



## Hagakure: The Code of the Samurai (The Manga Edition)

By Yamamoto Tsunetomo, Sean Michael Wilson, William Scott Wilson

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**Hagakure: The Code of the Samurai (The Manga Edition)** By Yamamoto Tsunetomo, Sean Michael Wilson, William Scott Wilson

Based on William Scott Wilson's definitive translation, adapted by scriptwriter and comic book/manga author Sean Wilson, and with lively drawings by well-known illustrator Chie Kutsuwada, this first-ever graphic treatment of what's considered the most influential of all samurai treatises is sure to delight manga fans, martial arts enthusiasts, and students of Japanese culture.

Reminiscent of *The Arabian Nights* in structure, *Hagakure* is a collection of tales and anecdotes that offer instruction and insight into the philosophy and code of behavior that foster the true spirit of Bushido - the Way of the Warrior. A young, upcoming samurai seeks the advice of an older, seasoned warrior who has become a Zen monk. The ambitious young samurai humbly begs to learn from the old master, who consents. So begins a series of eventful meetings.

At each sitting, the master tells his young student tales of samurai past. Tales of famous warriors are recited, as well as ignoble gaffs. With brutal, unrelenting samurai justice, wrongs are righted and judgment is enacted. With each incident, the young novice learns what it means to be a samurai. Learns what courage and right thought are. Learns the harsh realities and subtle wisdom of his age.

Writer Sean Wilson and illustrator Chie Kutsuwada both bring ample experience in the genre to this project. And, as an added bonus, William Scott Wilson, the translator of the original Kodansha International version of the book, provides an illuminating Afterword.

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### Editorial Review

#### From the Author

Hi all, this is Sean Michael Wilson, the clever wee lad who made the manga script adaptation of *Hagakure*.

Recently our *Hagakure*:manga edition has received two 5 star reviews at the UK version of Amazon. One of them is by a Doctor Sahal, and is an ideal example of the kind of intelligent adult reader who doesn't like manga or comic books normally, but loves THIS book. His review is so perfectly fitted to what our aim was that it's like we wrote it ourselves! (but we didn't - shojiki desu!).

One of the main aims we had at Kodansha International (now USA, Inc) was to add to the growing, yet still small amount of 'mature manga' available in English. To show that manga can tackle difficult subjects of history, philosophy, culture, etc in a way that is both interesting and intelligent. 'Of course they can!' is the cry of those smart people already in the know, but most still don't appreciate this. So please pick up a copy of *HAGAKURE: THE MANGA EDITION* and see for yourself.

#### About the Author

**Sean Michael Wilson** has written a number of new and forthcoming comics and manga books and has also edited *AX: Alternative Manga*, a collection of cutting-edge Japanese manga in English. He lives in Japan but travels abroad frequently to attend comics, manga and anime conventions.

**Chie Kutsuwada** is the respected manga artist of Shakespeare's *As You Like It* and other works. She has lectured and taught manga workshops around Britain at such venues as Victoria & Albert Museum and the British Library. She lives in the U.K.

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##### **Myra Flory:**

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##### **Richard Bentley:**

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**Patricia Oyler:**

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**Eugene Williams:**

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