

ANIME REVIEW

CLAYMORE

Horror, Mystery & Emotions

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Horror and mystery go together, certainly. But adding emotional aspects to them takes courage along with skills. And that can be found in "Claymore". The manga is written and illustrated by Norihiro Yagi. You might not know him yet but you should.

The theme of the manga is based on human shape-shifters, called "yoma". They are more like poltergeists or monsters. The difference is that yoma can take the form of people or corpses.

The story starts with a yoma who remains hidden in an area. The mystery goes a notch up with "claymore" arriving on the scene. A lovely lady in armour with a 5-6 feet tall claymore (broadsword) – what is her purpose? What is her race? Why did she come here and why do people hate her so much? These questions will all plague you at first.

The ladies are called "claymores", after their swords. And inside them, reside yoma. It is the source of a claymore's power. But if it goes out of hand, it transforms the clay-

more. They may become the most powerful yoma, called "awakened beings". When this happens, they can rule lower-tier yomas. All of them belong to a third party called "The Organisation", who takes care of their needs. But the existence of The Organisation and the authority level is a matter of mystery too.

So, their own existence is a threat towards themselves and towards the human kind. That's why they are called claymores; the double-edged blades can cut both sides.

A claymore can still love, that's what we can see from the first episode of the anime. The action is magnificent as they show the true beauty of sword-fighting.

The anime, as of yet, is 26 episodes long, produced by Madhouse, who were the producers of *Death Note*. That should be motivation enough for a lot of people to pick it up. The director Hiroyuki Tanaka managed to mix horror, mystery action and romance all into one anime efficiently.



SAMIRA SERAJ

Grace MacBride and the other five partners of her software company, Monkeewrench, have created a new game titled "Serial Killer Detective" where the good guy always catches the bad guy. When they release the game on the test site, things get really scary. Someone in Minneapolis, most probably a serial killer, starts killing random people by enacting the crime scenarios of the game.

The Monkeewrench crew are positive that there's a connection between the murders and the game. But they're afraid to share this to the Minneapolis Police because by doing so they might open the closed gate to their dark and horrifying pasts. And if they don't then more innocent civilians might die in addition to the previous two.

This book by P. J. Tracy is a thrilling read because the writer does a wonderful job at keeping the reader confused and at the same time manages to give one a journey filled with outrageous suspense. Personally, I'm in love with the novel, its characters and almost everything else. Trust me when I say that you'll love the characters and their witty, sarcastic dialogues along with their styles, especially that of Annie Belinsky (a Monkeewrench partner). The playful banter between Harley Davidson (another partner) and Belinsky will amuse you and definitely make you laugh. The encounters between Grace MacBride and Detective Leo Magozzi will leave you wishing for a romance between the two. I definitely did.

There were so many times while reading the book I thought I had found the killer only to get more confused and thrown in a dark corner by the writer because of a new twist. All in all, you'll read the book with your heart beating faster than usual and when you're done, you'll definitely wish for a sequel. Go ahead and give this book a try.