



The Gentlemen's Alliance †, Vol. 1

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In return for a business loan of 50 million yen, the prestigious Kamiya family gave their daughter Haine away to the Otomiya family. Haine, now an Otomiya, is appointed to the student council of the exclusive Imperial Academy, a private school for the aristocracy. Even though Haine is of proper lineage to be on the council, she finds herself struggling to find her place among the many secrets of its elite members, especially those of the president who holds her heart--Shizumasa Togu, aka "the Emperor."

The Gentlemen's Alliance †, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Arina Tanemura

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From Reader Review The Gentlemen's Alliance †, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Mizuki says

I dislike Arina Tanemura's manga series, because most of them are so damn cheesy. But The Gentlemen's Alliance is an exclusion. I really, really, really enjoy this one.

Yes, from time to time the story is still cheesy and the characters filled with cliches, but as a whole The Gentlemen's Alliance works out quite well.

Elizabeth says

Another girly high school manga revolving around a girl who likes a boy who doesn't really pay any attention to her and is way out of her social group (but she's cute and nice and most everyone who gets to know her really ends up liking her...so really the same as every other girly manga ever written).

The series gets better after the first book or two (it's hard to remember since I read most of them online).

Lara Mi says

Students attending the Imperial Academy are placed in a hierarchical order based on their parents' income and social standing. Haine is in the bronze class and is not even allowed to interact with the highest gold class - yet the gold class is reserved for the head of the school council, also known as the Emperor, who happens to be the one Haine has set her heart on. When chance allows for her to join the school council, she finds that now that she can finally speak to the Emperor, he does not seem very willing to do so.

I wish I could cover **The Gentlemen's Alliance Cross** with praise - yet if I try to describe it in a few words I'd come up with chaotic, illogical and terrible humour. From the time of its release, it has been my least favourite series (one-shots not included) by Arina Tanemura and has yet held that position. It's a bit of a modern take on Cinderella with a school for a backdrop that could have taken many routes - but it seems to have gone all over the place.

Let's start with my biggest peeve - *where* does this all take place? Judging by the names and clothing, it can only be Japan - or a pseudo-Japan? Because although it reflects our contemporary time in many ways, many of the social norms make no sense. Haine is given up for adoption in exchange for 50 million yen, the school's hierarchy seems absolute - you can't *talk* with people in higher classes and you can rise up in class if your parents pay enough money. Teachers barely seem present, it's like the students run the school in which gang fights are a thing. There's a lot of family abuse going on and people can be proclaimed dead without any investigation, there are forced marriages and just so many extremes. If this were a fantasy setting I

wouldn't have minded - fictional worlds can have any rules. But in the setting in which it's presented, it just caused too much disbelief in me.

With that off my chest, let's go back to the beginning. Although the school's concept could have proven an interesting story, it's barely relevant. The plot consists of the characters' dilemmas - and boy are there many. There is not a single character with a *normal* life that isn't frightfully melodramatic. Let's look at Haine; she's cute but also an ex-yankee/gangster who can easily beat someone silly (why are there knife and snake fights at school again?). She became a yankee because she wanted to prove that she's not worth anything - because, you know, her dad sold her and all. In her mind, her new adoptive family doesn't really want or need her, she's just a burden - so what better solution than to roam the streets at night looking for trouble.

Of course, her whole adoption thing proves to have much more to it, her father's just another tortured soul trying to do the right thing. Her mum goes half insane over it which, once again, *didn't make any sense!* She's had her teeth knocked out during her yankee-time and whenever her now fake-teeth come out, she goes all strangely berserk - hello humour, you almost made me smile.

Anyway, Haine goes into depression-phase multiple times throughout the story. There are many would-be-climaxes that are either resolved too fast or just *interrupted* so it could be resolved in a later volume. And because Haine's problems aren't enough, the author made sure that every.single.character. has at least as many to whine over.

If this story would have been **much** shorter, less wanna-be-depressing and either in a fictional setting or one that makes sense in our world, this could have been a decent story. The council was quite a nice set of characters. I like how they were all pretty different and became great friends.

Shizumasa, the Emperor, starts off as your standard stand-offish main guy but he turns out to be pretty interesting. I feel as though he actually had a legitimate reason to be a jerk to everyone and you know, he's the first to get over himself. His backstory is by far the most interesting and it led to interesting conflicts - it was pretty easy to root for him and hope for a happy ending.

So, while I could try to look past the many, many flaws and read on for the good aspects and hope for a happy end - I can say the ending was a happy one for the characters, if not for me. It was utterly unsatisfactory and pretty much cheats its way past the main obstacle that stands between Haine and Shizumasa. Why resolve the story's main conflict if you can simply ignore it and they all lived happily ever after!

Despite all, I still find myself reading this from time to time. Although most of it is spent shaking my head, there must be enough good in it to make me reread it.

Miss Ryoko says

Hopefully this series will pick up because I'm in it for the long haul...

The first volume was very meh. The main character is bipolar... not clinically diagnosed, but clearly. It's always strange to me when manga-ka give female leads two crazy opposing personality traits. I'm sorry, but I have a hard time believing that someone who is ditzy and always happy was once a yanki - someone who was violent and gruff. I can understand a yanki going soft - someone who made a choice to change their life

and become a better version of themselves...but I doubt that version of themselves is essentially a bimbo. I know her ditziness is supposed to be endearing and make her lovable, but it doesn't work on me. I find it annoying.

Then there was the "twist" with the main male lead... (view spoiler)

A whole slew of characters were introduced in just this one volume that I had a hard time keeping them straight. So that was also slightly annoying. The warden looks like a cool dude though.

There are parts of this I think will make for an interesting read, and hopefully it WILL pick up and get more interesting and less annoying. But for now, I was definitely not impressed with the first volume. In fact, I'm actually a bit surprised anyone continued reading after this first installment. *shrugs* Oh well. On to the next (and with hope it'll be better)

Deb says

Haine is a former Yanki (girl thug) who reformed after encountering and falling in love with Shizumasa Togu, the student council president (nicknamed "The Emperor") at her elite boarding school. In the first volume of this series, after a series of misunderstandings Haine is placed on the student council as the Emperor's bodyguard.

A very blah & typical start to what by the second volume is shaping into promising shojo series: girl likes boy, girl goes out of her way to attract boy's attention, girl does something clumsy that attracts said boy's attention but not in the manner she wanted.

Nicole *{Lady Aribeth}* says

This manga is a great example of why people think manga is ridiculous. Haine is a girl from a poor family who wants to join the student council at her school and earn enough points to become a silver at her school! Yes, this particular school ranks its students based on how rich they are, from bronze to gold. The only gold-worthy student is the "Emperor," a student who basically rules the school. Haine is in love with him, and this is pretty much all she can seem to talk about. *Cue the large, shiny eyes and inner dialogue about how she MUST get on the student council to be oh so close to him!!!* Gasp!

Wow, I'm sorry, but I just don't understand the appeal of the shojo genre. And this is coming from a girl who loves pictures of Hello Kitty and makes jewelry based on the My Little Pony cutie marks because they're so gosh-dern cute! Seriously, even I can't handle the weird and confusing gushing of these books.

The plot is super awkward. The characters are annoying. The only saving grace for me is the artwork. I gave it 2 stars instead of 1 because I can see why some other might like it, but it's definitely not for me.

Kira Schumacher says

Nicht für mich.

Susan says

Honestly, I didn't like it that much myself, but for those who find incredibly convoluted manga plotlines appealing (and when we're talking about manga series, which can sometimes be very drawn-out, there is actually an audience for this) this will have a lot of drama and twists to keep them hooked.

Follow this plot if you dare... Haine, the heroine, was coldly sold by her father into adoption to another family. This spurs her into a career of infamy as a *yanki* (juvenile delinquent) until an encounter with her crush inspires her to change her ways. She gets a job at the school to help her adopted family which has fallen into hard times, but ends up with a surprise "promotion" to student council bodyguard. And who is she sworn to protect most of all? Her crush, Shizumasa who rules the Student Council (and the school) as "Emperor". So far so good, but what follows is like a big mix of the most preposterous gimmicks from soap operas---mistaken identity, secret twins, boys masquerading as girls, love triangles, rivalries, rumors, conspiracies, and more. The cast of main characters (mainly student council members but also assorted family members and outside love interests) is numerous and a bit hard to keep track of, even with the sidebars profiling each one in Volume 1. Haine is scrappy and likeable overall, though her feelings for Shizumaya are about equitable to the soppiness Bella displays for Edward in Twilight--so be prepared.

Maturity (Vol. 1): Scant mild, cartoonish violence, no obvious fan service, sex, or nudity. Haine fantasizes about her crush once or twice, but it's all lead-up, nothing happens, we see nothing really. Two boys kiss in one scene but it's not what it looks like. Overall, all smoke, no fire--and not even much of that. It's more about the romance (and one-sided, unrequited romance at that as Shizumasa is standoffish towards Haine) than anything. Volume 1 acceptable for 11-12+

D.M. Dutcher says

I'd call this a messy shoujo manga. Messy art style, messy plot, messy characters.

Haine is a 15 year old who attends a very prestigious academy. She has her eyes on the Emperor of that academy, Shizumasa. She fell in love with the fairy tale he wrote as a child, and chases after him, even reforming herself from being a yankee which is a juvenile female gangster/delinquent. Soon she finds herself on the student council, and has to be his bodyguard from the Heretics, a group of student/delinquents. Can she win his love?

Okay, first of all, the art style is way too busy. Even for shoujo manga, there's a lot of linework, hyper-exaggerated eyes, and really detailed backgrounds. It doesn't work at all that well, and in many scenes it would be clearer if she just used simple backgrounds or even blank space.

Second of all, I refuse to believe Haine is a delinquent. The backstory makes sense, but both the character

design and her personality don't mesh with that. She is an ex-gang member, and she would be cracking heads, often with the Japanese equivalent of a baseball bat. She could reform, I grant that, but I can't see this bubbly girl who wears a maid costume while sweeping the school entrance and is naively cute to be one. A good example of a yankee is Arisu from *Fruits Basket*, Vol. 1. She's trying to go straight, but even then comes across as a wounded badass who clings to Tohru both to defend her and for her own healing. The big eyes especially work against this.

Third, the plot is weird. There are gold, silver, and bronze levels of students. Bronze=peons, silver=rich or working obsessively hard, gold=class president i.e. emperor. But all of the students are children of CEO's or heads of industry, which makes little sense to have a pecking order. She works a part time job to help out her parents because their business is going through a hard time, but they run a business which could loan her ex-father 50 million yen to adopt her. This is shoujo, not an epic fantasy, but even by shoujo standards there are a few weird plot holes.

So it's meh. I didn't really get into the main love interest either-he didn't really have much witty banter or room to shine with all the characters. Maybe it gets better in later volumes but for now pass.

Silver says

Honestly, it depends. It depends completely on what type of story you gravitate towards, and while I did thoroughly admire Arina's art and some other things, I can't say this type of story is mine (though it may be yours). *Shinshi Doumei Cross* is a typical sugary, unapologetically cliche, shoujo manga with a rather overused type of heroine. I felt Arina tried too hard to portray Haine as a strong girl with a sensitive/romantic side - it just came off as annoying in the end, though she IS better than some of Arina's other heroines. (Good God.) There are a lot of contradictions that make her character inconsistent which may annoy some people. I do like that the author went into some depth with the characters' backstories and such, and some of the supporting cast are pretty good for side characters, but be warned there is barely a plot since it focuses mostly on Haine trying to get her crush to love her. Arina struggles to find a strong series of events that could make a decently convincing plot though she did better with that in other series. Overall, it's a non-fantasy story with a lot of cheese and fluff (and a fairytale feeling but at an academy) - best for romantics I guess. Compared to the array of shoujo mangas randomly out there, this is actually better than most, I guess I just am too hard to satisfy.

Theresa ? says

I love Arina Tanemura's art! She has awesome drawing skills.

Anyway, I haven't finished *The Gentlemen's Alliance Cross*, so I might edit this review in the future. But so far, it's a good 3-stars.

It's terrifically original!!

Now to be completely honest, I forgot most of what this series is about, so I MIGHT have to reread it. But I do remember that I was thinking of giving *G.A.Cross* a three star rating. The romance is a little blurry, but otherwise, this series was very very interesting.

I look forward to reading more!

Loveliest Evaris says

I was excited to finally get a volume from my library, but it was highly disappointing.

First off, the art isn't the best. I don't like huge-ass eyes on my manga characters. I could handle it in Kitchen Princess because it had a good story to make up for it.

This has no good story. It's confusing from the outset, and the whole synopsis of the volume's "arc" is laid down in the first 3 pages. Usually everything is spaced out and the full details come out by the middle of the volume, and then things get kicked into high gear onwards. Not so for this.

Also, all of the pages were a pain to read because everything was so crammed in it hurt my eyes. I usually do not have this problem, but it's like this manga WANTS me to hate it.

Also, the heroine is completely stupid. She's a bubbly, hardworking girl who happens to have been a punk ("yanki") in years past? She's determined yet a hopelessly-in-love girl who happens to have kept her feelings for a boy she BARELY knows all this time? The female heroine is a walking contradiction! It flipping makes no sense!

And there are tons of other manga out there that have played the "outcast girl surrounded by bitchy aristocrats/talented people at a prestigious school" card way better than this is turning out to: Gakuen Alice, Kitchen Princess, etc. etc!!

Needless to say I stopped after 10 pages. Couldn't even finish one flipping chapter of this dumb piece of crap.

Thetravelingpanda says

As soon as I finished to read Full Moon, I started this manga of Arina Tanemura. The art is still great and awesome! The story is very different from Full Moon, which is a good thing because usually manga authors are always doing the same type of stories.

It is the story of Haine who is entering a very prestigious school and meet "the president" an elite member whom she has loved from childhood.

Haine is a cute and lovable character she seems to be a bit like Mitsuki, never letting herself down and always looking on the positive side even when her story is very dark and sad.

Carol says

Great start fo a series and Haine is really likable: Flawed and always optimistic!

Dani - Perspective of a Writer says

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Arina Tanemura introduces her newest manga, The Gentlemen's Alliance †. The head of the prestigious Kamiya family sells his daughter for a paltry 50 million yen to the head of the Otomiya family. Haine now attends the exclusive Imperial Academy as a bronze and accidentally is appointed to the student council where she will face the emperor of the school, Shizumasa Togu, and her childhood crush.

I heard so much about this series that I have been waiting with bated breathe for my library to FINALLY get it in!! Talk about petitions to buy manga!! So I was super excited to get this off my TBR and onto my read shelf...

Up until this year when I started reading manga again I typically rate manga 5 stars that I love and then I have another shelf I throw all other rated manga onto because they were so rare! So I was flummoxed to get to the end of this manga and just find it eh. Yeah!! I know, what in the world does eh mean?! You tell me that! I know I didn't hate the manga...

The art was not my favorite, it's well drawn but at first I mistook which character was which because the girls all looked alike. The frames are VERY full and lush, which is not what I want in a contemporary. A ton is going on... this is good because the story is dense... but I also had trouble understanding what some frames meant because they were kind of just stuck there without reference. This is an old style of drawing that modern mangaka don't use much anymore...

I didn't much like the main characters Haine and Shizumasa... She was running around throwing out the love word when she doesn't even know the kid!! I don't mind her thinking she loves him but to tell him boldly to his face, when she has to know MANY girls are telling his this everyday? Are you dim? And Shizumasa was even more obscure with his little random tantrums and jerking back and forth... I was intrigued why he felt the way he did toward her...

The side characters were quite good!! We had Maguri the gay VP who was Shizumasa's beard to keep the girls away... Maora the childhood friend of Maguri and obvious brains of the student council who stuck her fingers into all sorts of things not her business... The lovely Ushio who would cause any woman to doubt her sexuality!! LOVED Ushio, she was worth finishing the volume for!! And can't forget Toya, Shizumasa's servant and friend!! Oh, yeah and Kusame, Haine's adopted brother who doesn't like her to be on the student council!! There were also the heretics, which could turn into some seriously cool side characters if/when they return, especially their leader (Yukimitsu)!

The plot by comparison was bleh. It felt really random how and why things happened. It was kind of confusing how anyone got to the conclusions they did. It just all felt contrived. A lot of why I love manga is that it is visual but I still get to understand why characters are doing what they are doing - this manga obscures those reasonings, stealing a lot of enjoyment.

The chapter endings (i.e. where the twists come in) were better than the story or how we got to the twists... right now they won me over to stick with volume 2...

? ???? Authenticity

? ? ??? Tension

? ? ? ?? Plot

? ???? Art

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