

= Arisa (manga) =

Arisa (Japanese : ???) is a Japanese mystery shōjo (targeted towards girls) manga series written and illustrated by Natsumi Ando . It appeared as a serial in the monthly manga magazine Nakayoshi from the February 2009 issue to the September 2012 issue . Kodansha published the chapters in twelve bound volumes , from April 2009 to September 2012 . Set in present @-@ day Japan , it focuses on teenager Tsubasa Uehara , as she investigates the mystery surrounding her twin sister 's failed suicide attempt . With her sister left comatose , Tsubasa poses as her in the hopes of uncovering the identity of the King , a person who grants wishes to Arisa 's class , often resulting in violence .

Del Rey licensed the series for an English @-@ language translation in North America . It published the first volume in October 2010 , and shortly afterward , Kodansha Comics USA took over publishing , with the final volume published in January 2014 . The series was positively received by English @-@ language readers , with three volumes placing on the New York Times Bestseller List for manga . Arisa generally received positive reviews from English @-@ language reviewers , and the first volume placed on the Young Adult Library Services Association 's list of " Great Graphic Novels for Teens " in 2011 .

= = Plot = =

Set in modern @-@ day Japan , the plot centers on Tsubasa Uehara (?? ??? , Uehara Tsubasa) and Arisa Sonoda (?? ??? , Sonoda Arisa) , twin sisters separated by their parents ' divorce who keep in contact through letters . Finally meeting again as teenagers three years later , tomboyish Tsubasa is envious , but proud , of her popular sister , in comparison to her own school life where she is often referred to as the " Demon Princess . " When Arisa receives a letter from her school denouncing her as a traitor , she attempts suicide and becomes comatose . Shocked and saddened , Tsubasa poses as her , attending her school to find out why she tried to kill herself . She learns that Arisa 's class sends wishes on their cellphones to a person called King each Friday . The King only grants one wish weekly , resulting mostly in violence . Tsubasa resolves to stop the King and find out the person 's identity to save Arisa , in the hopes of waking her from her coma .

Assisted in her investigations by Akira Manabe (?? ?? , Manabe Akira) , Arisa 's classmate who learns Tsubasa 's identity , she encounters Mariko Takagi (?? ?? , Takagi Mariko) , Arisa 's best friend whom the King manipulates ; Midori Yamashita (?? ? , Yamashita Midori) , Arisa 's boyfriend ; Rei Kudō (?? ?? , Kudō Rei) , a transfer student whom Arisa had befriended online and who serves as the messenger of the King ; and Shizuka Mochizuki (?? ?? , Mochizuki Shizuka) , Manabe 's childhood friend who lost the use of her legs after a failed suicide attempt provoked by the King . Arisa awakens from her coma , but pretends to have amnesia and returns to Midori 's side . She reveals that she was the original King : although she granted harmless wishes in the beginning , she eventually stole the answers to an exam for Mariko 's wish , fearing disappointment if she refused . Midori caught her in the act , and she shared the task of granting the class 's wishes with him , until he injured her mother , in an attempt to grant her wish . Midori then replaced her as King , using violence and bullying to grant wishes . Horrified by his cruelty and the perceived similarities between them , she then reached out to her twin , hoping that Tsubasa would be able to uncover the truth . Tsubasa learns that Midori suffered psychological trauma in his childhood after being abandoned by his mother and witnessing his twin , Akari , die of neglect . She later foils his attempt to kill her mother , as he hated his own mother and believed that Arisa hated hers as well . Arisa confesses that she loves him for noticing her loneliness , and he realizes that he loves her too . In the conclusion , Arisa 's mother spends more time with her , and Arisa reconciles with Tsubasa .

= = Development = =

Manga artist Natsumi Ando 's concept art of Arisa had two earlier models of Tsubasa with chin @-@ length and shoulder @-@ length hair , respectively . Ando initially felt worried about the

absence of a potential romantic partner for Tsubasa , as Arisa 's target audience is girls ; however , as the manga progressed , she thought of it as " a selling point . " As a result of this , she was able to focus on Tsubasa 's emotions towards her twin . Soon after beginning the manga 's serialization , Ando created " Tsubasa " , a bonus chapter focusing on Arisa 's pretending to be her elder sister ; she continued to delay its publication , because it seemed inappropriate to have a bonus story with Arisa appear when she was comatose in the main storyline . According to Ando , it made a good chapter with which to conclude the series .

= = Release = =

Written and illustrated by Natsumi Ando , the chapters of Arisa appeared as a serial in the monthly manga magazine Nakayoshi from the February 2009 issue to the September 2012 issue . Kodansha collected the chapters into twelve bound volumes , and published them from April 28 , 2009 , to September 6 , 2012 .

In 2009 , Del Rey announced that it had licensed the series for an English @-@ language translation in North America . Del Rey released the first volume on October 26 , 2010 ; Kodansha Comics USA continued publication of the series , with the final volume published on January 21 , 2014 . Digital editions of the series have also been published by Kodansha in the United Kingdom . Arisa has also been translated into German by Carlsen Comics .

= = Reception = =

Arisa was positively received by English @-@ language readers . The second , fifth , and sixth volumes each placed on the New York Times Bestseller List for manga .

Young Adult Library Services Association placed the first volume of Arisa on its list of " Great Graphic Novels for Teens " for 2011 . About.com 's Deb Aoki reviewed the first volume of Arisa positively , praising it as " compelling " and " a much darker tale " than Ando 's previous work Kitchen Princess ; she later placed Arisa on her 2010 list of the " Best New Manga " for the sh?jo category . Otaku USA magazine 's Danica Davidson agreed that the plot was darker than Kitchen Princess and described the artwork as " pretty and cutesy " . According to Matthew Warner of Mania Entertainment , the initially cliched @-@ seeming characters and plain premise helped to provide a " strong contrast " to the main storyline and " the depraved and twisted nature of Arisa 's class " . While noting the presence of clichés and " plot holes " , Carlo Santos of Anime News Network enjoyed the first volume , describing it as " a shoujo @-@ styled Naoki Urasawa thriller , built upon layers of addictive mystery " ; he had mixed feelings about her artwork , writing that it conveyed the plot well , but did not possess a distinct artistic style . In her review of the third volume , Rebecca Silverman , another reviewer for Anime News Network , wrote that while the middle @-@ school setting felt believable and the mystery was intriguing , some aspects of the plot were trying on the reader 's suspension of disbelief , and the artwork , though usually enjoyable , failed to be convincingly scary during frightening scenes . In her follow @-@ up review of the eleventh and twelfth volumes , Silverman interpreted Arisa as struggling with Stockholm syndrome and wrote that it was unsettling , as by the conclusion , the character still remained in " an emotionally unhealthy (or even abusive) relationship . " She enjoyed the suspense and wrote that Midori 's backstory sufficed to explain his actions , concluding " Arisa has been a wild ride , an unexpected horror / mystery shoujo gem . "