



20th Century Boys, Band 4

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Kenji wrote 'The Book of Prophecy' in his boyhood days. A simple and meaningless scenario made up then is the base for the 'Friend's plot to destroy mankind. Kenji seeks chance to fight back. Meanwhile, the evil hands of the mysterious organization close in to a man called 'Shogun', living in the ganglands of Bangkok. The mysteries grow deeper, the fear more intense, as we near the final battle at the turn of the century... Is there really any way, to save the world from termination?

20th Century Boys, Band 4 Details

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Author : Naoki Urasawa

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Joy says

Only Urasawa could reference mecha anime and rock and roll's 27 club in the same volume of manga, and make it all work perfectly. Pure genius.

Jean-Michel says

Still excellent.

Anna K?avi?a says

Chapters 33-43

Year 2000 Kenji has been on the run for 3 years now. He seeks out his childhood friend Otcho the one who was missing in Thailand for years and was at first suspected by Kenji as the Friend. Otcho returns to Japan and with Kenji tries to discover possibility how to stop the Friend.

Meanwhile the Friend has successfully risen to power and influence in the government.

Bradley says

Not that it needed a huge plot advance, we get it anyway, scurrying past those difficult few years of getting oneself physically and mentally ready to take on a global dictatorship while living among the homeless and dressing like a bunny. Oh yeah, and I like Shogun/O a lot, too. You can tell Kenji and he are best buds. Now if only they weren't so completely out of their league, I might feel like they'd have a chance.

At least we didn't get a montage. We're just thrown into the future. Believe it or not, I'm fine with it. This is definitely a smart manga for adults. I wouldn't say it's classy though. I will say it has a fantastic build. I wonder what Stephen King would have done with it had he written a whopper based on this. Seriously, it's almost like a good early SK epic, (but nothing like DT).

Elias Alexander says

Man, can this series get any better. It's so good. I just can't.

Reija says

The plot thickens, as they say.

This volume focused on the character of Shogun and his connection to Kenji's friends. I thought that the exploration of grief, sadness and sense of desperation was done really well.

Adam Spanos says

Urasawa is one of the best storytellers and artists around. I can't say enough good things about 20th Century Boys. I'm one of those people who can tell how a tv show or book is going to end at the beginning. Urasawa keeps me guessing about what will happen next.

Francisco Silva says

Un salto temporal de 3 años respecto al tomo 3 (20th Century Boys, Libro 3: El hombre de Bangkok) y con ello el status quo ha cambiado totalmente.

Kenji es un fugitivo que opera contra el grupo de 'Amigo' desde las alcantarillas , mientras que se revela la identidad del hombre de Tailandia, que pasa de lleno a formar parte del tablero de Japón.

Me gusta demasiado esta serie, el como el pasado parece una bolsa con muchas pistas borrosas y al mismo tiempo las trampas y conspiraciones del presente, por muy disparatadas que sean en algunos casos, se sienten como un real peligro para los protagonistas.

Roy says

This has a lot more of the current story line and we learn more about a character called Shogun. Great storytelling here.

M.i. says

At this point I don't even have much to criticize because this book has steadily built up to a point where I am hooked. Story telling greatness.

Derek Royal says

The most engaging volume in the series, so far. Much of this comes from a focus on Otcho, mostly absent from the story up until this part. His backstory and current dilemma make him a remarkable figure. Kenji comes more into his own in the last third of this volume, as well. Oh...and love the bunny suit.

James DeSantis says

This volume is a nice step up from the last volume. This time we go to ALOT of present day, year 2000, stuff. I loved most of it.

The majority of the volume revolves around Shogun. He is one of Kenji's best friends growing up. You do get some nice glimpse into the past, into when they're kids, and it's nice to see that contrasted compared to now. However it's the modern day stuff that keeps this volume interesting and excited. A few new people introduced, some sad results, and I won't spoil it, but this one got me a bit emotional and I just met these damn characters haha.

On the flipside we get a bit more into the "Friends" and see their planning. The part dedicated to them building the robot is unnerving. It's funny at times but the "threats" bring it back down to horrifying and anything can go wrong. You see just how powerful the friends are and by the end you really feel some bad shit is coming.

This might become one of the best mangas of all time for me. Most volumes have been great, and I really hope it continues.

Anthony Chavez says

From strong to strong, that's what I think of Urasawa's "20th Century Boys" thus far. This one stacks up well with the other books in the series. I have to admit, this volume has a segway story that leads the story a few years down the road from where we last left Kenji. The segway story features the mysterious not yet seen Otcho though, and it was very interesting.

The jump in time takes us to the summer of 2000, where most of the "present day" story is taking place. The 'Friends' have infiltrated the Japanese government at the highest levels starting their own "Friendship Party" and are moving ahead with their plans. It is funny to step back and think that the only thing standing between the world and a giant robot induced devastation of the world as we know it is a homeless guy who wears a bunny suit and his friends. I do like that time, and the little details about them growing up, aging and forgetting things from their childhood play a role in the story. Urasawa is great with the details.

Amazing series, and the art is beyond subtle in its ability to show mood. So good. Just found out they did a movie trilogy of this as well, tempted to want to order that when I finish this series.

Andrea says

February 10, 2018: We finally get to know where Otcho's been all these years, and Friend challenges Kenji to bring all nine of the gang together again. The story got a bit sidetracked for the sake of character development, but Shogun's story was worth it. The incident in the cave is definitely one of those childhood moments many can relate to.

Iman Danial Hakim says

Manga marathon.
