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# Sumo



## Synopsis

Scott is a washed-up football player who never made it, and whose girlfriend abandoned him along with his dreams of playing pro football. But things have a way of working out, in this sweet, poetic tale--and a new chapter in Scott's life begins as the old one ends. Offered a position in a Japanese sumo training "stable," Scott abandons his old life, his old name, and even his old hair color, and becomes an aspiring sumo wrestler. And in so doing, he begins to find some kind of center in himself...a center that had seemed lost for good. Thien Pham, the acclaimed illustrator of Gene Luen Yang's *Level Up*, returns as the writer and artist of a unique new graphic novel. Highly poetic and structured to echo the slow build and sudden clash of a sumo match, Pham's *Sumo* is an unusual and beautiful book. It's nearly a contradiction in terms: a delicate, deft, tender tale about...sumo wrestling.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

You certainly wouldn't expect a graphic novel about sumo wrestling, the very physical definition of excess in mass and irresistible force, to be as thoughtfully understated as Pham's first complete work (he drew Gene Luen Yang's *Level Up*, 2011, with aplomb). Yet . . . Reeling from both a bad breakup and the failure to make it in the NFL, Scott heads to Japan to begin a career as a rikishi (sumo wrestler). Now an outsider struggling to master the art and culture of his new calling, itself a dying tradition, he finds he can't outrun the crisis of coming-of-age, though help comes from the friendship-plus of his coach's daughter. With a

simple drawing style that gets a great boost from effective single-tone coloring, Pham uses blocky figures and symbolic nods to convey the graceful contradictions in size and speed, strength and small gestures that make sumo as much an art form as a sport. There is a gemlike simplicity in the deeply personal yet reserved story of Scott's fruition, and a reminder to never mistake quiet for small. Grades 9-12. --Ian Chipman

"Here is a gemlike simplicity in the deeply personal yet reserved story of Scott's fruition, and a reminder to never mistake quiet for small." Booklist

I really enjoyed reading through this. The art and story are simple to perfect effect. You leave the book almost without words at what was just conveyed. Some of the best and most honest messages are the simple ones and I can't thank Thien enough for bringing this out in his first solo book. The layout and structure worked perfectly for the story. It also doesn't hurt that there are some fantastically genuine moments that ring so true. The kind where you see yourself and your friends or loved ones fitting right alongside the characters. Laughing aloud at subtle and not-so-subtle quips between friends. Perfect gift. Great with a cup of tea.

My son received "Sumo" as a Christmas gift. He had not read this author before but he likes this genre. He was very pleasantly surprised to receive it and was happy he did.

Even though this book is short, it has a great story and it all ties in nicely, it is definitely worth a read.

Good story with great illustrations. Good first graphic novel by this author/illustrator. I've seen his illustrations in other graphic novels but this is nice.

A nice little story. It is a good introduction to sumo wrestling. The art is not that complicated either. Sweet

Reason for Reading: I read a lot of manga, and the occasional English translated Japanese novel, and am thus interested in Japanese culture. Yet I know absolutely nothing about Sumo, except the usual misconceptions and I thought this brief volume would give me some insight to the culture of Sumo. The book didn't really do for me what I had hoped it would do. It is not so much actually about the art of Sumo, as it is about the main character Scott, now called Hakygei. A failed football player

in a small town whose girlfriend dumps him when he's no longer being scouted. 18yo Scott decides to leave his old life behind and start anew, in a new country, with a new goal: Sumo and to create something of himself. It is a coming-of-age tale. Scott always found football easy and he's now finding Sumo hard, something he really has to work at. He's thought of giving up, taking the easy way out again, but he's met a girl, who believes in him more than anyone (including himself) ever has before. This is a slow story. I suppose comparisons between it and Sumo could be made but I don't know anything about Sumo so can't make that connection. And that is my only complaint with the book; I would have like to have actually learned how Sumo is played, scored, how the gracefulness despite the immense size of the participants is accounted for, it's allure, etc.

After failing at the American professional football career he hoped for, Scott take a big step. He moves to Japan to try and become a professional sumo wrestler. It sounds like the stuff jokes are made of, but this book is an extremely quiet, reflective coming of age story. The reactions of his friends and his girlfriend to his decision. What he finds inside himself in an unfamiliar environment, hoping this second chance will actually pan out, because he doesn't know what to do if it doesn't. Pham is just such a genuine, delicate storyteller. The art complements the mood of the book perfectly. My husband and I barely discussed this book after we read it, because all we could do was look at each other and say "Whoa. That was REALLY good." (This is why we don't do video reviews. You're welcome.)

Lovely Fairy Princess Aiko! Aiko! My girl. You are a princess and star. As it is fundamental. And responsibly at all times. Why are you not sleeping elephant? Over the following toys? That's on the side of the ball. In tennis, he plays the game. Barbie doll is that it? You did not learn again? You certainly grown. Interests and deeds. Love you always ballet. The violin is not even dispute. "Dance Lesson", the Degas. After all, harmony is complex. That model fashioned. The robot in the future is beautiful. Planetarium you love. Sports always your dreams. Why do you love? Personality sing whole. Gallery! [https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1061702203851441&set=rp&\\_nc=1](https://www.facebook.com/photo.php?fbid=1061702203851441&set=rp&_nc=1) 100000350150320&type=3&theater [http://www..com/Red-Fuji-Hokusai-customs-ancestors/dp/1517351022/ref=sr\\_1\\_32?ie=UTF8&qid=1453318578&sr=8-32&keywords=Iliyan+Yurukov](http://www..com/Red-Fuji-Hokusai-customs-ancestors/dp/1517351022/ref=sr_1_32?ie=UTF8&qid=1453318578&sr=8-32&keywords=Iliyan+Yurukov) [http://www..com/Red-Fuji-Hokusai-customs-ancestors/dp/1517351022/ref=sr\\_1\\_32?ie=UTF8&qid=1453318578&sr=8-32&keywords=Iliyan+Yurukov](http://www..com/Red-Fuji-Hokusai-customs-ancestors/dp/1517351022/ref=sr_1_32?ie=UTF8&qid=1453318578&sr=8-32&keywords=Iliyan+Yurukov) [http://www..com/All-best-children-education-computer/dp/1512074772/ref=tmm\\_pap\\_swatch\\_0?\\_encoding=UTF8&qid=1453318683&sr=8-60](http://www..com/All-best-children-education-computer/dp/1512074772/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0?_encoding=UTF8&qid=1453318683&sr=8-60) [http://www..com/Accidents-races-religions-accidents-architecture/dp/1523306181/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1453319190&sr=8-1&keyword](http://www..com/Accidents-races-religions-accidents-architecture/dp/1523306181/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1453319190&sr=8-1&keyword)

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