



Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1

Ken Akamatsu

[Download now](#)

[Read Online](#) 

Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1

Ken Akamatsu

Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 Ken Akamatsu

Ten-year-old prodigy Negi Springfield, has just graduated from magic academy. He dreams of becoming a master wizard. Instead he's sent to Japan to teach English . . . at an all-girls high school! All the students are delighted with their cute new teacher-except for Asuna, who resents Negi for replacing the teacher she secretly has a crush on. Although he is forbidden to display his magical powers, sometimes Negi can't resist. And when Asuna discovers Negi's secret, she vows to make his life as difficult as possible- just the thing to prepare Negi for the challenges of life as a master wizard!

Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 Details

Date : Published April 27th 2004 by Del Rey (first published July 17th 2003)

ISBN : 9780345470461

Author : Ken Akamatsu

Format : Paperback 190 pages

Genre : Sequential Art, Manga, Fantasy, Graphic Novels, Comics

 [Download Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 ...pdf](#)

 [Read Online Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 ...pdf](#)

Download and Read Free Online Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 Ken Akamatsu

From Reader Review Negima! Magister Negi Magi, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Miss Ryoko says

Negima seems like it'll have some real good potential. There are many characters, it is hard to keep them straight. But Negi is sweet and I'm curious to find out how he gets a handle on his classroom of students who are older than he is.

Edit 6/18/16

Wow... I can't believe I started reading this series 11 years ago! I have finally decided to read the entire Negima series! I have collected nearly half the volumes, but the library has the other half so I'm embarking on the long journey to finally get around to reading this series.

It's a cute series, though very Japan... the fact that Negi is 10 and sneezes off girls clothing is of course not a surprising coming out of Japan... and the over sexualization of the junior high school girls... all very classic Japan. Despite that, the relationships forming are fun and entertaining... though I do fear that Negi and Asuna will become a love interest which just makes it all even more awkward and Japan. Oh well.

Let's see what kind of shenanigans Negi and his class of 31 girls get into!

Marija says

I think that this was intended as a introduction to the series and that's the reason why I gave it three stars. It was a fun read and that's it, there's no action or drama that would make it a little bit more interesting. It has some funny moments but only where you smile and think "this is insane" not where you laugh out loud. I will definitely continue reading this and I'm sure the next volumes get better.

Trip says

It's by the creator of Love Hina so you know what to expect: wacky high jinks and a harem of teenaged girls without their clothes. This time, the boy is a ten-year-old British wizard sent to teach at a girls' school in Japan and the harem is an entire class of 14-year-old girls. Negi Springfield is much less of a schmoie than whatisname from Love Hina, though.

None of the fan service shows more than you could see by undressing a Barbie doll, but I have to admit there's something dubious about a manga where the age advisory on the back would exclude most of the major characters.

Fugo Feedback says

No me suelen molestar los lugares comunes de por sí, pero cuando se acumulan a lo largo de 200 páginas, raramente me convencen. Ni dibujo ni historia me parecieron malos, se dejan ver y leer con comodidad.

Tampoco me molesta particularmente el sub-género de "harem manga", ya que Ranma 1/2 entra en esta categoría y es uno de mis comics ponjas favoritos. Pero en cuanto a este Negima #1, hay tantos pero tantos clichés en este primer tomo, que me cuesta mucho verle algún tipo de gracia individual a la historia. Hay chistes y escenas muy bien logradas, pero padecen ante la predecibilidad y tontería de otras. Supongo que si tengo chance le daré un par de tomos más de margen para ver si me convence. Si no, que pase la siguiente.

Akihisa Carrioso says

Ken Akamatsu is a master at making harems, I really enjoyed this series, it has a good line of characters but I prefer the Negima!? Edition because it focuses more on character development and comedy than just straight up perverted content.

Harry White says

Must Read Manga - School Harem/Comedy/Magic

If you enjoy magic, comedy and harem in a manga this series is worth reading at least a few times. Most books I enjoy best the first reading, but with this series each time you read it you get more out of it and enjoy it even more than the last time. Of course even the first time it is a great read. Despite the many characters they are all very well developed in this series. This is one of the best manga series ever.

Imogen Kathleen says

Fun fact: without knowing a single thing about the series, I bought every single volume because I saw them suuuper cheap. This may have been a *bad* investment.

The Good

- The art style was pretty cool.
- Some parts were funny...

The Bad

- Plot? What plot?
- Okay so I get that fan service is a thing in manga. I get that. I just cannot understand how semi-naked MIDDLESCHOOL girls made up about 95% of this volume??? This is probably why there was no plot.
- The magic system was lame and unexplored.

Overall, I will for sure be giving this manga a second chance (mostly because I have all the volumes and I don't want to have wasted money), but as of yet I am not sold. At all.

Crystal (VanillaHearts62) says

Full of laughter, awkward moments, crazy situations, learning, and friendship. :)

Daniel says

Guilty pleasure :P

U sustini vrlo tesko za opisati manga. Sa jedne strane imamo harem mangu sa gomilom devojaka koje stalno upadaju u neke polu ecchi situacije sa glavnim likom (10-togodisnji carobnjak) Sa druge strane ipak ima dosta srca u svemu i ume da bude cak tuzna ili teska. Ali to tek u kasnijim knjigama, ovde na pocetku vise upoznajemo devojke ovog razreda i uživamo u interakciji i reakcijama usled bezvezne postavke.

Ja volim ovaku vrestu bezveznih prica ali to je stvarno stvar ukusa tako da svako mora za sebe da odluci.

Jade Vidal says

Negi-Sensei is a 10-year- old wizard who was just assigned a job after graduating from the wizard school. He is assigned a job as a middle school teacher! Due to his "cuteness", the majority of his students fall in love with him. One student, Asuna, finds out that he is a wizard, but she can't tell anyone. He is searching for a "partner" so he can upgrade his wizard abilities. But in order to do that, he has to kiss someone! Asuna, didn't care since he is 10, kissed him to help him and she also upgrades (when she says "adeat" she gets a weapon of a giant fan, which later changes to a giant sword).

Nick says

Overall Rating: F

Synopsis: 10 year old child wizard/genius Negi Springfield has to teach English at an all-girls boarding school. Magic and fan-service ensue.

Both the manga and the anime seem to focus more on fan-service involving middle school girls than on plot or magic. I was tempted to rate it a D, but I have only seen the first disc of the anime, and read the first volume of manga, so maybe it gets better. I wouldn't count on it though.

Both seem to be closer to a male's first wet dream than anything resembling plot, with panty shots and barely clad schoolgirls thrown in at every opportunity. I originally picked up the series because I like magic, and I like manga, and I thought this might be along the lines of Harry Potter. It was closer to being along the lines of a bad romance novel. A bad romance novel that makes you feel like a dirty old man.

For example, one novel side-effect of Negi's magic is that it tends to eradicate clothing. When he tries to erase the memories of the female lead, Asuna, he instead erases her clothes...huh? To top it off, one can only assume Negi has a severe allergy problem, because he sneezes a lot. What relevance does that have, you might ask? Well, apparently, his sneezes cause skirts to fly up, resulting in much fan-service.

Fortunately, the manga is rated 18+, so people kind of know what they're in for, but be forewarned, **do not** read this in a store. The last thing most people want is to stumble over someone in a Dragonball Z shirt that's

looking at middle school girls' underwear. Trust me, it's creepy, and you'll end up dying alone.

For more manga and anime reviews, please check out Hobotaku.

Seth T. says

[These take up a lot of space]

There are very few books I read any more that I'm partially embarrassed by. For the most part I've either abandoned the stuff that shames me or grown confident enough in my enjoyment that I can feel no guilt for reading something others might not understand. And yet, there remains that small number of works that I demur to recommend—or even admit I read. 1*Negima: Magister Negi Magi* is one of those. It's highly embarrassing to me, but I can't stop. Because for all the ways it's really bad, there are as many ways in which it's really good.

[Magic, yo!]

I came to *Negima* through another guilty pleasure. In 2001 or 2002, I decided I needed to check out all these books that were importing from Japan in the freshly minted manga wave. I had read *Akira* way back when Marvel was releasing it through Epic and scattered issues of Viz's *Area 88* and First Comics' *Lone Wolf and Cub*, but that was all more than a decade earlier. Coming to manga at that time just after the turn of the millennium was, for me, daunting. There were a lot of titles available and a lot more coming out every month. And despite the internet, it was still pretty difficult to find legitimate critical sources from which to find recommendations. After combing through forums and blogs (2002 was pretty much the zenith of the blogging phenomenon²), I saw the title *Love Hina* crop up often enough that I began to recognize it when walking through Walden Books or Suncoast Video (remember those!). I figured what the heck and picked up *Love Hina* volume 1 as my first foray into modern manga imports.

The book was bizarre, rather offensive, and kind of intriguing. I was immediately confronted with blatant pandering to a decidedly lascivious male gaze, sexism, and probably even misogyny. My memory of the series is a bit spotty, but I do recall not being comfortable with the book. Still, in the interest of not prejudging cultural expression foreign to my own, I wanted to give *Love Hina* a fair shake. I picked up the second book, confident that reading two volumes would fulfill Due Diligence and then I could abandon the series. Only, I grew attached to the characters. For all their fulfillment of sexist tropes and promotion of female objectification, these were characters whose plot I became invested in. So I begrudgingly finished off the series.

The conflict within me was real, but I've always been fairly good at sifting wheat from chaff. Being a thinking person whose ideological foundations are constantly evolving with the acquisition of new information, it's rare to encounter a work from any author that doesn't contradict some aspect of my paradigm-shifting belief system. I became, then, accustomed early on to reading books and encountering art that said things oppositional to what I believed. Sometimes those things would be deeply confrontational with the way I perceived the world. So I learned not to be entirely put off by such encounters but to instead compartmentalize for evaluation after reading. It's been a helpful system for me and allows a level of critical involvement impossible were I to simply react in the midst of a text. So that's how I read *Love Hina*. And that's how I read Ken Akamatsu's following work, *Negima*.

[*hugs*]

Not long after I finished with *Love Hina*, I discovered that Akamatsu would be releasing a new series, featuring a ten-year-old British wizard teaching a class in Japan. I figured I'd give it a shot and hoped that the author had gotten the fan service out of his system.³ He, as it turned out, had not. And in several substantial ways, *Negima* is a much more objectionable work than *Love Hina* is. But it also paints a much more compelling portrait of the women it horribly objectifies.

Negi Springfield is ten years old (almost) and has just graduated from his school of wizardcraft and witchery and the sorting hat has decided that he will be employed at an all-girls junior high in Japan. The girls junior high at Mahora Academy is part of a much larger academic complex, with attached elementary and high schools and university. Its headmaster and several teachers are wizards, so Negi's not completely on his own. Because Negi's only ten and not quite capable of caring for himself (because he's ten), the headmaster installs the boy in the room of Asuna and Konoe (the headmaster's granddaughter). Hijinks, of course, ensue.

[Hijinks!]

Not only are there plenty of opportunities for naive and innocent Negi to accidentally stumble into his students topless, bottomless, and any other assortment of awkward pseudo-sexual situations,⁴ but the author forces the point regularly. In the beginning, while the series flounders for a few volumes, Negi is given a flaw by which if he is criticized too sharply, he'll sneeze. And if he sneezes, he'll disintegrate the clothing of anyone around him. (Note: he teaches at a girls' school.) Beyond this, several of his students develop feelings for him even though—as Asuna continuously reminds everyone—he's only ten and this makes the whoops-I'm-naked scenes still more awkward.

[Scenes like this are not uncommon, like, at all.]

Like *Love Hina*, the nudity in *Negima* is coy and silly. The girls are unashamedly drawn fully nude but are nippleless. Either strands of hair or amazing tricks of light work to obscure their nipples so that we never need worry about seeing too much (as if nude fifteen year-olds weren't already too much). Groins are always hidden by legs or other props. The whole thing reminds me of that Mormon bubble-porn meme that was circling the drain a few years back. In the end, I'm not at all sure what to make of this stuff. The girls are drawn like twenty-three-year-olds but their ages put them well below the age of consent, thrusting them into the spotlight of awkward fantasies for I'm sure any number of the title's readership. (Maybe it's all some subtle commentary on the arbitrary nature of social rules like ages of consent vs evolutionary instinct.⁵ Or maybe it doesn't matter since the target demographic is fifteen years old anyway? Actually, I don't know who the target age for the book really is.) At any rate, Negi's students are regularly objectified in blatantly sexual manner and not (usually) in service to the plot. It's stale and old and often misogynistic. And I'm sure it does nothing to foster an environment of care and comfort for girls in Japan—or from the guys who read the book over here.

So why bother, right?

[That this is an actual outfit worn by a fifteen-year-old girl is pretty much indefensible.]

The strange fact of the matter is that for all that (and actually in opposition to all that), these books—like *Love Hina* before them—are curiously enjoyable. The real joy of *Negima* lies beyond its building of anticipation and pacing out of scheduled reveals. Those are all good and fine and keep things moving in the narrative department, but the greatest abundance of *Negima*'s strengths is in its character building. The book

begins with Negi Springfield and his class of thirty-one girls, and while some of them only get passing personalities, it's pretty impressive how many of them (an easy majority) Akamatsu explores in better-than-average detail. Through revealing these girls' characters, Akamatsu engages the reader's empathy for their circumstances, bringing greater tension and involvement in their struggles and trials. More than that, by turning these girls into full-orbed characters, Akamatsu actually begins subverting his sexual objectification of them.

There's a delicious⁶ clash between contradictory purposes that actually mirrors how many inhabitants of our paternalistic world are happy to behave. The book posits that these young women are foremost people with strengths and dreams and goals that exist wholly apart from their genetic sexual disposition. They are individuated apart from their relationship to the series' male lead (this is solidified in the series epilogue in volume 38). And yet, for all that—for all their character strength both tied to and independent from their femaleness—Akamatsu always returns to their position as object for sexual fetishment. This is really how most men (and a fair number of women) treat the real-life women who inhabit their lives, mixing sensible well-regard with a careless desire to sexualize without consequence. That *Negima* does this so blatantly deserves, I think, at least bookclub-level consideration; and while Akamatsu may not have intended any net good from his creative decisions along these lines, I think the opportunity here for the reader to critically examine their own understanding and treatment of the female person is worthwhile and should not be overlooked in the face of disgust for the surface of objectification.

[*What's being a girl have to do with...?*]

The most curious thing about *Negima* is that Akamatsu *first* establishes his female characters as sexual objects and *then* reestablishes them as non-object persons. And while he ping-pongs between their object and non-object states (sometimes within space of a single panel), the title's final statement is in support of these women not as objects but as wonderful, full-fledged characters. This is not to justify the book's rather gross and awkward use of sexuality, but to merely recognize its complexity.

And now because we *all*⁷ approach texts containing disagreeable content with a sense of nuance and find ourselves able to appreciate quality and value even while disapproving of aesthetic or moral deficits, let's talk about what makes *Negima* something I rate well despite my deep conflicts over the book's material.

I've already mentioned Akamatsu's character work, but here are some specifics. Negi, the book's hero, is only ever okay. He's a bit of a Mary Sue but never really gets in the way of the book's true characters, the students. Negi begins the book as a fledgling magician, fresh from the academy and ready to prove himself. He's rather singleminded and so as much as he takes his role as teacher (and eventually protector) to these thirty-one girls seriously, he always struggles with his need to prioritize his true goal of locating his missing father. He's self-sufficient, self-reliant, and self-absorbed. If his character has an arc, it's wrapped up in his struggles 1) to put his students first and 2) to learn to rely on the powerful, wise, and intelligent friends who are happy to help him out.

[*But at least this happens at one point, right?*]

But as I've implied, Negi may not even really be the main character in his own book. It's fun to watch him grow up a bit, even if he never really has to strain to do so. The real protagonist is his class of thirty-one girls. While the book seems to think it's the story of how Negi becomes the Best Wizard Ever, actually sitting down and reading the thing it becomes clear that this is really the tale of a bunch of girls who gradually discover the world is full of magic and how they'll interact with that knowledge. And while, as a class, there's never really any grave conflict over these girls' acceptance of the magical world (and a character arc with no conflict is generally dimly viewed under most rules of narrative critique), the charm of

the individuals who make up Negi's class is so winning that it's hard not to consider their story worthwhile.

The girls are varied in temperament, skills, backgrounds, interests. Asuna has mysterious abilities and amnesia. Evangeline is centuries old and has millions of dollars in bounties on her head (and a crush on Negi's father). Nodoka is bookish in the extreme and her primary skill seems to be her courage in overcoming her shyness. Another girl is Negi's descendant from the future. Another is trying to be a good gymnast. Another wants to draw manga. Another died in 1941. Another is a scientist. Another is a chef. Another is a robot. Another is an orphan adopted by the church. Another has trained for years to protect the life of another student, who is the headmaster's grand-daughter. Only a handful of these girls have full arcs, but out of the thirty-one, each gets narrative spotlight for at least a short time and most are given distinct personalities and stories. That by series' end I can identify and tell you about almost all of them is, to me, pretty amazing.

Despite the title's rocky start, most of the stories end up being a lot of fun. After two volumes, I had given up on the book. *Negima*, in those volumes, just seemed an endless stream of disconnected school-daze stories and excuses to showcase nude teens. I took a long break from the series and then somehow got the third volume (maybe from the library). That volume was a distinct step in a better direction. The entire volume presents a single narrative arc (prior volumes never had stories longer than two chapters) and introduces the first hints that there might be some driving story behind the series. Volumes four through six offer a still longer arc and build more characterization and history into the series. As well, the fan service gets scaled back a bit, allowing the story to breathe on its own merits. By this point, I was invested enough in the story and characters that seeing where they'd go convinced me to stick with the series.

Akamatsu seemed to have trouble deciding what kind of series *Negima* would be. The first couple books seem to aim for *Harry Potter* crossed with harem comedy. After volume two, however, the harem aspect is relegated to occasional filler episodes scattered across the thirty-six remaining volumes. With volume three, the series seems to transform into supernatural adventure. Then, around volume eleven or so, the book becomes a tournament book for about three volumes. Then it becomes an otherworldly adventure, then tournament book, and then a kind of world-shattering epic adventure. Scattered throughout are chapters that seem to want to transform the book into a romance comedy. If the reader pays too close attention, a kind of literary whiplash may result, prompting frustration in those who want the book to be a single thing. Personally, I found the constant evolution of the series endearing—as it's hard to stay mad at the mistakes when the status quo is shattered with such alacrity and ease.

[Annnnd: fight.]

There remain a couple more things to talk about. Foremost perhaps, if one can minimize concern for the book's sexuality, most readers will want to know about the title's premature conclusion. For reasons I'm not yet aware of, Akamatsu elected to end the series before the principal story actually wrapped. The conclusion is moderately satisfying. With chapter 353 (of 355), all the story points are tied up save for Negi's quest for his father. This was the reason behind Negi's entire mission and so it's kind of the most important piece of the story. Chapters 354 and 355 zip the reader ten or more years into the future to a reunion of Negi's classmates where we are given a brief summary of how Negi's quest concluded. The series ends with an epilogue giving biographical synopses of each of Negi's students. It's a little bit underwhelming—but less so if one considers the series to be the story of Negi than that of his students. It's problematic, but could be worse.

The other thing is the sexuality. I've talked about it a bit already, but it may be worthwhile to discuss the age problem just a bit.

These girls are 14 and 15 years old according to their plot points and so, by fetishizing them, Akamatsu promotes a sort of statutory objectification. But then again, not really? These girls don't carry the awkward sexuality, physical proportionality, or carriage of a young teenager, but are instead mature women that the plot simply decides must be junior high students.⁸ Still, no matter how old these girls appear, *Negima* encourages the readers' acceptance of them as junior-high-aged (even while confusingly depicting them as being much older).

I'm conflicted on this point somewhat. I think it's good to recognize that women, even young women, are sexual beings as much as anyone else—that they might have all the desires, curiosities, and kinks that you may have and plenty you don't. *Negima* recognizes that and pursues it (doggedly). The problem of course is that it does so with a camera lodged distinctly and completely within the cleft of the male gaze. Akamatsu presents strong female characters that are sexual and don't (often) apologize for their sexual natures—but he does so with the goal of titillizing his male audience (at least I presume his motive and audience here). It's one thing to present a mature and thoughtful depiction of a woman and her natural appetites. It's another to do so in order that a man can turn that woman into a sexual object. Too much, I'm afraid, Akamatsu's work is fueled by this latter prompt. And whether that's his intent or his editors', the result is pretty gross and kind of reprehensible.

[The girl here remarking on Negi's small penis is hundreds of years old but trapped in a ten-year-old's body.]

As I've suggested, it's rare that a single ideological element (or even a collection of such elements) is enough to cause me to judge a book's quality in one way or another. Case in point...

[Goodreads character limit on reviews cuts this one short. For full review, see the original on Good Ok Bad]

Lord says

Don't believe the bad reviews from readers who read just the first volume and dare to rate this series. Akamatsu sensei succeeded in creating the whole class of girls with distinctive characters and that's no easy task. Add a sweet harem-like story that eventually evolves, at least for a few volumes, into a shonen fūto manga, and you have a manga that you will want to re-read several times. And believe me, everytime you read this series again, it gets better because you now remember the characters (there are really many girls, mostly good looking, of course) and you will get attached to them. All in all very good manga, maybe not for everyone, but definitely surpassing *Ai Ga Tomaranai* and *Love Hina*, earlier series from the same author.

Caroline says

I remember really enjoying *Love Hina* when I read it years ago, so I figured I would pick up this new series of Ken Akamatsu's from the library since the premise was cute and I've always enjoyed his art.

Well, I don't remember *Love Hina* being so full of blatant fan service, although it's been so long it's quite possible it was. Between the school girls constantly obsessing over 10-year-old Negi in ways that seem

overly sexual, and every single opportunity them being naked, partially naked, or at the very least providing a panty shot, I don't know if this series is for me. I had fun reading the story about Negi trying to teach middle school English, but after a while all of the excuses for nudity and panty shots just gets annoying.

I have a few of these out from the library so I'll keep reading, but if it weren't free there'd be no way I would continue.

Mazohyst says

Have you ever read a manga where one of the characters were just so tsundere/ridiculous that it hurt? It hurt so much that you put down the book and could not continue further? This is that book. Usually I take ~1 hour to read manga but this one took me three days. THREE. DAYS.

I JUST. KEN AKAMATSU. WHY?

I should know by now that 99.9% of the time, I do not enjoy light hearted romantic comedy bull. Especially light hearted comedy MANGA bull. Yet I pick this up! Somehow I assumed that this might be a nice fantasy series with minimal boobs. Then I realized why the name Ken Akamatsu sounded so familiar.

Now, I whipped through Akamatsu's *Love Hina* rather quickly when I was younger and I just... Did not appreciate 90% of the humour. Is it guy humour? Weird lonely guy otaku humour? I will never know. But holy crap do these characters get on my nerves! And the lead female... I'm probably using the wrong term but... SO MUCH TSUNDERE.

Maybe I'm too bitter and have too high of expectations for manga nowadays.

The public library needs a better selection of manga... To bad 90% of English translated manga are like this...
