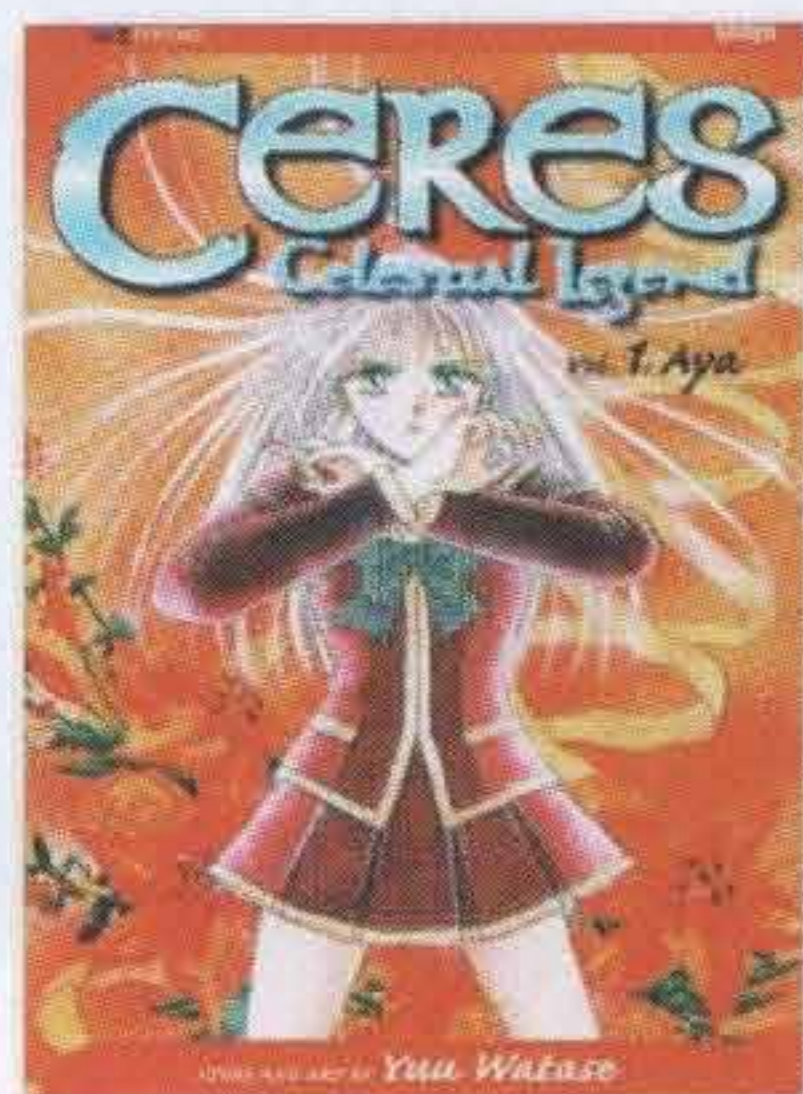


Ceres: Celestial Legend Vols. 1-3



AVAILABLE: 7 September

LABEL: Viz Media

CERTIFICATE: Teen

RETAIL PRICE: £5.99

SERIES LENGTH: 14

AUTHOR: Yuu Watase

Aya and Aki Mikage are about to turn 16; an event which will change both their lives irrevocably when Aya is possessed by Ceres, a tennyo or 'celestial maiden', leading her family to try and kill her on the spot. Aya goes on the run and, with the help of her distant relative Suzumi and her retainer Yuhi, she begins to learn more about her family's history. As time passes, Aya starts to fall in love with Toya, a mysterious man who has no memory of who he is. Is he everything he appears or something much more important?

Centuries previously, the progenitor of the Mikage family came across Ceres, who had descended to earth, and stole her hagoromo, a

sacred robe, meaning she couldn't return to the heavens. Now trapped, Ceres can only manifest through certain women of the Mikage line, and is still determined to find her robe and deliver her vengeance against those who wronged her. Just as Aya is possessed by Ceres, so her brother begins to be twisted by the soul of the progenitor, who still wants Ceres, even if she happens to be in the body of his twin sister.

Ceres: Celestial Legend is one of the first Viz Media titles to be released in the UK and it's classic shojo with a compelling story. The artwork is typical of Yuu Watase, light and delicate, remaining true to the romantic manga style. It might be a love story at heart, but there's also

comedy and plenty of action, and Watase's style is simply delightful. The best part is that Viz Media is releasing three volumes of this divine series at once. The books also contain notes from Watase herself and lots of extra artwork, making this one all shojo fans shouldn't miss! LESLEY SMITH

NEO VERDICT

A startling take on a fascinating, ancient Japanese legend given a compelling, modern-day twist.

RATING

