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Junji Ito was born in 1963 in Gifu-ken, Japan. Beginning with his debut story, "Tomie," in 1987, Ito has gone on to become Japan's leading horror comics artist. His influences include classic manga greats Kazuo Umezu (*Orochi*) and Hideshi Hino (*Hell Baby*), and the American horror author H.P. Lovecraft. Several of Ito's works have been published to critical acclaim in English in the United States, including *Tomie* and *Uzumaki*, which has been nominated for the Eisner Award and was also made into a live-action film.

