

Aria Volume 1 (Aria (Tokyopop)) (v. 1) by Kozue Amano



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Follows a young girl named Akari Mizunashi, a gondolier tour guide in the city of Neo-Venezia on Aqua, the planet formerly known as Mars and covered almost entirely by water after it was terraformed.



Reviews of the Aria Volume 1 (Aria (Tokyopop)) (v. 1) by Kozue Amano

Kajishakar

So I should preface this review by saying none of the issues I have are with the series itself. This series (along with the prequel, Aqua) is my favourite manga. It's fantastically written, the characters are fantastic and mostly relatable. There is not much of an overarching plot beyond just the basic premise, but that's not necessarily a bad thing by any means. Everything it does is really good, and I'd recommend everybody at least try it (though maybe start with the prequel, as it is really good as

well and sets up a lot of the characters in this one very well). My problem with this is that I wasn't a fan of some of the choices they made in translation. I think this only actually annoys me because the way I read it originally kept a lot of the Japanese stuff in; President Aria was Aria-shachou, they kept in a lot of the honorifics, while this seems to mostly drop them. One they did that really puzzled me was the change of Manhome to Earth. I think Manhome sounds so much better, and I'm not at all sure why they decided to leave it out. I'm sure they had reasons, but it really baffles me. I can get leaving out the honorifics. People who know about them understand that they're implied, and it saves having to try to explain them to someone who doesn't. Same with the shachou vs. president, I don't have a problem with that. But who were they trying to help by changing Manhome? It isn't as if it's hard to understand what it means; it literally says exactly what the word means in the word itself. And it isn't overtly Japanese-sounding, so it's not like they're trying to save our children from evil □□□ like a lot of companies (at least in this specific situation). And I fully get it's a small thing, and it's ridiculous to count off a star for it. But it just really bothers me (as I'm sure you can tell). So yeah, definitely still buy it (unless you can find TokyoPop's version for a decent price, since if their translation of Aqua is anything to go by, it is far superior), but I might suggest reading a different (perhaps fan-made) translation, if any of the issues I mentioned matter to you at all. Otherwise, just read it like this.

MrCat

This manga is one of the most beautiful mangas I've seen. The story is just so mild but at the same time it's passional. It makes you fuse with the plot and feel every single emotion, and even feel the change in seasons, and to make it even better the art is just gorgeous! This manga is definitively a most read! :)

Stanober

You could tell it's been slightly used but honestly it was in very good condition. I loved the anime so much, so I can't wait to enjoy the art and everything else in the manga.

kinder

probably my favorite manga series next to yokohama kaidashi kikou, reading it really does take you away for a while.

love this series!

Jorius

Wonderful.

Thordigda

I am doing this review for the entire ARIA manga series, which ends at Vol.12

The setting of Mars turning into a planet of water is interesting. Other than that, a lot of settings don't make sense.

One of which is the age calculation. Although the author later on added an idea of extra birthdays(*), the story has long passed three "Mars years" before it ends, meaning character would had at least become 6 "Earth" years older toward the end of the series, which is not the case.

*A few years back, I managed to Google the author's email address, and emailed in poorly structured Japanese to the address about the age issue. The extra birthdays chapter came out a year or two later since, on volume publication. However, I had no proof that it was indeed the author's email address and didn't choose to keep the address, since I found it kind of intrusive. Plus, the author might discover this issue on her own or from other ARIA fans. After the extra birthdays chapter, I wanted to "tsukkomi (□□□□)" once more, but was no longer able to Google the email address.

Anyhow, ARIA isn't a series to make sense. It instead is a series for "peaceful sensationalism," where everyone is kind and everything is wonderful, plus the mischievous "cat elf" through out the series. (now I recall there doesn't seem to be any dogs in the story :P). It attracts audience and generated a large fan base for this pacifying indulgence away from the real world. It progresses really slowly, which is okay in manga form. However, in anime form, for me, it becomes toooooooo slow, so I

wasn't able to continue watching all three seasons of ARIA anime.

After light novels, anime, and other side publications appeared, the ARIA manga, which is supposedly the central point, started to progress with these side stories in mind. This is most obvious at the end, where it resonates way back to its prequel, AQUA, that a character from other ARIA publications appears in the manga series for the first time. One would need to read and watch everything to have a full understanding of the entire story. This is sort of too money-oriented, which, though unlikely the issue of Amano herself, I find somehow too "realistic."

Note: I own the series in its Taiwanese publication format, and I agree the redo of title font doesn't go along with the mood of ARIA. The original is much better

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