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Publisher**DrMaster Publications, Inc.**<http://www.DrMasterbooks.com>**Credits**

Writer: Sakurako Gokurakuin

Artist: Sakurako Gokurakuin

Distributor: DrMaster

Publications

Translator: Daniel Sullivan and

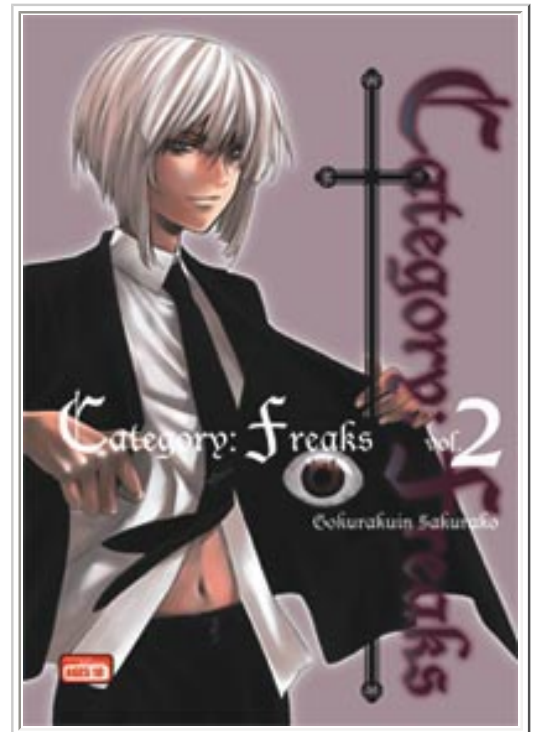
Asako Otomo

ISBN: 1-59796-095-0

Grade: 8The food chain in **Category:**

Freaks works like this: the big fish "stands" eat the monster-like "freaks" who take advantage of pitiful humans. Asagi Nanami is a stand whom you can find at his office Nanami Paranormal Investigations. Within his body is housed a "remitter" named Izumi who keeps Asagi's bloodlust under control so he doesn't kill the good guys along with the bad guys. (On the vol. 2 cover, the huge eyeball floating in the universe of Asagi's black blazer is Izumi.)

The stands seem to work in pairs; a young male stand terminates freaks, while his far younger, rabbit-eared Lolita



companion makes like a vacuum cleaner and sucks up the bloody mess left behind. Asagi's bunny is Tokiko-chan; she doesn't say much beyond "Freaky freeksh!" which she utters whenever she gets a whiff of a freak.

A story arc beginning in vol. 2 introduces Hainuwele, a seller of freak flesh dolls. Human owners of the flesh dolls are being murdered one by one. While it's difficult to be sympathetic with abusive masters, the one or two exceptions might be worth saving, and Asagi-sama can run interference.

Don't let Sakurako Gokurakuin's cute character designs fool you; there are good reasons why **Category: Freaks** comes plastic-wrapped and is rated for ages 18-plus. This is a horror manga, and its creator takes advantage of societal conditioning against violent and sexual imagery to arouse feelings of dread and disgust in the reader. Having become fairly thick-skinned from reading a number of whorish shonen manga titles, I didn't twitch as much as Asagi's research assistant Naoki Amano would have and could appreciate Gokurakuin-sensei's originality and wicked humor in the more provocative panels.

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