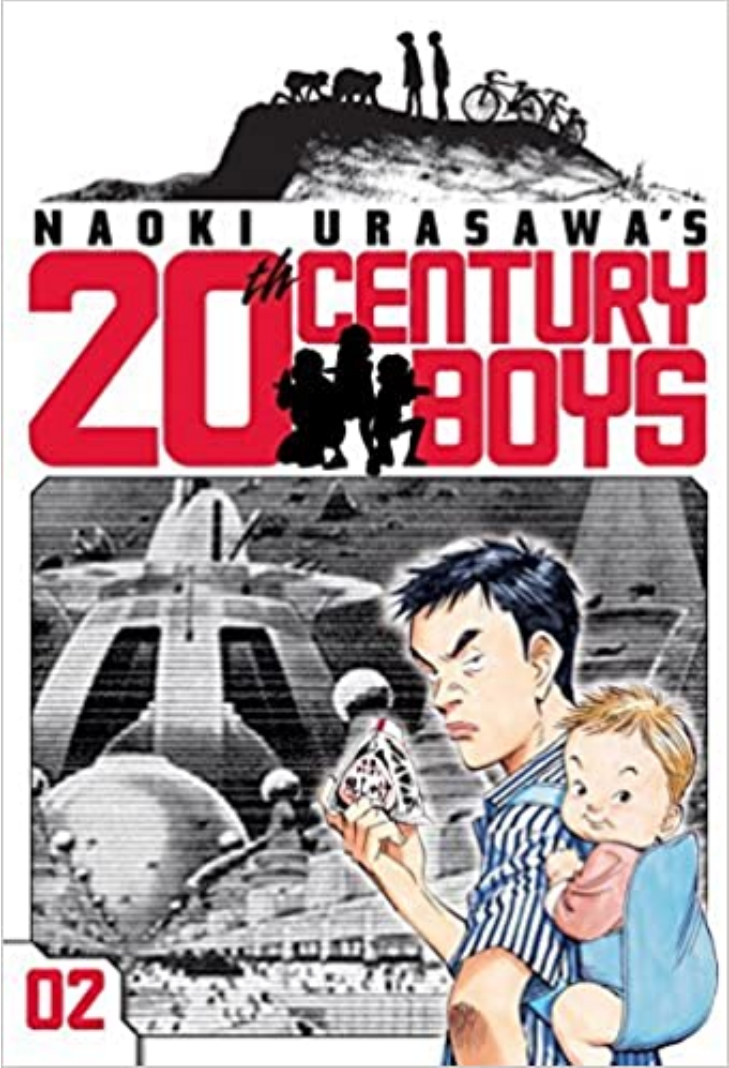


Naoki Urasawa's 20th Century Boys, Vol. 2: The Prophet



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Synopsis

This is the story of a group of boys who try to save the world! As boys, Kenji and his friends came up with a bunch of stories about an evil organization bent on world destruction. As adults, someone is now turning their fantasies into reality! Humanity, having faced extinction at the end of the 20th century, would not have entered the new millennium if it weren't for them. In 1969, during their youth, they created a symbol. In 1997, as the coming disaster slowly starts to unfold, that symbol returns. This is the story of a group of boys who try to save the world. 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 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... Yukiji remembers who came up with their group's enigmatic symbol: Otcho. She also discovers that, nine years earlier, Otcho had been working in Thailand but mysteriously vanished. Could Otcho be the mysterious Friend? Also, a legendary detective is hot on the trail of the Shikishima kidnapers, but the clues he uncovers lead him dangerously close to the Friends cult. Is his life now in danger as well?

Sort review

About the Author 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 and 2013 Eisner Award for Best U.S. Edition of International Material—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.

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What people say about this book

Zac Hanscom, "Spoiler-Free Review. 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"

Need4Read, "100% MUST read.. 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."

Ebook Library Reader, "If the first volume didn't get you...this one will. 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!"

desirae asbell, "Vol 2 review. 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"

Ebook Library Reader, "Five Stars. Amazing"

brad conn, "Five Stars. Got this for my daughter, she read it in a day."

Sara Bishoff, "👍 👍 👍 . Birthday gift. He loved it!"

Julie L. Hayes, "The plot thickens. As children, Kenji and his friends were terrorized by Yanbo and Manbo, the "evilest twins in history". There was only one person who could put them in their

place, a scrawny looking girl who would knock the stuffing out of the two boys. And they've just run into her at the airport, none other than Yukiji! Apparently she's a customs officer who has a dog for a partner. The boys are thrilled to see her, although she seems less enthusiastic about the chance meeting. Two attorneys approach a man named Manjome Inshu regarding complaints from parents about their children being involved in an organization this man is part of. They want their children back. However, he is very evasive, and won't give the name of the organization or of its leader, known simply as friend. Strangely, after Manjome's departure, the attorneys notice something odd—all the spoons on the table are bent! Yukiji shows up unexpectedly at Kenji's convenience mart, and tells him she remembers the symbol they were asking about, and also who came up with it—their friend Otcho. When Kenji tries to question her, the franchise district manager chooses that unfortunate time to come in and demands Kenji's time. She invites Kenji to the victims' meeting, and he says he'll try to make it. Cho is a long-time policeman whose dedication to his job has caused problems in his personal life, but that doesn't mean he doesn't care. He buys his grandson a Pikachu for his birthday, because apparently that's what he wants and it's all the rage. Cho is investigating the disappearance of the Shikishima family. He runs into his colleague, Yama, who is working on the death of the professor's student, but learns that the case was taken out of police hands. Cho is concerned about being late to his grandson's party. His daughter, who hasn't spoken to him in years, has personally invited him, so he can't mess this up. He shares the details of his investigation with Yama before leaving for the party. Kamisama is a homeless man who sometimes has nightmares. But his dreams aren't like that of other people—his are often prescient. He shows up at Kenji's store to check the stock prices and tells him things are going to get hard for him, but doesn't explain why. Sometimes he tells his friends about his dreams, but this last one, he's keeping that to himself. While rooting around in his absent sister's desk, Kenji finds a hidden envelope containing a strange message... and the same mysterious symbol he's been asking about! He asks his mother about the symbol and it's then he learns why his sister has always taken such good care of him, even before he was born. Which is why he won't give up on raising her only child for anything. He also learns about the rich man who once courted her and what became of him. Kamisama and his friends find an injured man in their midst. He won't leave, no matter what they say, and insists on seeing the Great Kenji. Kamisama devises a plan to get Kenji to come to them. Hopefully he'll understand what the man wants and will be able to do something about it. Things are certainly getting strange and mysterious in this second volume of Twentieth Century Boys. Unexplained deaths are occurring, and we are getting more of a glimpse into the organization led by Friend. Not so friendly, are they? Is their leader one of Kenji's old group of friends, who came up with the symbol originally, and had a plan to save the world... if only they could remember what that was. How will Kenji's band figure into this? Could Friend be the missing Otcho, or did he disappear for a more sinister reason? Also, am I wrong in thinking there's an attraction between Kenji and Yukiji? If so, will they ever act on it? And who the heck is Kanna's father? So many questions, so few answers. All we know for sure is the fate of the entire

world depends on the answers! Looking forward to volume 3!"

Eli, "Worth the read. This is messed up, love it! You just don't know who to believe."

mistimoss, "all-round A*****. Very quick delivery. My son was thrilled."

Stan FREDO, "Toujours le même niveau d'excellence. 2^e volet d'une des séries très remarquables destinées aux adolescents et adultes, de Naoki Urasawa, digne prétendant à la succession de son maître Osamu Tezuka au titre de "roi du manga". Cette série a commencé sa parution au Japon en l'an 2000. Celle d'avant est

Naoki Urasawa's Monster 1: Herr Dr. Tenma

, et celle d'après,

Pluto Urasawa X Tezuka 1

. Il s'agit là encore d'un lourd suspense, mais cette fois autour d'une mystérieuse conspiration qui paraît avoir des liens avec les jeux d'une bande de jeunes enfants 15 à 20 ans plutôt. Le héros principal, membre de cette bande, est amené à se remémorer les jeux d'alors, à la lumière d'événements dramatiques se produisant très près de lui. Le tout étant le fait de "L'Ami" et de ses fidèles. L'idée est intéressante, le traitement (découpage, caractérisation des nombreux personnages, dialogues, dessins) est plus qu'excellent. Je commande derechef le

volume 3 ! Il existe aussi en version française de cette série (

Best Of - 21st Century Boys, Tome 1

), comme de celles de Monster et de Pluto mais je me suis habitué à lire les séries de Tezuka en anglais, ce qui, faute de maîtriser le japonais, conserve un part exotique au plaisir de la lecture.”

Monkey D. Kakarot, “A very good manga. Nice delivery by Amazon. And the manga is phenomenal. Naoki Urasawa is simply genius. The story telling, the character development, the plot are all good. Very much addicted to the story.”

amarin scherer, “Urasawas magnum opus.. Its just a great read, maby a little bit confusing from time to time. Mystery, comedy and nostalgia at its best.”

The book has a rating of 5 out of 4.9. 56 people have provided feedback.

Book Information

Language: English

Paperback: 216 pages

Item Weight: 10.5 ounces

Dimensions: 5.75 x 0.7 x 8.25 inches

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