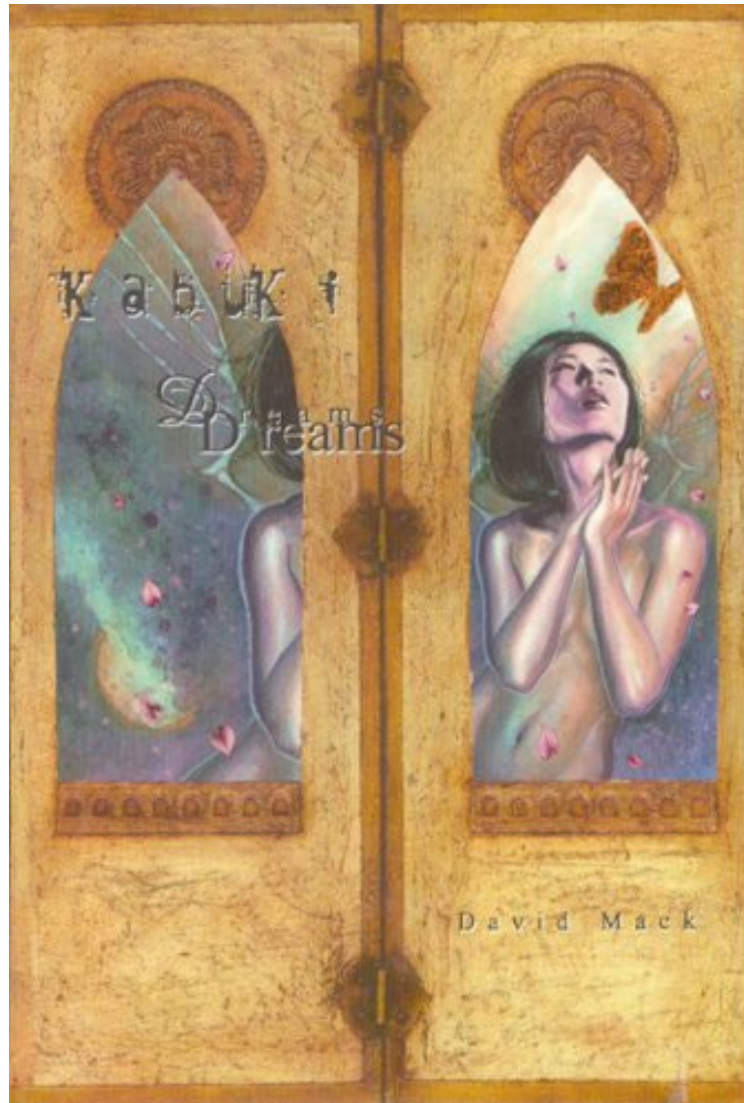


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## Kabuki Volume 2: Dreams

*David Mack*

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**David Mack : Kabuki Volume 2: Dreams** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Kabuki Volume 2: Dreams:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. An interesting combination of a poetic story with unique illustrations.By Joseph J. TruncaleMy interests in reading has always been wide and varied. I love martial art and self-defense books, science books, detective novels, mysteries and graphic novels. This was the first book I have ever read (Kabuki Dreams by David Mack)that combined a short poetic form of story telling along with unique and unusual drawings. Since I have had a life time of interest in the martial arts, especially the Japanese systems, (Judo, Jujitsu,

Karate-Do, Aikido, Kenjutsu, Wakizashi-jutsu, and Tanto jutsu), I decided to purchase this unusual book. I found Kabuki Dreams an interesting read and I loved the graphics, which are fantastic. This text is organized into four parts. The first part explains "the last poem." The second part covers "dreams of the dead." "One Half" is explored in part three. The final section is about "the return." I found the beautiful and exotic illustrations almost haunting, as if in a dream. The end portion of the book covered more information about the author/artist, David Mack, as well as more beautiful illustrations. In conclusion, anyone who is into the graphic novel genre is probably familiar with David Mack's work. If you love graphic illustrated books you should check out Kabuki Dreams. Rating: 4 Stars. Joseph J. Truncale (Author: The Samurai Soul: An old warrior's poetic tribute) 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Everyone should read Kabuki By Joseph C. David Mack's work is utterly visionary. A touch of Kill Bill's kind of cockiness. Artwork - also by Mack - is sublime. 6 of 6 people found the following review helpful. Strong on Art, Weak on Story By B Wallace I stumbled across David Mack's breathtaking Kabuki: Circle of Blood in a second-hand bookstore and found it absolutely amazing. The story follows Kabuki, a young female Japanese assassin involved in a tangled web of espionage, murder, and revenge, engaged in a deadly game of chess with an archenemy from her past. The black and white artwork gave Frank Miller's art from Sin City a run for its money, and the storytelling-- filled with allusions to philosophy, pop culture, literature, and Japanese culture-- was simply amazing, on par with Jeph Loeb and approaching even the great Alan Moore. Halfway through the book I went back to the second-hand book shop and picked up the used copy of Kabuki: Dreams that I had seen sitting on the shelf next to Circle of Blood. Upon finishing the first book in the series, I immediately turned to my prize: Dreams, the second book in the series, and began reading. Dreams begins right where Circle of Blood left off. What I saw when I turned to the first page was beautiful black and white imagery that could have come straight from the first volume. As I continued to read, the artwork began incorporating much more color, and the type of media began changing from inks to acrylic, to watercolor, to oil, to photography, then back again. When I finished the first chapter I was amazed at what I had seen-- David Mack was surely an artist on top of his game; however, as I tried to remember what I had read, I could not come up with anything. Such is the case with the rest of this book as well: great art, but very weak storytelling. What little story there is unfolds mainly in images, with little to no words at all. Though his sparse use of words makes what few words are there carry extra weight, there is only so much story that can be told with pictures, especially when the story is as metaphysical as it is in Dreams. Perhaps though, that is the point of this work, to try to convey ideas that are not very well expressed with words. Perhaps this is why I was disappointed with this volume: after the complex story of Circle of Blood, and the heady mix of action, suspense, and thoughtful contemplation contained therein, I was expecting more plot and action in Dreams, and there was neither. Some have written Kabuki: Dreams off as rubbish, while others have lauded it breathtakingly amazing; however, I believe it to be neither. To call it rubbish is to admit that this book flies over one's head, but to call it breathtakingly amazing is to place undue weight on deliberately vague storytelling that could be accused of masquerading as brilliance. This book is designed to be a bridge between Kabuki: Circle of Blood and Kabuki: Masks of the Noh, a bridge that gets the reader into the main character's head in a way that Circle of Blood was unable to do, and, when treated as such, this book succeeds. If you are interested in this book because you are expecting it to be in the same vein as Circle of Blood, as I was, then you will be severely disappointed. You will miss nothing in the overarching Kabuki saga if you skip this title and move on to Masks of the Noh. However, if you are interested in the psyche of Kabuki the character, if you want to find out more about her subconscious before continuing her journey with her, or if you simply want to see some art that is ahead of its time, then you will thoroughly enjoy this title. In summary, the artwork contained in this title is spectacular, and David Mack should be praised for his innovation and fearlessness as an artist. The story, though, is barely there, and will likely leave you disappointed and feeling fairly unfulfilled as a reader.

(W/A) David Mack Trade paperback The Concept: Japan. A horribly scarred woman has a vision of the afterlife in which she is visited by her dead mother, and then returns to life with a new sense of purpose. A personal tale of love, duty, and self discovery, elegantly told through the masks and metaphors of the Japanese Ghost Story. The long-awaited second volume in David Mack's critically acclaimed series. This Collection: Now back in print! Collecting four fully painted Kabuki stories (including a completely new story!) in a brand new and improved prestige edition with extra pages! Much more than the previous out-of-print 48-page Dreams paperback, this 128-page volume presents all of the very first-painted Kabuki books (Kabuki Color Special Kabuki: Dreams of the Dead), but also the fully painted Kabuki #, and an entire Brand New Kabuki story written and painted by David Mack, just for this volume! Also included in Kabuki for the first time ever, a completely autobiographical comic book story, written and drawn by David Mack, an in-depth Kabuki Spotlight and David Mack interview from France's Ekllipse Magazine, a gallery of original covers, an introduction by Brian Michael Bendis, and brand new afterword by David Mack, a brand new front and back cover (and lots of new art pages), and printed on new and improved, thicker high grade, archival paper. Having been out of print for some time, fans are looking for these early painted Kabuki stories and this book

delivers with loads of extras and a brand new painted story!