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Descendants of Darkness #10

by [Kat Avila](#)

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Publisher

Viz

<http://www.viz.com>

Credits

Writer: Yoko Matsushita

Artist: Yoko Matsushita

Distributor: VIZ Media

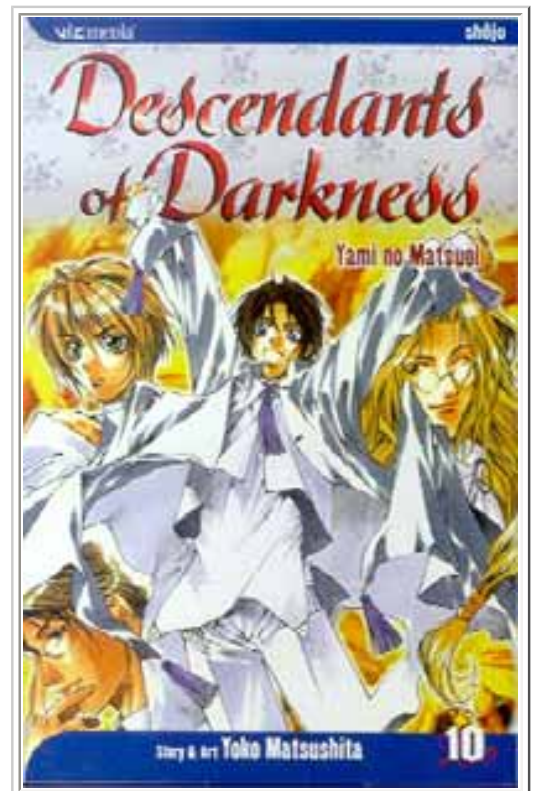
Translator: Lance Caselman

ISBN: 1-4215-0321-2

Grade: 9

Lovable and emotionally vulnerable, 26-year-old Asato Tsuzuki is a *shinigami* or guardian of death, and is unexpectedly the most powerful of 18 shinigami who work for the Judgment Bureau's Summons Department in the afterlife's Ministry of Hades. Except for section head Chief Konoe, the perpetually young Tsuzuki has worked for the department the longest — 70 years! Tsuzuki's job is to collect souls who have overstayed their earthly welcome, in other words, people who don't die at their appointed time.

Such souls are a problem for the Ministry's court since too many rescheduled judgment trials would create a logjam.



Tsuzuki and his partner cover Area 2, Japan's southern island of Kyushu. It's an assignment that doesn't see much action, and Tsuzuki has a tendency to lose his partners to more challenging assignments or for other reasons (as in the case of Seiichiro Tatsumi, Chief Konoe's budget-minded secretary).

Asato Tsuzuki's latest partner is stand-offish 16-year-old Hisoka* Kurosaki, who looks like a keeper. (*In the manga, Hisoka is referred to familiarly by his first name because of his youth and cultural practice.) Tsuzuki and Hisoka's personalities complement each other well. The two have been through a lot together, several volumes of adventures heavily involving the diabolical, half-insane (but still cool) surgeon Kazutaka Muraki, murderer of Hisoka's mortal form using a supernatural, poison-like curse.

To battle Muraki and other powerful adversaries, Tsuzuki has had to call upon one or more of his 12 protective, godlike and beastly *shikigami* (aka *shiki*): red phoenix Suzaku, a god of fire; white tiger Byakko, a god of wind; blue dragon Soryuu, a god of water; snake Touda, a god of black flames; and so forth. The reader meets the entire team in volume 10.

In volume 10 of ***Descendants of Darkness (Yami no Matsuei)***, Hisoka has journeyed to the "Imaginary World" to search for shiki in order to become a more powerful and worthy partner. (The current story arc began in volume 9.) The reader gets to see the human forms of Tsuzuki's shiki. Meanwhile in Kamakura, Seiichiro Tatsumi and Yutaka Watari of Area 6 (Kinki Division, which includes Kyoto) are busy investigating Hisoka's strange family.

Volume 10 is worth buying just for Yoko Matsushita's artful and sexy panels featuring Touda, especially the full shot on page 125 from his past; it's of him suffering in a timeless dungeon, his arms restrained by chains, naked except for arm and leg warmers. All that wonderful eye candy throughout!

I've been a longtime fan of ***Descendants of Darkness (Yami no Matsuei)***. Even before I saw a copy of the translated manga, I had already watched the anime and owned ***Yoko Matsushita's Character Book: Yami no Matsuei*** (it covers the first nine volumes of the manga and

is available in Japanese only). This manga series is among my top five favorites. Take a look at Tsuzuki's exuberance on the cover of volume 10, reflecting perhaps the creator's sense of accomplishment at having made it this far.

Matsushita-sensei's mood quickly switches from fun to dramatic to horrific and back, mostly fun. What an astounding ride through awesome landscapes with fantasy guys who would make anyone's best-dressed or best-costumed list.

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