# Manga explores sexuality in Listen to your heart, Atami!



A new Manga title has caught the attention of fans for its thoughtful exploration of youth and self-discovery. Listen to Your Heart, Atami! is a debut work by Asa Tanuma, recently serialized in the Harta magazine, a publication known for its focus on seinen manga. This series has already made a splash, achieving 1st place at the CREA Late Night Manga Awards 2023 and ranking 3rd in the female edition of Kono Manga ga Sugoi!

The narrative centres on Atami, a strikingly handsome high school student who finds himself the object of affection for numerous girls in his school. However, the crux of the story lies in Atami's personal journey: he is more attracted to boys and grapples with his understanding of love amidst the myriad of romantic overtures he receives. This complex emotional landscape is further complicated by Atami's own uncertainties about love, making the story resonate with readers who have experienced similar struggles.

Set against the backdrop of adolescence, Listen to Your Heart, Atami! depicts Atami’s evolving relationships with his friends and potential romantic interests. He frequently confides in his close friend Adachi, who provides a supportive ear while occasionally nursing his own emotional wounds. Another character, Kunjima, joins their duo, adding further depth to Atami’s exploration of friendship and attraction. Together, they navigate the intricate paths of teenage feelings, self-acceptance, and the search for identity.

The manga is primarily a reflection on Atami's psyche and his interactions, rather than a typical boys' love story. It thoughtfully sidesteps conventional romantic tropes, presenting instead a nuanced portrayal of a young gay boy trying to understand his affections in a world filled with expectations and social norms. As Atami confronts rejections and misunderstandings, he learns to navigate his feelings and those of others, highlighting the complexities of emotional connections during formative years.

Illustratively, Asa Tanuma's delicate artwork complements the narrative's sensitivity, capturing the subtleties of the characters' experiences. The art is noted for its refreshing naturalness, contributing to the overall feel-good tone of the first volume, which has elicited positive reactions from early readers and critics alike. The story is marked by moments of light-heartedness, reflecting themes of friendship, culinary delights, and shared experiences like baseball, all woven into the fabric of Atami’s daily life.

Source: [Noah Wire Services](https://www.noahwire.com)