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Monster, Vol. 1: The Perfect Edition



Synopsis

Johan is a cold and calculating killer with a mysterious past, and brilliant Dr. Kenzo Tenma is the only one who can stop him! Conspiracy and serial murder open the door to a compelling, intricately woven plot in this masterwork of suspense. Everyone faces uncertainty at some point in their lives. Even a brilliant surgeon like Kenzo Tenma is no exception. But there's no way he could have known that his decision to stop chasing professional success and instead concentrate on his oath to save people's lives would result in the birth of an abomination. The questions of good and evil now take on a terrifyingly real dimension. Years later, in Germany during the tumultuous post-reunification period, middle-aged childless couples are being killed one after another. The serial killer's identity is known. The reasons why he kills are not. Dr. Tenma sets out on a journey to find the killer's twin sister, who may hold some clues to solving the enigma of the "Monster."

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Viz is reprinting Monster in an upscale edition. The books are larger, matching the size of his other works in English; they have remastered pages and a new translation; and the volumes include color pages. Each contains the equivalent of two of the previous books, making for bigger reading chunks. They're lovely. The story is as involving as ever. Dr. Tenma is a promising young surgeon in Germany with a career on the rise. He's also engaged to the daughter of the hospital director, who encourages him to think of his soon-to-improve position, because she likes the status. As part of playing the game, he's asked to give up his research, work that might save lives, so

he can ghost-write papers to make the director look better. An early scene sums up the couple's relationship, as Tenma tries to rationalize away his guilt at participating, unknowingly, in hospital politics, leading to the death of a poor man so a famous one could be saved, by saying, "I was following the director's orders." His fiancée responds, bluntly, "Some lives are worth more than others," a chilling statement that haunts him. That's one reason, when ordered to leave a challenging operation on a young boy to save the life of a mayor whose funding is important to the hospital, he refuses "which ends up ruining his life. His promotion is rescinded, and his fiancée leaves him because his career has ended. However, nine years later, things have turned around for him, after the unexpected death of the director who blocked him. He soon finds out why. The boy he saved turns out to be a serial killer. Tenma's choice, while appearing morally preferable, has resulted in a number of other deaths. He gives up his work to search for this anonymous killer, trying to prevent more murders.

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