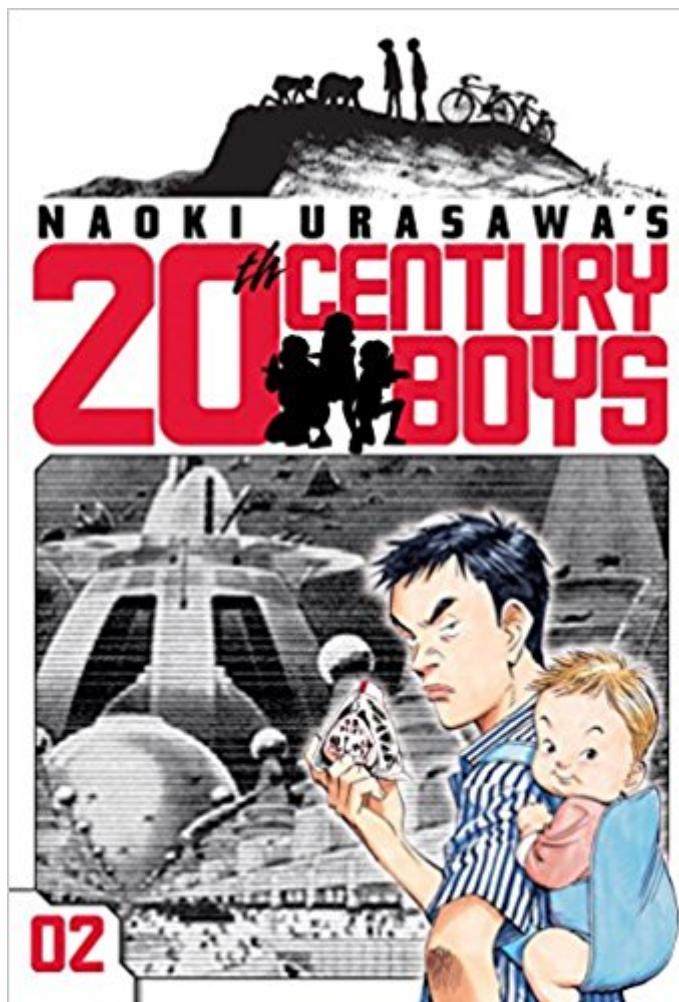


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Naoki Urasawa's 20th Century Boys, Vol. 2: The Prophet



Synopsis

R to L (Japanese Style) Failed rock musician Kenji's memories of his past come rushing back when one of his childhood friends mysteriously commits suicide. Could this new death be related to the rise of a bizarre new cult that's been implicated in several other murders and disappearances? Determined to dig deeper, Kenji reunites with some of his old buddies in the hope of learning the truth behind it all. The Friend, an enigmatic cult leader who plans to destroy the world, declares, "The cosmos has begun choosing those who are true friends." Meanwhile, horrifying incidents are taking place: the emergence of a mysterious virus, the death of a detective, the revelations of a man on the run... Kenji tries to find out who this Friend is, but the answer is still far ahead. The footsteps of doom slowly creep closer and a shadow falls over the city...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Naoki Urasawa has been a highly recognized and successful manga artist for more than twenty years. Creator of popular series such as 20TH CENTURY BOYS and YAWARA, Urasawa has been the recipient of numerous prestigious awards including the first Japanese Media Art Festival Manga Award of Excellence, the Osamu Tezuka Culture Award in 1999, and the 46th Shogakukan Manga Award. Naoki Urasawa's Monster has thrilled and entertained well over 25 million readers in Japan.

This volume was better than the first . The mystery of the friend was set firmly in the audiences view . The cults sinister abilities was set as well . This was the issue that hooked me . This is a must read

for not just manga lovers but lovers of story

Only a few volumes deep, and I can comfortably say the 20th Century Boys is the most engaging manga, or graphic novel of any type, that I've read thus far. The character designs, personalities, dialogue, suspense, and effective transitions between the present time and the protagonists childhood memories are executed so smoothly. My respect goes to the translators as well for truly bringing this story to life for us English speakers. A true masterwork.

If the first volume didn't bind you to this series then the 2nd one will, by the last page of volume 2 this series completely owned the highest admiration I can give a manga series. It evoked a lot of emotions from me without being cheap about it. No I didn't cry, I'm just invested in the future of all the characters and can't wait to see what lays in wait for them all. I'm going to start reading Monster now (also by this author) while I anxiously await the upcoming volumes. The only negative about this series is the price, but to be honest for something this good...the \$12.99 retail price doesn't bother me one bit because this series is SO WORTH IT!

Birthday gift. He loved it!

Got this for my daughter, she read it in a day.

20th Century Boys, Vol. 2 is a startling mix of the mundane and the surreal. Kenji, the boy who dreamed of saving the world, has grown up to be a King Mart manager and ersatz father to his sister's daughter, who he constantly carries on his back. Meanwhile, germ warfare is at hand, and an ever-growing cult seems to be behind it. The cult has a bizarre symbol of a hand within an eye, with an eye in the hand. The symbol turns up in the strangest of places. Reading 20th Century Boys, I feel like a murder suspect under interrogation. I'm constantly barraged by arcs I can relate to and arcs that no one should have to relate to. The artwork is detailed and marvelous, with Urasawa's trademark facial expressions. The volume also ends on a cliffhanger, like usual. I'm really enjoying this series. ****3/4

And the mystery deepens! How is a childhood game played by Kenji and his friends related to this mysterious 'Friend' and his plans for the world? Why is Kenji the one person who can save humanity? Who is the 'Friend'? Could it be Otcho, the leader of the gang when they were kids,

mysteriously missing for these 9 years? Why exactly does the 'Friend' world domination is the end all plan? In the second volume of 20th Century Boys things begin to grow murkier as Kenji investigates further into his friend Donkey's 'suicide' and the mysterious symbol from his youth. I can easily understand why people can liken the narrative progression to that of the tv series Lost. The 'present', 1997, is used as the jumping up point. From there we jump back and forth between events of Kenji's childhood that directly relate to the current issues. Every so often events jump to December of 2000--when a disaster is about to change the world. We learn more about Kiriko, Kanna's mother and Kenji's older sister, who raised Kenji and saved him more often than he thought from death. Through his memories we easily can see why he feels it is so important for him to take care of Kanna and no one else. We meet and learn more about Yukiji, a relentless tomboy from Kenji's youth who was one day 'saved' by Kenji from the neighborhood bullies. A homeless man who is called 'Kamisama' (God) by his fellows because he can see into the future on occasion dreams of the destruction to come and how to perhaps prevent it. Once again Viz's presentation is wonderful and makes reading this series enjoyable. This is, in many ways, a hard manga to read for casual readers. There isn't a lot of 'action' or such, outside of the scifi elements and Friend plot, this is more about life and how life changes you. From Kenji's regrets that his sister was never able to do what she wanted because she was constantly caring for him to Yukiji's disappointment that Kenji couldn't stand up to the 'knight in shining armor' she remembered from her youth. Volume 3 is due out in June, with volume 4 following in August, five following in October and 6 following in December. If Viz holds to schedule, you really only have to wait every other month for the series, which is wonderful because this is a series you don't want to lose a grasp of the details on.

After reading volume 1 in this series and finding myself really enjoying the story line I just had to keep on reading. Luckily, volume 2 was readily available at my library so I was able to snag the next volume within a day of reading volume 1. I am really getting involved in the story line. The character development is strong. I truly have my characters I like and don't like. I feel committed to continuing with the series to find out the many answers to the questions I have. I like the main character Kenji. He is a well balanced main character that helps move the story along at the right pace. He is a good counterbalance to some of the other dynamic and one sided characters. I am not sure what else to share in the review without giving away too much plot. I will simply state that if you give this series a try and enjoy volume you will not be disappointed in volume 2. Not off to find volume 3.

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