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# Black Jack, Vol. 1



## **Synopsis**

Black Jack is a mysterious and charismatic young genius surgeon who travels the world performing amazing and impossible medical feats. Though a trained physician, he refuses to accept a medical license due to his hatred and mistrust of the medical community's hypocrisy and corruption. This leads Black Jack to occasional run-ins with the authorities, as well as from gangsters and criminals who approach him for illegal operations. Black Jack charges exorbitant fees for his services, the proceeds from which he uses to fund environmental projects and to aid victims of crime and corrupt capitalists. But because Black Jack keeps his true motives secret, his ethics are perceived as questionable and he is considered a selfish, uncaring devil. The Black Jack series is told in short stories. Each volume will contain 16-20 stories, each running approximately 20-24 pages in length. Black Jack is recognized as Osamu Tezuka's third most famous series, after Astro Boy and Kimba, the White Lion.

## **Book Information**

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## **Customer Reviews**

Starred Review. Manga legend Tezuka fuses medical drama (think a manga House) with philosophy in this famed series about the adventures of the world's greatest surgeon, the eponymous Black Jack. Created in the '70s, Black Jack combines the episodic tension of Tezuka's early serials with the humanist concerns of his later work, like MW and Phoenix. Black Jack is a dramatic, nearly Byronic figure, with a scarred face and sinister black coat who is unlicensed despite his unparalleled healing skills. Operating outside normal society, Black Jack is called in for the most

outrÃƒÂ© and serious cases: a rich man's son who needs a body transplant; a young woman who keeps seeing the face of a murderer through her newly transplanted cornea; an American superdoctor computer that decides it's sick. In one of his most bizarre cases, Black Jack removes from a woman a teratoid tumor containing an unborn twin and uses the removed bits and synthetic parts to create a lisping little girl named Pinoko who functions as his sidekick. With genre-spanning stories—horror, sci-fi, romance—and Tezuka's signature blend of drama, bathos and extreme broad comedy jammed together on every page, Black Jack is a wild but extravagantly entertaining ride that's far more accessible than the author's novel-length epics. (Sept.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

PRAISE FOR OSAMU TEZUKA'S BLACK JACK:  
"Surely there's nothing in this series more continually striking than the artist's relentless, guaranteed depictions of surgery itself, happy rubber skin always peeled away to show realist meat and bone, minutely detailed organs mended or transplanted, then covered up again in the stuff of effortless napkin doodles." I found even the least of [these stories] fascinating examples of an artist casting his net especially far, secure in his talented hands and firm in his fame—ready to confront any malady, striving to cut away any harm, instrument tips sharp for making flesh whole.  
"The Blog" doesn't begin to sum up Black Jack's importance in the world of manga—I see a lot of Tezuka fans reaching for their wallets—not just for this volume alone, but for the whole of Black Jack as it's finally being re-released in the English-language edition it has always deserved. It was, and will be, more than worth the wait. Platinum Award.  
"Advanced Media Network" "Totally fun, totally engrossing. Black Jack is a page-turner of the highest order, and I blew through 280+ pages and I'm hungry for more."  
"Comics212.net" "Great material—classic crazy Tezuka with a bloody medical heartbeat tuning out the sound of man's inhumanity to man."  
"Newsrama" "While Astro Boy is more iconic and Phoenix is more epic in scope, Black Jack is arguably Tezuka's best and most enjoyable work." [It] hits Tezuka's sweet spot where his heart, his head and his sense of humor meet in perfect company.  
"About.com" "To match the beautiful outside, Camellia Nieh did a fantastic job with the translation. The entire book was a fantastic read cover-to-cover that I refused to put down. Whether you're just getting into manga, or have been a fan for decades, it would be a shame not to own this seminal title."  
"Japanator" "Black Jack is a dramatic, nearly Byronic figure." With genre-spanning stories—horror, sci-fi,

romance and Tezuka's signature blend of drama, bathos and extreme broad comedy jammed together on every page, Black Jack is a wild but extravagantly entertaining ride that's far more accessible than the author's novel-length epics. Publishers Weekly (starred review) "The stories are a unique mix of an Isaac Bashevis Singer morality tale, and outstanding creative medicine. Though Black Jack is aimed at a young audience, it has maturity not found in adult works. It's a piece of comic art that excels in form, and message." •Ain't It Cool News "Vertical, Inc. has promised 17 volumes of Black Jack to be released every other month over the next three years. That seems like a bold commitment, until you start reading the stories. From sores that look like faces (and talk, too) to eyes that see ghosts, the busy doctors on E.R. never had to deal with any of these unique patients. Osamu Tezuka's attention to detail on close-ups for surgeries and strange growths makes for some rubber-necking horror hard to turn away from. Black Jack is a 10. •Comics Village "Black Jack was Tezuka at his best; moving beyond his comfort zone, away from licensable children's robot characters (for him) uncharted gekiga manga territory. You don't need a doctor's prescription and there's no complicated follow-up medication or painful physical therapy. •just some serious entertainment from the pen of one of the world's masters of comics. •Let's Anime

I was recently introduced to Black Jack via internet with 2004 tv series. Having heard there is an English adaptation manga available, immediately I snatch them up. When compare to the tv version, the manga has more of a darker tone with surgery scenes being exposed, blood, and few inappropriate moments. Seeing the manga was made in the 70s, smoking and alcohol was a rather common thing back then. (Those scenes I do not find offending for was taken out in the tv version.) If you have a thing for old school manga that is not censored and suspense, then can be your cup of tea.

This is my first Tezuka series and I'm really enjoying reading through these volumes (I'm on vol. 3 as of this review). I enjoy manga series that have lots of short stories involving many different characters with the same main character at the core to tie everything together. And obviously Black Jack does just this since I bothered mentioning this. These stories put its characters into serious situations (usually a matter of life or death) and their response to the situation show the best and worst of humans. I also enjoy that bit by bit we learn more and more about Doctor Black Jack. At

first I was a bit put off by the art style, but now I'm really fond of it. I'd recommend Black Jack, I look forward to trying other Tezuka series but I have a feeling Black Jack will remain my favorite. But perhaps Phoenix will give Black Jack a run for its money that I'm not expecting ;) With regard to the book itself, I have no complaints about the cover, binding, or quality of paper so far. Each volume is jam packed and very fulfilling.

I remember seeing the Black Jack series years ago at a con I was at, and from that moment on I was hooked. I searched for the comic books, which are rare and hard to find, and I ordered the original Mangas when they were first released in the states, but the copying of the art was shoddy, and the translations were terrible. When I heard that they were re-releasing the Mangas I was delighted. As soon as I got my copy I knew I would be pleased. The page spacing is perfect for the artwork, the translations are wonderful, and I am happy to see this beautiful example of Japanese manga released in a format that will appeal to American and European readers. The stories themselves show a deep and probing knowledge of the human heart and psyche, and each story helps you look into the choice between right and wrong. In anycase, after several decades, this is still an amazing series with a rich and deeply developed plotline, and this edition truly does it justice!

Amazing comic - Tezuka was a master of the manga art. If you like medical dramas, this is for you. Don't let the sometimes goofy art put you off - this manga is deep and full of themes anyone of any age will appreciate.

Love this manga it's certainly in my top 3 favs.

My 9 year old son (and I) love this series. He can't wait until the next one arrives and finishes them within the day, always.

I now know why Tezuka is considered the godfather of manga. As I become more acquainted with his work I find myself actually falling in love with manga for the first time. I now know for a fact that, not only do Japanese comics boast a tremendously significant tradition, but that by the time East fully meets West, the world MUST redefine its understanding of comics forever.

It's a great read I would say one of the best manga I have read in a long time read it

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