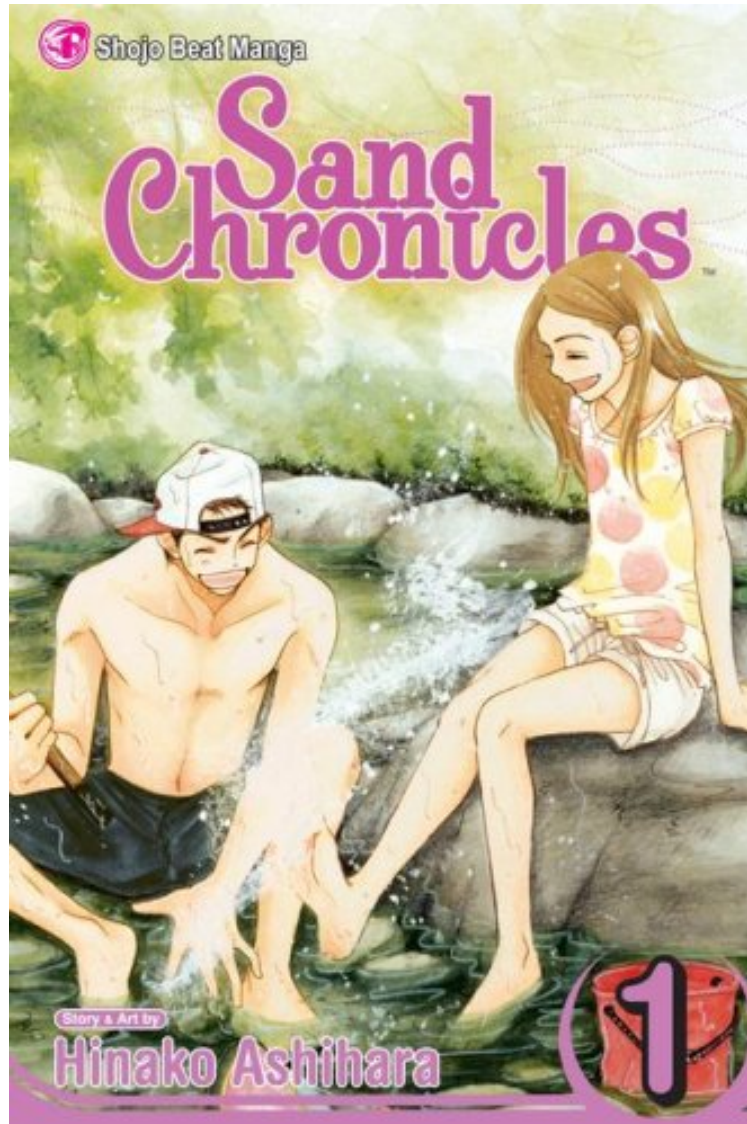


Sand Chronicles, Vol. 1

Hinako Ashihara

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#1195664 in Books Hinako Ashihara 2008-01-01 2008-01-01 Original language: English PDF # 1 7.50 x .60 x 5.001, .45 #File Name: 142151477X200 pages Sand Chronicles Volume 1 | File size: 44.Mb

Hinako Ashihara : Sand Chronicles, Vol. 1 before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Sand Chronicles, Vol. 1:

13 of 14 people found the following review helpful. Slice of Life shoujo done right By sanoe.net The first Shoujo Beat magazine I ever bought contained the second chapter of this series. I had bought the magazine because one of my favorite series, Honey and Clover, Vol. 1 had started to be serialized in the magazine. I expected "Honey Clover" to be awesome, but I didn't expect the little slice of life gem that is Sand Chronicles Vol. 1 (Sand Chronicles). The story is told as a flashback by Ann Uekusa, the main character. It is a part of a shoujo genre that doesn't involve magical

powers, robot boyfriends, or being sent to the past. It is very clearly a slice of life story that starts when Ann (at 12) and her mother are moving back to her mother's small hometown from Tokyo. Anyone who has ever gone from living in a large city where anonymity is worn like underwear to a small town where everyone not only knows your name but almost everything else will be able to relate to Ann's sense of unease. But like any good story, there is a trigger that causes the character to change their mind and in "Sand Chronicles", the trigger is tragic with a realistic impact on its young cast. The biggest strength of "Sand Chronicles" is its main lead, Ann. She's likable and easy to relate to. She gets angry, upset, confused and embarrassed. She's also fun and funny. And with Ann at its center, this is a story that feels unique in its details but familiar in its sentiment: Losing a loved one, feeling awkward, discovering first love, finding good friends, etc. and it hits the right notes at almost every plot turn. Overall, with its understated art, compelling story and engaging heroine, this may be the series that I was hoping to find now that *Tramps Like Us* Volume 14 (*Tramps Like Us* (Graphic Novels)) is coming to a close in Feb 2008. On the strength of Vol 1, I will be looking forward to *Sand Chronicles*, Vol. 2 (*Sand Chronicles*) in May 2008. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Beautiful By Jennifer Deshields It's been awhile since I've been so into a manga like I am with this one. The emotions that I feel from reading this go up and down with every page. I love how it is written

After her parents get divorced, Ann Uekusa and her mother move from Tokyo to rural Shimane. Accustomed to the anonymity of city living, Ann can't get used to the almost overbearing kindness of the people in her mother's hometown. But when personal tragedy strikes, Ann discovers how much she needs that kindness.

From Publishers Weekly Delicate mood and generous empathy help this teen-girl romance cross cultural boundaries. Twelve-year-old Ann feels disoriented when her newly divorced mother leaves Tokyo and moves back to her village and less-than-sympathetic parents. Ann has trouble adjusting to rural culture where, for example, cute wild bunnies are not pets but food. However, the townspeople, especially rabbit-hunting young Daigo, offer Ann friendship and support after her mother commits suicide. As they go to summer camp with other young teenagers two years later, Ann and Daigo still are close, but Ann worries about losing him to a rival while she also obsesses about when she'll begin having regular periods. Some of the plot complications are predictable, such as lonely rich-kid Fuji beginning to cast yearning glances at Ann, and some of the characters' concerns may seem trivial to grownups. But Ashihara's art is quietly lovely, especially winter scenes with the air swirling with snowflakes or when a summer night is full of fireflies. Her script treats all the characters with gentle respect. The translation ignores differences in regional dialects, missing some clumsiness in conversations, but this manga still succeeds in showing the delight as well as the awkwardness of developing relationships. (Jan.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From School Library Journal Grade 8 Up After her parents' divorce, 12-year-old Ann and her mother move from Tokyo to the country to live with her grandmother. Shortly thereafter Ann's mother, plagued by depression and a drinking problem, kills herself. Ann finds comfort in her new friends Fuji and Daigo. By age 14, she has developed a huge crush on Daigo and become closer to Fuji, who has caught his philandering mother with another man. The teen worries about her period, which stopped right after her mother died. This is a sensitive story about the passing of time and the many rites of passage of adolescence. The characters are drawn with flowing lines and luminous eyes, adding to the book's wistful, contemplative tone. Lisa Goldstein, Brooklyn Public Library, NY Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. About the Author Hinako Ashihara won the 50th Shogakukan Manga Award for *Sunadokei* (*Sand Chronicles*). She debuted with *Sono hanashi okotowari shimasu* in *Bessatsu Shojo Comics* in 1994. Her other works include *SOS*, *Forbidden Dance*, *Ten-nen Bitter Chocolate*.