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In the 21st century, the glittering Neo-Tokyo has risen from the rubble of a Tokyo destroyed by an apocalyptic telekinetic blast from a young boy called Akira -- the subject of a covert government experiment gone wrong now imprisoned in frozen stasis. But Tetsuo, an angry young man with immense and rapidly growing psychic abilities, has done the unthinkable: he has released Akira and set into motion a chain of events that could once destroy the city and drag the world to the brink of Armageddon. Resistance agents and an armada of government forces race against the clock to find the child with godlike powers before his unthinkable destructive abilities are unleashed! One of the true international classics of graphic fiction and unavailable for nearly a decade in America, Akira has once again taken America by storm, its first Dark Horse volume selling out almost overnight in comic shops and bookstores across the country!

Akira, Vol. 3 Details

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From Reader Review Akira, Vol. 3 for online ebook

Dominick DeSeta says

Just When I Thought Akira Couldn't Get Better

Spoilers for the beginning of the book

The first volume of Akira immediately hooked me on a tale of rivalry, youth, and the paranormal. The second volume of Akira baffled me with beautifully orchestrated fighting sequences and the stress of imminent danger. The third volume of Akira ended up crushing my expectations by exceeding its predecessors, and the masterpiece of manga now stands as the most breathtaking and engaging piece of literature I have ever had the pleasure of reading. The story manages to show new sides of each of the plethora of characters, and no matter how many new roles introduce themselves, the author ensures the reader cares about each and every one of them. The book also continues the stunning action of Akira 2 and unleashes it on an even grander scale. The main improvement that I would like to discuss, however, is the volume's diversity of settings. Katsuhiro Otomo, the series' creator, fully showcased his skill at art and imagination throughout Akira 3 by crafting a multitude of fascinating setpieces for the graphic novel's skirmishes to take place.

The story begins at the massive crater created by an explosion in the end of the previous book, reminding the reader of the increasing level of danger that the protagonists must face for the rest of the series. The story then gives a reader a tour of the current state of Neo Tokyo, where alarms blare out to its citizens and circular robots called 'caretakers' roam the city in an attempt to maintain piece. A thought-provoking piece of dialogue arises from a military worker as he explains the purpose of the mechs to another worker: "The 'caretakers' were built to withstand nuclear attack. If we have to take shelter underground, they can stay up here in all the radiation and fight off anyone who tries to invade. Even if everyone dies, the robots will be here to protect our land" (Otomo 27). This quote implies a frightening future might be nearing Neo Tokyo, and the landscape might become devastated at a magnitude much greater than the aforementioned crater. The book continues in a grand meeting hall of government personnel to reveal how the higher-ups plan to handle the threat of Akira. The following scene greatly contrasts this by featuring the home of a common resident of Neo Tokyo, Kei's aunt Chiyoko. Each one of these events would be incomplete and ineffective in communicating a message if detailed and distinct settings did not surround them.

The backdrops I previously mentioned fill only the first fifty pages in a book that spans nearly three hundred pages. As Kaneda, Kei, and Chiyoko explore a large and dangerous watercraft, crowded suburbs scattered with army men and tanks, and the lavish house of a supposed cult-leader, the excitement grows and grows until it ends in a finale that is bound to make the reader's jaw drop to the floor. I am convinced that nobody can finish Akira 3 and not beg to find out what becomes of the three protagonists and each of the side characters. I could not recommend this graphic novel enough for anyone with an open mind and a craving for exhilaration.

Coffee&Quasars says

Do you remember those scenes in Scooby Doo where Scoobs, The Gang and the monster(s) would be escaping/ chasing each other through multiple doors in a hallway, often leading to some comical switcheroos? The first 75% of this volume was pretty much that, but for an hour, with automatic rifles, one

tank, TWO coups d'etat and several magic nuclear children with bowl cuts. 2.7 stars.

The final 25% or so, meanwhile, features one of the most stunningly beautiful and tragic events ever to be rendered in the graphic novel medium. 4.3 stars.

Max Ostrovsky says

A manga series called Akira and coincidentally enough, has a character called Akira - what are the odds? The movie had too little Akira and for the story the movie told, it worked. Now with this manga series, I am just impressed. Akira, the character, just gets cooler and weirder and always leaves me wanting more more more!

And I am totally loving all the new characters that didn't make it to the movie.

If you were to look up 'Bad-Ass' in the dictionary, it would define it as Chiyoko. What an amazing character! Here is someone who backs up her badassness with more badassness. Every Chuck Norris meme could be about her (well, maybe not the ones about the beard).

Assuming that the ending of the movie will be somewhere near the end of this manga series, I am loving the foreshadowing for the popping scene. I call it the popping scene to avoid spoilers, but I think those familiar with the movie know exactly what I'm talking about.

It's interesting how many characters so far, and sometimes repeatedly, found themselves in tight, almost crushing, circumstances. That's got to be foreshadowing, right? I am right, right? No, wait. I don't want to know. I'll get to that popping scene. Probably.

James says

The half-way point, some writers would be content with just what happens up to this point and slotting in a neat conclusion to the proceedings.

Thankfully this is not the end. This and volumes One and Two are really just a well-worked launch pad for what happens next.

And one of the best things in the handling of the narration? One of the central characters doesn't make an appearance until near the very end. In a few short pages a whole story is told. Well done, Katsuhiro Otomo. I didn't realise I missed the character until the reveal, pretty nifty storytelling I'd say.

Camilo says

Espectacular final de tomo!!

Jenna says

I loved this one! There were some new characters introduced. I'm interested to see what happens with all the

old and new characters in the next volume.

Timothy Morrow says

A fun game of capture the flag. If, of course, the flag was a psychic-child with the power of an atomic bomb. Overall a fun read.

Jedi JC Daquis says

[Akira unleashing that black sphere of hell in Neo-Tokyo (hide spoiler)]

???? says

One of the Best Manga Science Fiction Ever Published. If there is one thing when it comes to anime, people will always remember Akira. When it comes to manga, this is a one read people should invested on. I love Akira personally because of its sheer epic story of man versus Godhood and any thing that writes about power, this is the book people of all reader types should read.

30 years ago in 1992, an explosion in Japan cause the beginning of World War III. In 2028, Tokyo has become Neo-Tokyo, a place where society is on the rise of political distrust and Japan's top secret military army is trying to prevent one of its biggest secret to leak out to the world... until an accident on a highway towards where the origin of the explosion starts a chain of events that will lead to... Akira. Two friends (Kaneda & Tetsuo) will be fighting for their lives on friendship, love and the fate of Japan.

I love Akira ever since its anime was released in 1989. When I watched it, I was floored by its cell animation, its story and its science fiction action dystopian future. I never knew there was a manga series (but that was after I read Yukito Kishiro's Battle Angel Alita, and it still is one of my favorite mangas of all time, next to Akira) and it took me a while to finally waited long enough to get the compilation series in six volumes and read it at one go. This to me... is nothing more than one of the best sci-fi manga series ever written and drawn. There is so much to explore here and so much to love. Not many authors or creators these days are bold enough to write some thing this good and this is one of the best 1200 over pages I have ever read. Yes, there are some issues on the book that is overlook and not answered at all but to much of its own, it has answered a lot when it comes to its main story, not the back story. For me, if you want to pick up a manga title and its your first time ever - this is the manga series to invest on.

p/s: Lately my reviews are getting shorter and shorter in writing. I would definitely explore back and write more if I had time.

Frank Deschain says

Maybe the best reading experience ever. I haven't finished the series yet, of course, but the merging of martial law, religious cults, and violent gangs of the future propels the storyline that reads at a breakneck

pace. Nerd nirvana: play the soundtrack as you read it. I may wait until volume 6 to save words for the review, but I can't make any promises.

Corey Pool says

HOLY F*%K! This book is AMAZING. I can't put it down. What a thrill ride! I cannot wait to see what happens in Vol. 4, 5, 6!

Maja Shinigami says

Chiyoko kicks ass.

Chaunceton Bird says

More action-packed fast-paced story.

Christian Ragnacci says

Christian Ragnacci

Excitement, Suspense and Depth (Akira: Volume 3 - Book Review)

The suspenseful, thrilling, chaotic story that is “Akira: Volume 3” is a great book. After reading it, I really love the book. It has a great story and interesting characters. From volumes 1 and 2, characters return like Kaneda, Kei, Chiyoko, Nezu, Colonel, Akira, Ryu and more. Akira has awakened, and everyone is trying to go after him and contain him. Many want to stabilize Akira to prevent any catastrophic events and death and destruction, trying to protect the people of the city. Akira has the potential of causing massive amounts of damage and is heavily being pursued.

I like when there doesn't appear to be a simple good guy and bad guy. For example, in the first two Akira volumes, the Colonel appeared as the main big and bad guy. He's the leader of the military and contained Akira, controlling him. He gave off the feeling of having negative intentions and being a more “evil” person overall. On the other hand, in this book, the reader really gets the idea that the Colonel wants to get and contain Akira because he's very dangerous and cares about the people. He doesn't want the city to get destroyed.

I also love the art in this book. Frame by frame in the manga/graphic novel, the illustrator put so much detail and effort into everything. SPOILER: Toward the end of the book, when all the buildings and land is getting destroyed, you can clearly see all the art and detail put into the buildings, and it's really fascinating. Also, in this book, the Colonel says, “I'd assumed I'd finally seen the last of you at the secret base, that the cold had gotten to you. You seem to be indestructible.” The Colonel is talking to Kaneda and his group. It shows that both the Colonel and military and Kaneda and his group have been having run-ins with each other for awhile. They're both very determined and passionate, as they try to get Akira. Although they're very different people, they both have similar goals and have Akira as a major focus.

Spencer D. says

The Thrill-Chasing Akira Vol. 3

Our heroes start by with, unknowingly, carrying the heart of destruction that caused turmoil in every major city around the world, Akira. Akira's previous volumes have just continued to build up this Akira figure. In this volume, we finally see everything converge, with everything built up, finally, in motion. Every character known will somehow directly or indirectly interact with each other. Because Katsuhiro Otomo's Akira 3 has fantastic art, engaging interactions, and improved character development it manages to stay up to par with the other two volumes.

Akira has always kept up great art through every volume, but this one stands out. Every single art panel screams passion at the reader. Katsuhiro Otomo efficiently manages to display emotion on each character's face that makes them almost real for a graphic novel. The art of each environment is superb as always; in fact, it might surpass the previous books in quality. The ending scene alone elevates the book to new heights regarding art. Compared to the other books and all the other panels before it, the final panels are seriously jaw-dropping. There are minimal issues with the art expect a few where the characters look a bit odd(meaning Takashi), but the environment is always superb and very nicely done. The art easily gets a pass from me and makes me want to read the book solely for the art. To continue, I've always had a problem with the character interactions in Akira. They usually seemed static and without emotion. It always seemed that the author most of the time forced them together and did not appear genuine most of the time, but this book completely fixes that. My favorite being the colonel and Kaneda meeting again for the first time after the facility in Vol. 2, " I have to admit...I'm impressed. I thought I'd seen the last of you at the secret base. I don't know how you managed to survive. But now the party's over," Only for Kaneda to respond after a few more pieces of dialogue, "Oh yeah?...the gang's all here"(Pgs. 222-225). They act like they are old friends, but in reality, they're enemies. Kaneda looks like a kid chased by a swarm of hornets, yet he tries to keep his composure. It allows for laughs at such a tense climax of the book. These character interactions lighten up the book and add a lot of emotion to the book. The book also manages to develop a lot of the characters. The strengthening of characters has always been a central issue of mine. Kaneda becomes a bit more lighthearted and mature compared to the angsty teen he once was. Tetsuo was ripped entirely from the novel meaning no worries about helping that mess of a character. The colonel has become more of a leader who is trying his best to keep everyone safe then just someone who works for the military and follows orders. Akira gets no development until the end where he shows some emotion for the first time which is interesting. Nezu receives a ton of progress. From working as Miyako's henchmen to going off on his own wanting to kill Akira and control him. It shows a great twist which the story needed. Overall, these are just a few of the significant character develops that happened. The plot in the book was lacking though and hurt the book considerably. It was just everyone wants Akira, and Kaneda, Kei, and Chiyoko plopped in the middle of it. It was just one big chase that had a lot of thrills, but it got repetitive after a while. The repetitiveness was the only major noteworthy drawback in the whole book. For example, Akira was stolen three different times by the same person. I don't want to see that over and over; I want something fresh.

Ultimately, Akira Vol. 3 has been a mixed bag. I loved most portions of the story, but the chase and the repetitiveness brought it down. Overall, I rate it at 4 out of 5 stars. I would've given it higher, but sadly the plot wasn't as impressive as expected. Sure it brought out a last-minute surprise, but it wasn't enough to save the previous pages of just chasing for Akira. I would've hoped to see more action and significant events to unfold throughout the book, but sadly, that didn't happen. Although, from where this book left off, Akira

Vol. 4, will be the absolute best so far.

Scott Lee says

I really wanted to give this volume a five, but the five given the first two represents such a tremendously high standard...and this one isn't quite as good. It is, in the way of subjective things, probably as good as many books/comics I've given fives to over the years I've been rating here, but it's not an *Akira* five...if that makes any sense at all. If it doesn't, well...too bad. It's my review.

The art continues at a level of consistent quality and detail that I still find unmatched in any manga I've read. In fact, I've never seen straight line art like this of comparable quality except from James Artimus Owen. Just amazing stuff. Any number of searing, incredible images.

And the story keeps moving. The action keeps coming, and, if anything picks up in this volume. It kept me avidly reading, and the web around the characters thickens, even though our characters themselves are not subject to any particularly startling character developments or character revelations. The depth comes in the broad statements that are made, or explicit or implied about all of us, about humanity, about societies, about technology, about power and how we use and abuse it, etc. than any specific character bits.

My one complaint? I found the action, if anything, a bit *too* frantic. At times I found myself having to thrash around just a bit to get my bearings, a disappointment after the silky smooth flow of the story line and its events through the first two volumes. But it did detract just enough to put this volume at a level just below the perfection of the first two, at least for me.

William Tung says

The story takes place in Neo-Tokyo, 2030 following an explosion that destroyed Tokyo and set off World War III, and now where odd things occur. From things exploding, lots of killing, and also comedic scenes. In *Akira* Vol. 3, the story revolves around a boy named Akira. Let's just say that this little boy is much more powerful than one would think. There are individual groups that continuously searched for Akira. One group wanted to kill him, another group needed to contain him to keep them so something dangerous would not occur again just like before. And so, as this search continues, many people continued to die. At some points, people would have Akira with them, and then another group would have him. Many running and killed happened throughout the book. This book in my opinion, was one of my favorite one out of all the volumes because in the Book, there was a decent/followable actual plot to it, which was, everyone searching/holding onto Akira for some reason. Not to be saying that the other books were bad, it was just the other ones were hard to follow what was happening.

As stated previously *Akira* Vol. 3 is one of the best books between the first 3 I have read because there was much more visual "pleasures" in this one. From the more environments having more variety to the major destruction at the end. One of my favorite parts in this book was when everyone met up at the end of the novel. Major destruction happens. The art when everything explodes is incredibly detailed and amazing. There was a super suspenseful part. In the text before everything was about to explode, there was a part where Kiyoko screams, "We gotta get these people to a safe place... as many of them as possible! We have to hurry or else we will be TRAPPED" (Otomo 253). This scene gave me the chills. It kept me wanting to read more to see what will happen to the civilians that are about to undergo a massive explosion, that

could possibly destroy the whole city again. I am happy to see what will happen as I continue this journey of Akira.

Justin (JustinisWesley) Mackie (andnotDavid) says

Insane! Best science fiction graphic novel series that has now a place in my heart. I want to say more, but I do not have the time. I'm too busy ordering the Vol. 4!

Yash says

What happened to kaneda, in the end?

Javier Muñoz says

Va bajando el nivel narrativo según va aumentando la cantidad de relleno... es un relleno visualmente espectacular y con altas dosis de acción, con lo cual es altamente disfrutable, pero realmente para seguir la historia habría bastado con leerse las primeras y las últimas 30 páginas del tomo.

En resumen en este tomo se nos cuentan los problemas que empieza a tener el coronel para mantener su puesto de mando, el inicio de un estado policial y/o golpe de estado en neo-tokio y la lucha entre distintas facciones para hacerse con el control de Akira, parece mucha tela que cortar, pero lo primero simplemente se muestra de pasada, lo segundo tiene algo más de importancia pero está en un segundo plano y lo tercero es lo que ocupa el 80% del cómic, con lo cual tenemos combates y persecuciones espectaculares y muy buena narrativa visual, pero poca chicha.

El último tramo del cómic sin embargo es apoteósico y supone un gran cambio en el status quo de la serie. tremendas las páginas finales.
