



SERAPHIC FEATHER 1 & 2

Violent Angels



IN THE FUTURE, MANKIND HAS colonised the moon, children possessing 'meta-talents' or psychic abilities are being born, and Sunao is among them. Gifted with psychokinetic abilities, he works as a mechanic on the moon. As a child, Sunao made a vow to find his friend Kei, who unexpectedly moved to the moon and left him a video recording to break the news.

Sunao and Kei are reunited when a bomb explodes and they become embroiled in

the hunt for mysterious alien artefacts called Emblem Seeds. At the same time, an alien ship has been discovered which could change humanity for the better, and the U.N. has sent Kei and her colleague, Attim M-Zak, to investigate.

Combining aliens, psychic powers, gratuitous nudity and childhood promises, *Seraphic Feather* is an interesting mix with beautiful artwork, including a large number of panels featuring carefully drawn, scantily-clad, female characters in striking poses.

However it is also filled with violence and various characters appear to be leading double lives which makes it confusing to figure out who's who. For example Attim M-Zak is also addressed as Apep and seems to love nothing better than going on murderous rampages. It's unclear in these early volumes whether said character is actually two different people who look similar or whether it's a case of Multiple Personality Disorder, either way, the confusion will put off many readers.

Other aspects of the story are also irregular. Kei is actually older than her beloved Sunao, however she still appears no older than fifteen while he seems to have aged well into adulthood. Unfortunately Kei also plays at being the stereotypical damsel in distress and hopeless romantic rolled into one, making the character seem boring and two dimensional.

Originally a staple of Dark Horse's monthly *Super Manga Blast* anthology, which ended its five and a half year run in December 2005, the first two volumes of *Seraphic Feather* are presented in an over-sized graphic novel format and flipped so they are read left to right (which may irk purists.)

Ultimately, this is a series worth a look for its impressive artwork, but it is let down by the incomprehensible plot and reliance on fan service and nudity for nudity's sake.

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