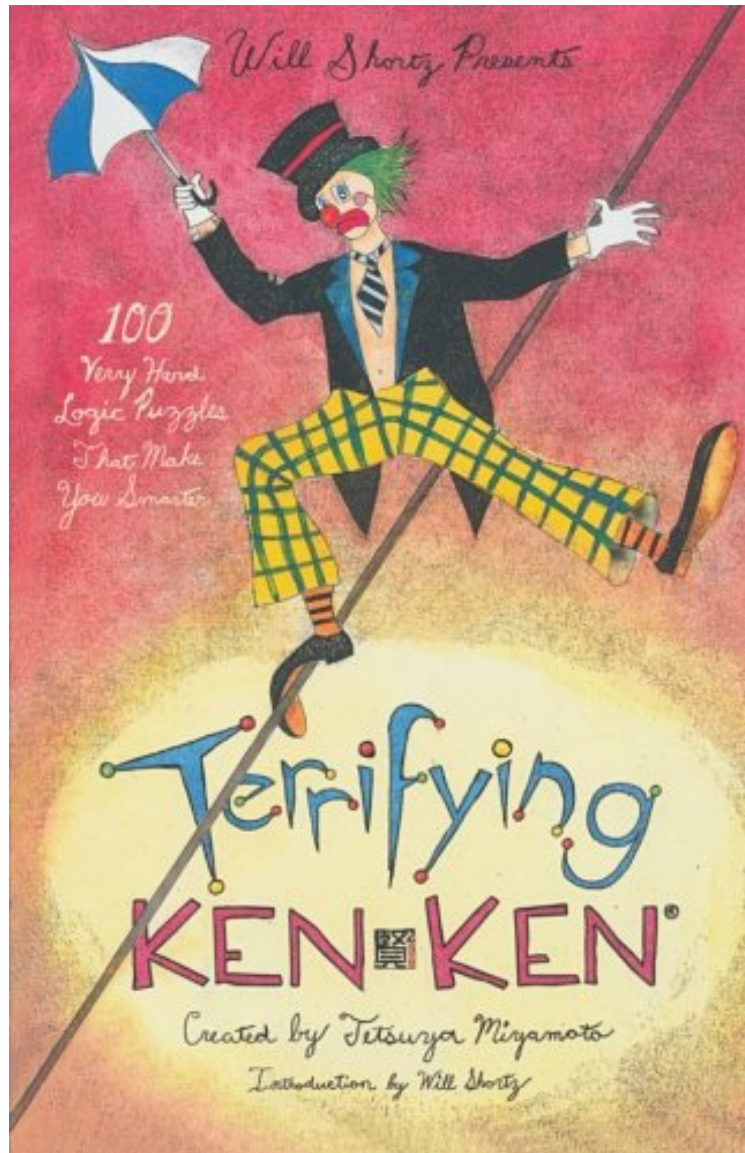


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## Will Shortz Presents Terrifying KenKen: 100 Very Hard Logic Puzzles That Make You Smarter

*Tetsuya Miyamoto*

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**Tetsuya Miyamoto : Will Shortz Presents Terrifying KenKen: 100 Very Hard Logic Puzzles That Make You Smarter** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Will Shortz Presents Terrifying KenKen: 100 Very Hard Logic Puzzles That Make You Smarter:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Fun but flakey By KezarCritic In Terrifying KenKen the puzzles are

fun and varied in difficulty, as expected. After all, it's KenKen. I think we have to assume they were made by the Kenerator, the software that the puzzle's inventor Tetsuya Miyamoto guided David Levy in developing. I'm grateful that Mr. Miyamoto personally created as many fine puzzles as he did. He deserves a break from what must have been a huge amount of work. The 100 puzzles are labeled as Medium, Difficult and Very Challenging. The algorithm for assigning these levels of difficulty is not perfect. The actual level (as experienced by this solver) went up and down by a lot haphazardly among puzzles in any puzzle size. Many of the Difficult puzzles in a set were harder than many of the later, Very Challenging, puzzles in the set. I think Mr. Miyamoto tried for a bit of geometrical artistry in his personal creations. I may be wrong, but I imagine that the larger and more orderly collections, Ferocious KenKen (200 puzzles) and Ultimate KenKen Omnibus (500 puzzles), were done by him. Most of those puzzles have a rough near-symmetry. If you fold the top half over the bottom half, the cage shapes sort of match, much more than would occur randomly. The puzzles have a pleasing look. Each section, for example the 8x8 puzzles, progresses fairly steadily in difficulty. Meanwhile the near-symmetry edges toward perfection, almost getting there at the last puzzle. With their orderly progression, these two collections are ideal for developing your skill. Also, they reach a level of difficulty higher than Terrifying KenKen. Oddly, puzzle #97 stands out in being much harder than any other in the book. It has a lot of big cages. It has two 4-cell +cages (addition), two 4-cell xcages (multiplication), and two 5-cell +cages. No other puzzle in the book comes close. More curiously, the other 100-puzzle book, Brain-Busting KenKen, which is similar to this one, has the same occurrence of a freak puzzle. Again it's puzzle #97, with even more big-cell cages. With all its peculiarities, Terrifying KenKen is fun. You should build your skills elsewhere though, especially if you are a beginner. Then when you solve these puzzles you can decide how hard each one really is. 3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Satisfying KenKen Puzzles. By Coleman R. Welte I noticed, as mentioned in some of the other reviews, that the difficulty levels assigned to each of the puzzles appear to be 'randomized'. Why would that matter? Sometimes I'm tired, or maybe I only have a few minutes and I would like to complete a puzzle - in these cases it's nice to be able to select a 'medium' (or easy) level puzzle. For this reason I gave it 4 stars instead of 5. Still, it's KenKen! Some of the puzzles are quite challenging; I can get that special satisfaction, scratch that itch in my brain... If you're hooked on KenKen then you know what I'm talking about. 5 of 5 people found the following review helpful. Great gift for nerds! By i devour books I bought this book as a gift for a nerd in my life who loves things like Sudoku and crossword puzzles. Any type of brain teaser or word problem thing like this is right up her alley - and this book was a HUGE success! Seriously, if you're shopping for someone who likes those things then this is the PERFECT gift choice. I actually bought this book for her in July and now it is January and she is still not through the book but loving every minute of it. I know I'll be buying more of these KenKen books in the future.

Are you up for the challenge? This collection of KenKen has the puzzles to put your solving skills to the test. So grab a pencil and see if you're a KenKen master. Includes: \*100 fearsome KenKen puzzles\* Puzzles range in size from simple 3x3 grids to mind-bending 9x9 grids\* Introduction and solving instructions by puzzlemaster Will Shortz

About the Author TETSUYA MIYAMOTO, the creator of KenKen, is a math teacher who runs a unique mathematics class for grade school children in Japan where he practices "The Art of Teaching Without Teaching." His teaching method and use of KenKen in his classroom has proven extremely successful. His students regularly go on to be accepted at the most prestigious schools in Tokyo. WILL SHORTZ has been the crossword puzzle editor of The New York Times since 1993. He is also the puzzlemaster on NPR's Weekend Edition Sunday and is founder and director of the annual American Crossword Puzzle Tournament. He has edited countless books of crossword puzzles, Sudoku, KenKen, and all manner of brain-busters.