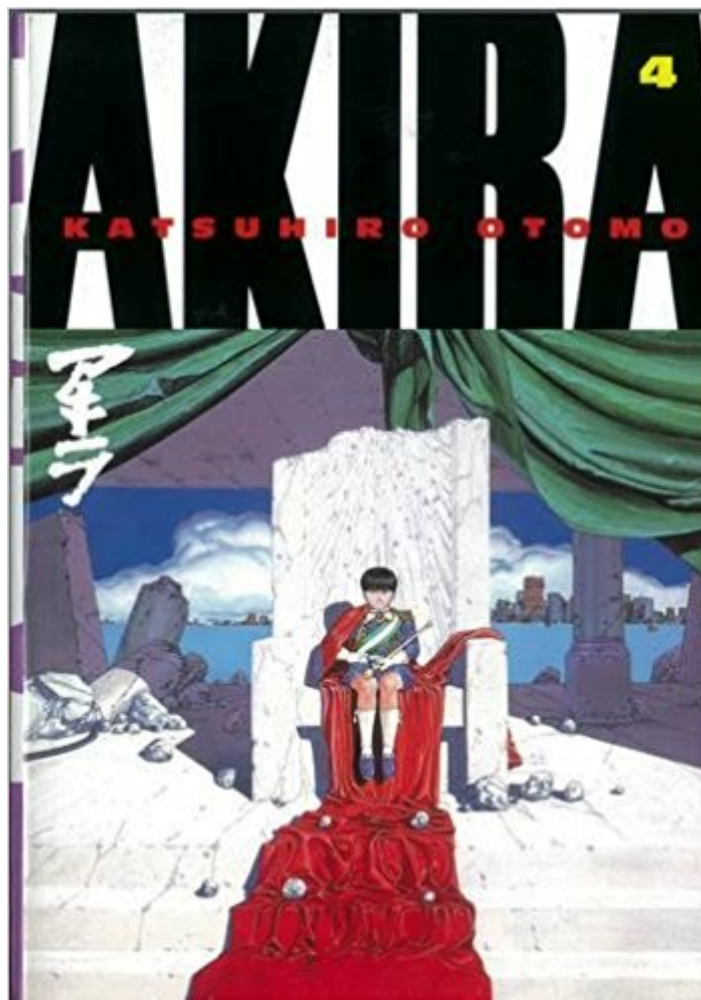


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Akira, Vol. 4



Synopsis

Suffering the fate that beset its namesake three decades earlier, twenty-first-century Neo-Tokyo lies in ruin. Set off by the bullet of a would-be assassin, the godlike telekinetic fury of the superhuman child Akira has once again demolished in seconds that which took decades and untold billions to build. Now cut off from the rest of the world, the Great Tokyo Empire rises, with Akira its king, the psychic juggernaut Tetsuo its mad prime minister, and a growing army of fanatic acolytes ready to go to any length to please their masters. Forces on the outside still search for a way to stop Akira, and the answer may lie in the hands of the mysterious Lady Miyako, a powerful member of Akira's paranormal brotherhood. But the solution to harnessing Akira may ultimately be more dangerous than Akira himself. Twenty years since its original release in Japan, Akira remains one of the most widely acclaimed and influential works of graphic fiction, and creator Katsuhiro Otomo has become a legendary storyteller in animation as well as manga. Akira is a science fiction tour de force, a breathtaking vision of innocence, infamy, and insanity.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"As the New Cinema demolished the old Hollywood style of filmmaking . . . Katsuhiro Otomo . . . shattered the conventions existing in manga." —Asahi Shimbun

In 1982, manga modernist Katsuhiro Otomo created a worldwide literary sensation when Japan's

Kodansha Publications released the first volume of his 3000 page sci-fi fable of the apocalypse, Akira. Few westerners had experienced manga (Japanese comics) before Akira, and its rocketing ascent through cultural divides helped impress a cynical world that had long been convinced that pictures in books should be relegated to children's stories. Now pictures were being used to tell one of man's most explosive and harrowing tales. Since his groundbreaking work on Akira, Mr. Otomo has completed a number of inspired manga classics, including the powerful post-apocalyptic Legend of Mother Sarah and the dark study of a child's dreams, Domu. Otomo's mastery of the manga artform was recognized with a top Japanese book award, the Grand Prix, awarded to him in honor of Domu in 1989. Dark Horse Comics published the first English-language versions of The Legend of Mother Sarah and Domu, and is currently publishing a true-to-its-original-form, black-and-white, six-volume re-issue of Akira. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

Very good read. I have been a big fan of the movie for a long time. Now I finally get a chance to read the entire story. The story has so much depth and interesting plot twist. The complexity of the characters is amazing. On to Vol.5

Another action packed Volume! In volume 3 we see Akira show off his power by leveling Tokyo... again. In Volume 4, We pick up a little while after, where we see the people of Tokyo divided in 2 factions, those who worship the mysterious number 19 and those who worship poor little Akira and his maniacal assistant Tetsuo. Luckily, it seems all the major players survived the destruction except poor Kaneda. Kei really shines in this volume and goes from being a pretty solid character to probably being my favorite character yet. She is tough and ready to take command, even willing to stand up against the wise number 19's direct orders. Chiyoko is, once again, one of the toughest characters and the source of a lot of the volumes action. The Espers also survived the destruction but are in critical condition (a lot of the volume is devoted to getting them to a safe place or getting them the proper medicine they need). Tetsuo seems to have a firm grip over his fanatical followers and also seems to speak for Akira... although cute little Akira seems to just want to live the normal life of an average child. In one of the more interesting aspects of the volume, we see Akira mentally abuse Tetsuo and force him to confront his addiction to the pills that suppress his power. He tries to kick the habit but it is evident that this could mean bad news for the survivors of Neo-Tokyo. Other characters like the Colonel, Ryu and a very welcome survivor from Kaneda and Tetsuo's biker gang all get plenty of screen time (or panel time, I suppose?). We are introduced to many new and

interesting characters as well, like, the mysterious psychic with the eyeball on his head that seems to show up at all the wrong times. Tetsuo's personal assistant whose stupidity will ultimately trigger the volume's explosive climax. Plenty of new psychics and a couple 'tough as nails' members of the American Naval fleet, sent in to investigate the chaos. But perhaps most interesting of all is a motherly character that is introduced, she is caring and seems to have the ability to calm both Akira and Tetsuo when their powers start to overtake them. There are plenty of battles, revelations and of course, massive scenes of destruction that have become a staple in the series by now. I have said more than I should have so I will leave it at this... This is the best volume so far!. any lack of plot/character development from volume three is made-up ten fold in this edition. There is lots to take in this volume, not only in the fact that so many new characters and plot points are introduced but also in the fact that this volume seems to change the tone of the series entirely, but Mr. Otomo makes it so its easy to follow and never feels overwhelming. To me, the series just keeps getting better and better, I cant wait to see what insanity is introduced in the next to volumes!

This book was huge for me as a teenager. I was introduced to Akira in movie form, and when I realized there was more to the story after the disaster at the end of book 3, I couldn't wait to find out more! The story takes a dramatic turn here. I don't want to spoil it, but you get to see what happens in the wake of disaster. The art still inspires me to this day. Otomo's ruined cityscapes are amazing to see. His technical chops with all the urban landscapes really shine in this volume, especially since they have been so devastated. If your a fan of distopia fiction, you need to check out Akira, and in this volume you finally get to see how people "move-on" so to speak, and that master plan is just beginning to unfold.

Fantastic series. Nothing like I expected.

First off, Akira was one of the first few animes I've ever watched (Hokuto no Ken being one of my top tier favorites) and it's without a doubt a true classic. Secondly, I knew the manga would show at the minimum 50% more than what the original video animation showed and I was VERY satisfied with the original story development and conclusion. Finally, I bought all 6 volumes and it was one of the best purchases I've ever made online. I highly recommended that you own this very unique and awesome manga collection that's easily a top 10 of all time in my opinion. And also, in my opinion, nothing beats Berserk as far as Seinen manga is concerned ;).

The book's content is very good, but the copy I got was yellowed and the top corner was smashed. Currently sending in for a replacement copy.

One of the most influential works in sequential story telling!

better than the movie, the movie was awesome btw

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