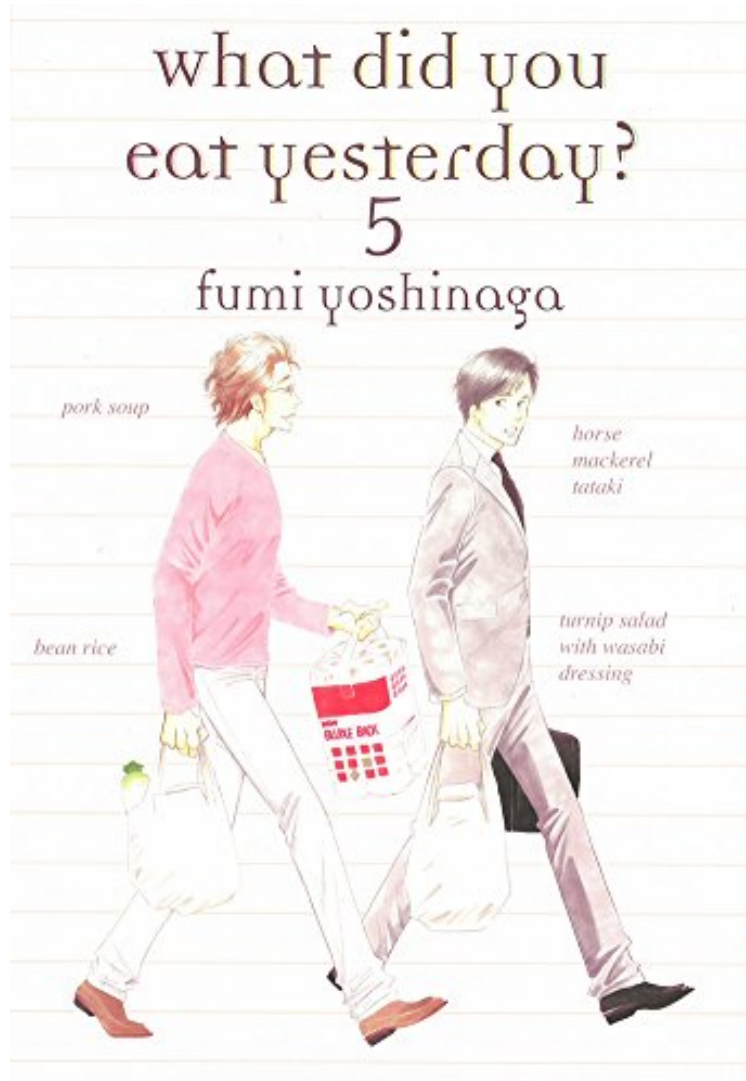


What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Volume 5

Fumi Yoshinaga

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Fumi Yoshinaga : What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Volume 5 before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised What Did You Eat Yesterday?, Volume 5:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Cooking and Soothing and PerfectBy Kindle Customerthe best mangaka in my opinion3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. Small observations season a flavorful tale of cooking and relationship storiesBy Johanna Draper CarlsonThis blend of cooking advice, home meals, and everyday personal interactions continues to impress and entertain. The first chapter illustrates this mix, as Shiro and his housewife friend have shared a deal on cabbage. Shersquo;s comfortable with him, since they have bargain-hunting in

common, but her husband sees him first as a gay man, then as a person, as can be seen by his clueless attempt to pair Shiro off with another friend just because they're both gay. Along the way, they make coleslaw (as one does when one has too much cabbage). The little observations tickle me. For instance, early on, Shiro says to his friend, "It impresses me that you have such a big pot. You really are a homemaker." It seems weird to mention, but it's precisely those kinds of items that we possess, or don't, that helps define our roles. Characters are made by what tools they use. When I'm not waxing philosophic over the cookware, I'm laughing, as when Kenji has an incredibly polite showdown with a grocery store clerk over sale items. Or when he meets a friend's boyfriend, who isn't at all how he was described. Or they debate how Shiro's tastes aren't typically gay. Similarly, the relationship items aren't always presented front and center, instead demonstrated with subtlety, making them more realistic. Seeing the two, Shiro and Kenji, dining together reinforces their relationship. I'm touched when Kenji off-handedly notes that a particular side is "the one I said I liked before." One imagines Shiro noting that away to make his partner happy. It's over their meals that we also find out the important things in their lives, as when Kenji brings up his absent father and the effect it had on him and his mother. Another touching moment occurs when Shiro goes home for the holidays. (Timely!) His parents struggle with him, not because they object, but because he doesn't fit into their original dreams of what their life would be like as grandparents. It's difficult to balance the tricky conflict — they're not telling him to be someone else, but they do have a right to need time to adjust. Of course, Shiro and his mother bond over cooking and sharing recipes. It's a touching note that I found just right for the series. I'm also impressed by Shiro's technique. I've learned, in this book, to filet a fish for tataki (which I had to look up, since the series continues to avoid endnotes — it means a way of serving the food chopped), and I am reminded how important it is to have tasty and balanced side dishes. I haven't found a recipe yet I'm ready to try — mostly due to lack of ingredients found easily here — but I do love dreaming about how they would taste. I've come closest with the banana pound cake Shiro makes in this book as a host gift, if only I liked banana. (Review originally posted at ComicsWorthReading.com.)

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. I love this series for what it is. By earthmama I love this series for what it is, an everyday Japanese cooking, simple and seems delicious! There is some BL but I don't think there is any kissing or other stuff, so it's very safe

Accomplished home chef though he might be, Shiro proceeds on the assumption that no two of his curries will ever taste the same.

"Even if you never plan on cooking anything based on a list of ingredients and directions given in a comic, the fact that they're even there in the first place mirrors Shiro's attitude. He'd rather you take a moment out of following the ups and downs of his intimate relationship with Kenji... The care put into the art and characterizations is as apparent as the care Shiro puts into every single one of his meals." — Otaku USA

About the Author

Over the past decade few female comic artists have been as beloved or as recognized for their work internationally as Fumi Yoshinaga. Born in Tokyo, Japan in 1971, Yoshinaga is a graduate of Tokyo's prestigious Keio University. A lifelong comic artist and story teller, she made her professional debut in 1994 with her short series, *The Moon and the Sandals*, serialized in Houbunsha's monthly Boys Love anthology *Hanaoto*. Since her debut Yoshinaga has penned more than a dozen, with a good number of them having been adapted into motion pictures and animated TV series. Her work on *Antique Bakery* sent her into international fame and she has since been nominated in the United States for the Eisner Award for her titles - *Flowers of Life* and *Ooku*. In 2009 she was recognized with the James Tiptree Award for her literary contributions covering the topics of gender in speculative fiction in her title *Ooku*. *Ooku* also received the Osamu Tezuka Award and the Shogakukan Manga Award.