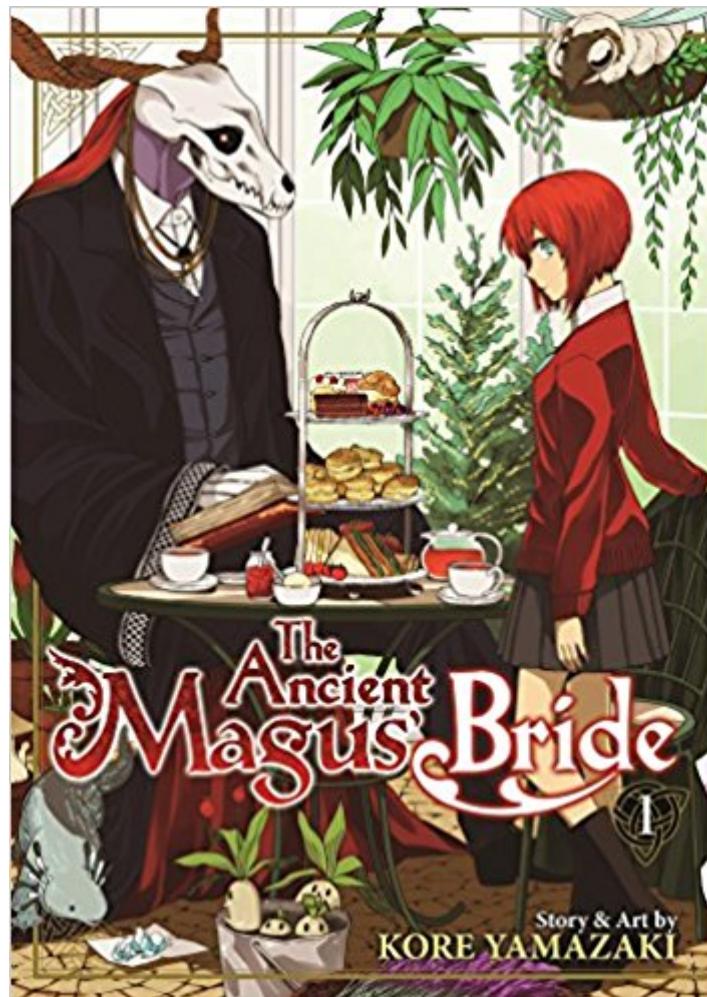


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The Ancient Magus' Bride Vol 1



Synopsis

The Ancient Magus' Bride is an all-new manga series that features a fascinating relationship between a troubled teenage girl and an inhuman wizard. Enter the Magician's ApprenticeHer name is Chise Hatori, a penniless orphan troubled by visions. Sold as a slave to an inhuman mage, she is about to begin a strange new life, filled with magic, fairies, and other beings of a fantastical nature.

Book Information

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Average Customer Review: 4.7 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (58 customer reviews)

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Customer Reviews

From my Goodreads: NO SPOILERSWow. If you like Harry Potter or A Darker Shade of Magic or anything with a fantastical twist that delves deep into folklore, the surreal and makes you want to live there, this is the manga-or book-for you.Chise Hatori has lived a life of solitude. No one loves her. Her parents abandoned her, and since then, everyone who wanted to care for her dumped her to the side like garbage. So when we find her chained, scared and with circles under her eyes, it becomes clear that Chise is a very damaged girl. She can see fae and other magical things that were the cause of her abandonment, and the reason her life was turned upside down. Elias Ainsworth, a renowned Mage, buys her for 5 million dollars.With her freedom, Chise is to be trained to become a powerful witch that draws all power to her body, known as a Sleigh Beggy. Not only are they extremely rare, but the fact that she can see magical beings is also unusual for her kind. Elias gives her the chance to live with him or to make her own life, but after how kind he is and how he refers to her as family, she can no longer go back to her old life.Except that Elias forgot some important information. He intends to wed her, but we don't know why. It might seem strange for this

creature to marry Chise, but he is much more human than he first appears. He is intelligent, holds a dignified and refined air and is very well known. I could easily describe this series as a mix between Studio Ghibli and Harry Potter. There's something so magical about this that it seems so sweet until you realize just how dark this series can go. Chise has struggled with depression and attempted suicide in her past, and the fae she comes across may or may not kill her depending on their mood.

Vol. 1 just gives us the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how intricately woven this tale is. But, a beautiful glimpse into the magus' world it is. A bit more romantic than the Harry Potter series, but nonetheless incredibly impressive world building. The rest of my review, I combine Vol. 1 and the series together in order to somehow persuade you all to continue with this series. It gets SO MUCH BETTER. This isn't a "soap opera" kind of story. This is a dark fantasy story about how a demon-like sorcerer tries to become more human and about how a human girl tries to become more magical. Chise sees the expressive child Elias is on the inside and takes just as much care of him emotionally as he takes care of her physically and mentally. (By "physically" I mean food, shelter, etc.) It is an incredibly tender bond the two broken magi kindle and their journey together makes my heart squeeze. However, there's an incredible mystery element to this volume 1 and the series as a whole. Chise and Elias are both immensely gifted with strong magical powers--but the mangaka leaves out the displays of both our hero and heroine's true strengths. We don't know who is stronger: Chise or Elias? Elias is her mentor, definitely. However, she purifies and he destroys. Purification > Destruction, right? Why else seek salvation instead of obliteration? Also, WHAT is Elias? He seems human, but not at the same time. As if he is human deep deep down inside, but humans don't have such demonic external skulls as heads. Think intelligent and refined "Frankenstein's monster". More often than not Elias is more cerebral and analytical with his sensitivity.

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