

MANGA FOR GROWN UPS

Manga is episodic with many volumes in one series. Traditional Japanese characters are written in columns going from top to bottom, with columns ordered from right to left. Today's manga can be published reading from left to right and front to back, but is usually printed the traditional Japanese way, from right to left and back to front, which seems backwards to Americans—at least until you get used to it. Throughout its history, shojo & shonen manga has taken on an array of issues and content varied from wholesome to outright violent. Early on, popular “girl themes” (shojo) included romance, friendship, school life, while popular “boy themes” (shonen) would focus on and adventure and war. There are many different manga series for children and teens; here are some with more mature content for grown ups that you'll find in our Adult Graphic Novel area with the red sticker.

[Angel Sanctuary series](#) by **Kaori Yuki (ANGEL)**

Why is High-schooler Setsuna so mixed up? Despite his attempts to be noble, he'll fight anyone anytime; he ignores all authority; and he harbors feelings for his sister that can only be describes as incestuous. Why is he such a mess? The reason may be found with two demons from the underworld and their enemy, an insane angel who is distributing an insidious computer game call Angel Sanctuary.

[Battle Angel Alita series](#) by **Yukito Kishiro (BATTLE)**

Alita is a powerful cyborg with a soft heart and a mysterious past. Found in a junk heap, she has lost all memory of her past life. But her body still instinctively remembers the Panzer Kunst, the most powerful cyborg fighting technique ever known! Also try the [Battle Angel Alita: Last Order](#) series.

[Blade of the Immortal series](#) by **Hiroaki Samura (BLADE)**

Manji, a ronin warrior of feudal Japan, has been cursed with immortality. The curse of the bloodworm is what keeps him alive - slit his throat or stab him in the heart and those mystical worms will force his body to heal. This immortal curse will not be lifted until Manji has killed one thousand evil men! If you like ninja action, Hiroaki Samura's Blade of the Immortal will keep you on edge. The first in the series is [Blood of a Thousand](#).

[Bleach series](#) by **Tite Kubo (BLEACH)**

Ichigo Kurosaki is just like any other ordinary 15-year-old high school student, except that he can see ghosts. So when a teenage girl materializes through his bedroom wall, nothing seems out of the ordinary; however, this girl, Rukia, is a shinigami (Soul Reaper) who is battling an evil spirit that consumes souls, which eventually attacks Ichigo's family and wounds Rukia. Since she's injured, Rukia must let Ichigo temporarily become a Soul Reaper by absorbing some of her energy; however, Ichigo inadvertently ends up with all of Rukia's powers, so he must now take on all the responsibilities of a Soul Reaper and this 15-year-old high school student begins a brand new vocation as a hyperkinetic, all-purpose ghost buster.

[Ceres Celestial Legend series](#) by **Yu Watase (CERES)**

Aya and her twin brother Aki thought they were going to a celebration of their sixteenth birthday at their grandfather's home, but the funeral-like atmosphere tips them off that something's not right. Their "birthday present" turns out to be a mummified hand--the power of which forces an awakening within Aya, and painful wounds all over Aki's body! Grandfather Mikage announces that Aki will be heir to the Mikage fortune, and Aya must die! But Aya has allies in the athletic cook and martial artist Yûhi, and the mysterious Tôya. But can even two handsome and resourceful guys save Aya when it's her own power that's out of control?

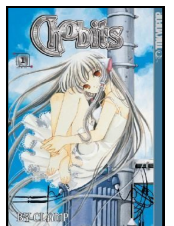
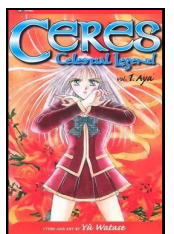
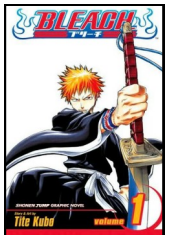
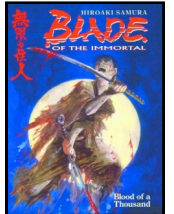
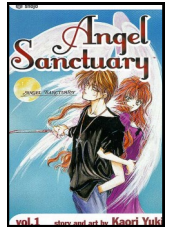
[Chobits series](#) by **Clamp (CHOBITS)**

In the future, boys will be boys and girls will be robots. Like every other guy, Hideki just wants a cool job, a hot ride, and a robot girlfriend. Pretty persocoms don't come cheap, and Hideki is out of luck...until he finds a cute one in the garbage. But even in the future, you get what you pay for, and Hideki soon discovers that real women aren't the only ones who are high maintenance.

[Ghost in the Shell](#) by **Masamune Shirow (GHOST)**

It's 2029, and the leader of Section Nine, a secret paramilitary security squad, is the tall and sexy female cyborg Major Kusanagi. The S-9 team tracks criminals and terrorists who hack networks or illegally copy the ghosts (or souls) of enslaved humans into black market cyborgs. Metaphysical yet gripping, the book illustrates the nature of crime, espionage and geopolitical skullduggery in a world where human personality, vast data networks and cybernetics have essentially fused into a single social matrix.

GRAPHIC
NOVEL



[Gravitation](#) series by **Maki Murakami (GRAVITATION)**

Shuichi Shindou is determined to be a rock star, and he's not about to let the fact that he's a high school student with no experience and no band stop him. He's found his charismatic guitarist, he's got them a gig - now he's ready to show the world what a genius he is with his powerful lyrics. When stoic novelist Eiri Yuki overhears his amateurish verse and puts the young musician in his place, Shuichi is crushed. He just can't get the mysterious writer's criticism out of his mind. As Shuichi inserts himself into Eiri's life, desperate to prove his potential, the two find their futures inexorably intertwined, as if by fate. But Eiri doesn't believe in fate. The force that brings them together is much more primal - it's gravity. And nothing they do can stop it.



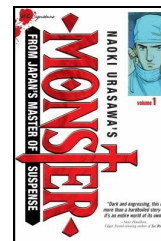
[Hellsing](#) series by **Kohta Hirano (HELLSING)**

There's a secret organization somewhere in England created to defend the Queen and country from monsters of all sorts. Yes, it's hard to believe in this day and age, but really, isn't this the true age of monsters? Enter Hellsing, an agency with the experience, know-how, and equipment to handle the problems that arise when vampires, ghouls, and the like take on these dark forces. "What equipment?" you ask? How about another vampire, and a big pistol loaded with special silver bullets? That oughta do the trick. But what really knocks 'em dead is the sharp wit, awesome artwork, and crazy, bloody action that make up this manga.



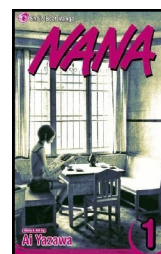
[Monster](#) series by **Naoki Urasawa (MONSTER)**

An ice-cold killer is on the loose, and brilliant Dr. Kenzo Tenma is the only one who can stop him! Conspiracies, serial murders, and a scathing indictment of hospital politics are all masterfully woven together in this compelling manga thriller. Tenma springs to action when he discovers that Johan, the boy whose life he saved nine years ago, has grown up to become a serial murderer. Attempting to track down Johan's twin sister Anna, Tenma discovers that Johan's connections to government officials run just as deep as his connection to Anna. Now Tenma realizes that this monster is far more powerful than he could have ever imagined.



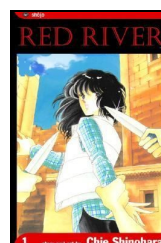
[Nana](#) series by **Ai Yazawa (NANA)**

Nana Hachi Komatsu hopes that moving to Tokyo will help her make a clean start and leave her capricious love life behind her. Nana Osaki, who arrives in the city at the same time, has plans to score big in the world of rock'n'roll. Although these two young women come from different backgrounds, they quickly become best friends in a whirlwind world of sex, music, fashion, gossip and all-night parties!



[Negima](#) series by **Ken Akamatsu (NEGIMA)**

Ten-year-old prodigy Negi Springfield, has just graduated from magic academy. He dreams of becoming a master wizard. Instead he's sent to Japan to teach English . . . at an all-girls high school! All the students are delighted with their cute new teacher—except for Asuna, who resents Negi for replacing the teacher she secretly has a crush on. Although he is forbidden to display his magical powers, sometimes Negi can't resist. And when Asuna discovers Negi's secret, she vows to make his life as difficult as possible—just the thing to prepare Negi for the challenges of life as a master wizard!



[Red River](#) series by **Chie Shinohara (RED RIVER)**

Youri, a pretty Japanese girl, begins to notice that water becomes agitated whenever she goes near it. One night, hands appear out of a puddle and Youri is dragged into the water to emerge back in time in an ancient village. Captured by armed troops, Youri is taken to the queen's palace and learns her fate in the queen's plans for the kingdom.



[Trigun Maximum](#) series by **Yasuhiro Nightow (TRIGUN)**

Our hero Vash the Stampede disappeared for two years after blasting a crater onto the moon orbiting the desert planet he saved from annihilation. But, with good and bad people alike trying to track him down he won't stay lost for long! Count on more crazy gunslinger action, new dastardly villains... and a new outfit to boot!

[Trinity Blood](#) series by **Sunao Yoshida (TRINITY)**

In the future, vampires and human beings are at war, and Father Abel Nightroad is humanity's secret weapon. The good Father doesn't seem to fit the bill—he has long blonde hair, is endearingly clumsy, and says things like "oh my goodness" quite a bit. The Vatican sends him to Istavan to combat the city's local vampire clan; he takes refuge in one of the city's churches. This doesn't stop Lord Gyula, a Count Dracula look-alike, from sending a vampire to kill him. Unfortunately for the vampire, there is more to Father Nightroad than meets the eye.



[Vagabond](#) series by **Takehiko Inoue (VAGABOND)**

Shinmen Takezo is destined to become the legendary sword-saint, Miyamoto Musashi--perhaps the most renowned samurai of all time. For now, Takezo is a cold-hearted killer, who will take on anyone in mortal combat to make a name for himself. This is the journey of a wild young brute who strives to reach enlightenment by way of the sword--fighting on the edge of death.

