



Fullmetal Alchemist: The Valley of the White Petals

Makoto Inoue , Alexander O. Smith (Translator) , Rich Amtower (Translator)

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Roy sends Edward and Alphonse on a search for a supposedly nonexistent town named Wisteria, which has been rumored to be a paradise, in a desert, surprisingly. However, the town really does exist but is isolated from outside contact. Ed and Al are granted entrance into the town after helping Ruby, a girl who lives in Wisteria and serves as one of the best guards of the town to keep unwanted people from coming in. Ruby introduces the brothers to the mayor of the town, and explains that the town runs on the law of Equivalent Exchange, so everyone works to get in reward their needs. After exploring the town, Al considers staying there forever, while Ed questions the town's system. Ed then meets a young boy who has been friends with Ruby before they came to Wisteria, and Ed learns of the poverty in the town that falls upon those who cannot work like everyone else. Ed and Al set out to prove the mayor of the town wrong.

Fullmetal Alchemist: The Valley of the White Petals Details

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From Reader Review Fullmetal Alchemist: The Valley of the White Petals for online ebook

Samantha says

I really liked how this story was more focused on Alphonse! Poor guy doesn't get enough credit.

However, the story was a little bit boring, and I didn't really like any of the other characters in it aside from Ed and Al.

Melody says

A great story set in the Fullmetal Alchemist universe! Honestly a ridiculously quick read.

locrian says

if you want to read fma fanfic, you're better off reading the free stuff online than this shit.

King Haddock says

I'm rating this a three star moreso from person preference than objective quality. Personally, I was slightly less interested in this story's topic than I was the other light novels.

However, content-wise, this has the most solid plot in the Fullmetal Alchemist light novels I have read thus far. Furthermore, I feel like it got into more thoughtful depth than the first two light novels, much appreciated since #2 never tackled the nuances of military imperfection. There were good quotes here in "The Valley of the White Petals" like:

"Would you say the people living here in Wisteria are living, thinking people... or puppets, like in a puppet show?"

Ruby frowned. "They're people of course," she replied, rolling her eyes at the inane question.

Edward shook his head. "Not if they stop asking questions they aren't," he said quietly.

and

"It's hard to see into the shadow when you're blinded by the light."

And, like all of Makoto Inoue's FMA stories, there is a fair share of amusement to be had. The start and end of the novel ESPECIALLY tickled me. Worth reading if you enjoyed any of the other FMA light novels.

Kristen Sharpe says

Like the previous two Fullmetal Alchemist novels, the plot is carried less by the manga and anime's trademark alchemy action and more by the slowly building plot and the character interactions. Both are well done in this installment, and I enjoyed following Ed and Al as they uncovered Wisteria's secrets. The only downside to me was that the antagonist would have been more interesting if they hadn't immediately devolved into spouting villainous cliches as soon as their scheme was revealed.

Teno Q. says

An entertaining little side-story that gives you a glimpse of Edward and Alphonse's adventures during the 3-year time skip in the anime and manga. At the beginning I had a vague feeling of déjà vu, as the setup of this story is similar to the Lior arc at the beginning of the first anime and the manga, and it does little to distinguish itself from that arc, even later on in the story. However, characterization is intact, as well as the series' overarching themes of morality, fairness and the principle of Equivalent Exchange.

The ending was a cop-out that bumped it down from four to three stars for me. Characters that were previously staunch in their beliefs and ideals changed at the drop of a hat, and it rushed to tie up the loose ends into a neat little bow much too quickly, colouring all the interesting grey areas it had previously created black and white.

The writing is a little awkward at times, but not nearly so much as other reviews might lead you to believe, and it's not as juvenile either. Overall a fun read, though it doesn't contain anything of substance and does not add much to the series as a whole. I would recommend it to FMA fans ages 12 and up.

Izzy says

Overall I thought this book was alright. If anyone wants to get the gist about how the Elric brothers' journey is like, then I'm sure they would be interested in this book. This is a bit of fast-pace reading, but will really let the reader feel as if they're in Fullmetal Alchemist world. Also, if anyone wants more of Alphonse's perspective, I'm also sure that many of you Alphonse fans would appreciate his side of the story.

"The Valley of White Petals" was the town—also known as Wisteria—that the Elric brothers were ordered to investigate. It may have seemed like any other town that the brothers have investigated before, but to their surprise, it was actually a town that lives by the law of Equivalent Exchange; this made both brothers highly interested with this town. The brothers being able to revolve their lives around a law that they know well because of alchemy. Seems like a paradise for the brothers, right?

Well, I can't spoil too much of the story, but for the most part there's nothing new about Ed and Al. Besides this being a side story, there are new characters in this volume that mostly show their dedication to Wisteria. The only flawed thing I have to say about it is how the new characters (especially Ruby) were completely oblivious to the town's current situation. That frustrated me a bit while I was reading it. Other than that, the story all together was still fun to read.

? ?? says

The law of equivalent exchange sounds like a pretty good law to me... If that law existed here in reality...I wonder what life would be like for us... Would it be a good balanced world? Or, would it be a dark and uncaring world?

Stephanie Fachiol says

(True rating: 3.5/5)

Of the FMA light novels, this one holds a special place in my heart. Like the others, the prose can be utilitarian, and antagonists rather flat, but what sets this one apart is the examination of past and future... and Alphonse's character.

The Valley of White Petals finds Ed and Al searching for the mysterious city Wisteria under orders from Mustang. What started as a favor turns into genuine interest as the brothers find out the city runs entirely on the principle of Equivalent Exchange, alchemy's basis, and the guiding principle for their own lives.

The examination of Equivalent Exchange isn't anything particularly new; those who have read the original manga, or seen Dante's speech 'debunking' it in the 2003 anime, will already be familiar with some of the grey areas the novel addresses. The arguments are presented well, but they're not completely original. However, Alphonse has an interesting character development arc as he wonders if his chasing the past is ruining his chances for happiness in the future. His tireless body could help people--is he being selfish by trying to get rid of it? Is he throwing away a chance at contentedness in the present for the dim possibility he may regain what he once had, someday in the future?

Even though Al grapples with these questions, the novel does not offer much else in the way of characters. Ed's thoughts are still rather obvious, and while Inoue writes the characters true to canon, he seems hesitant to fully explore them. Similarly, Ruby, an original character for the novel, has a unique perspective on Wisteria's situation, and even acts as a bit of a love interest for Al, but her final development is rushed in a climax more concerned with beating up the bad guy than giving a lasting resolution to the questions the story addresses, philosophical or otherwise. As a villain, Raygen's motivations are obscure, and while his actions are horrendous, his stock 'evil grins' and maniacal laughter make him hard to take seriously.

The novel shows the weaknesses of the light novel clearly: rushed character development in favor of witty dialogue, and a rushed story in favor of a little more action. Despite its flaws, however, it is still an enjoyable read. It's on the more serious side of the FMA light novels--the wry humor of *The Abducted Alchemist* is more understated here--and while it isn't quite as good as Arakawa's original works, it supplements them rather nicely.

(Plus... Al's mini-romance is adorable)

Christine says

I really liked this one. I liked the first one, hated the second one, and loved this one. Wisteria is a very interesting little town, and its inhabitants are interesting as well. The ending is a bit rushed, however. Still, if

you are a fan of the FMA franchise, please read this book and the other light novels!

Vicemage says

Overall, if you like the Fullmetal Alchemist story, this is a fun read. It doesn't really contribute anything to the main storyline (it's an unrelated side story) or teach you anything you didn't already know about the characters, but it's a fun, fluffy read with a couple of nice illustrations and the usual fun "afterword" from Arakawa.

Whether it's because it's a different writer or a different translation team, the dialogue in these books never seems completely in character, but it's generally close enough. The actions of the characters tend to be well enough IC, at least, and their reactions to the events of the story likewise.

The story focus is heavily on Edward and Alphonse, with few to no appearances from other members of the cast; most of the characters are unique to this story, so they're unfamiliar to even fans of the series. You get to know a little about them within the story, but it never seems like quite enough to truly begin to care about them. The residents of the town of Wisteria are all introduced a little too rapid-fire for my personal liking, making it a challenge to distinguish them later in the climax of the story. The setting of Wisteria, however, is nicely realized and creates an interesting dynamic for the story. It plays out a bit predictably, but I wasn't really expecting any great twists and surprises, just a fun read, and on that level at least, the book did deliver.

Jerry says

The story continues in this third outing...and so does the fun and adventure.
