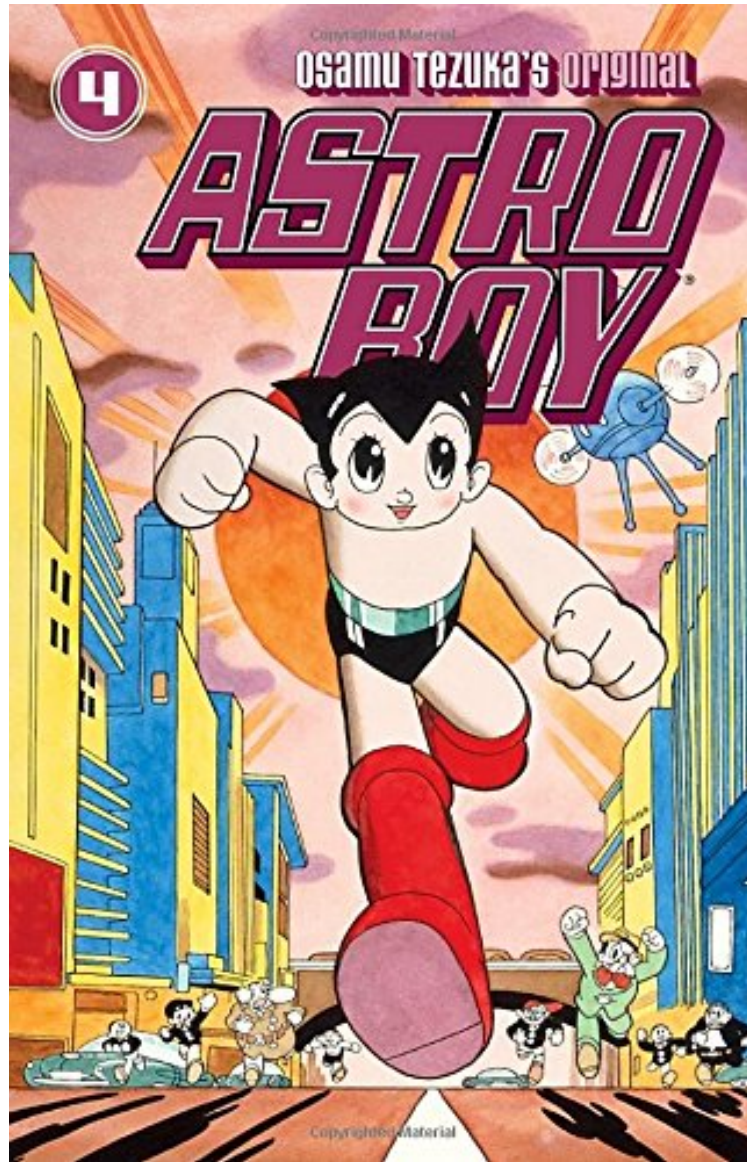


Astro Boy, Vol. 4

Osamu Tezuka

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#1863220 in Books Tezuka, Osamu/ Schodt, Frederik L. (TRN) 2002-06-21 2002-07-09Original language:EnglishPDF # 1 6.81 x .54 x 4.47l, .30 #File Name: 156971679X216 pages | File size: 25.Mb

Osamu Tezuka : Astro Boy, Vol. 4 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Astro Boy, Vol. 4:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Astro Goes to DisneyworldBy David SwanIt's well established that Osamu Tezuka was highly influenced by Disney but none of the stories I've read have been as obvious an homage as Robot Land which ran from May to September 1962. Dr. Haido, a talented robot inventor, decides to create an island of robots supposedly to entertain visitors. It's basically a fully robotic park with Disney themed characters like Peter

Pan and the Seven Dwarfs. In charge of the park is a robot named (I kid you not) Satan. Satan more resembles the classic moustache twirling villain rather than the prince of darkness. So if the island is a Disney storybook Satan is intended as the villain and like a villain he acts with evil intent dominating Robot Land like a North Korean dictator. After one of the robots escapes and seeks Astro Boy's help Professor Ochanomizu tells Astro that Dr. Haido has the right to do with his robots as he pleases and allows Satan to retrieve the escaped robot. Ochanomizu's attitude seems strange given his past benevolence and the fact that the robots of the Astro Boy stories appear to be sentient (even given the right to vote). This is actually one of the weakest stories I've yet to read in the series. It had potential but for me sort it fell apart about halfway through and probably would have been better if it stuck to the path I originally assumed it was going down. The next story, 'Ivan the Fool', is very loosely based on the H.G. Wells story 'The First Men in the Moon' which is quite frankly the worst Wells story I've read. Luckily Tezuka was able to take the silliness of the book as use it to his advantage as it works better in the world of Astro Boy. This story is from Feb-Mar 1959; probably my favorite of the book. 'A Day to Remember' from 1960 started off well. In the world of Astro Boy people will often have robot duplicates created of the recently deceased. The duplicates will spend three days with the family before being sent off in a boat in a symbolic ceremony. Intriguing. Because of his resemblance to a missing, presumed dead, boy named Jiro, Astro Boy is sent as his surrogate to spend three days with the boy's parents. Even more intriguing. So it turns out the boy invented a time machine and from there the story went downhill. I would have much preferred to see more of the whole idea of having a robotic replacement for the deceased rather than use it as a plot device for a time travel story. The final and longest story of the book is 'Ghost Manufacturing Machine' from 1957. Professor Ochanomizu becomes involved in a situation with a dictator named Hitlini (a mashup of Hitler and Mussolini) who has ordered his top scientist to create a human duplication machine in order to create a copy of himself. When the scientist angers Hitlini he decides to have him executed but first wants Ochanomizu kidnapped to carry on the work. Astro Boy is ordered to stay behind because of the Robot Rules but ends up heading off to rescue Ochanomizu anyway. In all the action Astro ends up befriending a robot boy named Platinum with a very similar origin to Astro himself. I've complained in the past about the series not being complete but now it appears as if it's simply not being presented in chronological order. "The Greatest Robot on Earth" from volume 3 is from 1964 but in this book we go from 1962 to 1959 to 1960 and way back to 1957. In my opinion all the stories here had more potential than what they actually achieved. Although highly beloved I just cannot put Tezuka up there with my personal favorite cartoonist like Segar, Barks and Gottfredson. It may be the blistering pace he was producing at but the stories just are not resonating with me the way the very best comics do. I'm not thrilled that Dark Horse presented the stories in the ordering of their choosing and the cheap paperback binding pales in comparison next to some of the gorgeous collections being put out now by Fantagraphics and the price for what you get is weak. Four stars seems about right for the stories in this collection but it's generous for the presentation by Dark Horse. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A Unique Character By Anna S. After watching the 1960s show I just had to buy the manga. It one of my all time favorite and just has a charm that can't be replaced. Astro Boy's character is so unique as far as personality and different then how modern shows and movies portray him. It's a great story! 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. The love of money is the root of all evil By Zack Davisson Once again, Tezuka Osamu serves up a hefty moral lesson, this time on slavery and greed, and how the lust for material gain can twist human beings into something ugly. Each of the four stories is entertaining, and surprisingly deep considering the simple style of art. In the first story, Astro Boy seeks the mysteries of Robot Land, a fantasy robot theme park where robots act as characters from history and adventure. If it sounds familiar, Tezuka's story came out 10 years before Yul Brynner's similarly themed film "Westworld." However, the robots do not turn bad, but are rather being kept as slaves by the greedy Dr. Haido, who uses Robotland as a cover for his illegal gun smuggling operation. The next tale, "Ivan the Fool," sees Astro Boy and some others on a trip to the moon. When they discover a valley of diamonds, and an ancient Soviet robot Ivan, the greed of one man and the incapability of someone who follows orders threatens to destroy the whole group. The short story "A Day to Remember," a special day in future Japan where robot versions of dead family members come back to visit for a single day, in the tradition of the Japanese Obon festival. A time machine and a dead little boy who looks just like Astro Boy lead on to adventure. Finally, in "Ghost Manufacturing Machine" a Hitler-like villain uses a machine to create an eternal ghost of himself that can live forever and inflict his evil on the world. Astro Boy and local hero-robot Platinum must fight against this unstoppable foe. As with all the volumes in the Dark Horse Astro Boy series, the individual stories are not collected in any particular order, but do contain a brief introduction from Tezuka himself explaining his story, and what he thinks of it.

Standing shoulder to shoulder with comics and animation icons Krazy Kat, Mickey Mouse, and Tin Tin, Osama Tezuka's Astro Boy remains as fresh today as when the boy robot first appeared nearly fifty years ago. And Tezuka's Astro Boy original manga are now finally available in America in an English-language edition, produced in collaboration with Studio Proteus and translated by Frederik L. Schodt, well-known to manga readers for his work on Ghost in the Shell. In this volume: Astro fights to free abused robots from a robot theme park that masks a secret weapons factory; Astro and fellow robots are stranded on the moon only to discover a valley full of diamonds...but

they are not alone, and the diamonds are not unguarded; Astro becomes trapped in the twentieth century after a child prodigy's time machine breaks down; and Professor Ochanomizu and Astro Boy are caught up in a movement to overthrow a dictator who has a machine capable of producing human clones...and a force of evil robots to defend it! This volume contains the following stories: Robot Land Ivan the Fool A Day to Remember Ghost Manufacturing Machine

About the Author Osamu Tezuka was a Japanese cartoonist, animator, film producer, and activist. Born in Osaka Prefecture, he is best known as the creator of the comics series Astro Boy, Kimba the White Lion, and Black Jack. His prolific output, pioneering techniques, and innovative redefinitions of genres earned him such titles as "the father of manga," "the god of manga," and "kamisama of manga." Additionally, he is often credited as the "godfather of anime" and is considered the Japanese equivalent to Walt Disney, who served as a major inspiration during Tezuka's formative years.