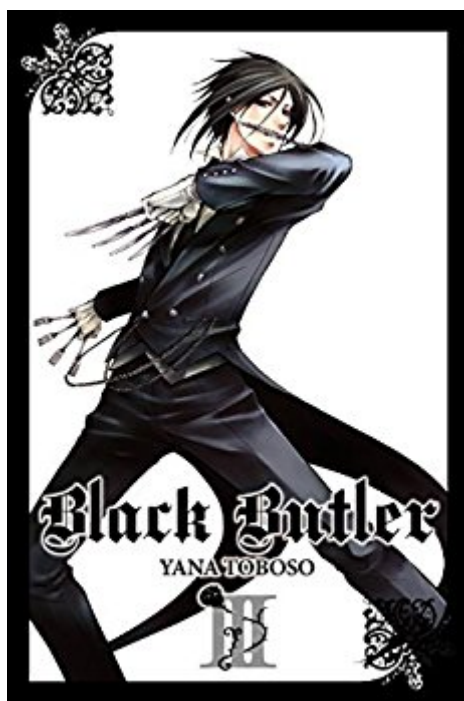


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Black Butler, Vol. 3



Synopsis

Terrorizing its populace, Jack the Ripper has shaken London to its very core. But when Sebastian Michaelis, singular butler of the Phantomhive house, lays bare the madman's true identity, all that is left for him to do is eliminate the perpetrator in the name of the Queen and Phantomhive. But inhumanly efficient skills don't guarantee victory when the opponent is just as supernaturally gifted! And though Sebastian may be able to save Ciel from physical harm in the battle that ensues, will the young earl ever recover from the emotional scars it will leave on his heart?

Book Information

File Size: 83114 KB

Print Length: 192 pages

Publisher: Yen Press World; Reissue edition (April 8, 2014)

Publication Date: April 8, 2014

Sold by:Â Hachette Book Group

Language: English

ASIN: B00J860QGU

Text-to-Speech: Not enabled

X-Ray: Not Enabled

Word Wise: Not Enabled

Lending: Not Enabled

Enhanced Typesetting: Not Enabled

Best Sellers Rank: #295,882 Paid in Kindle Store (See Top 100 Paid in Kindle Store) #13

inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Historical Fiction #106

inÂ Books > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Historical Fiction #580 inÂ Kindle Store > Kindle eBooks > Comics & Graphic Novels > Manga > Fantasy

Customer Reviews

The Earl Ciel Phantomhive is only 12 years old, yet he runs one of the most powerful toy companies in Great Britain! He also has a strange penchant for some rather sinister extramural activities that have an appalling habit of threatening life and limb--both his and others'--on a semiregular basis. Good thing he has the loyal Sebastian by his side, a "black butler" possessed of an unholy professionalism and a positively demonic charm. How, precisely, did the Earl acquire the employ of one such as he? Perhaps 'tis better for all concerned not to know....Volume three brings the mystery of "Jack the Ripper," begun in the previous installment of Black Butler, to its inevitable climax. In the

best tradition of mystery fiction, the culprit has in fact been introduced earlier in the story; the supernatural twist and showdown between Sebastian and a Grim Reaper is just an added bonus for action aficionados. The final chapter takes a ride (literally!) on the lighter side as Ciel indulges in a bit of game hunting on horseback. And the concluding panels introduce a handsome pair of bishounen boasting Arabian Nights flair, bound to play key roles in future installments. In fact, it would be safe to conclude that it is Black Butler's bishounen--pretty boys for those not versed in that particular otaku dialect of Japanese--are the series' main appeal. And it's a strong appeal indeed; the series has appeared on bestseller lists on both sides of the Pacific. However, this is not a manga that succeeds on eye candy alone, for Toboso brings plenty more to each page. Chief among its other pleasures are a Gothic, ominous atmosphere in the vein of Kaori Yuki and CLAMP, and a complicated relationship between Sebastian and Ciel which matures over time like the finest of blood red wines.

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