



# Antique Bakery, Vol. 1

*Fumi Yoshinaga , Sachiko Sato (Translator)*

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**Antique Bakery, Vol. 1** Fumi Yoshinaga , Sachiko Sato (Translator)

Ono has come a long way since the agonizing day in high school when he confessed his love to handsome Tachibana. Now, some 14 years later Ono, a world-class pastry chef and outed playboy has it all. No man can resist Ono's charms (or his cooking skills!) but he has just found a new position under a man named Tachibana. Can this be the only man who resisted his charms, and if so, will the man who once snubbed the "magically gay" Ono get his just desserts? And how in the heck did a former middleweight boxing champion wind up as Ono's cake boy? Digital Manga happily serves up the opening volume of *Antique Bakery*.

## Antique Bakery, Vol. 1 Details

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Author : Fumi Yoshinaga , Sachiko Sato (Translator)

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## From Reader Review Antique Bakery, Vol. 1 for online ebook

### amomentsilence says

**You can find my review in its entirety on my blog:**

Reckless Indulgence | of the Written Word

It's a light, fluffy, entertaining story with surprisingly deep characters (as will be revealed later on as the series progresses). I think the major reason I originally picked up volume 1 was because I was finished with everything else and needed another yaoi/shounen ai book to read. The fact that it was a foodie manga really didn't cross my mind until I started reading it and it dawned on me that I was beginning a new series... entirely about *food*.

And gays.

But mostly **food**.

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### Trin says

I don't have much to say about this. It's manga, it's yaoi, it's quite cute... This one's about a trio of guys working in a pastry shop. Interestingly, the first few chapters have them all working there and then the later chapters are flashbacks to show how that came to happen. This is surprisingly effective, because you get to see, for example, that Tachibana was not always a pastry expert, as the reader initially takes for granted; he had to *learn* it, of course. I actually really want to get my hands on the next volume, which I didn't feel the need to with, say, FAKE.

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### David Schaafsma says

The world of the "antique" bakery seems quite a bit like The Drops of God: Japanese obsessed with French cuisine; well, not wine, this time, but... French pastry? The idea is that everyone there in this hierarchical system is obsessively dedicated to the highest industry standards for... sweets, eaten mainly "by women and children" and there is a kind of fetishizing of cutting edge techniques and ingredients to the point of swooning. Still, in spite of my dismissing this, it IS pretty interesting (just as with the Drops of God, this creation for us of a culture, one with intense competition, intense quality and other standards, just driven people. And it is pretty funny in places, and then even touching in places, including the story of an aging and broke boxer who finally decides to marry his pregnant girlfriend and buy her the last piece of cake available for the day instead of a wedding cake.... The MAIN attraction of this volume would seem to be that there is a "demonically" attractive gay chef who, in just expressing to himself that straight guys who work there are cute, gets them to go crazy for him... So I only read this because I have read (an really admired) as many volumes of the author's Ooku alt-history series with all the gender bending issues it has, and lo and behold in this (earlier) series the messing around with gender and sexuality is also present here. Ooku is basically adult fare with some adult level sex and violence and political complications. There's sex and political complications (but not violence, and least not yet!) in Bakery, but it's teen fare, and it's mostly all about attraction, almost nothing actually happens, and the political issues are of course politics-lite. Kinda charming gay-themed work, with some pretty cleverly narrated action (you can see this is better than most teen manga on that front), accomplished by the great Yoshinaga. And hey, if you like food or are even a

foodie, you'll like this.

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## Cat says

Antique Bakery is one of those series that can be hard to describe accurately but reading it is an experience. This series has won awards, been translated into multiple languages, spawned an anime series, a live action series, and a two part movie. Its essentially one of those stories that takes what seems to be a set of characters that would never be together and finds reasons for their paths to cross. It also covers their interactions and relationships in a very realistic way because there's no happy endings or perfect turnouts but just how these characters deal with life.

The four main characters all become important to each other in their own ways and help each other, whether directly or indirectly, with each of their pasts or personal issues without those issues being the sole focus of the series. It also covers side characters to a degree who are customers of the bakery and you get a realistic feel for what its like to work in such an environment and be exposed to certain parts or "snapshots" of people's lives.

Then there's the food and emotion in the series. Yoshinaga-sensei is spectacular at showing emotions in her artwork. She's one of those super rare artists when dealing with manga or comics of any type where she uses expressions and her art itself to show emotion and tell plot. Some of her panels will have no words but you just get the solid sense and feel for what's happening. And because this is a story revolving around cake (it is a bakery after all) she doesn't shy away from incorporating the food itself as a character; its the medium and reason for ever single character in the series to come together.

If you're looking for something straight forward and not as realistic to life then I can see how Antique Bakery might not be for you or, even if you read it, you might not think it was so wonderful at first. But its one of those stories that can stick with you I think and is still an excellent experience to have.

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## Nicole Bunge says

Well, first off, to the purists - this is sh?nen-ai, not yaoi. (Though even THAT description is pushing it.) There is NO romance between the characters, and NOTHING remotely explicit. The chef just happens to be gay, and got rejected by the bakery owner in high school. (The reason the chef can't keep a job, despite being excellent in the kitchen, is because he is [supposedly] irresistible to both gay and straight men alike, and keeps causing fights - though we NEVER get to see them.)

Frankly, I was bored with all the in-depth description of deserts - I am not a foodie. (If you are, you'll be in heaven.)

The whole book was rather erratic, and kinda doesn't make sense until you read the next volume - when you learn more character background and a (rather mild) seduction starts with a peripheral character.

I really don't see why this series won any awards. But that's my opinion, so whatever.

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## Hannah Givens says

DNFed right at halfway through -- I was just constantly confused about which characters were which and what was happening.

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## K.S. says

A light hearted, humourous series which a faint pulse of something darker which never eclipses the character potrayals or the journeys they make in each chapter or plot arc.

The stories center around those who work at the Antique Bakery. There's Tachibana, the proprietor and long suffering, unsuccessful ladies's man, haunted by a past we learn more about as the series progresses. His mild mannered pastry chef is Ono, 'gay of demonic charm', whose seductive power has caused no end of trouble, despite his genius at his craft. The third member of the staff is former punk and boxer Kanda, led by his sweet tooth to train under Ono in making pastries just as good.

The first book reveals how these three characters came together and how they interact with each other and their customers on a day to day basis. Their customers show their own quirky sides and conflicts as each visitor finds a little resolution and happiness at the Antique Bakery.

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## Yaara says

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## Anne Freya says

Aahhh...Antique Bakery... Nah, judulnya disebut Antique Bakery krn toko cake ini menggunakan tableware yg antik nan mahal utk dipake customer...:)

Tiap kali liat judul komik jadul yg terbit thn 2000 ini wara-wiri di GR's recommendation selalu bikin aku teringat si Takki (Hideaki Takizawa) <3\_\_<3 yg main di dorama berjudul Antique. Kalo ga salah ingat, awal ntn doramanya itu di tahun 2001 atau 2002, waktu masi kelas 3 SMU atau awal kuliah... Waktu itu sama sekali blm tau kalo doramanya diadaptasi dari komik BL, hahaha... Kepincutnya gara2 ada Takki (yg populer setelah doramanya yg berjudul Majo no Jouken), cake (hahaha, tentu saja ;p) dan sinopsisnya yg lmyan menarik, tentang Takki yg beralih profesi dari petinju menjadi pâtissier (pastry chef) di toko cake antik.

Seingatku, dorama ini rada datar ceritanya, mungkin krn lbh fokus ke kehidupan customer yg dtg ke toko

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(lupa2 ingat juga apa ada bahas kehidupan para MCs :p) walaupun interior tokonya bgs dan tentu saja cake2 yg bikin liur menitik, hahaha. Krn ceritanya datar itulah, maka stlh tahun2 berikutnya saat nemuin komik ini masi blm minat buat baca, selain krn artwork-nya Yoshinaga-Sensei yg kurang memikat...

Tapi, bisa juga krn di dorama versi Jepang itu, unsur BL tdk ada sama sekali...jadinya antiklimaks gitu...plus stlh kubaca versi komiknya, cerita tentang kehidupan customer-nya jauh lebih oke dan menyentuh....Mungkin krn di komik kan kita bisa mengintip benaknya para tokoh...kalo di film kan jadinya aneh kalo menyuarakan apa yg sedang dipikirkan alias bicara ama diri sendiri. :p

Kalau movie versi Korea yg rilis akhir tahun 2008 itu, katanya ngikut persis alur cerita yg di komik, dgn kata lain : ada BL di dramanya. Aku blm pernah ntn yg versi Korea, krn terus terang saja aku kurang demen ama mukanya Joo Ji Hoon yg meranin Tachibana si owner, berasa kurang cakep buat jadi Tachibana.

Tapi, yg jadi Chef Ono versi Korea itu Kim Jae Wook, yg terasa bgt uke material-nya, lol. Mgkn krn rambut panjang ikal-nya yg bikin kesan gay-nya bertambah. Sama kaya si Jang Geun Seuk yg langsung dicap gay ama org2 gara2 gaya rmbt begitu...

Tapi Naohito Fujiki juga cocok bgt jadi Ono versi Jepang, bishounen abis, <3\_\_\_\_<3 krn dlm komik itu Ono itu populer bgt di kalangan cowok, yg straight semua dibikin jadi gay ama dia, hahaha. Kalo ga jd rebutan 2 rekan kerja, ada yg bunuh diri krn dia, atau malah affair dgn owner sampe owner-nya ditusuk istri yg cemburu...sampe2 Ono ga bisa bertahan lebih dari setahun di tempat yg sama krn itu dan kesulitan dpt kerja, hahaha.

Eh, tapi sbnrnya Ono dlm komik ini versatile gitu, jadi kadang dia itu seme bgt kalo kacamata-nya dilepas, hahaha. Tachibana ketakutan abis krn wkt awal2 merekrut Ono sebagai pâtissier di toko barunya itu, Ono tdk segan2 blg kalo Tachibana itu tipenya bgt dan pas di-PDKT Ono itu wajah Tachibana memucat plus jadi gelagapan. Bikin aku ngakak abis, hahaha.

Tapi yg jadi Tachibana di dorama versi Jepang juga kayanya ga gitu cocok, kesannya tua bgt, padahal Tachibana seumurannya ama Ono. Kumis memang bikin org lbh tua. Tachibana malah dianggap umur 43 thn ama Kanda, pdhl dia baru 32 thn. :p

Jadi, di volume pertama ini Tachibana dan Ono ini MC utama di komik ini, Kanda tdk begitu disorot. Cinta Ono ditolak dgn kasar oleh Tachibana (yg straight) belasan tahun yg lalu. Pada waktu Ono diundang Tachibana buat jadi pâtissier itu (murni takdir krn ortunya Tachibana yg kaya raya itu nyariin best pastry chef buat putra mrk), cuma Ono yg blm tau (Tachibana langsung tau at 1st sight) kalo Tachibana itu senior yg nolak dia dgn kasar ("disgusting and go to hell!" gitu kata Tachibana wkt nolak Ono) dan Tachibana juga satu2nya cowok yg imun dari feromonnya Ono dan yg pernah nolak Ono. Jadi Ono yg cape jadi kutu loncat itu senang bgt krn akhirnya bakal bisa bertahan lama di satu toko, secara Tachibana kan ga bakalan jatuh cinta ama Ono. Hahaha. Jadi ceritanya Ono sendiri sama sekali ga dendam ataupun masi jatuh cinta ama Tachibana.

Lalu, utk pemeran Kanda si petinju yg punya pretty face di versi Korea itu mnrtku kurang cocok diperankan Yoo Ah In...not pretty at all...Masalahnya kan Ono tuh ga minat ama Kanda krn dia prefer beautiful guys ketimbang cute guys... Harusnya dicariin lagi aktor yg lebih cute, macam Luhan misalnya, pretty and cute, tapi Luhan ga meyakinkan buat jadi petinju sih memang... Kalo Takki, memang dia bishounen dan lmyin cocok jadi Kanda, tapi mnrtku sih wajahnya lebih ke gorgeous type drpd cute type. :p

Utk pemeran Chikage yg pake sunnies itu, kayanya versi yg manapun oke deh asalkan tinggi dan pake sunnies? Tapi model rmbtnya ga cocok dgn Chikage yg di komik. :p \*minta digampar krn byk maunya.\* Anooo...habisnya Chikage itu yg paling tampan sih kalo di komik, huahahaha... Apalagi waktu dia pake apron, duh aku ngerti deh knp Ono begitu kesengsem ama dia, hahaha.

Left pic : Japan, right pic : Korea.

Wow, aku baru tahu loh ada remake yg versi Taiwan...O\_\_\_O Yg versi Taiwan itu yg paling ga cocok semua cast-nya mnrtku. :p

Ini si Kim Jae Wook sebagai Ono. Omong2, kuenya menggiurkan bgt. Kim Jae Wook-nya? ga terlalu. :p

Nah, kalo di sini Kim Jae Wook keliatan menggiurkan, hahaha. Cowo keren lagi masak tambah keren deh. :p Yg di sebelah Kim jae Wook itu Yoo Ah In yg jadi Kanda. Dia lagi belajar bikin kue dari Ono.

Buset Kim Jae Wook seksi bgt di sini, feromonnya beterbangan gitu, lol. Omong2 aku jadi teringat adegan tarian seksinya Moonlight (dari Moonlight, Tiger and Smoke) di super elite striptease club. O\_\_\_O bikin aku meringis tiap ingat knp dia hrs nari striptease...T\_\_\_\_\_T  
Kayanya di sini nih ceritanya Ono lagi dance di gay bar buat nunjukin ke Tachibana segimana seksinya dan seberapa mankiller-nya dia wkt lg direkrut Tachibana itu.

Joo Ji Hoon sebagai Tachibana dan Kanda yg lagi ngerayu dia? hahaha. Aku 2 tahun absen ntn drama Korea krn bosan dgn cerita yg itu2 aja, kalo ga yg cinderella, sakit kanker, opera sabun family, robin hood di jaman kuno Korea, kisah cinta ABG, dll... Tapi serius, liat adegan ini aku jd pgn ntn filmnya nih, mana tau lbh bgs dari yg Jepang? Jarang2 loh ada film yg temanya BL gitu...yg pemerannya populer gitu mksdnya, kalo yg ga populer atau indie gitu kan byk.

Bicara soal cake...sbnrnya I'm not a cake person, lbh suka ngiler mandangin aja krn cake2 itu begitu sedap dipandang mata. :p Aku pecinta asin dan manis sih, cuma kalo soal cake itu tmsk tipe yg pemilih bgt soal jlh gula yg digunakan dan tekstur cake-nya. Jadi, dari pengalamanku yg terbilang minim bgt soal cicip-mencicip cake itu, secara jarang bgt beli cake, sampe saat ini rasanya blm byk nemuin cake yg rasa manisnya dan teksturnya itu pas di lidah...kebanyakan bikin aku ngerasa enek stlh mkn seiris...padahal aku ini pecinta coklat...dan krn tdk suka kopi plus tdk tahan minum kopi, makanya ga suka jg cake yg rasanya kopi.... Januari 2013 dulu pernah nyobain blueberry shortcake wkt lg sarapan buffet di hotel Pullman yg sebelah Central Park itu, rasanya lmy pas di lidah, tapi kalo sengaja ke sana buat cicipin cake itu lagi sih, err...sayang duitnya, hahaha... :p

Anyway, kalo kamu pecinta cake sejati, mgkn bisa share toko favoritmu di Indo? :)

Bicara soal terjemahannya di scanlation-nya. Aku ngakak abis wkt baca komen translator di samping panel komik yg blg "OMFG, it took me to figure out how to translate it...I looked at the Japanese raws and...what did I see? 'buraunii' WTF x\_\_x". LOL, jadi ceritanya buraunii = brownies, hahaha. Ada lagi, konpooto = compote (alias kolak), hahaha. Pastilah pekerjaan yg berat buat translator kalo tdk familiar dgn istilah2 dlm dunia pastry. :)

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## Madison says

This book definitely has its problems, but overall I found myself having fun with it. The characters feel fleshed-out and realistic, and their interactions are fun to watch. Not to mention the comedic timing in this volume is pretty great.

There isn't a lot of romance besides that of the minor characters, which is pretty odd considering the genre.

However, from reading Yoshinaga's other series *What Did You Eat Yesterday?*, Volume 1, this is just par for the course. Yoshinaga prefers to let the characters move at their own pace, and this makes for a relaxing read.

The story can come off as a bit disjointed since it likes to jump back and forth across time, (going forward eight years, then back two, etc.) but you get used to it after a while. Plus, the stories are pretty fun, so I didn't mind the time skips much.

All I have to say is, you had better LOVE pastries, or be prepared to skip a lot of text. Yoshinaga loves food, and likes showing off her prowess by writing long stretches of descriptions and details on how each cake is made and with what ingredients, which can get pretty tedious after a while.

All in all, it's not perfect, but it's a fun, relaxing read. I've been reading so much dark and depressing manga these days that this book was like a breath of fresh air. Highly recommend.

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### **Jennifer says**

This was a little disjointed, because the chapters were more like short stories, and it wasn't until the second to the last that it comes together and the beginnings of the Antique Bakery shop are revealed. It was a fun read, though, especially since I'm a sucker for food manga with lots of food descriptions. I also liked the fact that this wasn't super fan service-ey, even though it's shojo with a gay character.

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### **Kirstie says**

Antique Bakery is an interesting manga about a bakery(surprise!) in an old antique shop. It is ran by an all male staff and each character has an interesting back story.

In the early pages we learn that back in their high school days the pastry chef confessed his love to the bakery manager. The chef's apprentice used to be a boxer until he had to quit due to detached retinas. This first volume mainly focuses on how they all came to be at the bakery.

The art is nice and the detail on the antiques and cakes is wonderful.

Some of the speech balloons are massive when a bakery attendant describes a particular cake or treat, but the description in those bubbles is more often than not mouth watering.

A delicious manga ;p

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### **Jackie says**

HAHAHAHA DANCING IN THE RAIN OH GOD MY EYES WTF WAS THAT ETCETC

Okay. So this was my first foray into the BL genre of manga and I think it's probably a fairly sedate place to start given how little time is actually spent detailing the love lives of the main gay male character, much to the benefit of the series in my opinion. It's much more of an ensemble piece. The first two volumes spend a lot of time depicting the everyday running of the eponymous bakery, revealing the personal back stories and personalities of the characters who work there only in small snippets as they go about baking and selling mouth-wateringly described pastries for their customers, who actually initially feature as the main focal points around which the manga's mini story arcs revolve. As such, I think for those who enjoy more plot-based works, the episodic feel of the first couple of volumes would be hard to get into - it is after all difficult to become emotionally invested in these character who only appear very briefly - and the charm of the main quartet at the Bakery is relied upon to carry the momentum of the reader's interest. Whether they work for

you or not is probably a matter of taste (hawhaw). To my untrained eye, they seem to occupy character molds that are very particular to manga and a familiarity with (and fondness for) those would probably help.

It's only in the third and fourth volumes that we get the emergence of a continuing story line. However, with that comes the more obviously applied conventions of the genre and it threatens to delve the characters from those delicately realised slice-of-life scenarios into an angsty melodrama that was probably better off being subtly hinted at as in the first half of the manga. Thankfully, I think the manga-ka realised that and ended it on a note surprising for its believability and emotional honesty to the characters' development, if not complete reader satisfaction.

The artwork isn't really anything to write home about. It's full of thin lines and sparsely drawn panels and only the baked goods are really detailed but then, that seems in keeping with what I've seen from most shojo manga, so if you know that you're not averse to that style, it shouldn't be a problem.

It's a fun read for people who enjoy unobtrusive character pieces and it's short enough to be read in one sitting so you won't feel like you've exhausted yourself reading 100+ chapters of unresolved emotional entanglements if it doesn't live up to expectations. On the flip side of this though, I don't think it really stands out either, precisely because it's so ordinary, although I think a lot of people who might be more well versed in this genre would embrace it precisely for its refreshing realism and honesty.

...that is if they managed to get past the dancing in the rain part without busting a hernia with laughter.

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## Frank Pellett says

Rating: 7 out of 10

Violence: None

Fan Service: None

Sexual Content: Moderate (Gay men, fair amount of discussion)

Type: Light Gay Romantic

Read: 1 Volume

More?: Yes

Plot Analysis: Vignettes about a small bakery that uses antique dishes. The first few are general stories about some of the patrons, and then there are stories about how the bakery got started. The baker is gay, and some of the stories do deal strongly with homosexuality.

Review: The sexual side can be a little distracting, but overall the stories are quite good. It takes a little bit to get to know who is who, but the romantic stories of old classmates meeting again and a couple remembering their love are quite heartwarming.

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## Cornerofmadness says

This was nothing like I expected really, being yaoi. Volume one isn't very romantic and the only hint of sex is two panels in chapter five. The story revolves around three young men who own/work in a bakery set in a former antiques shop. The shop serves as the framework for the stories, which revolve mostly around the customers.

The stories are not always linear (especially where the three men are concerned) and I had only passing

interest in the clients (I'm more of a genre type girl than a slice of life mainstreamer). The three men are interesting however. Tachibana, a successful young business man opens the shop. He shares a rather jagged, unpleasant past with Ono, a star pastry maker who has trouble holding down jobs due to his overwhelming and unexpected sexual appeal to most men. His apprentice is the youngest of them, a former boxer Eiji Kanda who was forced out due to shorn retinas. Over all, there is a lot of potential in the dynamics of the men but I'm not sure I'd be that interested in a chapter length short story with non-recurring clients every time.

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