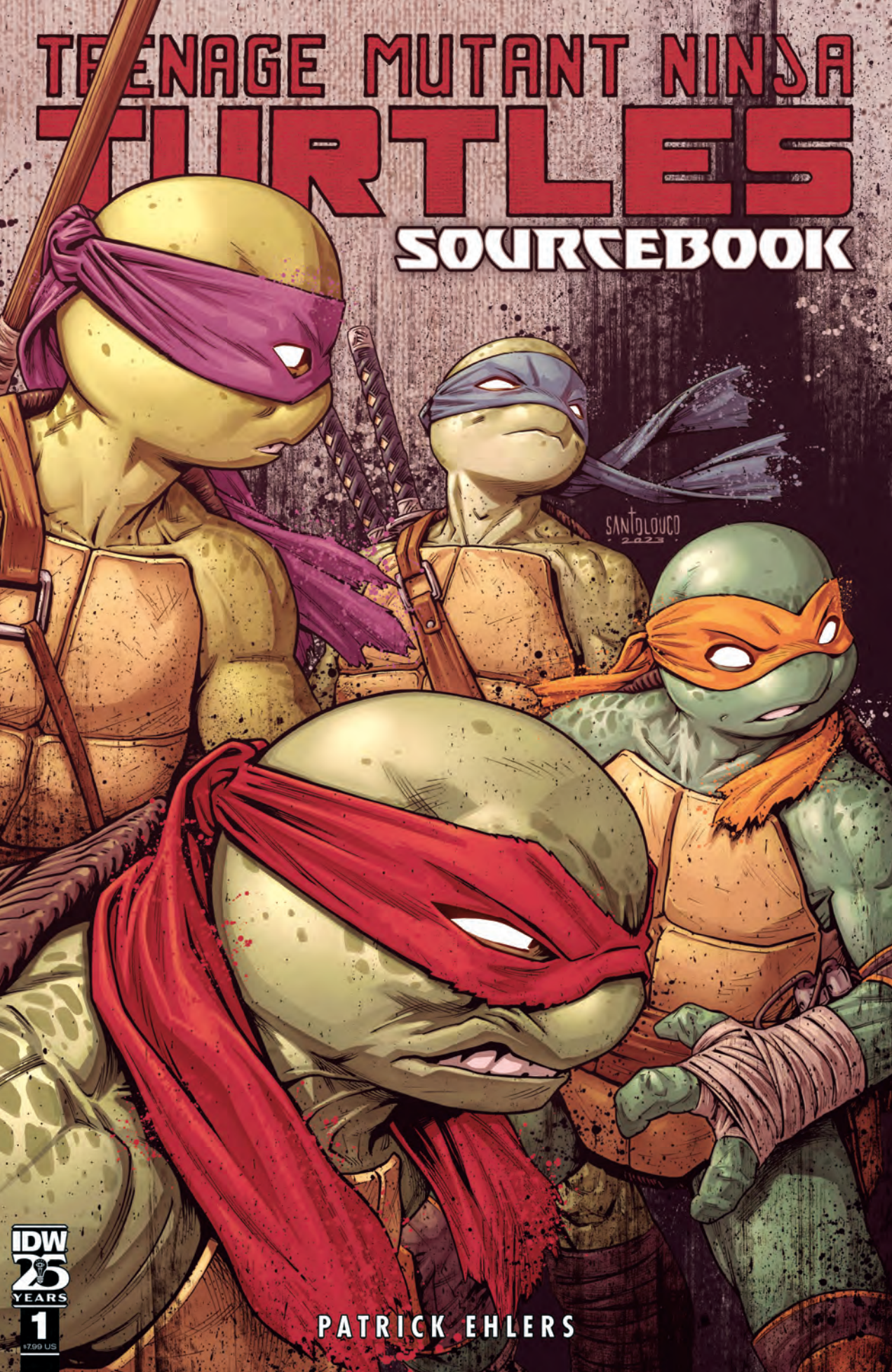


# TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

## SOURCEBOOK



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PATRICK EHLERS



# TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES

## SOURCEBOOK

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# THE FOOT CLAN

Cobbled together from remnants of the Yuu Clan, the Foot was an ancient organization of samurai, ninjas, and warriors who operated outside the bounds of the laws of the shogun in feudal Japan. The clan was founded by Takeshi Tatsuo, who led them to countless brutal victories over the course of his unnaturally long life. The name of the group traces its way back to Takeshi's first meeting with the witch Kitsune—he had lost a foot in battle and she magically restored it. The resultant new foot left a bloody print on the floor and the clan's name and iconography were anchored in this story.

Under Takeshi's leadership, the Foot Clan was vicious, raiding villages and sparing none who defied them. But in the years after Takeshi's death, the leadership responsibilities fell to Oroku Maji and Master Masato, and the Foot turned into a mercenary group. They were no less effective in this configuration, but they were certainly less feared. During this period, the Foot were known as allies to merchants and noblemen who would hire them as protection against marauders. The soldiers got married, had children, and started families.

When Oroku Saki revealed himself to be the reincarnation of Takeshi Tatsuo, he reclaimed the title of *Jonin* of the Foot. Their reputation for violence and brutality returned, attracting increasingly less scrupulous followers to Saki and Kitsune's cause. After Saki was sealed away, the Foot drifted away from blatant criminality and spent centuries as a loose association of corrupt monied interests in Japan.

**Notable Members (formation—20th century):** Takeshi Tatsuo, Kitsune, Oroku Maji, Master Masato, Oroku Saki, Hamato Yoshi, Oroku Karai

**Dr. Miller's notes:** Some of this terminology warrants explanation. **Jonin** refers to the highest-ranking ninjas in a clan. **Chunin** is also a high rank within the clan that is responsible for lower-level ninja. As laid out in the **Ashi No Himitsu**, within the context of the Foot Clan, Jonin means the leader of the Clan, while the Chunin is considered second in command.





# TAKESHI TATSUO



Takeshi Tatsuo was a legendary warrior in the Muromachi period in Japan. He was the embodiment of the Dragon Warrior and founder of the Foot Clan.

He was once a samurai retainer for Ashikaga Yuu, daimyo of the shogun. But Yuu feared Takeshi's prowess with a blade, and rather than risk his most powerful protector turning

on him, Yuu sent dozens of men to kill him on a snowy mountain pass. An extremely bloody battle ensued, in which Tatsuo felled most of Yuu's men. In the final exhausting moments, Tatsuo was injured to the point of no longer being able to fight, and what little remained of Yuu's men retreated. The light faded from Takeshi Tatsuo's eyes, but this would merely be the first time.

One day, Oroku Maji witnessed Kitsune and Tatsuo's arcane ritual to maintain his youth. Fearing their master's reliance on unknowable demon magic, Maji and Master Masato conspired to kill Takeshi Tatsuo. Once again, the light faded from Takeshi Tatsuo's eyes, but this would merely be the second time.

Tatsuo was rescued and revived by the witch Kitsune with a combination of ooze and otherworldly magic. The revived Takeshi Tatsuo slaughtered his former master in his bed and took what remained of the Yuu clan for his own. This collection of warriors, thieves, and assassins would come to be known as the Foot Clan.

Kitsune's rituals and magic would keep Tatsuo alive for decades. His reign became increasingly more violent and coldhearted as the years went on, due in part to Kitsune imbuing him with the Spirit of the Dragon Warrior.



## RENET'S

### REVERBERATIONS

*Gosharoonies!* Genuinely evil dude right here. Even his presence on the timeline makes everything around him gnarly. Did you know that in timelines without Takeshi Tatsuo, there are no such thing as mosquitos? Little blood suckers just don't exist without his wack presence.



# OROKU SAKI

Oroku Saki was the son of Oroku Maji, and a vessel for the immortal soul of Takeshi Tatsuo. He ruled over the Foot Clan in the 16th century and was held in an ooze-induced stasis for hundreds of years before being brought back by Oroku Karai as the Shredder in the 21st century.

As a young boy, Saki was tested, asked to identify objects that belonged to him. The young Saki made some innocuous selections before grabbing the *Ashi No Himitsu*, the recorded history of the Foot Clan and claiming, "I make this." Though this signified that he was the reincarnation of Takeshi Tatsuo, his father did his best to raise him as a thoughtful and disciplined boy. Saki formed a close friendship with Hamato Yoshi. Even before their formal training began, Saki and Yoshi would play fight with sticks out in the forest, dreaming of their futures together.

As their training intensified, so too did Saki's ambition. He would overpower any of his fellow students if he felt threatened by them, tapping into Takeshi's strength. He quickly rose through the ranks, leading increasingly violent raids on nearby villages, and loudly bragging about his accomplishments. This began to drive a wedge between Saki and Hamato Yoshi, who disapproved of the direction in which Saki was taking the clan. He was to be promoted to the position of *chunin*, alongside Yoshi, and was furious at the perceived slight. The witch Kitsune revealed to Saki the secret of his former life as Takeshi Tatsuo, the partnership between Takeshi and Kitsune, and how it was all ended by Master Masato and Oroku Maji.

Saki absconded to the mountains in the night with the *Ashi No Himitsu*. His father feared the witch's influence had turned Saki against him and sent a band of warriors to bring him back. Saki killed those warriors. With the help of Kitsune, Saki accepted his role as the reincarnation of Takeshi Tatsuo, embodiment of the Dragon Warrior, and rightful leader of the Foot. Kitsune also revealed the source of her immortality-inducing ooze: an Iron Demon, or *Tetsu Oni*, from another world with ambitions to raise an army and conquer Earth. This Oni was the Utrom warlord Krang in a fearsome metal suit, but the full depth of his identity and history remained elusive to Saki for centuries.

Emboldened with anger and purpose, Saki returned to the clan, killed his own father and Master Masato, and resumed Tatsuo's quest for immortality. He banded together with Kitsune to betray her Tetsu Oni, steal his life-granting elixir, and destroy the portal through which the Oni traveled. In the final phase of Kitsune's plan, Saki would commit seppuku, and his body would bathe in a pure distillation of the ooze. After hundreds of years of being tormented in the world between life and death, Saki emerged in modern-day New York City as the Shredder.





# HAMATO YOSHI

Hamato Yoshi was a contemporary, friend, and rival to Oroku Saki, husband of Tang Shen, and father of four sons. He was a student of Master Masato and was at one point *chunin* of the Foot Clan. Hundreds of years after his death, Yoshi was reincarnated as Splinter, a lab rat at StockGen in New York City.

Yoshi and Saki were great friends as children. As they aged, both boys displayed remarkable ambition, strength, and talent—particularly in their martial arts training. They also shared a short temper. But while Saki was able to channel his anger into improved combat abilities, Yoshi was often overwhelmed and distracted by his rage. Under the guidance of Master Masato, he learned the art of meditation to control anger, usually going out into nature to focus his mind. On one such meditative sojourn, he met Tang Shen. Shen and Yoshi fell in

love, and Yoshi finally had something to live for outside the Foot Clan.

Master Masato assigned Oroku Saki and Hamato Yoshi the task of assassinating Lord Ochi. During the mission, Yoshi was so annoyed by Saki's arrogance that he let his anger cloud his judgment, causing Yoshi to enter Ochi's chambers without checking to make sure the old man was alone. But Ochi was not alone, and Yoshi found himself outnumbered. In the ensuing fight, Ochi slashed Yoshi across the back before ultimately being defeated by him. Yoshi returned home to Tang Shen, who nursed him back to health and informed Yoshi that they were now expecting a child. Yoshi stepped down from his role within the Foot, focusing instead on his family. Yoshi and Shen had four sons together. His family finally brought Yoshi the calm that had eluded him for so long.





# TANG SHEN AND THE HAMATO BOYS



Tang Shen was a gardener and horticulturist, a wife to Hamato Yoshi, and the mother of their four sons. As a young girl, she saw Hamato Yoshi and Oroku Saki playing and training in the woods while she was out gathering seeds and cuttings for her garden. The boys' jubilation was appealing, but intimidating, especially when coupled with the unmissable anger they brought out in each other. Shen waited for an opening when she could catch Yoshi alone and approached him while he was meditating in the woods.

Tranquility came easy to Shen, but it was often hard-won by Hamato Yoshi. She taught him to slow down and exist in the peace of the moment. Shen and Yoshi were together from then on, and this true intimacy enraged Oroku Saki. Saki would make crude advances on Shen, which she always expertly rebuffed. She recognized that these were only attempts to aggravate Yoshi and ignored them. In fact, she became used to moving beyond the manipulative mind games Saki played with her husband.

She and Yoshi had four sons together and made their home on a hillside overlooking the village. Yoshi prioritized his sons'

training and discipline, while Shen brought the warmth and beauty of the natural world into their home and lives. She taught the boys music and art, and encouraged their interests outside their father's narrow focus.

children slept in the other room. Yoshi killed these assassins and escaped to the countryside in the night with his boys in tow.

The boys lived in the wilderness with their father for several years before the Foot caught up with them, but they never again knew the comforts of the home Shen had provided. Instead, Yoshi trained his sons even harder in the ways of the ninja. As human children, they exhibited many of the same personality traits they have many lifetimes later. They each preferred a specific color for their gi and excelled in training with a particular weapon. Hundreds of years later, Splinter would give them masks in these colors and their favorite weapons. The individual names of the Hamato boys are lost to history, but they would later be reincarnated as mutant turtles in 21st-century New York: Leonardo, Donatello, Raphael, and Michelangelo.



Art by Mateus Santolouco • Colors by Joao "Azeitona" Vieira

Shen was killed by Oroku Saki when her youngest was still too young to walk. She was murdered by Foot ninjas while her