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Manga Shakespeare

There have been complaints in the past that when Japanese manga are translated into English they're dumbed down. Presumably that's not an accusation that could be levelled at two new books from SelfMadeHero. Adapted by Richard Appignanesi, they give a distinctly futuristic twist to Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet' and 'Hamlet'. Although the original text is used as a basis, the star-crossed lovers are transported from Verona to the Shibuya district of Tokyo, where Romeo is a famous rock-star. Sonia Leong illustrates their doomed romance, which takes place against the crossfire between two Yakuza families. Hamlet is allowed to remain in Denmark, but not a Denmark that any Danes would recognise. In an edition illustrated by Emma Vieceli, he must face up to his problems in a cyberworld set in 2017, when an earthquake has divided the planet into separate colonies. *Rachel Halliburton*

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