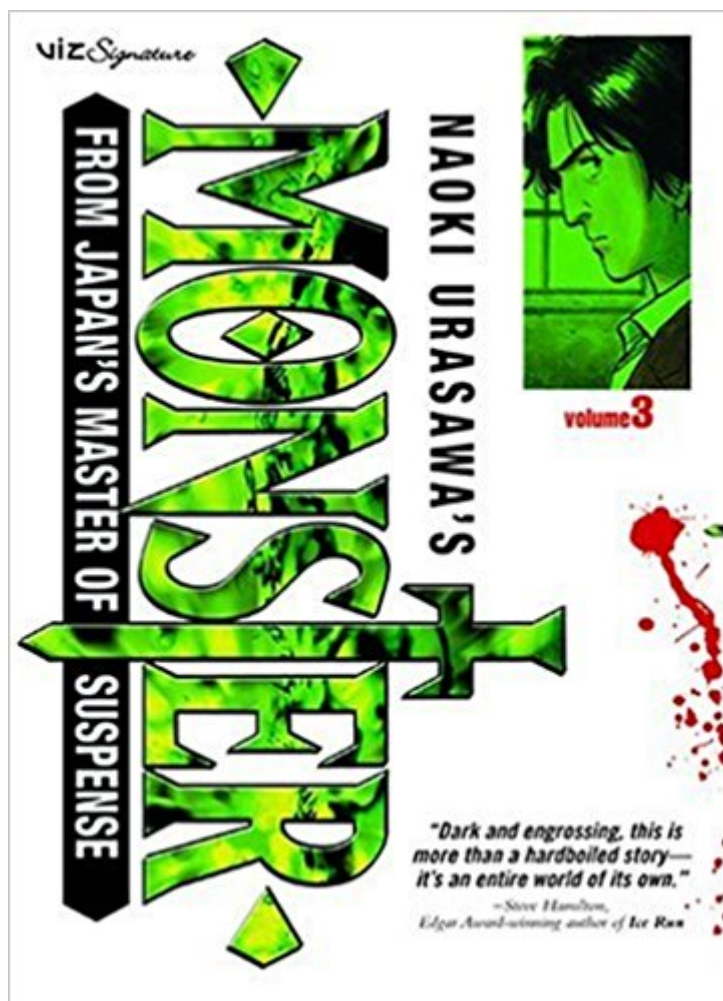


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Naoki Urasawa's Monster, Vol. 3



Synopsis

Book by Urasawa, Naoki

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

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 is a three-time recipient of the prestigious Shogakukan Manga Award, a two-time recipient of the Osamu Tezuka Cultural Prize, and has received the Kodansha Manga Award. Similarly, *Monster* has been nominated three times for the Eisner Award in America. 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.

Arrived in condition specified as. Will enjoy reading the book.

awesome

Good Quality Book. Good Read.

This is the continuation of a series of Manga. Once you start reading the first volume, you can't put it down! With each volume the plot gets thicker and the suspense increases. I loved how the story takes place over different part of Europe; there is a feel that this is Jason Borne in Manga form! I thought it was also neat to see how this was originally in Japanese but the author and the artist gave great attention to detail concerning Europe, it's look, the specific city and location and the subculture. This series does a good job with developing the characters and getting the readers interested as soon as they are introduced. The part that made me interested in this series are the philosophical themes throughout the book. The antagonist is known as "him," or the "monster." We often think of monster as aesthetically ugly but here the villain is someone that is attractive and seem normal. This villain is also one who is able to perpetuate his plans by manipulating other people and taking advantage of what motivates them. In some sense the monster is a demonic figure or an Anti-Christ. It made me ponder a lot about how this illustrate spiritual truth of spiritual warfare that the devil out there is one who knows us and take advantage of our weaknesses and motivation.

Monster is a carefully constructed thriller that builds with each passing chapter. It really must be read from the beginning. This is a fantastic volume featuring three multi-chapter tales that are kind of "side stories" but don't feel like it. Everything along Tenma's journey always relates back to his pursuit of Johan and/or revealing important details about our main characters and their personalities. The secondary characters are incredibly well developed and make quite an impression even when they only appear briefly. I'm finding that I've forgotten a lot of details from my first read of the series a couple years ago, so I'm getting caught up in the twists just as much as I did the first time through. Urasawa masterfully balances Tenma's exploration of the twins' past with the concerns of the present to achieve great depth to his narrative. We end on ominous developments for Inspector Lunge that provide a great hook for the next installment. Highly recommended.

I have been looking to get into this series, but...book 3, \$289.10? Really? Too rich for my blood!
Next review, if any, will be an actual street view of the Heidelberg U, if I feel lucky!

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