



Ayako

By Osamu Tezuka

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Ayako By Osamu Tezuka

Long considered as one of Osamu Tezuka's most political narratives, *Ayako* is also considered to be one of his most challenging as it defies the conventions of his manga by utilizing a completely original cast and relying solely on historical drama to drive the plot. *Ayako*, pulls no punches, and does not allow for gimmicks as science-fiction or fantasy may. Instead Tezuka weaves together a tale which its core simply focuses on a single family, a family that could be considered a metaphor for a rapidly developing superpower.

Overflowing with imagery of the cold war seen through Japan's eyes, *Ayako* is firmly set in realism taking inspiration from a number of historical events that occurred over the American occupation and the cultural-revolution which soon followed. Believed to be Tezuka's answer to the *gekiga* (dramatic comics) movement of the 60's, *Ayako* should be considered one of the better early examples of a *seinen* (young adult) narrative to be published.

Initially set in the aftermath of World War II, *Ayako* focuses its attention on the Tenge clan, a once powerful family of landowners living in a rural community in northern Japan. From the moment readers are introduced to the extended family, it is apparent that the war and American occupation have begun to erode the fabric that binds them all together. The increasing influence of political, economic and social change begins to tear into the many Tenge siblings, while a strange marriage agreement creates resentment between the eldest son and his sire. And when the family seems to have completely fallen apart, they decide to turn their collective rage on what they believe to be the source of their troubles—the newest member of the Tenge family, the youngest sister Ayako.

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Editorial Review

Review

A 2011 Eisner Award Nominee

A 2010 *About.com* Best Manga of the Year Selection

“Best New Seinen/Josei Manga of 2010—Drama

Ayako depicts horrifying events, but it is beautifully presented. Connoisseurs of comics craft will find much to admire in Tezuka’s cinematic approach to paneling, pacing, and illustration. Peter Mendelsund’s striking design gives this 1970’s story a modern mood to attract mature readers.”—*About.com*

“Panel after panel flows effortlessly, composed in such a way that it draws you in, despite the cartoonish characters that Tezuka is so well known for. His scenery and backgrounds show a vibrant land slowly weighed down by filth and corruption... While I have been dismissive of Tezuka’s work in the past, I am fully convinced by *Ayako*... This book is one of Vertical’s finer achievements and a must-have for any Tezuka or intelligent comics fan. 9.5/10” —*Comics Village*

“It is a portrait of humanity’s dark side on par with Dante’s *Inferno*... With so many interlocking storylines, all meticulously charted up to the final page, this drama plays out on a stage so grand that only Tezuka could have conceived it. Even the artwork reaches heights that are yet to be surpassed today... For pure story and visual impact, one of the best ever. A-” —*Anime News Network*

“Like some of Vertical’s previous long-form Tezuka releases—*MW* and *Ode to Kirihito* in particular—*Ayako* isn’t afraid to get dark and dreary. In fact, *Ayako* may be one of the bleakest yet. That is, of course, said as a term of endearment; this nearly 700-page work sucks you into its twisted narrative from the very first chapter, and its grip only gets icier as the pages turn... From Peter Mendelsund’s elegant cover design to Mari Morimoto’s dialect-infused translation, this is another must for fans of Osamu Tezuka and comics in general.” —*Otaku USA*

About the Author

Osamu Tezuka (1928-89) is the godfather of Japanese manga comics. He originally intended to become a doctor and earned his degree before turning to what was then a medium for children. His many early masterpieces include the series known in the U.S. as *Astro Boy*. With his sweeping vision, deftly intertwined plots, feel for the workings of power, and indefatigable commitment to human dignity, Tezuka elevated manga to an art form. The later Tezuka, when he authored *Buddha*, often had in mind the mature readership that manga gained in the sixties and that had only grown ever since. The Kurosawa of Japanese pop culture, Osamu Tezuka is a twentieth century classic.

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Karen Moore:

Why don't make it to be your habit? Right now, try to prepare your time to do the important work, like looking for your favorite reserve and reading a book. Beside you can solve your short lived problem; you can add your knowledge by the book entitled *Ayako*. Try to stumble through book *Ayako* as your friend. It

means that it can to become your friend when you experience alone and beside that of course make you smarter than before. Yeah, it is very fortuned for you. The book makes you far more confidence because you can know every thing by the book. So , let us make new experience and also knowledge with this book.

Stacy Perry:

As people who live in typically the modest era should be revise about what going on or facts even knowledge to make these people keep up with the era that is always change and progress. Some of you maybe will probably update themselves by reading through books. It is a good choice for yourself but the problems coming to an individual is you don't know what kind you should start with. This Ayako is our recommendation to cause you to keep up with the world. Why, because this book serves what you want and want in this era.

Helen Tate:

Spent a free time and energy to be fun activity to accomplish! A lot of people spent their spare time with their family, or their very own friends. Usually they carrying out activity like watching television, going to beach, or picnic inside park. They actually doing ditto every week. Do you feel it? Do you want to something different to fill your personal free time/ holiday? May be reading a book might be option to fill your free of charge time/ holiday. The first thing you ask may be what kinds of reserve that you should read. If you want to attempt look for book, may be the reserve untitled Ayako can be great book to read. May be it may be best activity to you.

Robert Tanaka:

Guide is one of source of expertise. We can add our knowledge from it. Not only for students but in addition native or citizen need book to know the revise information of year to be able to year. As we know those books have many advantages. Beside we all add our knowledge, can bring us to around the world. From the book Ayako we can have more advantage. Don't you to definitely be creative people? Being creative person must prefer to read a book. Merely choose the best book that suited with your aim. Don't be doubt to change your life by this book Ayako. You can more attractive than now.

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