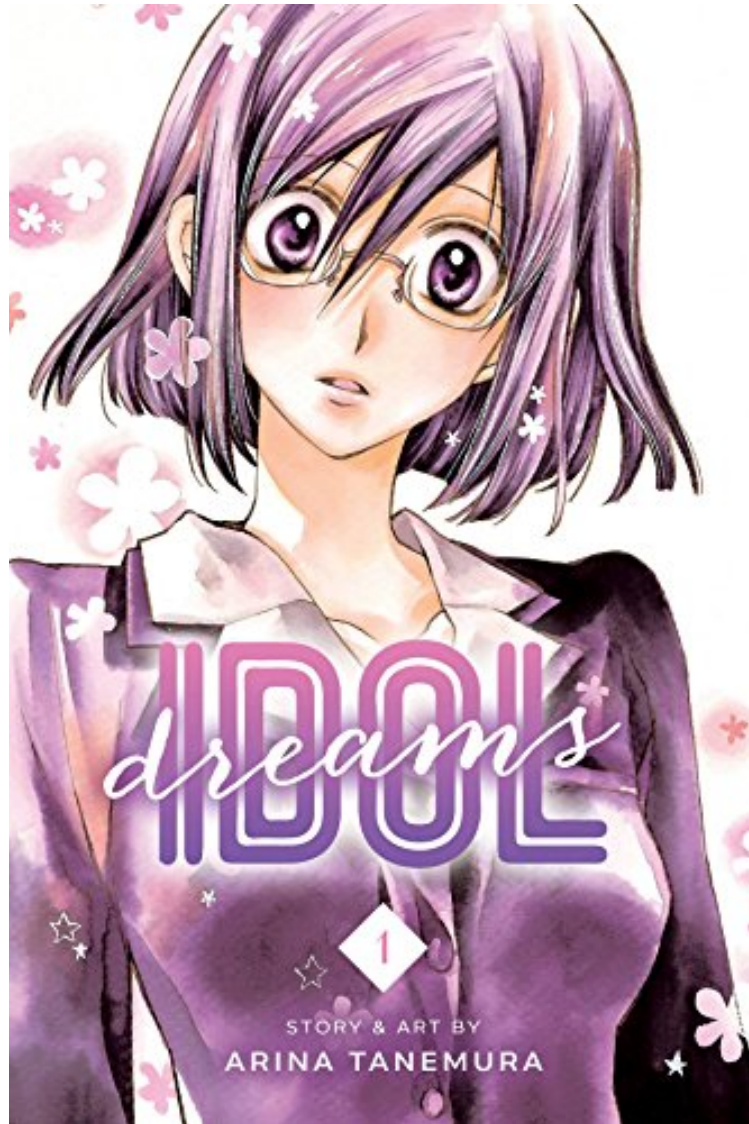


## Idol Dreams, Vol. 1

Arina Tanemura

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#981556 in Books Tanemura Arina 2015-11-03 2015-11-03 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.50 x .60 x 5.00l, .0 #File Name: 1421582562192 pages Idol Dreams Vol 1 | File size: 36.Mb

**Arina Tanemura : Idol Dreams, Vol. 1** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Idol Dreams, Vol. 1:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Worth checking out By ChibiNeko I have to admit that I was pleasantly surprised by this manga. I didn't really expect much from this given the cover, as it just looked a little too syrupy sweet for my tastes, like one of those manga that tends to get picked up as part of a bundle deal with a publisher. Thankfully, this isn't the case and I ended up purchasing an electronic version fairly quickly after reading a free sample. What makes this so interesting so far is that Tanemura tends to buck some of the more conventional tropes

with manga. Our heroine is a virgin in her 30s, something that isn't absolutely unheard of in manga but it's not really common either. On top of that, she's given two love interests in the first volume, along with some very realistic barriers that would keep her from actually going with either one of them. It's always frustrating to see two people dance around one another with some fairly ridiculous misunderstandings keeping them from admitting their feelings and hooking up. However with Chikage the barriers are pretty solid. With the younger one (Hibiki), Chikage can't be with him because of the age difference and the fact that he's interested in the young Chikage. Tokita obviously has feelings for her, but he has a girlfriend and neither Chikage nor Tokita are willing to cross that barrier. They're not the strongest barriers, but they're both very valid ones. Either male seems like he'd be a good partner for Chikage in their own way, so you can't really tell who is her Destined Love. Normally you can tell pretty early on in a series and while Tokita does seem to be the stronger pairing, either one could work. Tanemura does seem to favor dark haired love interests, so this might be a sign that Hibiki is the Destined Love, however. Story-wise, this isn't half bad. It's a fun read and Chikage is a likable lead, making her easy for readers to relate with. What's also fun is that while romance is certainly a large emphasis in this series, there's an equally- if not larger- emphasis on Chikage learning to step outside of her own shell. I think that's part of the reason why there's no strong leaning towards a love interest either way, as the main gist of the series is likely not to get Chikage paired up with someone, but to help her become more assertive. I can only hope that this stays true throughout the series. Now that said, this isn't a story line that would really lend itself to a very long series, so I hope that this doesn't turn into a long 10+ volume series without a bit more to go on story-wise. Still, this is early in the series and Tanemura has shown herself to be a strong manga-ka, so this isn't something that I'd overly worry about until the series is about 3-4 volumes in, when many tend to start relying more on filler and hit their slump.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Rough art; cute story  
By D. Cootey  
In the back of the volume, Arina talks of how she was asked to limit her signature flourishes because the market was for adults. Without the flourishes, there is just her main characters interacting. I never realized how awkward her figure drawing is. That aside, though, the story of a 31yo office woman who is lonely and regrets the mundane path her life took resonates. Through the magic of comic book science, she can turn 15 again. Her plan to recreate the lost romance of her youth takes a detour as she suddenly becomes an idol star in training. What could be a very typical manga theme becomes interesting, however, because we see her experiences through her 31yo viewpoint. These are just my first impressions, but I enjoyed the story enough to want to read the next volume.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. For Her Adult Fans  
By Talvi  
Idol Dreams represents a change in Arina Tanemura's work. Recognizing that her longstanding fans have grown up and become adults, she has written a series for them. Published in a tankouban targeted to women rather than girls, the same magic is here, of course, but the protagonist is now a 31 year old office worker who realizes her life has someone stagnated. It's a great idea for a story - a gift to her older readers while she also works on her other titles geared to a younger audience.

Story: Chikage Deguchi had a charmed life in high school - popular, smart, and full of potential. But now, over a decade later, she's a 'Christmas cake' - an office worker who has somehow reached her 30s without ever finding a husband or fulfilling life. When younger and prettier coworkers denigrate her status and betray her for their own benefit, she's had enough and decides to take her life. She's saved by an old friend from school, now a scientist, who believes he can give her a reason to live. He's experimenting with a drug that can turn her body back to 15 temporarily. It's dangerous but she doesn't care; it's her chance to relive her best years and this time make the right decisions. Because it is Tanemura, we'll have a lively 15 year old protagonist becoming embroiled in the idol world. Cue cute boys and plenty of idol action. Perhaps where this book will differ is that her true love interest is actually in her 31 year old present - the friend she protected but never saw again after school until he saves her from drowning.

At age 31, office worker Chikage Deguchi feels she missed her chances at love and success. When word gets out that she's a virgin, Chikage is humiliated and wishes she could turn back time to when she was still young and popular. She takes an experimental drug that changes her appearance back to when she was 15. Now Chikage is determined to pursue everything she missed out on all those years ago including becoming a star!