.

Recommended Titles:

Blame! Series by Tsutomu Nihei

Tomie: Complete Deluxe Edition by Junji Ito

Hellstar Remina by Junji Ito

Fuan no Tane series by Masaaki Nakayama

Shiki series by Ryu Fujisaki