



**CELEBRATING 25  
YEARS OF MANGA**

# ***DARK HORSE***

**A GUIDE TO DARK HORSE MANGA**



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## **GLOSSARY**

**ANIME**—A general term for animated Japanese television shows and movies.

**BUNKOBON**—A small manga format, about 4 x 6 inches.

**FLOPPED**—A format in which the manga artwork has been flopped to read left to right. This adjustment to fit the reading style of Western audiences was often made in the days when manga were targeted to the direct market.

**JOSEI**—Manga intended for adult women.

**MANGA**—A general term for Japanese comics, sometimes used incorrectly to refer to all Asian titles.

**MANGA-KA**—Creator of manga.

**MANHWA**—Korean comics. Although often grouped with manga, these titles have a distinct culture and style that differs from Japanese books.

**OTAKU**—A self-imposed term for a die-hard manga fan.

**SEINEN**—Manga intended for adult men.

**SERIALIZATION**—A process in which episodes in an ongoing series are distributed weekly or monthly before being collected into a trade paperback.

**SHOJO**—Manga intended for young women or teens.

**SHONEN**—Manga intended for young men or teens.

**TANKOBON**—Today's standard manga trade paperback format, about 5 x 7 inches.

**UNFLOPPED**—A format that keeps the original Japanese right-to-left reading style. This is currently the standard for publishing manga.



## YEARS OF MANGA

Did you know that Dark Horse Comics has continuously published manga longer than any other American publisher? You might also be surprised to learn that Dark Horse has the longest-running manga series in this country, Kosuke Fujishima's *Oh My Goddess!*, as well as the second-longest-running series, Hiroaki Samura's *Blade of the Immortal*. In fact, Dark Horse is the only company in this country to have actually set up offices in Tokyo; in partnership with JVC, we created our own manga anthology, *Super Comic Maker*, designed specifically for the Japanese market. The truth is, manga has been an important element of our publishing plans almost from day one, something that often gets overlooked due to the incredible variety of content in our line.

Over two and a half decades, Dark Horse has published many of the most influential Japanese titles in comics history, a list that includes such works as Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima's *Lone Wolf and Cub*, Masamune Shirow's *Ghost in the Shell*, Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira*, Yasuhiro Nightow's *Trigun*, Osamu Tezuka's *Astro Boy*, and Hiroya Oku's *Gantz*. During that time, we've worked with a virtual who's who of Japanese talent, creators such as Yoshitaka Amano, Kentaro Miura, Kohta Hirano, Yoshikazu Yasuhiko, Hideyuki Kikuchi, and supergroup CLAMP. The list goes on and on.

Our move into the world of Japanese comics all those years ago was no accident. Nor was it fueled by a chance to cash in on the manga craze; in fact, it predated the craze. No, our interest in manga was the result of a long-standing love of Japanese pop culture. The movies of Akira Kurosawa, the many samurai legends and films, early anime, even Japanese toys and products were all influential in those startup days of Dark Horse. It was only natural that we would pursue comics from the Land of the Rising Sun.

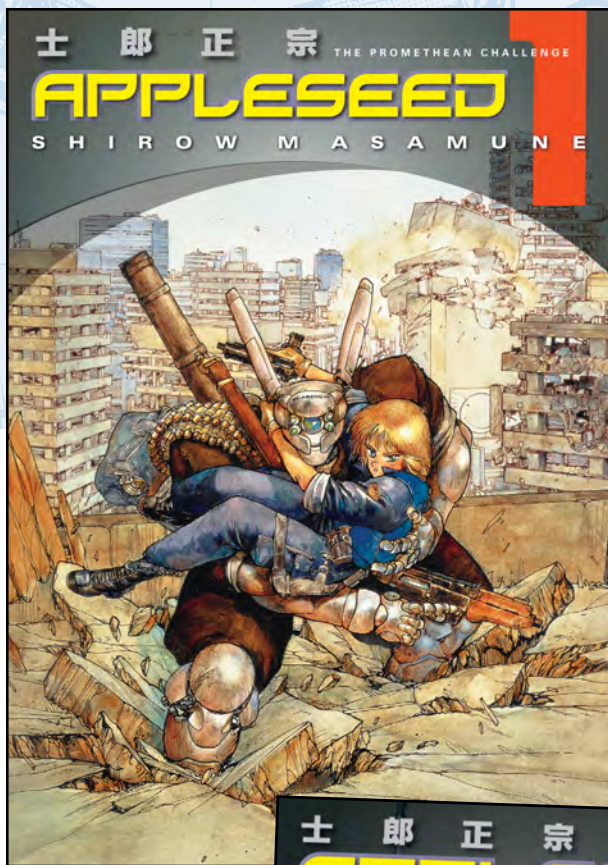
Our very first manga publication was a six-issue adaptation of the film *The Return of Godzilla*. Unable to track down a translator willing to adapt the series, and facing a looming deadline, I took home issues 1, 3, and 5, and editor Randy Stradley took home issues 2, 4, and 6, and, using the illustrations as our guide, we created our own translations. Our accuracy was based on our knowledge of the many films that had come before.

Previous to Dark Horse, I personally had acquired a set of *Weekly Manga Action* comics featuring *Lone Wolf and Cub* (known to us back then only as the "baby cart series"), and once I was a publisher, I immediately set out to track down the rights. An errant word to a rival publisher delayed our acquisition of the title, as well as my friendship with Kazuo Koike, for nearly a decade. The series would eventually sell over a million copies for Dark Horse in the states. Our manga division has grown since those early days, and our editorial staff for manga projects now includes Chris Warner, Philip Simon, and Jemiah Jefferson, as well as director of Asian licensing and translator Michael Gombos and our resident manga historian, editor Carl Horn.

As you might guess, publishing manga for twenty-five years has resulted in many more stories than I have room to tell here. Those years are also responsible for dozens of treasured friendships. All of this is to say that Dark Horse is more than just a manga publisher; we are manga fans, and we will continue our quest to publish the best and brightest Japan has to offer.

Mike Richardson





## APPLESEED

**TITLES:** *APPLESEED*, *APPLESEED: HYPERNOTES*, *APPLESEED ID*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** MASAMUNE SHIROW

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 14+

**VOLUMES:** 1-4 (*APPLESEED*); 1 (*HYPERNOTES*); 1 (*ID*)

World War III is over, and nomad soldier Deunan Knute and her cyborg partner Briareos struggle to survive in the abandoned cities and demilitarized zones of a postwar wasteland, the Bad-side. Matters appear to be on the upswing, however, when they are found and brought to Olympus, an urban utopia and centerpiece for the reconstruction of civilization. Deunan and Bri join

the Olympus police, a force that seems hardly necessary in such a paradise. But, like in most pretty pictures, perfection is an illusion, and Olympus's peaceful façade hides a dark secret, a violent struggle between human and cyborg that could once again plunge the world into war . . . and genocide.

Written and drawn by Masamune Shirow, creator of *Ghost in the Shell*—one of the highest-grossing anime of all time—*Appleseed* was one of the first manga to have an anime release in the US. *Appleseed* is known, along with *Ghost in the Shell*, as defining the cyberpunk genre and cyberpunk problematic. Several cinematic incarnations of the *Appleseed* franchise, including the most recent, *Appleseed: Ex Machina*, produced by John Woo, have given the franchise a continuing cultural relevance.







## ORION

**TITLE:** *ORION*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** MASAMUNE SHIROW

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 14+

**VOLUMES:** 1

In the mighty Yamata Empire, magic and technology are one and the same. Now, the empire is preparing its ultimate feat of psychoscience: the destruction of all the negative karma in the galaxy! But will this mystical purification be the salvation of humanity—or the trigger of its ultimate destruction? Only one being can save the empire from its folly: Susano, the god of destruction. Wild, arrogant, and homicidal, Susano has come to teach the world the true nature of power!

*Orion* is Shirow at his wildest. Published in right-to-left reading format, as originally published in Japan, this book also includes a variety of great bonus features, including an art gallery, *Orion* glossary, and notes on the text composed by Shirow himself!







## ASTRO BOY

**TITLE:** *ASTRO BOY*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** OSAMU TEZUKA

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 8+

**VOLUMES:** 1-23; **VOLUMES 1 & 2 OMNIBUS**

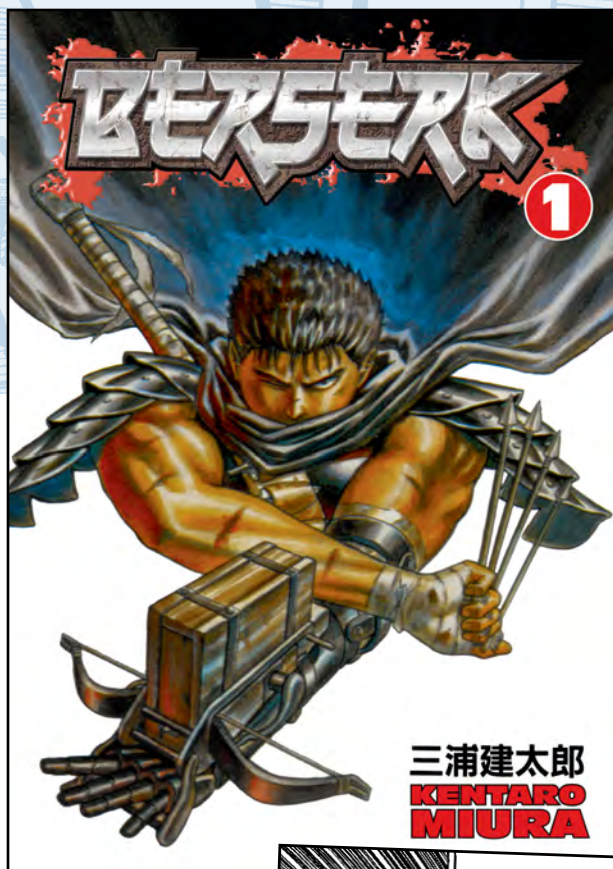
Dark Horse proudly presents another of the crown jewels of international graphic fiction—*Astro Boy*! Created by the late Osamu Tezuka (the “God of Manga,” a revered animator and cartoonist who created over 150,000 pages of comics in his career!), *Astro Boy* was the first manga series to be adapted to animation and became a worldwide phenomenon, making Astro Boy the Mickey Mouse of anime—a jet-powered, superstrong, evil-robot-bashing, alien-

invasion-smashing Mickey Mouse, that is! Exciting, whimsical, and touching, *Astro Boy* harks back to the classic era of comics and animation, featuring stories that readers young and old will enjoy! *Astro Boy* Volumes 1 & 2 are now available as a value-priced omnibus edition to help get you into manga’s most beloved series right away!

Timeless and definitive of manga, Osamu Tezuka is often likened to Walt Disney (although it should be the other way around). *Astro Boy*, which established the foundation of Japan’s “robot culture,” is a classic for younger readers and older readers alike. A CGI-animated *Astro Boy* movie was released in 2009.







## BERSERK

**TITLE:** *BERSERK*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** KENTARO MIURA

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

**VOLUMES:** 1-36 (ONGOING SERIES)

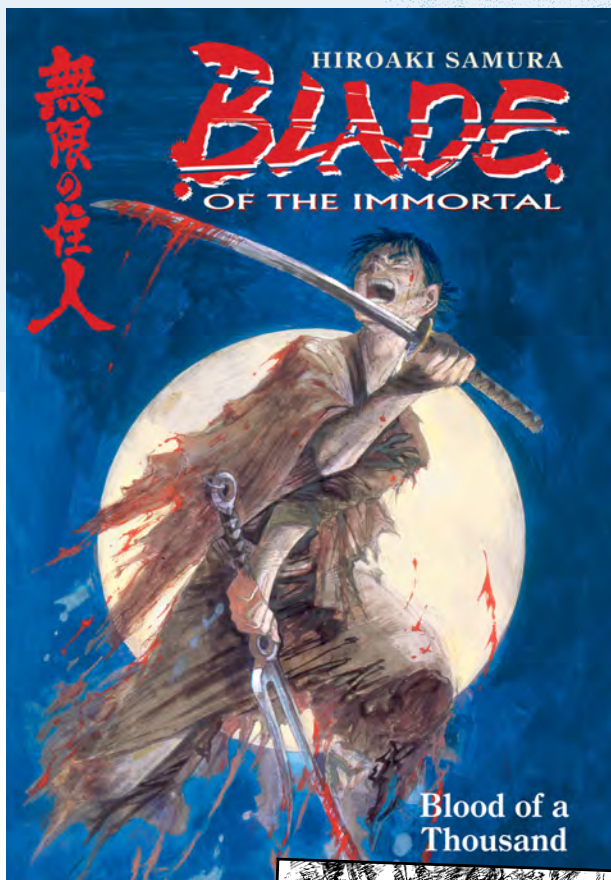
His name is Guts, the Black Swordsman, a feared warrior spoken of only in whispers. Bearer of a gigantic sword, an iron hand, and the scars of countless battles and tortures, he also has flesh indelibly marked with the Brand, an unholy symbol that draws the forces of darkness to him and dooms him as their sacrifice. But Guts won't take his fate lying down; he'll cut a crimson swath of carnage through the ranks of the damned—and anyone else foolish enough to oppose him! Accompanied

by Puck the elf, more an annoyance than a companion, Guts relentlessly follows a dark, bloodstained path that leads only to death . . . or vengeance. Created by Kentaro Miura, *Berserk* is manga mayhem to the extreme—violent, horrifying, and mercilessly funny—and the wellspring for the internationally popular anime series. Not for the squeamish or the easily offended, *Berserk* asks for no quarter—and offers none!

A *seinen* mainstay in Japan, with over ten million copies sold, *Berserk* is Japanese publisher Hakusensha's number-one *seinen* title. Like *Beowulf*, *300*, and *Lord of the Rings* in the West, *Berserk* is manga's great epic action/fantasy saga, and can be likened to them in scope and scale.







## BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL

**TITLE:** *BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** **HIROAKI SAMURA**

**FORMAT:** **B&W**

**AGE:** **16+**

**VOLUMES:** **1-26 (ONGOING SERIES)**

"To end his eternal suffering, he must slay one thousand enemies!" Manji, a *ronin* warrior of feudal Japan, has been cursed with immortality. To rid himself of this curse and end his life of misery, he must slay one thousand evil men! His quest begins when a young girl seeks his help in taking revenge on her parents' killers . . . and his quest won't end until the blood of a thousand has spilled!

Creator Hiroaki Samura is revered among American comics fans for his style and pacing skill. Winner of the 2000 Eisner Award for Best US Edition of Foreign Material, *Blade of the Immortal* reinvents the samurai epic (see *Lone Wolf and Cub*) in a modern style. A progenitor of hits like *Samurai Champloo*, this series has a traditional historical fantasy element, along with a hip, anachronistic touch.

See page 33 for info on Dark Horse's collector's-edition *The Art of Blade of the Immortal* hardcover, as well as the *Blade of the Immortal: Legend of the Sword Demon* novel!







## BLOOD+

**TITLE:** *BLOOD+, BLOOD+: ADAGIO, BLOOD+: KOWLOON NIGHTS*

**WRITER:** VARIOUS

**ARTIST:** VARIOUS

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

**VOLUMES:** 1-5 (*BLOOD+*); 1-2 (*ADAGIO*); 1 (*KOWLOON NIGHTS*)

The *Blood +* mythos originated in Hiroyuki Kitakubo's *Blood: The Last Vampire*, an anime acclaimed by *The Matrix*'s Andy Wachowski. *Blood +* is a multimedia sensation, with an animated series that aired on Adult Swim. Several other spinoffs (also published by Dark Horse) have had immense success in Japan. Asuka Katsura's manga series success-

fully expands upon the original Production I.G./Aniplex feature, delivering moments of jarring violence and thrilling action in a tale that spans several centuries.

Saya Otonashi lives as a seemingly normal high-school student with her adoptive family in Okinawa, aside from horrible nightmares of a past life. Chiropterans—powerful shape-changing creatures who need and crave blood—threaten humanity once more, and a mysterious organization called the Red Shield needs Saya's deadly sword skills and mysterious powers to aid in the fight against these beasts. As Saya's submerged abilities begin to reawaken and she seeks to regain her memories, Chiropteran warriors are guided by a mysterious leader to threaten Saya and her loved ones.

See page 34 for info on Dark Horse's *Blood +* illustrated novel series!







## CLAMP

**TITLES:** *ANGELIC LAYER*, *BLOOD-C*, *CARDCAPTOR SAKURA*, *CHOBITS*, *CLOVER*, *GATE 7*, *MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH*, *TOKYO BABYLON*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** CLAMP

**FORMAT:** B&W WITH COLOR

**AGE:** 14+

**VOLUMES:** 1-2 (*ANGELIC LAYER*); 1 (*BLOOD-C*, ONGOING SERIES); 1-4 (*CARDCAPTOR SAKURA*); 1-2 (*CHOBITS*); 1 (*CLOVER*); 1-3 (*GATE 7*, ONGOING SERIES); 1-2 (*MAGIC KNIGHT RAYEARTH*); 1-2 (*TOKYO BABYLON*)

Satsuki Igarashi, Mokona, Tsubaki Nekoi, and Nanase Ohkawa, the female supergroup known to their millions of fans worldwide as CLAMP, have worked together to produce award-winning, best-selling manga. Dark Horse first began

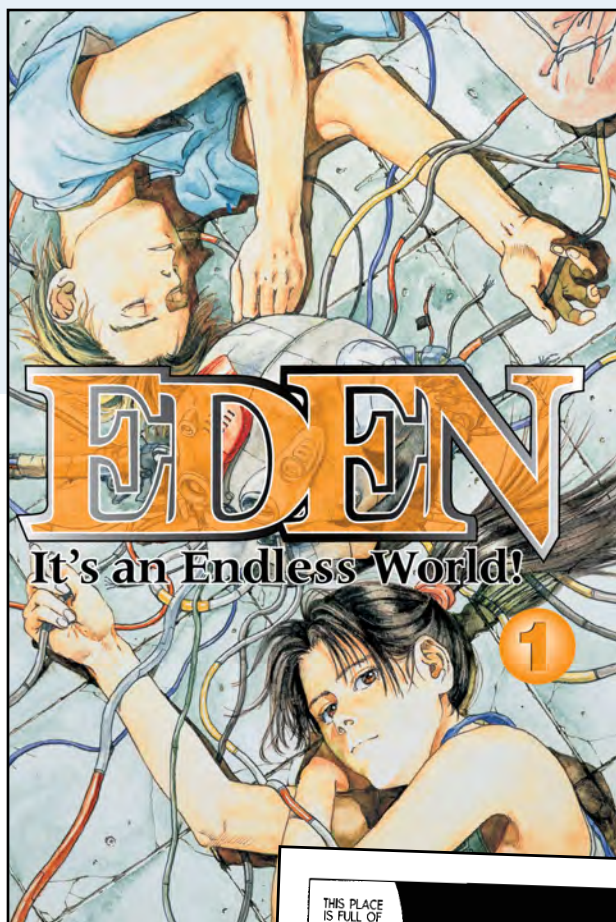
a partnership with CLAMP by collecting the previously published works of this group of *manga-ka* royalty into highly sought-after omnibus editions, including *Clover*, *Chobits*, *Tokyo Babylon*, *Angelic Layer*, *Cardcaptor Sakura*, and *Magic Knight Rayearth*, as well as Mokona's *Okimono Kimono*. In addition, Dark Horse is proud to be the exclusive American publisher of CLAMP's latest work, *Gate 7*, releasing just months after its Japanese premiere! In 2013, Dark Horse will publish *Blood-C*, produced in coordination with Production I.G, creators of the *Blood+* and *Blood-C* anime, and continuing the saga begun in the *Blood+* series of novels, anime, and manga.











## EDEN

**TITLE:** *EDEN*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** HIROKI ENDO

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

**VOLUMES:** 1-13

*Eden* is both a brilliant love song to the postapocalyptic survival genre and a deep exploration of man's role in the natural order. In the near future, a brutal virus that hardens the skin while dissolving internal organs wipes out a huge portion of humanity. Those who aren't immune are either severely crippled or allowed to live with cybernetically enhanced bodies. Taking advantage of a world in chaos, a paramilitary force known as Propater topples the United Nations and seeks world domina-

tion. Elijah, a young survivor searching for his mother, travels toward the Andes Mountains with an artificially intelligent combat robot. When he encounters a group of anti-Propater freedom fighters, a maelstrom of unique characters unfolds. Graphic, cyberpunk, and philosophical, *Eden* is a place where endearing heroes face a constant struggle for survival and violent surprises wait around every corner.

Hiroki Endo's *Eden* receives constant recognition and critical acclaim, from *Wizard* magazine naming it the Best Manga of 2007, to *Newtype* magazine calling it "the best manga that American money can buy."







## GANTZ

**TITLE:** *GANTZ*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** HIROYA OKU

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

**VOLUMES:** 1-26 (ONGOING SERIES)

How long will you stay in the game? The last thing Kei and Masaru remember was being struck dead by a subway train while saving the life of a drunken bum. What a waste! And yet somehow they're still . . . alive? Or semialive? Maybe they've been reanimated . . . by some kind of alien orb with a nasty message . . . "Your lives are over. What you do with your new lives is up to me!" And what this orb called Gantz intends to do with their lives is make them play games of death, hunting

all kinds of odd aliens, alongside a bunch of other ordinary citizens who've recently met a tragic semiend. The missions they embark upon are often dangerous. Many die—and die again. This dark and action-packed manga deals with the moral conflicts of violence, teenage sexual confusion and angst, and our fascination with death.

*Gantz* has been one of the most popular adult anime in recent years, with nearly half a million copies sold, and the manga runs in the Japanese magazine *Weekly Young Jump*, which has a record circulation of over three million readers. *Gantz* was the most heavily requested title for publication in English of all time.







## GUNSMITH CATS

**TITLE:** *GUNSMITH CATS REVISED EDITIONS, GUNSMITH CATS: BURST*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** **KENICHI SONODA**

**FORMAT:** **B&W**

**AGE:** **18+**

**VOLUMES:** **1-4 (GUNSMITH CATS REVISED EDITIONS); 1-5 (GUNSMITH CATS: BURST)**

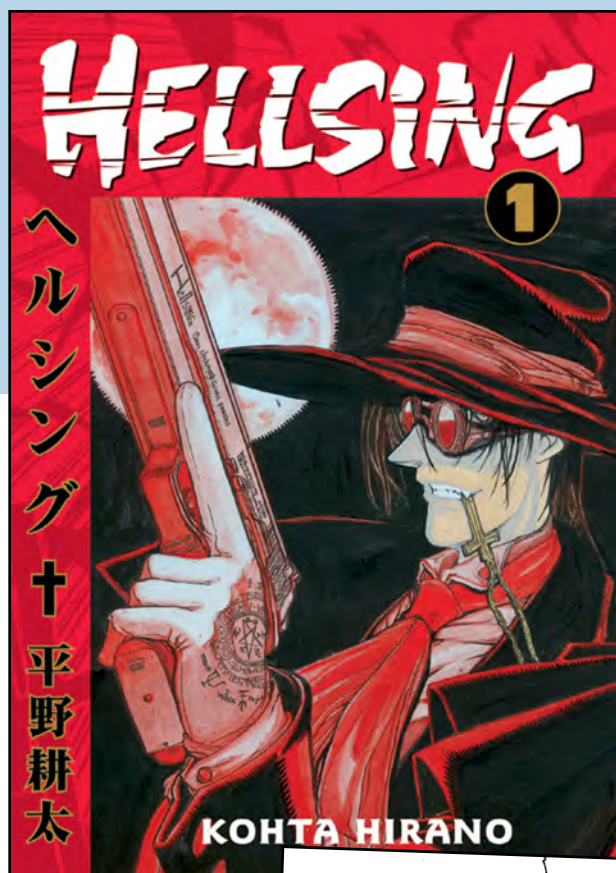
Kenichi Sonoda's sexy stories about two bounty-hunting girls on the dangerous streets of Chicago have always been a favorite of manga fans. Rally Vincent and Minnie-May Hopkins are experts in their respective fields of marksmanship and explosives, but they're so cute you'd never know—and neither would the perps unlucky enough to be their prey. Presented in the authentic

right-to-left Japanese format, these volumes are action packed, unaltered, and sure to please gun nuts, auto buffs, and manga maniacs alike.

*"All in all Gunsmith Cats is an excellent seinen manga and anyone looking for the equivalent to an 80s action movie should check it out."—Japanator*







## HELLSING

**TITLE:** *HELLSING*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** KOHTA HIRANO

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 16+

**VOLUMES:** 1-10

There's a secret organization somewhere in England created to defend queen and country from monsters of all kinds: Hellsing, an agency long in tooth, with the experience, know-how, and equipment to handle the problems that arise when vampires and ghouls take on these dark forces. "What equipment?" you may ask. How about a vampire with an appetite for destruction and a giant pistol loaded with special silver bullets? Yeah, that should do the trick.



Mainstream anime series of both *Hellsing* and *Hellsing Ultimate* make *Hellsing*, along with titles like *Trigun*, a staple of the current anime and manga culture. Whether it's Nazis, vampires, or ancient secrets of the church, creator Kohta Hirano takes old clichés and turns them into shocking story lines.

*"Kohta Hirano has told an epic masterpiece of the ultra cool kind and Hellsing's ten volumes is proof of that."*

—Animanga Nation





## DRIFTERS

**TITLE:** *DRIFTERS*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** KOHTA HIRANO

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 16+

**VOLUMES:** 1-2

Imagine a world of magic and wonder, full of elves and hobbits and dragons and orcs. Inside this world there is a great war being waged, using warriors from human history as chess pieces in a bloody, endless battle. Kohta Hirano's concept gathers famous warriors from throughout history, puts them on both sides of good and evil, and then turns them loose in a bloody melee of madness. Featuring historical characters such as Joan of Arc, Hannibal, and Rasputin, this new series drops these heroes into

an enchanted land where humans subjugate the nonhuman races. After pitting the Catholic Church against vampires, Nazis, and Great Britain, and filling the streets of London with blood, *Hellsing* creator Kohta Hirano returns with an all-new original series!

*"Drifters is a fun mix of historical characters and fantasy, with some great over-the-top moments stitched together by a solid story idea."*—Comics Bulletin







## THE KUROSAgi CORPSE DELIVERY SERVICE

TITLE: **THE KUROSAgi CORPSE DELIVERY SERVICE**

WRITER: **EIJI OTSUKA**

ARTIST: **HOSUI YAMAZAKI**

FORMAT: **B&W**

AGE: **18+**

VOLUMES: **1-13 (ONGOING SERIES)**

Your body is their business! Five young students at a Buddhist university, three guys and two girls, find little call for their job skills in today's Tokyo . . . among the *living*, anyway. But all that stuff in college they were told would never pay off—you know, channeling, dowsing, ESP—gives them a direct line to the dead . . . the dead who are still trapped in their corpses

and can't move on to the next reincarnation. The five form the Kurosagi ("Black Heron"—their ominous bird logo) Corpse Delivery Service: whether suicide, murder, accident, or illness, they'll carry your body wherever it needs to go to free your soul!

*Kurosagi* stands alone as a story, but also ties in to the same author's *MPD-Psycho*, with which it shares a main character—a rare example of "universes" in manga. Controversial, contemporary horror with black comedy, *Kurosagi* is described as "Scooby-Doo meets Se7en."







## LONE WOLF AND CUB

**TITLE:** *LONE WOLF AND CUB*

**WRITER:** KAZUO KOIKE

**ARTIST:** GOSEKI KOJIMA

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 16+

**VOLUMES:** 1-28

**SALES:** *LONE WOLF AND CUB* IS DARK HORSE'S HIGHEST-EVER-SELLING SERIES, WITH OVER 1.3 MILLION UNITS SOLD.

Dark Horse Comics is proud to present an authentic landmark in graphic fiction, *Lone Wolf and Cub*, published in its entirety for the first time in America. An epic samurai adventure of staggering proportion—over seven thousand pages—*Lone*

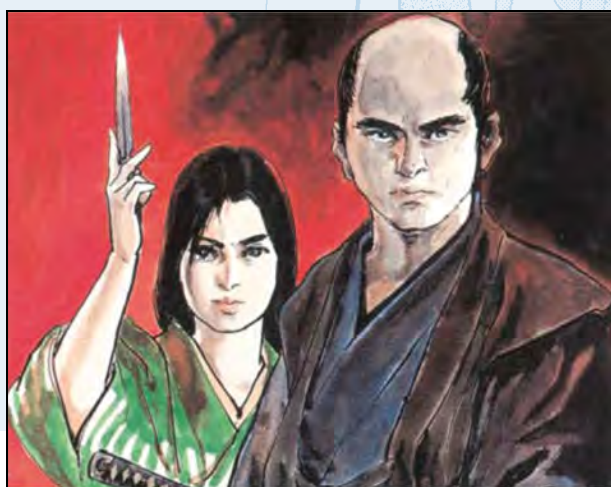
*Wolf and Cub* (*Kozure Okami* in Japan) is acknowledged worldwide for the brilliant writing of series creator Kazuo Koike and the groundbreaking cinematic visuals of the late Goseki Kojima. This unforgettable partnership has influenced a generation of visual storytellers both in Japan and in the West.

A personal favorite of the likes of Frank Miller and Quentin Tarantino, *Lone Wolf and Cub* is regarded by many in the industry as the single greatest piece of graphic fiction ever created. By Koike's request, Miller's original-art covers adorn not only the English editions, but the Japanese editions as well. In 2013, Dark Horse will begin an omnibus program to collect this extensive body of work.

Don't miss this monumental release, twenty-eight volumes, with each collection approximately three hundred pages.







# 半蔵の門 PATH OF THE ASSASSIN

VOLUME 1  
SERVING IN THE DARK

By KAZUO KOIKE

## PATH OF THE ASSASSIN

TITLE: **PATH OF THE ASSASSIN**

WRITER: **KAZUO KOIKE**

ARTIST: **GOSEKI KOJIMA**

FORMAT: **B&W**

AGE: **18+**

VOLUMES: **1-15**

If you think you have a tough job, try taking a pudgy, sheltered youngster and making him into the leader who will unite Japan under his single rule! Hattori Hanzō, the fabled master ninja, has been assigned this difficult task and must protect Tokugawa Ieyasu, the young shogun-to-be who is destined to unite Japan into one great nation. But protecting his young master doesn't

just mean guarding him from physical harm; it also means being the secret caretaker of Ieyasu's reputation and serving as Ieyasu's teacher in the ways of the world!

A touching and action-packed coming-of-age story of two young men bound to a nation's potential future at a time when Japan was in transition from a warlike feudal state into an era of bureaucracy and infighting, *Path of the Assassin* offers up a fascinating look at a turning point in Japanese history. Another quasi-historical tale from the masters of Japanese samurai manga—*Lone Wolf and Cub* creators Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima—*Path of the Assassin* is published in the popular pocket-sized manga format and packs historical fiction and fine art in yet another classic samurai series from Dark Horse.





# SAMURAI 首斬り朝 EXECUTIONER



VOLUME 1 WHEN THE DEMON KNIFE WEEPS

By KAZUO KOIKE

## SAMURAI EXECUTIONER

TITLE: **SAMURAI EXECUTIONER**

WRITER: **KAZUO KOIKE**

ARTIST: **GOSEKI KOJIMA**

FORMAT: **B&W**

AGE: **18+**

VOLUMES: **1-10**

Before Kazuo Koike and Goseki Kojima created Ittō Ōgami, they created Kubikiri Asa, better known to *Lone Wolf and Cub* readers as Decapitator Asaemon. He was the equal to Ittō, and bearer of the sword Onibocho, the man charged with the duty of testing the swords for the shogun. *Samurai Executioner* is based on the Decapitator's life before his fatal duel with Lone Wolf. Expect the same legendary drama, frantic action, and

stoic samurai stature, combined with the exemplary art and storytelling that made *Lone Wolf and Cub* one of the most popular and influential comic books in the world.

From the highly respected, Eisner Award-winning team behind *Lone Wolf and Cub* comes *Samurai Executioner*, the backstory of Kubikiri Asa. Just as compelling and beautiful as its companion title, *Samurai Executioner* is a must-have for any dedicated manga fan and the prequel to one of the most seminal works of manga, *Lone Wolf and Cub*.







## MPD-PSYCHO

**TITLE:** *MPD-PSYCHO*  
**WRITER:** EIJI OTSUKA  
**ARTIST:** SHO-U TAJIMA  
**FORMAT:** B&W  
**AGE:** 18+  
**VOLUMES:** 1-10

If Takashi Miike's *MPD-Psycho* television series still has you confused and reeling, the original manga series that inspired the show is sure to take you on a longer, darker journey into madness.

Police detective Yosuke Kobayashi's life is changed forever after a serial killer notices something "special" about him. That same

killer mutilates Kobayashi's wife and sets off a "multiple personality battle" within Kobayashi that pushes him into a complex tempest of interconnected deviants and evil forces.

One of the most controversial manga ever created, the series was deemed too shocking for its former US publisher to release. Dark Horse Manga is proud to present the series uncut and uncensored in all of its controversial and unflinchingly grotesque glory!







## NEON GENESIS EVANGELION

**TITLES:** *NEON GENESIS EVANGELION: THE SHINJI IKARI RAISING PROJECT*, *NEON GENESIS EVANGELION: CAMPUS APOCALYPSE*, *NEON GENESIS EVANGELION: COMIC TRIBUTE*

**WRITER:** **VARIOUS**

**ARTIST:** **VARIOUS**

**FORMAT:** **B&W**

**AGE:** **18+**

**VOLUMES:** **1-12** (*THE SHINJI IKARI RAISING PROJECT*); **1-4** (*CAMPUS APOCALYPSE*); **1** (*COMIC TRIBUTE*)

Since it first hit Japanese TV screens in 1995, the multimedia *Neon Genesis Evangelion* phenomenon has never faded. The legend has only spread further in the last decade with the North American release of the *Evangelion* series

on DVD and its subsequent airing on Adult Swim. *Evangelion's* revival continues with a brand-new slate of movies entitled *Rebuild of Evangelion*. The first film, *Evangelion: 1.0 You Are (Not) Alone*, the top-selling anime DVD release of 2008 in Japan, moved 219,000 copies in its premiere week! Dark Horse began publishing this hit series in manga shortly afterward in 2009, to continued praise from the on-line manga community. The *Neon Genesis Evangelion* publishing line at Dark Horse consists of the ongoing *Neon Genesis Evangelion: The Shinji Ikari Raising Project* and the four-volume saga *Neon Genesis Evangelion: Campus Apocalypse*.

In 2013, Dark Horse will publish *Neon Genesis Evangelion: Comic Tribute*, which is an officially authorized one-shot anthology of parody stories assaulting *Evangelion* from all directions.







## OH MY GODDESS!

**TITLE:** *OH MY GODDESS!*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** KOSUKE FUJISHIMA

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 12+

**VOLUMES:** 1-44 (ONGOING SERIES)

Alone in his dorm on a Saturday night, Nekomi Tech's Keiichi Morisato dials a wrong number that will change his life forever—reaching the Goddess Technical Help Line. Granted one wish by the charming young goddess Belldandy, Keiichi wishes she would stay with him always! After the new couple is tossed out of the male-only dorm, the hapless student and his mysterious “foreign beauty” ride around looking for a new place to

stay. How is his new “exchange student” companion going to be received on the NIT campus? A little too well for normal life to ever return . . .

*Oh My Goddess!* is the longest-running manga series in English, by the creator of *You're Under Arrest*. A pioneer in relationship-comedy stories in the US market, *Oh My Goddess!* is popular among both male and female readers and continues to attract fan letters and art. Highly recognized, the anime counterpart is a perennial bestseller for Media Blasters and ADV.







## OLD BOY

**TITLE:** *OLD BOY*

**WRITER:** GARON TSUCHIYA

**ARTIST:** NOBUAKI MINEGISHI

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

**VOLUMES:** 1-8

Ten years ago, he was taken. For ten years, he was confined in a private prison. For ten years, his only contact with the outside world was a television set and the voices of his jailers. Never told why he was imprisoned, or by whom, in time he lost himself. He changed . . . transformed into something else . . . something hard . . . something lethal. But just as suddenly as it began—and with just as little explanation—his incarceration

has ended. Sedated, stuffed inside a trunk, and dumped in a park, he has been released. When he awakes, he is free to reclaim what's left of his life, but all that's left is an unwavering desire for answers and revenge.

An intense, bare-knuckled urban thriller in the tradition of *Pulp Fiction* and *Payback* and a captivating hard-boiled whodunit true to the finest film noir, *Old Boy* was the inspiration behind acclaimed Korean director Chan-Wook Park's 2003 release *Oldboy*, a film which was awarded the Grand Jury Prize at the 2004 Cannes Film Festival. The Eisner Award-Winning manga series is currently in development as an all-new film from visionary director Spike Lee!







## OREIMO

**TITLE:** *OREIMO*  
**WRITER:** TSUKASA FUSHIMI  
**ARTIST:** SAKURA IKEDA  
**FORMAT:** B&W  
**AGE:** 16+  
**VOLUMES:** 1-3 (ONGOING)

Based on the popular anime and series of light novels, *Oreimo* is the story of a teenage brother and sister brought closer together after he discovers her greatest secret—she’s an *otaku*! Full of outrageous laughs and surprises, the story follows Kyouzuke and his little sister Kirino as they attempt to keep her classmates and parents from discovering her love of anime and video games, a secret that could tarnish her squeaky-clean image

both at school and at home. With nosy classmates closing in and a strict father on the lookout, Kyouzuke soon finds out there is so much more to his kid sister than her grade-point average and teen modeling career! Tsukasa Fushimi’s *Ore no imouto ga konnani kawaii wake ga nai* novel series has sold over 950,000 copies in Japan.

### Praise for the anime:

*“[Oreimo] proves to be clever and quite funny as it provides a surprisingly entertaining and satisfying exploration of both covert otakudom and sibling relationship dynamics.”—Anime News Network*







## TRIGUN

**TITLE:** *TRIGUN*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 12+

**VOLUMES:** 1-2

Comedy, science fiction, and western gunslinger action congregate within the pages of *Trigun*. Created by Yasuhiro Nightow, this compound of genre-bending ingredients has turned the *Trigun* anime into a wildly popular series. Somehow, the past has placed a sixty-billion-double-dollar bounty on Vash's head, and the gunslinging pacifist can't seem to get away from money-grubbing, itchy-trigger-finger citizenry. Find out why Vash is worth so much money dead! Feel the clumsy

worry of the unfortunate citizens of the planet Gunsmoke! Follow the follies of an unlikely hero in a forbidding world! Join Vash the Stampede—with his troubled past and uncanny ability to dodge a gazillion bullets—and a cavalcade of unlucky characters on a dusty desert planet in the distant future.

You simply can't go to an anime con in the US without seeing fans dressed as *Trigun* heroes like Vash and Nick Wolfwood! Thanks to exposure on Adult Swim, *Trigun* has become a true staple for American *otaku*.







## TRIGUN MAXIMUM

TITLE: **TRIGUN MAXIMUM**

WRITER/ARTIST: **YASUHIRO NIGHTOW**

FORMAT: **B&W**

AGE: **12+**

VOLUMES: **1-14**

The hottest manga on the market enters brand-new storytelling territory! As an anime series, *Trigun* had a multitude of fans across the *otaku* landscape before gaining a burgeoning mainstream manga audience. *Trigun Maximum* goes beyond the story in the anime and the first two top-selling manga volumes. Our hero, Vash the Stampede, disappeared for two years after blasting a crater into the moon above the desert planet he saved from annihilation. But with good and bad alike trying

to track him down, he won't stay lost for long. Count on more crazy gunslinger action, dastardly villains, and a new outfit to boot.

The internationally acclaimed *Trigun* anime series originally aired in the US on Cartoon Network's *Adult Swim*, making *Trigun Maximum* and its characters the most recognized in manga in a decade.







## BLOOD BLOCKADE BATTLEFRONT

**TITLE:** *BLOOD BLOCKADE BATTLEFRONT*

**WRITER/ARTIST:** YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 16+

**VOLUMES:** 1-3 (ONGOING)

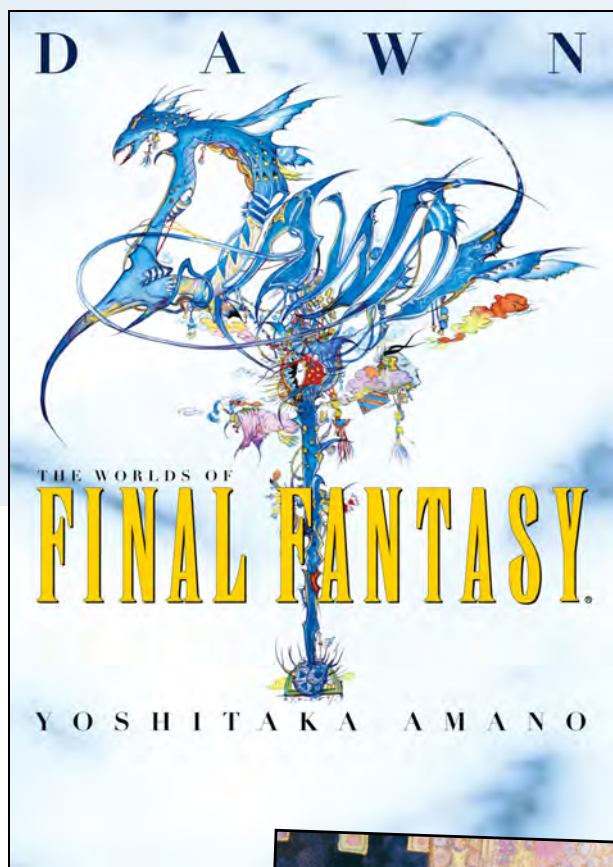
From Yasuhiro Nightow, the creator of the legendary *Trigun* series, comes a sci-fi epic! A breach between Earth and the netherworlds has opened up over the city of New York, trapping New Yorkers and creatures from other dimensions in an impenetrable bubble known as New Jerusalem. They've lived together for years in this postapocalyptic hell. Now someone is threatening to sever the bubble, and it's up to the agents of

Libra to quietly keep the lid on the paranormal pressure cooker. This action-packed new saga features the same comedy and fast action people have come to expect from this top *manga-ka* and is sure to grab readers from before the first page turn!

*"Blood Blockade Battlefront is a good choice for readers who like a lot of action and don't mind being dropped into the middle of the story, without a lot of setup."—MTV Geek*







## AMANO

**TITLES:** *COFFIN: THE ART OF VAMPIRE HUNTER D*, *DAWN: THE WORLDS OF FINAL FANTASY*, *DEVA ZAN*, *FAIRIES*, *THE SKY: THE ART OF FINAL FANTASY*, *THE TALE OF GENJI*, *WORLDS OF AMANO*, *YOSHITAKA AMANO: THE COLLECTED ART OF VAMPIRE HUNTER D*

**ARTIST:** YOSHITAKA AMANO

**FORMAT:** VARIOUS

**AGE:** 12+

Yoshitaka Amano is perhaps one of the most celebrated Japanese artists in history, having started with a career in animation with the cult television show *Speed Racer* in the late 1960s. Since that time, Amano has created well-known characters, such as Gatchaman, and illustrated the long-running series of *Vampire Hunter D* novels.

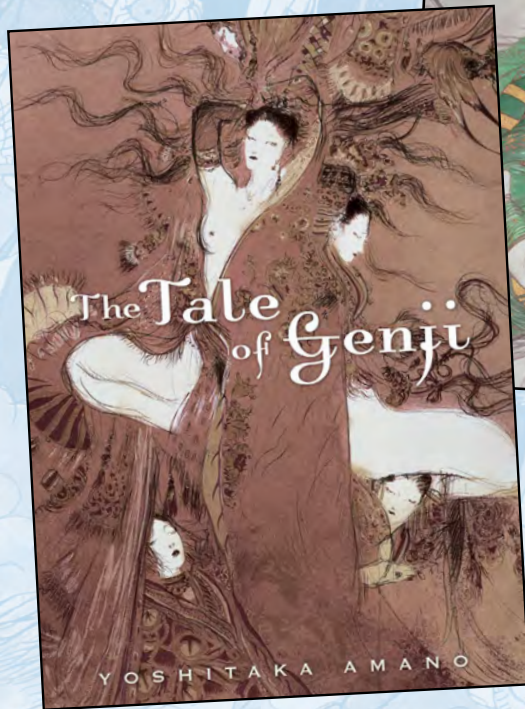
Eclectic and apparently without limit, Yoshitaka Amano's art is stunning. He has been praised around the world for his lush watercolors and evocative work dealing with myth and legend. Dark Horse has published several collections of Amano's works, drawing on projects from over the last thirty years, with many rarely seen illustrations. This library of titles captures the rare beauty and inspiration of his vision.

One of his most definitive bodies of work is his concept art and design for Square Enix's *Final Fantasy* franchise. In 2012, Dark Horse printed the highly limited and now sought-after *The Sky: The Art of Final Fantasy*. In 2013, Dark Horse will release a new slipcased edition of this sold-out set. *The Sky I*, *II*, and *III* showcase Amano's

ethereal illustrations for the first ten *Final Fantasy* games! Each hardcover book in *The Sky* Slipcased Edition is 11 5/8 inches high by 10 5/8 inches wide and printed on glossy stock. These







books provide a rare look inside the creative process of one of the most influential popular-culture artists working in Japan in the last thirty years.

Amano brings his considerable talent to retelling one of the most famous of Japanese myths, *The Tale of Genji*, written by Murasaki Shikibu shortly after 1000 AD and considered by most scholars to be the first novel. Through paintings, Amano brings this classic story to life for a new generation. In 2013, Dark Horse also has the honor to publish *Deva Zan*, Yoshitaka Amano's first fantasy novel as an author as well as an illustrator! After an epic ten years of planning, Amano has made *Deva Zan* his personal expression of the legends of Asia for his Western readership. It is released in America before being released in Japan or elsewhere.

*"[Amano's] work is at once loose and undefined, full of movement and action but suddenly crisp and clear seeming more solid and real than the room around you. Breathtaking, each image is reachable and yet so very, very far away."*—Blogcritics







*“There are so many breathtaking images here that it’s difficult to single out just one for praise, but Month of Dreams, rendered in acrylics and colored inks, should be noted for the delicate linework, elongated figures, colorful patterns, and poignant emotion so often found in Amano’s work.”—Locus Magazine*

*“Yoshitaka Amano is one of the world’s foremost fantasy artists, and the limited-edition The Sky: The Art of Final Fantasy boxed set is a giant-sized, signed collection of five books, plus bonus items that showcase Amano’s ethereal illustrations for the first ten Final Fantasy games!”—Book Reporter*







## BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL ART BOOK & NOVEL

**TITLES:** *THE ART OF BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL*, *BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL: LEGEND OF THE SWORD DEMON*

**ARTIST:** HIROAKI SAMURA

**FORMATS:** FC (*THE ART OF BLADE OF THE IMMORTAL*);  
B&W (*LEGEND OF THE SWORD DEMON*)

**AGE:** 18+

Hiroaki Samura's *Blade of the Immortal* epic is a unique, expertly paced manga series that mixes Edo-era samurai grudge matches with anachronistic punk attitudes and mannerisms. In Dark Horse's *The Art of Blade of the Immortal*, Hiroaki Samura's lush color paintings, detailed line work, and selected story pages and chapter breaks are on display in an oversized, 9 x 12-inch hardcover collection.

While the art is some of the highest-caliber work in Japanese comics, this compelling story can also stand on its own, as demonstrated by *Blade of the Immortal: Legend of the Sword Demon*. Hiroaki Samura's groundbreaking tale of redemption and magic finds new life in this first novel, featuring six all-new illustrations by Samura.



*The Art of Blade of the Immortal*

*The Art of Blade of the Immortal*





## BLOOD+ ILLUSTRATED NOVELS

**TITLES:** *FIRST KISS, CHEVALIER, BOY MEETS GIRL, NANKURUNAISA*

**WRITER:** RYO IKEHATA

**ARTIST:** CHIZU HASHII

**FORMAT:** B&W

**VOLUMES:** 1-4

**AGE:** 14+

Suffering from extreme amnesia, high-school student Saya Otonashi can't remember anything from her life before the past year. Living with a foster family outside a military base in Okinawa, Japan, Saya attempts to live a normal life—but her plans are shattered when a Chiropteran, a horrific vampire-like

monster, attacks her. Saved at the last minute by a mysterious man named Hagi, Saya is presented with a sword that awakens in her a warrior's skills and blood lust and sets her on a course that will lead her to her missing memories and into battle against a race of creatures intent on destroying the world.

The epic adventure that began in the groundbreaking film *Blood: The Last Vampire* and has continued through the worldwide phenomenon TV and manga series *Blood+* is brought to life in this series of novels adapting the hit show. Saya's journey of horror, magic, romance, and mystery will stretch across time and around the world, expanding on the television series with new characters, new adventures, and breathtaking action.







## THE DIRTY PAIR ILLUSTRATED NOVELS

**TITLES:** *THE GREAT ADVENTURE OF THE DIRTY PAIR*, *THE DIRTY PAIR STRIKE AGAIN*

**WRITER:** HARUKA TAKACHIHO

**ARTIST:** YOSHIKAZU YASUHIKO

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 18+

Charged with keeping the peace and investigating crime among the stars, the Worlds Welfare Work Association (WWWA) prides itself on a reputation of safety and regard for life and property. If only someone would tell that to Agents Kei and Yuri, code named "the lovely Angels" but better known as "the Dirty Pair." Part female James Bond and part walking disaster, this duo get the job done, though there are no guarantees that a city or two won't get razed in the process!

Created by popular science-fiction author Haruka Takachiho in 1979, the Dirty Pair are among the most beloved characters in popular anime and science-fiction circles.



*The Dirty Pair Strike Again*

*The Great Adventure of the Dirty Pair*





# GUNGRAVE

**TITLES:** *GUNGRAVE ANIME MANGA, GUNGRAVE ARCHIVES*

**WRITER/ARTIST: YASUHIRO NIGHTOW**

**FORMAT: FC**

**AGE: 14+**

Created by *Trigun* mastermind Yasuhiro Nightow, *Gungrave* tells the story of Brandon Heat, for whom death doesn't matter. Driven by his need for revenge, he returns from beyond the grave to cripple Millenion, the mafia organization that uses undead monsters as its enforcers. His ultimate goal—to destroy Harry McDowel, the leader of Millenion, and at one time, his best friend . . . Starting as a hit first-person-shooter video game in Japan, *Gungrave* moved overseas to become an American PlayStation 2 favorite before making the move to become a popular anime in both countries. Dark Horse is proud to bring to America the works of Yasuhiro Nightow and add a new piece to the manga master's growing portfolio.



*Gungrave Archives*

## Gungrave Anime Manga



AN ALL-NEW NOVEL BASED ON THE HIT MANGA AND ANIME!



# OH MY GODDESS!

— FIRST END —

WRITTEN BY  
YUMI TOHMA

WITH ILLUSTRATIONS BY  
KOSUKE FUJISHIMA AND HIDENORI MATSUBARA

## OH MY GODDESS! FIRST END NOVEL

WRITER: **YUMI TOHMA**

FORMAT: **B&W**

AGE: **12+**

Keiichi Morisato was a typical college student: a failure with women, struggling to get through his classes, and in general living a pretty nondescript life—that is, until he dialed the wrong number and accidentally summoned the goddess Belldandy! Not believing Belldandy could really be a goddess capable of granting his every wish, Keiichi wishes for her to stay with him forever. As they say, be careful what you wish for! Now Belldandy is bound to Earth and at Keiichi's side for life, and the lives of this most unusual goddess and most lucky human will never be the same again.

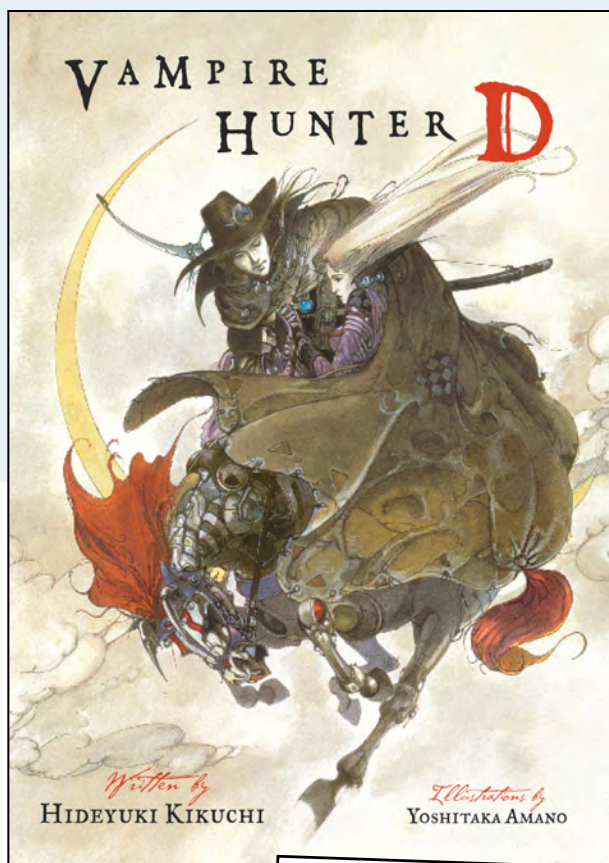
Based on the internationally successful manga, film, and television series, *Oh My Goddess! First End* is the first novel in the franchise's history and is sure to be a sensation to all its English-speaking fans around the world!











## VAMPIRE HUNTER D ILLUSTRATED NOVELS

**TITLE:** *VAMPIRE HUNTER D*

**WRITER:** HIDEYUKI KIKUCHI

**ARTIST:** YOSHITAKA AMANO

**FORMAT:** B&W

**AGE:** 12+

**VOLUMES:** 1-19 (ONGOING SERIES)

In the year 12,090 AD, humans must fight to survive. A race of vampires, the Nobility, has controlled society for over three hundred years. The war against the vampires has taken its toll; cities lie in ruin, and the countryside is fragmented into small villages and fiefdoms which still struggle against nightly raids by the fallen vampires and their genetically manufactured de-

mons and werewolves. Mankind's only real hope lies with the Hunters, warriors who have pledged their lives, swords, and guns to eradicating the nobility. But some Hunters are better than others, and some bring their own kind of danger with them. One such Hunter is the enigmatic D, a man who tirelessly hunts the enemies of humanity, but who has much more in common with the monsters he hunts than those who hire him may ever realize . . .

Hideyuki Kikuchi, one of Japan's leading horror authors, has been writing his *Vampire Hunter D* series since 1983. Beautifully illustrated by renowned artist Yoshitaka Amano, known for his illustrations in Neil Gaiman's *Sandman* and the *Final Fantasy* games, and with more than seventeen million printed books worldwide, *Vampire Hunter D* takes readers to a haunting future like no other modern vampire tale.







**CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF MANGA**

[www.darkhorse.com/manga](http://www.darkhorse.com/manga)

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