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Hunter x Hunter #2by [Kat Avila](#)

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Publisher**Viz**<http://www.shonenjump.com>**Credits**

Writer: Yoshihiro Togashi

Artist: Yoshihiro Togashi

Distributor: VIZ, LLC

Translator: Lillian Olsen

ISBN: 1-59116-785-X

Grade: 7

Hisoka the Killer Magician, hunter candidate no. 44, is walking toward you. Of the 405 starters for the hunter licensing exam, less than half will survive the first phase, partly because the bloodthirsty Hisoka has decided to "help" the examiners. What do you do? Run ... or fight him? The money-hungry Leorio, no. 403, and the noble Kurapika, no. 404, must make a decision fast, otherwise they will end up dead with a razor-edged playing card in their neck, forehead, or heart.

Their friend Gon, no. 405, is with skateboarder Killua, no. 99, who may be another vicious killer like Hisoka. Gon is the wide-eyed upbeat hero of **Hunter x Hunter**. He aspires to be a hunter like his renowned but absentee father Ging.

Hunters are respected for their broad expertise and obsessive pursuits that take them around the world. For Gon, it's in the blood, as they say. Early on, Gon met a hunter Kite who told him about his father. Kite doesn't know where Ging is since his final test as Ging's student is to find his teacher.

The second phase examiners and gourmet hunters Buhara and Menchi await the survivors of the previous section. First phase examiner Satotz is impressed by the remaining 148 candidates as he had estimated fewer would make it through Swindler's Swamp filled with clever man-eating creatures. Though the second phase doesn't seem as tough as the first, only 40 candidates enter the third phase of the exam where one of the examiners and bounty hunter Lippo watches from an expansive video monitor room. The candidates must reach the base of a very tall tower within 72 hours. Instead of evading hungry predators, they will be fighting and trying to outwit imprisoned criminals.

I liked the rough close-up featuring one character at the beginning of each chapter. The characters appear lifelike in the sketches, as if Yoshihiro had done his drawing from actual models.

Hunter x Hunter is a fun read. Yoshihiro Togashi's storytelling stays one step ahead of predictions. The manga is alternately cute and mean. Togashi also expresses a gruesome sense of humor at times which many shounen (boys) manga readers will find entertaining.

Written: May 30, 2005

Published: June 1, 2005

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