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Monster, Vol. 1: The Perfect Edition



Synopsis

Johan is a cold and calculating killer with a mysterious past, and brilliant Dr. Kenzo Tenma is the only one who can stop him! Conspiracy and serial murder open the door to a compelling, intricately woven plot in this masterwork of suspense. Everyone faces uncertainty at some point in their lives. Even a brilliant surgeon like Kenzo Tenma is no exception. But there's no way he could have known that his decision to stop chasing professional success and instead concentrate on his oath to save people's lives would result in the birth of an abomination. The questions of good and evil now take on a terrifyingly real dimension. Years later, in Germany during the tumultuous post-reunification period, middle-aged childless couples are being killed one after another. The serial killer's identity is known. The reasons why he kills are not. Dr. Tenma sets out on a journey to find the killer's twin sister, who may hold some clues to solving the enigma of the "Monster."

Book Information

Series: Monster (Book 1)

Paperback: 426 pages

Publisher: VIZ Media LLC; Tra edition (July 15, 2014)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 142156906X

ISBN-13: 978-1421569062

Product Dimensions: 5.8 x 1.3 x 8.2 inches

Shipping Weight: 1.2 pounds (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.8 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

Best Sellers Rank: #78,068 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #32 in Books > Comics &

Graphic Novels > Manga > Mystery #286 in Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga >

Media Tie-In

Customer Reviews

Gr 8 Up • Soviet-era spy mystery meets medical drama in this manga about a young doctor struggling to navigate the world of professional politics and murder. Dr. Tenma is the third son in a family of doctors, who left Japan years ago to work under his idol in a hospital in Dusseldorf, Germany. His brilliance in surgery is matched only by his kindness to his patients, and his sense of obligation to everyone who comes through the door. He's on the fast track to promotion and power, until he refuses the hospital director's order to leave the victim of a brutal crime on the table and go

help the mayor instead. Suddenly he goes from the cusp of a bright future to a grunt. His fiancée leaves him, his promotion is given away, and his patients are removed from his care. But when the men who took everything from Tenma wind up suddenly dead, he's set down a path that will change his life forever. This volume will please manga fans who crave history and humans over fantasy and fighting. The art is well done; characters are clearly defined from each other, with exaggerated features (noses, eyebrows, hair) that look perfectly in place in a 1980s flashback. Younger readers should be warned of violence (mostly off-screen), death, and murder. A good supplemental purchase for anime clubs.

—Clair Segal, Horace Mann School, New York City

Naoki Urasawa's career as a manga artist spans more than twenty years and has firmly established him as one of the true manga masters of Japan. Born in Tokyo in 1960, Urasawa debuted with *BETA!* in 1983 and hasn't stopped his impressive output since. Well-versed in a variety of genres, Urasawa's oeuvre encompasses a multitude of different subjects, such as a romantic comedy (*Yawara! A Fashionable Judo Girl*), a suspenseful human drama about a former mercenary (*Pineapple ARMY*; story by Kazuya Kudo), a captivating psychological suspense story (*Monster*), a sci-fi adventure manga (*20th Century Boys*), and a modern reinterpretation of the work of the God of Manga, Osamu Tezuka (*Pluto*: Urasawa x Tezuka; co-authored with Takashi Nagasaki, supervised by Macoto Tezuka, and with the cooperation of Tezuka Productions). Many of his books have spawned popular animated and live-action TV programs and films, and 2008 saw the theatrical release of the first of three live-action Japanese films based on *20th Century Boys*. No stranger to accolades and awards, Urasawa received the 2011 Eisner Award for Best U.S. Edition of *International Material* in Asia, and is a three-time recipient of the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award, a two-time recipient of the Osamu Tezuka Cultural Prize, and also received the Kodansha Manga Award. Urasawa has also become involved in the world of academia, and in 2008 accepted a guest teaching post at Nagoya Zokei University, where he teaches courses in, of course, manga.

Like most *Monster* fans, I'm excited to see this series being reprinted in omnibus format (2 in 1) since the original volumes are out of print. A new volume will come out every 3 months for a total of 9 volumes. It'll be a long journey, but so worth it! This volume covers the first 16 chapters, ending with "One Soldier and One Girl." The quality of the manga is excellent. It has the same paper quality and size as *Pluto*, which was also created by Naoki Urasawa. This means that the pages feel nice and durable, and the pictures/text are big and crisp. Best of all, it has colored pages at the

beginning and end of the book! Also note that this volume is twice as thick and a little bigger than the original volumes, yet still very easy to handle. Definitely check this out if you are a fan of Monster, even if you have the original volumes. Personally, I prefer the new cover art, size, and paper quality of this volume. Just amazing overall.

Great quality of book for a literary classic.

I watch the anime a year or so ago and loved it so when I saw they were reprinting the manga, I had to get on board. An hour after it came in and I am already over halfway through the first volume. Good read, even for people who don't usually read manga.

One of my favorite manga series of all time! The book was beautiful and precious :) The images are printed on high quality paper.

I've already read all of Monster. It's an absolutely masterpiece. And this new Perfect Editions are absolutely amazing. Well worth picking up for any fan of manga, or thrillers.

Thanks!

Besides the fact that this is one of the greatest manga ever written, the new volumes are fantastic. Printed on bigger paper, and with the addition of color pages in the beginning and end of the book, this is absolutely a must buy.

Very very good. Another example of something that could be made into a live action movie. Only complaint is they're not all out yet!

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