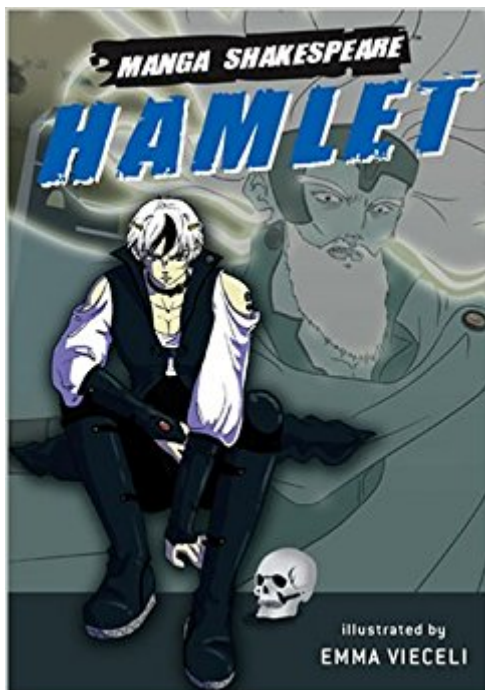


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# Manga Shakespeare: Hamlet



## Synopsis

Now presenting Manga Shakespeare<sup>™</sup>;the Bard's greatest plays in an accessible, lively format for a new generation of readersHamlet is one of Shakespeare's most well-known plays, and this exciting new retelling provides young readers an innovative introduction to the melancholy Dane. Hamlet is your typical angst-ridden teen;he doesn't know how to deal with his responsibilities, how to treat his girlfriend, or how to react to his father's death. He has no one to trust, and he even acts crazy so adults will leave him alone. Manga fans;and kids who find Shakespeare intimidating;will be drawn to the style and action of the Manga Shakespeare series, learning that required reading doesn't have to be boring.

## Book Information

Series: Manga Shakespeare

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## Customer Reviews

It reads in the normal american book direction, not "backwards" like real manga. Otherwise it is good book, classic story.

OK ... considering I never expected to see "Shakespeare" and "Manga" in the same sentence, it was a pleasant surprise when I plugged the terms in for a gift search and ... voila! It exists!Good concept. Delivered on time, early actually, and in the promised condition.Thank you!

My daughter loves Hamlet. She has read the standard book version and seen the movie. Magna is another great way to experience a classic Shakespeare Tragedy.

Great!

In theory, the idea of pairing illustrations with Shakespeare's text makes sense: his words were, after all, meant to be watched rather than simply read; but this is not the way to do it. Artists like Hayao Miyazaki have demonstrated that Manga has the potential to be a more serious art form than many assume, but projects like this give pause: the juxtaposition of Shakespeare's rich and vibrant language with utterly flat and lifeless illustrations is unsettling, and makes one wonder if there might be inherent limitations to what can be done with the medium.

A bit disappointed by the the fact that the to be or not to be monologue was cut in half, but ptherwise it was grate.

William Shakespeare, *Manga Shakespeare: Hamlet* (Amulet, 2007) Ever since I first heard about the Manga Shakespeare titles, I've been intrigued by the idea. I admit, I'm one of those people who generally finds Shakespeare a chore to read, even the plays of which I am perhaps overly fond. So, yeah, Shakespeare in manga form? A great idea, in concept. Execution not so much, at least where Hamlet is concerned. First, the good stuff. Emma Vieceli (*Vampire Academy*), who does the adaptation, isn't slavishly faithful; she puts a subtle, but there, sci-fi feel into the adaptation that somehow manages to feel right at home in fifteenth-century Denmark. For some reason I was especially tickled at the bio-scanning door locks. I still have no idea why this is. And all the stuff people know is here, at least in abbreviated form. On the other hand, there's the bad stuff. I know it's accepted manga style, especially in shojo (and this is definitely a shojo-style book), but come on, manga artists, do we have to keep making so many principals per book look almost identical to one another? It drives me up the wall. And Vieceli shows, with a couple of characters (Polonius, especially), that she's capable of coming up with wondrously quirky, distinct characters. I kind of understand making Rosencrantz and Guildenstern identical. It would actually be a disservice to the play if they weren't interchangeable, I think. But come on, Hamlet should be distinguishable from Horatio by more than a dark spot in his hair. Second, I mentioned "abbreviated form" above. When I say "abbreviated", I'll quantify. The Folger Library Hamlet is four hundred pages, all text. Now, I know that includes more than the play itself, but bear with me. *Manga Shakespeare: Hamlet* is 192 pages, and no more than an eighth of each page is text....what? This thing should have been a doorstop, folks. At least four hundred fifty pages, maybe broken into multiple volumes. It should

definitely have included the complete text. (One of the reasons I checked this out is because my daughter has Macbeth assigned her this year--in ninth grade!--and I wanted to see if this series would have made it easier. Assuming Macbeth is as cut as this, if she tried writing a report based on it, she'd fail...)As a prototype for what a manga edition of Hamlet COULD be, it shows some promise. As a finished product, I wanted it to be so much more than it is. \*\*\*

Reviewed by Jessica Clark (age 17) for Reader Views (9/07)This story starts off with the King's death and Hamlet's mother married to the King's brother. Then it is discovered that the King was murdered by his own brother for his wife. Hamlet now has gone mad with revenge and wants nothing more then to seek revenge for his father's untimely death. Hamlet undergoes many changes and pushes away his love, Ophelia, and sets to work on presenting a play similar to his father's death to see his uncle's reaction. As the story unfolds there are certainly more deaths and the return of loved ones to seek justice for those that were slain, and a brutal end for all those involved.Although I have not read the original Hamlet, I decided to read this, and I am glad that I did.This uses original writings from Shakespeare paired with beautiful illustrations. I enjoyed reading this very much. I found it quite easy to follow and it was paired nicely with the correct drawings. I found this book to have everything storyline-wise. There was mystery, murder, romance, and action. I believe it did Shakespeare justice. I am going to have to read the actual book now to see how it compares, but I believe that it will be very close. I highly recommend that everyone read "Hamlet: Manga Shakespeare," whether they have read the actual book or not. For those that didn't follow on certain things, there is also a plot summary at the back of the book, along with a brief summary of Shakespeare's life.Book received free of charge.

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