



Macbeth: The Graphic Novel

By William Shakespeare

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The Graphic Novelization of a Classic Tale!

Shakespeare's classic play of deception, intrigue, and murder is reinvented in the Japanese manga style. Set on a vast ringworld encircling a sun, Macbeth and his wife, Lady Macbeth, scheme and plot their way to power, only to be undone by their own deadly plans. Artist Tony Tamai's unique vision and style breathe new life into a captivating classic.

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 9 Up—In this adaptation, the Weird Sisters are cloaked robots that speak in barcode, the soldiers horses are winged dragonlike creatures, and the letters to Lady Macbeth arrive via computer. Despite the intriguing potential of this format and the updated setting, the book is disappointing. As the story opens, the black-and-white artwork is intricate and appealing. However, readers unfamiliar with the plot will have difficulty following the action and the characters. Also, the quality of the illustrations tends to deteriorate at random intervals. For example, in some scenes Lady Macbeth is harshly outlined with thick black lines that look like the work of an amateur manga artist, while in the same panel her husband appears masterfully drawn. Similarly, halfway through the murder of Lady Macduff, the style shifts abruptly, disrupting the flow of the panels. This science-fiction version of the play might be fun to use in a classroom to illustrate the timelessness of the Bard's plays, but it is unlikely to find a wide audience.—*Heather M. Lisowski, Philip S. Miller Library, Castle Rock, CO*

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 6-9. Reimagining Macbeth as a space opera seems a natural way to repackaging the play as a graphic novel. Cover maintains much of Shakespeare's dialogue and sometimes relies on it to direct depictions of his characters in the art. Lady Macbeth, however, is a bit more buxom than she might seem in the original play, and in addition to lots of cool, futuristic space armor, there's a dragon or two in this version. The black-and-white images are full of action and energy, and faces are clear and distinct. An appendix provides readers with technical information on how the art was created. This is certainly no substitute for seeing or hearing the stage play, but this visual take may make studying the real thing far less intimidating. *Francisca Goldsmith*

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About the Author

William Shakespeare (April 1564 - April 23, 1616) was born in Stratford-upon-Avon, and his birth is traditionally celebrated on April 23. He was one of eight children born to John Shakespeare, a merchant of some standing in his community. William probably went to the King's New School in Stratford, but he had no university education. In November 1582, at the age of eighteen, he married Anne Hathaway, eight years his senior, who was pregnant with their first child, Susanna. By 1592 Shakespeare had gone to London working as an actor and already known as a playwright. Shakespeare became a principal shareholder and playwright of the successful acting troupe, the Lord Chamberlain's Men (later under James I, called the King's Men). In 1599 the Lord Chamberlain's Men built and occupied the Globe Theater in Southwark near the Thames River. Here many of Shakespeare's plays were performed by the most famous actors of his time. In addition to his 37 plays, Shakespeare had a hand in others, including *Sir Thomas More* and *The Two Noble Kinsmen*, and he wrote poems, including *Venus and Adonis* and *The Rape of Lucrece*. His 154 sonnets were published, probably without his authorization, in 1609. In 1611 or 1612 he gave up his lodgings in London and devoted more and more time to retirement in Stratford, though he continued writing such plays as **The Tempest** and **Henry VII** until about 1613. He died on April 23 1616, and was buried in Holy Trinity Church, Stratford. No collected edition of his plays was published during his life-time, but in 1623 two members of his acting company, John Heminges and Henry Condell, put together the great collection now called the First Folio.

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