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Re:Zero: Starting Life In Another World, Vol. 1



Synopsis

Subaru Natsuki was just trying to get to the convenience store but wound up summoned to another world. He encounters the usual things--life-threatening situations, silver haired beauties, cat fairies--you know, normal stuff. All that would be bad enough, but he's also gained the most inconvenient magical ability of all--time travel, but he's got to die to use it. How do you repay someone who saved your life when all you can do is die?

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Shinichirou Otsuka is the artist of the light novel series RE:Zero. Tappei Nagatsuki is the author of the light novel series RE:Zero.

Re:ZERO is a Fantasy/Mystery novel, with light-hearted humor and love separated by violence and tragedy. It is one of the best and most original stories I've ever read. Far too often I feel stories are adhering to predictable stories and characters, almost as if they are written to be shallow and easy to digest at the cost of anything truly memorable. Re:ZERO is a brilliantly unpredictable. Each character is memorable and unique. The depth of their personalities, emotions, how they think, who they are, and their own histories are so meticulously crafted that even minor characters become unforgettable. The complexity of the characters is matched by the plot itself, leading the reader into a false sense of security, or tricking them into believing they can predict outcomes of encounters. For

each mystery solved in Re:ZERO, two more often take its place. This builds suspense that engrosses and carries the reader forward from each chapter to the next. Don't let the art fool you. This is a complicated, violent, mystery fantasy novel. Yes, it was written in Japan, and yes the cover art is unlike most novels sold in English speaking countries, but don't let what's unfamiliar to you stop you from giving this novel a chance. Treat this book as you would any famous American made series. Don't judge the outside of this book or its origins until you've given it a chance. You won't regret it. One last thing. As I said above, this novel is humorous, loving, and funny, but it is also very violent, and as the summary says, 'How do you repay someone who saves your life if all you can do is die,' be prepared for many cruel, heartbreaking moments in this story. The depth of characters makes the tragedies that much more meaningful, but you'll be happy you got to know them, even though they're only words in a book.

Re:Zero is a series that revisits several fantasy cliches with a unique and refreshing approach. The story focuses on its protagonist Subaru as he's suddenly thrust from modern day Japan into an unfamiliar world (called "Isekai" in Japan, meaning "Another World"), equipped only with the items he had on him in his original world and food he had just purchased from a local convenience store. Unlike your typical fantasy or isekai novel, Subaru finds that he has no particular skills or abilities giving him some advantage in this new world; in fact, the only item he has of any value is his tracksuit and his nearly dead cell-phone. The only thing resembling "fantasy" that he has going for him is a mysterious power to "Return by Death", in which whenever he dies he returns to a previous checkpoint, not determined by him, bringing the pain and mental trauma of that death back with him. Re:Zero is well written, full of excellent use of spoken and internal dialogue, and displays impressive prose throughout the descriptions of the world Subaru finds himself in and the people who inhabit it. The story is ripe with mystery and the unveiling of the plots and lore behind these mysteries is wonderfully done. While the series includes many isekai and fantasy tropes and cliches, it almost always approaches them in a novel or unfamiliar way, it contains violence, but also colorful images and text; it manages to progress the story in a way that includes comedy, horror, tragedy, romance, and character development with only occasional dragging, but manages to not feel like the story is being rushed to get to the next action scene like so many of in its genre do. This first volume covers the first arc or 4 episodes of the anime adaptation. The translation is very well done, especially with the internal dialogue, but the wording and pacing can become dry at times because of the lack of linguistic localization; it's a very honest translation, but may seem dull to some. As a whole I would highly recommend the series (and the anime) if you have an interest in

lore heavy fantasy, isekai novels, or simply enjoy new takes at old tropes.

Re: Zero is a fun story. It manages to embrace the anime fantasy genre while remaining very self-aware and even a little spoofy. It makes no attempt to hide the inspiration it received from anime such as Magic Knight Rayearth, Escaflowne, and Now and Then, Here and There. If you're looking for a fantasy story that pokes fun at its forebearers while still remaining serious, Re: Zero is for you. It was even popular enough to receive anime and manga adaptations. However, it does have an annoying flaw with its dialogue. It often doesn't tell you who's speaking, leaving you to figure it out for yourself. There were numerous times I found myself saying, "Wait, who said that? Was it Subaru? Oh, no, it was Satella." But aside from that, I have no trouble recommending Re: Zero.

It's taking me an annoyingly long time to finish Vol 1 of the light novel, mainly because I almost don't want to finish and go on to Vol 2 to then be stuck up a creek without a paddle due to the long time in between releases. I've seen the anime, which is by far at the top of my personal list as well as 2016's anime. I wanted to check out the light novel (and the manga, which I also bought) to see how well things were adapted as well as simply to own my first light novel. So far, mostly everything has been verbatim. I'm positive there are rather drastic changes further on since I am reading the web novel translation and there are a large number of things not mentioned in the anime, but overall I don't see the anime doing the source material an injustice at all. If you enjoyed the anime in the slightest, buy all the light novels and the mangas as they release. I imagine the number of sales and overall popularity is what determines whether or not we get a second season. Buy the visual novel too, though it won't have a whole lot to do with the main story as we know it from what I understand.

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