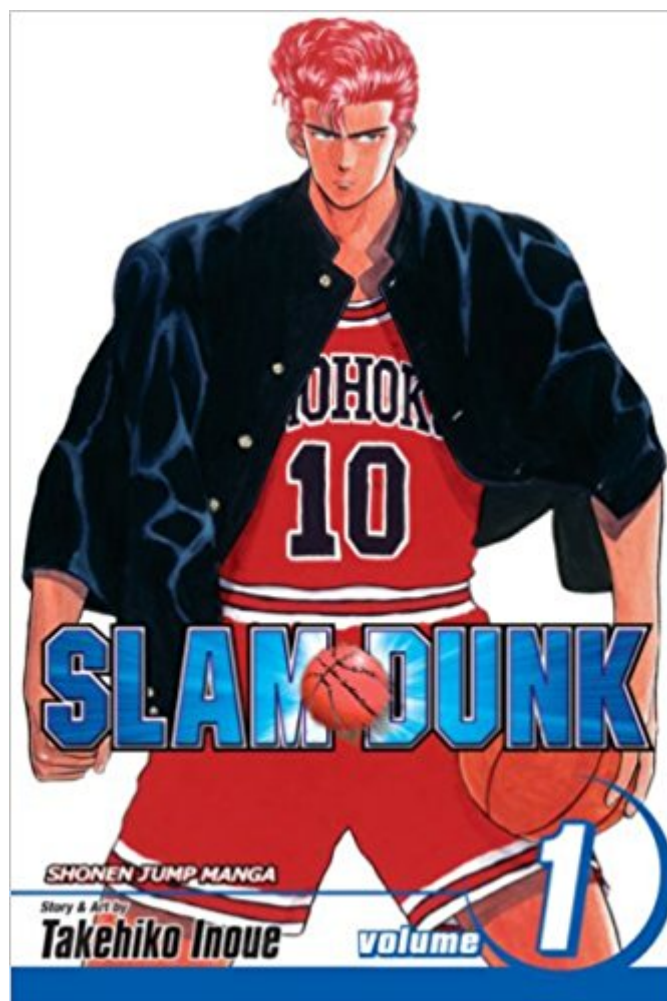


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# Slam Dunk, Vol. 1



## Synopsis

Basketball. The court, the ball, the hoop. The hopes, the dreams, the sweat. It takes dedication and discipline to be the best, and the Shohoku High hoops team wants to be just that--the best. They have one last year to make their captain's dream of reaching the finals come true--will they do it? Takehiko Inoue's legendary basketball manga is finally here, and the tale of a lifetime is in your hands! Sakuragi Hanamichi's got no game with girls--none at all! It doesn't help that he's known for throwing down at a moment's notice and always coming out on top. A hopeless bruiser, he's been rejected by 50 girls in a row! All that changes when he meets the girl of his dreams, Haruko, and she's actually not afraid of him! When she introduces him to the game of basketball, his life is changed forever...

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Although Inoue's imported teen sport-romance manga Slam Dunk is a big hit back in Japan, it is ostensibly about the love of basketball, it really starts out as a chronicle of love and rejection in high school. The series' towering, red-haired hero, Hanamichi Sakuragi, is first shown in utter dejection, after having been rejected by 50 girls in a row (apparently, people are keeping count). But saving him from utter despair is the appearance of the angelic Haruko Akagi, who flirtatiously swoons over his stature and wonders whether or not he plays basketball. After some gentle considerations of whether he's interested (If only I could walk her to school!! Then I could die happy) Hanamichi sets about trying to get on the basketball team. Haruko disappears from

the pages not long after she has conveniently set the plot device in motion, leaving Inoue free to depict Hanamichi's attempts be accepted by the arrogant upperclassmen who dominate the team. It comes as a disappointment to Hanamichi -- a hot-tempered kid who prefers to pick fights and slam dunk than learn how to actually play the game, -- that winning Haruko's heart is going to take some work. Inoue's pacing is frantic, if somewhat padded, but he manages to maintain a welcome sense of humor amid all the adolescent gamesmanship. (Aug.) Copyright © Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.

Takehiko Inoue was born in Kagoshima prefecture in 1967. His first major success -- the hugely popular 31-volume long basketball manga SLAM DUNK -- sold over 100 million copies worldwide and catapulted him into the top ranks of Japanese manga artists. Besides manga, Inoue also worked on character design for the Playstation basketball game ONE ON ONE.

First year Shohoku High School student, Hanamichi Sakuragi had to be a tough kid growing up. Often teased for his red hair, Hanamichi and his friends would be part of a gang that grouped together to fight other gangs and to show that they are not afraid of no one. And for the tall Sakuragi, he has shown his power in defeating other people in fights. But there is another side of Hanamichi Sakuragi and that is the fact that he has been rejected by 50 girls in junior high school and now that he's in high school, #50 tells him that her heart is for Oda who plays for the basketball team. One day he meets Haruko Akagi, also a first-year student and is the sister of Takenori Akagi, a third-year student and the team captain of Shohoku High School basketball team. She also happens to have a crush on star athlete, Kaeda Rukawa, a basketball player that many girls at the high school have fallen for. And now Hanamichi Sakuragi wants to prove that he can also be a very good basketball player and hopes he can win Haruko's heart. But his brashness may put him in trouble with Haruko's brother, Takenori. As Hanamichi plans to join the Shohoku High School basketball team, not knowing how to play, will he make it through the first week of practice? Find out in vol. 1 of Takehiko Inoue's popular hit manga series "Slam Dunk"! What is "Slam Dunk"? I can easily remember the popularity of "Slam Dunk" during the early 90s. Despite being here in America, I would venture to the local Tower Records or travel to Japan Town and head to the Japanese bookstore to pick up the latest Shonen Jump magazine and watching the anime series. Granted, I came into "Slam

Dunk. Several years later but I recognized how popular the manga and anime series was, especially the music and sure enough "Slam Dunk" was one of the first anime soundtracks (on cassette) that I had purchased. For me, it was quite intriguing because the sports that I have watched from Japan and manga and anime being based from those sports are typically baseball, soccer or tennis. You just don't think about basketball but sure enough, "Slam Dunk" captured the essence of high school basketball and the excitement of team dynamics, offense/defense and squaring off against a rival team. But this is what Takehiko Inoue is known for. A mangaka who is a basketball fan, his manga series is considered iconic in the fact that many kids in Japan played basketball and became interested in the sport because of "Slam Dunk". In fact, the series was not just popular in Japan but also throughout Asia. The manga sold over 100 million copies in Japan between 1990-1996, earning a Shogakukan Manga Award in 2005 and in 2007, the series received the distinction as "Japan's Favorite Manga". Inoue would eventually follow up with "Buzzer Beater" in 1997 (which he collaborated with ESPN) which was a more farfetched story about basketball ala intergalactic competition. Followed by a samurai manga story titled "Vagabond" in 1998 and back to a basketball manga with "Real" in 2001 (based on people with disabilities in wheelchairs who compete in basketball), so Inoue has a pretty strong following for his works. And his hits series "Slam Dunk" has been released ala manga in America courtesy of Viz Media. "Slam Dunk" revolves around a cocky and rough street punk named Hanamichi Sakuragi who is a first-year student at Shohoku High School. He has fallen for Haruko Akagi, the younger sister of Takenori Akagi, the captain of Shohoku's basketball team. But for Haruko, she likes Kaede Rukawa, the first-year basketball star that all the female students love. So, to prove his worth in front of Haruko, Hanamichi joins the Shohoku basketball team which includes Kiyota, Maki, Hisashi Mitsui, Ryota Miyagi and their team manager, Ayako. But his brashness and bluntness can get him into trouble and now it leads him to a competition against Haruko's brother, Shohoku High School Basketball's team captain, Takenori Akagi. JUDGMENT CALL: What a hilarious and fun series "Slam Dunk" has come to be! The characters are awesome, the story is well-written and Takehiko Inoue just knows how to capture basketball on the pages of "Slam Dunk". His illustrations have always been a highlight for me and I was always amazed of how he captured movements, the offensive and defensive

stances to how the players penetrate the perimeter and score. The detail of Inoue's artwork is just wonderful and I look forward to volume 3! Overall, "Slam Dunk" is an enjoyable manga series that is not just for basketball fans but for those who want a manga series that captures the spirit of basketball, competition, the strategy involved in the sport but a captivating storyline with cool characters that makes this series worth recommending! "Slam Dunk" Vol. 1 is highly recommended and I can't wait to read more volumes in the series!

this manga did the impossible. i found my self caring deeply about the characters within the first few pages. basketball may be the backdrop but what this story is truly about is boy becoming a man. i have never laughed so hard at manga before. plus there is a touch of romance that makes the story have a ton of heart even if you don't like basketball or sports you owe yourself to at least give this series a try

Loving it!

it is great book

We all do stupid things for love, especially in high school. Who hasn't tried out for the football team or cheerleading squad for the sake of popularity? Who hasn't joined a club just to be a little closer to a crush? Takehiko Inoue's Slam Dunk is just one of many endearing stories out there about how people are willing to change themselves to gain the attention of another. Hanamichi Sakuragi has a reputation: He's a thug who has been rejected by girls 50 times in a row. The latest one has turned him down for love of a guy who plays basketball. Now anyone who mentions anything even remotely related to the sport is a potential target for his fist. Hanamichi wants to turn over a new leaf in his first year of high school by shedding his old reputation as a reject, but how? The girls think he's nothing but a gang leader. How will they ever see his loving soul? While he's wallowing in his own misery, a girl named Haruko Akagi approaches the tall and muscular Hanamichi and asks if he likes to play basketball. Normally, this would incur his wrath, but Hanamichi is instantly smitten with the fearless girl and decides to play along. The two bond over her love of the sport. Hanamichi is sure that he's finally found the girl of his dreams. If only he could walk her home, then he could die a happy man. There's just one problem: He doesn't know the first thing about how to play basketball! He manages to fake it for now, and even impresses Haruko with his natural ability to jump high and

slam dunk (when his aim is on). When Haruko confesses that she already has a crush on Kaede Rawkawa, a star player whom she's always admired from afar, Hanamichi is crushed. That's not going to stop him, though! In an attempt to impress Haruko with his skills, he challenges the captain of the school's team to a one-on-one match, only to find out that the captain is Haruko's own brother, Takenori! Hanamichi figures that the best way to convince the captain to let him on the team is through sheer determination. He cleans the floors, shines the balls, and even tries to bribe him with images of his favorite female idol. When Takenori finally agrees to let him on the team, Hanamichi finds it frustrating to be stuck drilling the fundamentals when all he wants to do is slam dunk. This series is a refreshing read for those who usually turn to manga for fantasy and science fiction. This adorable comedy is simplistic, a comfort read. The action is over-the-top and campy, but that's the point. Slam Dunk is not meant to be taken too seriously, not yet anyway. Readers who are new to manga in general may find the exaggerated art to be a little off-putting at first. The character design and motion drawings are very Japanese in their style with things like speed lines, sweat drops, and changes in proportion. Still, Inoue's art style is actually quite normal in shounen manga, especially when it comes to high-school life.-- Courtney Kraft

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