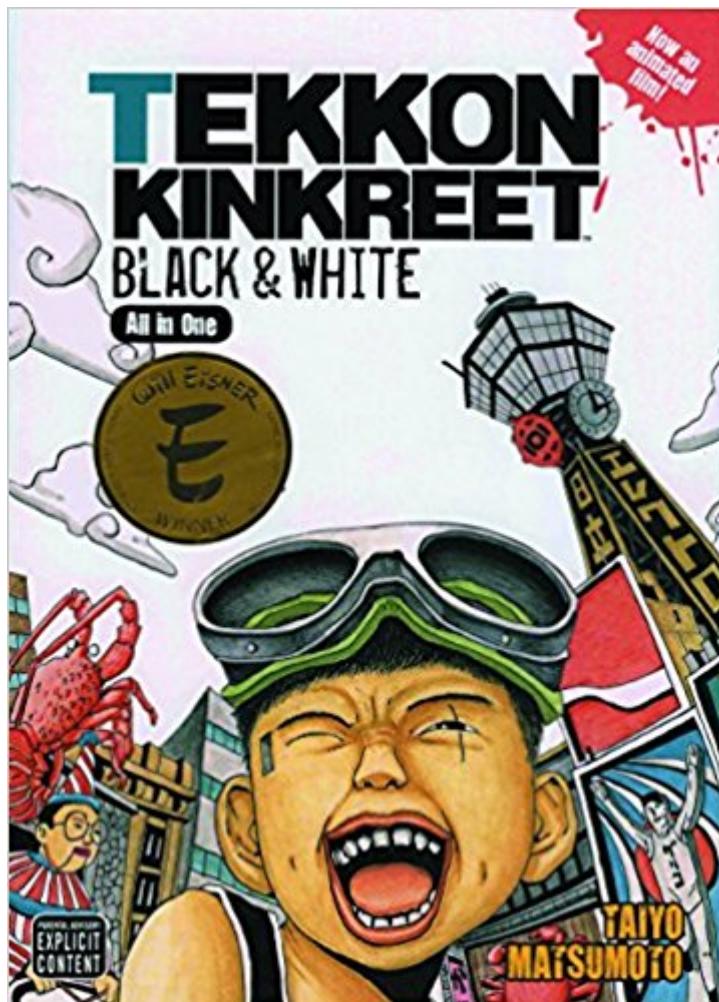


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# Tekkon Kinkreet / Black & White



## **Synopsis**

2008 Eisner Comic Winner! A Street urchins Black and White have skyscraper-sized chips on their shoulders, but are fiercely loyal to each other. Black is especially quick to avenge any slight against his dim-witted pal. The result? The citizens of Treasure Town are afraid of them, the police are afraid of them--even the local yakuza gangsters are afraid of them! But when the crime boss known as the "Rat" returns to Treasure Town, it looks like there's gonna be a rumble... The violence in this unique European-influenced manga title is more mindful than it seems at first glance, and the subtle relationships between its unique cast of characters are marked by surprising poignancy.

## **Book Information**

Paperback: 624 pages

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Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 stars 34 customer reviews

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## **Customer Reviews**

Taiyo Matsumoto is the cult favorite artist of Black & White and NO. 5, both published by VIZ Media. With line work that mirrors his story lines in a combination of smooth and rough styles his work makes for a truly unique look and feel in manga.

My son absolutely loves this book. It is more detailed than the movie, going into deeper character development - what my son loves. This is his favorite movie of its kind of all time. It's mostly black and white but does have some color, illustrations are excellent. The story is amazing. And well told.

I consider this book the best graphic novel of all times. The style is amazing, the writing is strong, the story is multidimensional. One of these dimensions is the city - Treasure Town - which lives and breathes even if you remove main character from the book. All side characters have their purpose

besides the main story. And protagonists themselves are just wonderfully well though. Black and White while being violent and cruel street rats are in fact very realistically portrayed and loveable children and in many ways remind me of my own childhood. Mister Matsumoto (author) mixes harsh reality with childish fantasies. The city is their playground. They call themselves Cats and they don't wag their tails for anybody, beating up anyone in their way, even yakuza members don't want to mess with them. But there's a new power that comes to town and tries it's best to change how everything in this city works. The style of drawing in this book is an amazing mix of skillful art and childish vision of the world. Matsumoto disguises his extremely mature skill with sloppy childish lines and is being brilliant at it. I say, everybody in the world must read this book at least two times.

A definitely good buy! I was so satisfied with the purchase. I saw the movie first and then became curious over what had the original work looked like... so I decided to buy the manga! If you've already seen the movie, you'll understand the dramatic undertones of the story. The manga isn't as great as the movie in the area of suspense but it is nonetheless still a great place to turn to if you've missed anything in the movie. The manga clarifies the fuzzy parts of the movie that was either unclear or not as detailed as it should be. The artwork in the manga is more detailed and dramatic than the movie. Same goes for the storyline. If you looked closely enough, you'll notice the subtle differences too. For example, Black/Kuro's scar over his eye is opposite to that in the movie. Same thing happened for White/Shiro's mole; it's on the other cheek than in the movie. Every manga and anime lover should definitely read this!! Whether it's before or after watching the movie, you'll still find the same satisfaction either way.

Black and White is a masterpiece in form and content. The graphics rendered in black and white are a superb visual experience. A point of interest is that the figures are not your conventional manga style. The author has an unique - raw and very detailed - style. The narrative is clear, easy to follow in the sense that reading flows very smoothly and the layout is not marred with panel dyslexia. The storyline is not as simple as it may seem as there are some very unexpected twists and turns. Rich and dense, violent at times, Black and White's story is one like no other. Think Ranxerox w/o the drugs, Tank Girl without the Sex, Tarantino, Twain... Another review has accurately mentioned that this is not a bilingual edition. On occasion, some of the background lettering is Japanese, but all dialogues are in English.

I was captured by the heart and compassion of this simple tale. It's violent in a fairy tale way,

reflecting the real violence of human cultures that abandon their young. It's a very male story, but holds together despite that, as boyish imaginations transform their world, wistfully plunging between bravado and black depression. The art and story together create a magical-realist and consistent world that is forever crumbling, like ours, as we struggle through youth and age doing the best we can with what we have. Recommended. Also recommended is the anime (with soundtrack by Plaid) which I saw after reading the book.

During a trip to Japan recently I came across the film version of this book, which had just won many awards. When I learned it was based on a graphic novel, I scoured the bookstands here in the US for it to no avail. Luckily had it (along with the English-subtitled movie). *Tekkon Kinkreet* is a richly engaging graphic narrative, its visual language referencing French comics but with the horizontal, angled paneling of more traditional Japanese Manga. Though it's about two scrappy kids, this is most definitely NOT a comic book for children: it's full of violence and references to the seedy underworld of the city (gangsters, strip clubs, etc.). Though those things would usually turn me off, I found this to be a completely absorbing narrative. Beyond the violence it elegantly explores the issues of gentrification, friendship, identity, and change. The film's great too, but you should definitely read the book first. Totally different visual styles going on. Great stuff. Check it out.

Super fast shipping just in time for Christmas. Cousin loved the gift. Thank you!

Best film I have seen in ten years.

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