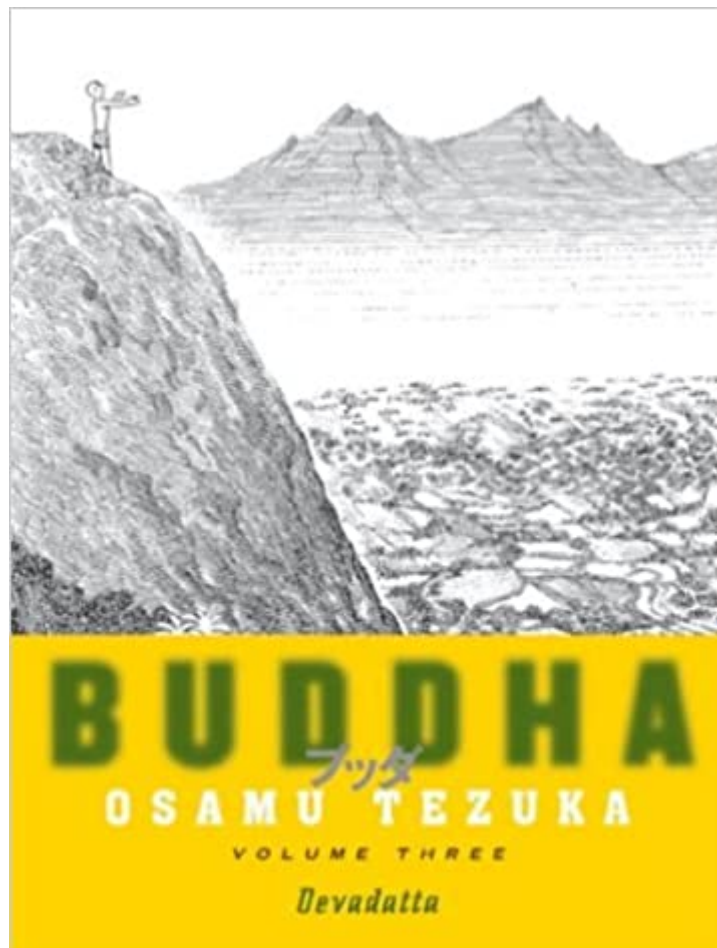


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Buddha, Vol. 3: Devadatta



Synopsis

The Eisner and Harvey WinnerThe third volume of this epic graphic novel send Siddhartha further into a world mired in pain and suffering. The journey to peace and enlightenment looms far but bright.Prince Siddhartha quickly learns that the monk's path is covered in thorns and self-abuses much more profound than shaving your head. His new companions Dhepa and Assaji accompany him to plague-ridden town, ruled by the ravishing Visakha. On a different path filled with as many vararies is Devadatta, an orphan who learns only that bad almost always gets worse.To strange cities, and dire prophecies...

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Considered the father of Japanese comics, Tezuka is best known in America for the robot cartoon character Astro Boy. His other works are gradually seeing Western light, however, the latest being this ambitious, eight-volume account of the life of Buddha, originally published in the 1970s. In the third volume (following *Kapilavastu* [tr. 2003] and *The Four Encounters* [tr. 2003]), young Prince Siddhartha abandons his kingdom and undergoes hardships on the road, accompanied by warrior-turned-monk Dhepa, who puts him through painful ordeals as he begins the search for enlightenment; and the pair meet the peculiar child Assaji, later one of Buddha's first disciples. Tezuka seamlessly combines characters from Buddhist lore with original creations, making moral points with skill and humor. His juxtaposition of broad comedy and often-violent drama, not to mention other manga conventions, may at first put off readers used to comics being either serious or funny, but his storytelling and accessible cartooning should win over most. Tezuka's masterwork

is an enlightening demonstration of the limitless potential of the comics medium. Gordon Flagg

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"A relentless page-turner boasting a cast of hundreds, Buddha: Volume 3: Devadatta concerns Siddhartha's earliest ordeals after he forswears his kingdom to lead a life of ascetic purity...Siddhartha's contemplative life becomes a swashbuckling adventure." - Newsday

"Infused with humor and history, the epic of Siddhartha is perhaps Osamu Tezuka's crowning achievement and illustrates why, without irony, Tezuka is referred to as 'The King of Japanese Comics'." - LA Weekly

"Buddha is one of Tezuka's true masterpieces. We're lucky to have this excellent new edition in English." - Scott McCloud, author of Understanding Comics

"In handsome volumes designed by Chip Kidd, the Vertical books present Tezuka at his best." - National Post

"Buddha is an engrossing tale. The armchair philosopher, the devout Buddhist, the casual manga fan - this book satisfies all with its tale of humanism through sequential art, and definitely earns its place on a bibliophile's bookshelf." - Anime Insider

"This is one of the greatest achievements of the comics medium, a masterpiece by one of the greats." - Artbomb.net

"In Tezuka's world, the exquisite collapses into the goofy in a New York minute, the goofy into the melodramatic, the melodramatic into the brutal, and the brutal into the sincerely touching. The surprising result is a work wholly unique and downright fun." - Time Out NY

"Tezuka's Buddha is a striking and memorable confluence of ancient wisdom and contemporary popular art." - Yoga Journal

I absolutely love this story! Osama has taken one of the most beloved tales of Buddhism and brought it to life!

I introduced my boyfriend to Buddhism through this manga series because he really likes animation and cartoons. He loves it! It's a wonderful story from the creator of Astroboy.

I picked up one of these books at our local library and fell in love with the story. After purchasing the complete set, I am glad I went into the library that day.

I have read the Japanese version of this and bought English sets for my boyfriend. We are super happy, everybody should have a set in their house.

Great condition thx

The fact that I have read the first three volumes of Osamu Tezuka's *Buddha* graphic novel means that I am enjoying the series. The young Siddhartha has renounced the royal life, including his loving wife and very young son. He is traveling as a Monk beginning to learn what it means to live the life of an esthetic, religious mendicant. Part of learning is learning what it practices do not make for positive spiritual growth and that there will always be temptations. Tezuka continues his fondness for anachronism as a way to speed his plotting and make manifest what he wants us to notice. Perhaps I am getting used to it, but it was less bothersome in this book than the last. Given what little I know of the more traditional saga of Siddhartha, Tezuka's version is more the author's version than the traditional one, but I trust him to tell a good story and not wander too far from how a Buddhist Monk would want to be represented. This freedom allows this story teller to introduce new characters and plot line and maybe make a better story. For example a reoccurring problem is that of the circle of life. Nature is a violent and arbitrary place. There is no protection from the hungry and death feeds life. The nagging question is: What is the proper role of humans in an existence that is arbitrary and violent? Circling back, within the proper human role, what is the proper life for the religious? The high standards of the graphic art is maintained. Much of India is lush and beautifully detailed. Poverty is somewhat romanticized. So far we have the questions. If there are answers we have not yet seen them finalized into the new religion that Siddhartha will call into being as the Enlightened One: Buddha.

This 3rd book of the series got me hooked. The first two volumes are more like an introduction, and in this book the story finally takes off. The story continues in the same pace as the first two volumes, which makes it a pleasant read. The story of Siddhartha continues as he teams up with Dhepa the one-eyed Brahmin teacher and Assaji the snotty little boy with great powers. Siddhartha develops character as he struggles to understand the necessity of the ordeals Dhepa teaches him. He represents our own doubts and uncertainties that we face on our own spiritual paths, showing us that the great Buddha is as human as you and I. Unfortunately, women keep throwing themselves at his feet - not exactly like you and I after all. In a long and heartbreaking side story featuring Devadatta, the son of the no-eyed-villain Bandaka, we see how much hatred and rejection a person can handle. Especially entertaining I found the return of Brahmin turned animal Naradatta who teaches Devadatta the circle of life and rules of survival ('The weak perish, the strong survive. Custom for all life. Humans aren't exempt'). Tezuka obviously enjoyed drawing animals of all kinds,

interacting with each other and the two humans that returned to the wild. It is in these pages that I understood that I had to finish the whole series - what great pleasure.

Osama Tezuka is a legend, often called "Japan's greatest cartoonist." He is worthy of this praise. His detailed black and white drawings are moving, vivid and cinematic. In this wonderful volume, he continues the tale of young Siddharta, a prince born into wealth and leisure, who struggles to determine the meaning of his existence. The side stories of the wolf boy and the young Assaji are moving and fascinating. The secret to Osama Tezuka's power is his story-telling ability. He tells the tale of the Buddha in Arabian Nights fashion, with stories within stories within stories. What is remarkable is he is able to do this while entertaining; as readers, we become spellbound by his picture-perfect drawings and fantastical settings. He even brings in occasional modern-day references to add comic relief to the weighty subject. This anachronistic dialogue originally put me off, but has grown on me as the series goes on. Even if you are not a fan of Japanese manga, try this one; Tezuka may win you over.

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