

JOJO'S BIZARRE ADVENTURE PART 1, PHANTOM BLOOD

by Hirohiko Araki

Published in 1987

Rating (0 stars is the absolute worst, 10 stars is the BEST BOOK EVER)



Genre(s):

Contemporary/Realistic

Action/adventure

Science Fiction

Fantasy

Romance

Horror

Mystery

Nonfiction

Historical fiction

Other: Manga

JoJo's Bizarre Adventure Part 1: Phantom Blood follows Jonathan Joestar, a kind-hearted young man whose life is upended when the cunning Dio Brando is adopted into his family. As the two grow up, their rivalry intensifies into something far darker, eventually leading to a battle that goes beyond ordinary human limits. Set in late 19th-century England, the story blends gothic elements with action as Jonathan is forced to confront a powerful and unnatural enemy.

In my opinion, this first part is a strong, if somewhat straightforward, introduction to the larger JoJo series. Hirohiko Araki leans heavily into dramatic storytelling, bold characters, and exaggerated conflicts, which gives the book a unique charm even if the pacing can feel rushed at times. Jonathan is a classic noble hero, and while he may seem simple compared to later protagonists, his determination and sense of honor make him easy to root for. The art style is also distinct, with a theatrical flair that sets the tone for the rest of the series.

I do think people should read this book, especially if they're interested in getting into JoJo as a whole. It's best suited for readers who enjoy over-the-top action, clear-cut rivalries, and a mix of horror and adventure. However, those looking for complex character development or subtle storytelling might find it a bit basic compared to later parts. Overall, it's an important and entertaining starting point that lays the foundation for everything that comes after.

By Aashutosh A, 7th grade, enjoys reading manga