



Dororo, Vol. 2

Osamu Tezuka

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Dororo is Tezuka's classic thriller manga featuring a youth who has been robbed of 48 body parts by devils, and his epic struggle against a host of demons to get them back.

Daigo Kagemitsu, who works for a samurai general in Japan's Warring States period, promises to offer body parts of his unborn baby to 48 devils in exchange for complete domination of the country. Knowing the child to be deficient, Kagemitsu orders the newborn thrown into the river.

The baby survives. Calling himself Hyakkimaru, he searches the world for the 48 demons. Each time he eliminates one, he retrieves one of his missing parts. Hyakkimaru meets a boy thief named Dororo, and together they travel the countryside, confronting monsters and ghosts again and again. This is the second in a 3-volume series.

Tezuka's manga and animated films had a tremendous impact on the shaping of the psychology of Japan's postwar youth. His work changed the concept of Japanese comics, transforming it into an art form and incorporating a variety of new styles in creating "story comics."

Dororo, Vol. 2 Details

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Author : Osamu Tezuka

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From Reader Review Dororo, Vol. 2 for online ebook

Leila Anani says

2nd instalment of the Dororo trilogy: Hakkymaru and Dororo encounter a city divided by a wall where each side have been told to kill the other even though they may have family over there - poignant and still very topical even today. We also have a demon possessing a buddha statue and demanding sacrifice, a moth demon, a potato baby. Hakkymaru meets his father and kills his brother and we get flashbacks into Dororo's tragic past too.

The whole thing is beautiful, a wonderful mix fantasy and folklore and the real horrors of poverty, social unrest and personal tragedy. Despite its dark themes the cute artwork and optimistic characters give this an uplifting feel.

One of my absolute favourites. The scope of imagination in this is staggering. Recommended.

Caleb says

I really like the way Tezuka draws horses. This continues to be pretty great, although with this volume the story begins to veer away from the more episodic wandering-characters-fight-demons-to-recover-hero's-stolen-body-part premise and toward stories more specific to the characters and their backgrounds.

It's kinda like Inu-Yasha, only with a much more insane premise, and by Tezuka, if that makes sense.

I love Vertical's cover designs for their Tezuka books. I could look at the cover of this thing all day.

Ron says

The continuing adventures of Hyakkimaru and Dororo -- with some new revelations about Dororo's past that give the story a new sense of destiny. And Hyakkimaru comes face-to-face with his own past as well.

The chapters in this second volume are longer -- if I had to guess, I'd say they'd been broken down by story arc rather than by their original serialization segments. As always, the visual storytelling is exquisite.

Chris says

Really enjoyed this second book in this series, probably more so than the first. Dororo is starting to grow up a little. Hyakkimaru is progressing in his hunt of the demons. And on the note of the demons, I love how the Japanese have such an interesting mythology, very unique demon characters in comparison to most Western demons. Definitely look forward to book 3.

Mia says

This is good! There's much more depth and development to these characters, something that was missing in Ayako. It might have to do with there only being two main characters rather than many small characters like in Ayako. I'm rooting for these characters, though. They're likable and relatable and sweet and not sweet and they make mistakes and they're genuine. Ayako characters were all completely unlikable, which doesn't always mean that the gn is just "not good," but Ayako wasn't good (Of course, in my opinion. I've read few reviews praising it and they might be right and it might be a smart and praise-worthy gn but I simply didn't like it). Also, I like this book's concept: a man abandoned as a child pairs up with a boy who has been orphaned and now they're fighting demons together searching for H's bodyparts while learning how to become better people with a higher purpose in life. The latter might sound cliché but I think the execution is done well and so Tezuka can get away with it. ALSO, the cartoon style is growing on me. The dialogue and the medium really complemented each other in this volume, more so than the first volume.

Emilia P says

Fungus monsters!
Potato babies!
Sexy Moth Demon Women!

Um, yeah. So when this gets into a big fight scene with swords and rushing horses I am all, why am I reading this? And then it gets back to giant freakish potato babies and I remember. Tezuka's organic imagination, which I enjoy much better than his technical roboty side, is at work here, and even if the episodes aren't fantastic, the overall story is really quite good -- no one is born whole, and one must conquer demons, here literally, to fully become oneself.

Ingenue says

Curses! I am so disappointed that Dororo is not a secretly non-bathing crossdressing girl.

Eric Orchard says

While this comic had a lot of cool concepts out of Japanese folklore and a pretty compelling story I found it overall a pretty baffling book. I've found myself a bit confused by Tezuka's work, which I feel bad about because he's understood by most everyone to a master of manga. Still, there is enough cool stuff to keep me engaged.

Robert Rohwer says

This has been, overall, my least favorite Tezuka Manga. The story had a lot of potential, but it just didn't do it for me. The eponymous title character was crazy annoying and the story was kind of goofy. The art, on the

other hand, was amazing.

Trane says

The second volume in Tezuka Osamu's *Dororo* series is just as good as the first. Of course we have Hyakkimaru, the freakish swordsman born missing 48 body parts, and Dororo, the miniscule child thief who he protects. As Hyakkimaru kills demons, his missing body parts are replaced with the real deal.

That's all well and good, but how about the yokai (Japanese traditional monsters) that we get in this volume? That's the most important thing after all, isn't it? First of all we get a horde of demon night foxes, led by a powerful nine-tailed fox (apparently the most evil and powerful type of fox found in yokai legend). We also get a fantastic demon that poses as a Buddhist Fudo Myo'o in order to lure unsuspecting ascetics so he can steal their faces when they train themselves by meditating under a powerful waterfall. Then there's the singular ghost who stands in for a murdered multitude of children and a demon moth woman who has hypnotized a local lord so that her and a host of other moth women can propagate their species.

But what about the family drama? There are two things that appear repeatedly in Tezuka's works, and one of them is the constant appearance of bizarrely dramatic family relations that would give Freud enough material to write case studies for 100 years. In this particular volume (spoiler alert!) Hyakkimaru comes face to face with his brother (who he never knew existed), his father (who sacrificed him to the demon world and wants to seem him dead now), and his mother (who still loves him). And at a critical moment he needs to decide whether or not he needs to kill his brother.

The other element that often shows up in Tezuka's works is a kind of populist notion of revolution. Tezuka himself was obviously more of a humanist than a genuine revolutionary, but his humanism often leads to an identification with oppressed classes and the revolutionary ethics of the 60s are sometimes evident in his works. In this particular case it turns out that Dororo's parents, who were peasant thieves that stole in order not to starve and who acted as a classic redistributive banditry, have marked his back with a map that leads to their hidden treasure cache. Before her death Dororo's mother urged him to return to this treasure cache and use the treasure to lead a peasant revolt.

Let's hope we see that peasant revolt in Volume 3! And some more great yokai too, of course.

Lissibith says

I thought this volume was a little stronger than the first, as the past begins to catch up to both of our main characters. As always, it's funny and entertaining and I recommend it is just for the context of reading Tezuka. :)

Karl Kindt says

Weird, creepy, strange, eerie, and fun.

Alex Watkins says

Still fun, still full of stock Tezuka characters. The story is full of death and demons and crazy people. The drawings are amazing, and his character's hairdos are great. Reading backwards is good for your brain the book says, so hopefully I'm getting smarter. I think i've just about got the hang of it, but every once in awhile I feel like I've read the frames in the wrong order and that there is some logic I am not grasping.

Noemi Rodriguez says

The second Dororo manga was just as great as the first one. It had just as many surprises and the characters remain just as loveable. Especially little Dororo. :) Dororo and Hyakkimaru (the other main character) go through many more adventures and even almost split up. There's a big secret relating to Dororo and that is quite a twist because since the beginning of the book lots of attention has been focused on Hyakkimaru who is the one that is missing body parts and slowly gaining them, which is ironic due to the name of the manga. Nonetheless, Dororo has now gained a stronger role in this volume and along with this twist, Hyakkimaru finally finds out about his birth parents and even meets a new family member never mentioned before. There is just as much action and emotional breakthroughs in this volume as there is in the first one. I can't wait to read the third and final manga in this series. What I have read so far has convinced me to go on the hunt to buy all three volumes in this manga.

Chriss says

An interesting old-school style manga. Saw it at the library and decided to give it a go, despite it being volume 2. Didn't have any trouble picking up the story. The moth demons were really cool. Unusual and creative monsters. I'll definitely be looking for volumes 1 and 3.
