



## Sweetness and Lightning 1

*Gido Amagakure , Adam Lensenmayer (Translator)*

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Having lost his wife, math teacher Kouhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family and one of his students, Kotori Iida, together for homemade adventures. With those three cooks in the kitchen, it's no wonder this dinner table drama is so delicious.

## Sweetness and Lightning 1 Details

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## From Reader Review Sweetness and Lightning 1 for online ebook

### Annette says

After watching the first four episodes of the anime adaptation, I was hooked. My love of food-based manga is well known and documented, so this was a natural gravitation. It didn't hurt that Kohei and Tsumugi remind me of another favourite series, Yotsuba&!. Where Yotsuba is more comical and focused on the young main character, Sweetness & Lightning's focus is on the struggling single parent trying to do right by his child and the lonely student who offers to help him practice his cooking skills. Loving the variety of dishes they make and glad to see they've added some of the recipes to the end of each chapter. Also may have "ruined" a future episode or two of the anime as it does not appear to follow the manga chronologically.

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### Josephine (biblioseph) says

Having lost his wife, math teacher Kouhei Inuzuka is doing his best to raise his young daughter Tsumugi as a single father. He's pretty bad at cooking and doesn't have a huge appetite to begin with, but chance brings his little family and one of his students, Kotori Iida, together for homemade adventures. With those three cooks in the kitchen, it's no wonder this dinner table drama is so delicious.

I really love slice-of-life manga, especially those that tend toward humor and revolve around food. This was such an unexpected delight. I'm currently hopeful about the story arc, but I've been burned before, so let's say I'm being reasonable.

Sweetness & Lightning is a seinen, slice-of-life series about a recently widowed father and his young daughter. In his struggle to feed her well, he meets a student of his at her family's restaurant and they begin an adventure of learning how to cook. It's sweet, having moments of humor and heartache. The picture below features a conversation the junior math teacher has with his student about making breakfast, since they aren't really supposed to meet up outside school, they have this conversation back-to-back by an open window.

So much appeals to me about this. Young widower wants to take care of his daughter, and when the opportunity presents itself to eat at a Homestyle restaurant he jumps. Then it seems he is on the verge of impropriety, spending time with a student, both of them learning how to cook, almost as equals, but he makes a decisions that not only help his daughter, but begins healing himself.

We don't really spend time on his grief, but the death of his wife is recent and I think it's already becoming a new normal for him. Her death was probably not sudden, but this first volume doesn't go into it.

I almost want to be annoyed at the fact that the girl started developing a crush on her teacher halfway through the book, only a few months or a few chapters into their relationship as cooking adepts, but I'm

hopeful about how this play out. We'll see.

Pages: 184

Year: 26 July 2016 (6 September 2013)

Publisher: Kodansha Comics

Read: 5 October 2017

Stars: 4.5 (adored it)

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### **Mehsi says**

This manga is getting an anime, so I thought I would check it out if the story (and the characters) were any good before the anime is starting.

And it was quite good, a bit boring, a bit bland, but still fun. Though I do worry about which route the story will be taking. What is the worry? In the beginning Kotori is just a friend, a student of our MC, but as the story progresses you see that change, at least for Kotori. And I am worried how this will end. The MC is a teacher, she is his student, I wouldn't want to have a romance in this manga, it would complicate the easy-going story with unnecessary problems.

I was also a bit worried about the kid, I have read several manga with kids and often I am just annoyed to death because the kids just don't seem to get basic manners, or they are just plain annoying.

Thankfully Tsumugi is a sweet kid who cares a lot about her father, she misses her mother (which just pulls my heartstrings so much whenever she says the word Mommy). She also loves food, and it was just so much fun to see her enjoy her (and also Kotori's) food.

This book is a bit like Usagi Drop (though without all the drama) and one of those food anime (like Koufuku Graffiti). The focus switches between caring for Tsumugi and making lots of delicious looking foods. The chapters end with a recipe, which is so much fun as this way you can participate/make your own food as well.

The art is really gorgeous, I just love all the details, I love how the characters are drawn, and then that food. Dayum. <3

I am not sure if I will continue the manga, but I will certainly check out the anime. I can't wait to see this animated. Hopefully they will do it right.

Review first posted at <https://twirlingbookprincess.com>

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### **Rachel Strolle says**

ohmygod this is my absolute favorite manga i've read so far

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## **Kayleigh says**

Loved this volume, super cute, can't wait to see where this story leads :)

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## **Charlotte says**

I'm very new to reading manga, especially manga that doesn't involve magic, so I wasn't quite sure what to expect going into this. I picked it up because I have heard things about the series as both an anime and in book form, but unfortunately it didn't particularly draw me in.

So far, having only read the first volume, this series isn't a plot driven one. Instead it has an intense focus on the relationship of the three main characters, Tsumugi, her father Kouhei Inuzuka and his student Kotori Iida. They are all fairly strong characters with distinct and interesting personalities, but in my case their relationship alone was not enough to completely hold my interest even along with the experiences with cooking that they shared.

Tsumugi is cute, sweet, and has other traits typically found in little girl characters. However, she has a bit more depth than I was expecting because she is still processing the loss of her mother. Kouhei Inuzuka, the girl's father, who is also still struggling to deal with her mother's death mostly focuses on doing what is best for his daughter as best as he knows how. This is the part of the reason that the characters fall into cooking together in the first place, because he wants her to be able to eat good food. Their relationship is very realistic as well as cute, Tsumugi is not always perfect and he is a good father to her even when she struggles. For this alone, I may continue reading the series. However, I was not as fond of the third character Kotori. She is also a realistic character, dealing with several struggles but she felt much less unique and next to the father daughter relationship I found myself much less interested in her story.

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The author also included recipes at the end of each chapter corresponding with the things the characters cooked which I found to be a very cute and interesting touch. If not for the relationship between the father and daughter, I may have considered reading more of the series just to see how the story lined up with the recipes. With that being said, it's definitely not one of my favorite books even if the characters are very endearing.

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## **Maeghan D says**

Really cute!

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## **Kait says**

Very cute story. The young girl is very high energy and the dad just wants to make her good food. I would love to see more of the characters other than cooking and meal times though. I have no idea if they have other interests or activities (other than work and school). The food and reaction expressions made me want to cook and eat every few panels. I had no idea what half the ingredients were, but found the glossary in the

back later on.

I might grab the next volume of this, but I will have to be prepared with some tasty snacks next time.

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### **Nicola Mansfield says**

This is really sweet and the little girl is adorable and cute. The father is a recent widower and has started to learn to cook instead of buying Bento boxes for every meal for his daughter. The man is a teacher and he meets a student of his whose mother owns a restaurant. Kotori is always alone because her mother is a celebrity chef and always away, she and the teacher join forces in learning to cook. A really sweet story as I said and each chapter ends with the recipe of one item they made that chapter. I'm just a little uneasy as to how the relationship between the teacher and student will develop. She could possibly look to him as a father figure (I hope) but the ending suggests she might be having inappropriate feelings towards her teacher. I hope the story doesn't go that route. We'll see.

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### **Ken Yuen says**

Another manga that's secretly a recipe/food manga. The father and daughter are affable enough, even if the father feels like an empty, everyman protagonist. Tsumugi is cute.

The story's true focus is on the heroine Kotori. She's one of the dad's students, and through circumstances, Kotori ends up helping to take care of Tsumugi through cooking. I'm not too sure what to make of Kotori. Her mother is never around, but it seems like she's just busy rather than grossly neglectful. Kotori seems constantly lonely, but in the last chapter, we meet one of her friends, who's just been conveniently absent all this time.

I just dunno how I'd feel if it turns out to be a story about a teacher who has a relationship with one of his students.

I wonder what the title means. At first, I thought it'd be a pun on the protagonists' names, but Iida to Inazuma (thunder) is kind of a stretch. I know Tsumugi means "to weave". It's an enjoyable slice of life story so far.

Edit: I'll say one thing, Kotori has really big, well-defined eyes that are pretty.

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### **Shala says**

This is so cute! I need to pick up the next volume!

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### **Comics Alternative says**

<http://comicsalternative.com/manga-re...>

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### **Majandra says**

i love this book so much.

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### **TheYALibrarian says**

Such a cute manga I'm so glad not to see guys being pervy and girls being busty there's way too much of that in manga.

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### **Ian Coombs says**

Sweetness and Lightning is about a single father and his young daughter. One day after a long time of T.V dinners the child decides that she wants to go to a restaurant. Afterwards she decides that she likes real food much better and wants to go to that restaurant a lot. The chef at the restaurant offers to teach the father how to cook, and the father agrees. It is a cute book that is very fun and nice to read.

I think the theme is that people should put their families first. Really everything in this book is an example of this. The father sacrifices a lot to help his daughter throughout the book, and he cares a lot about her. He learns how to cook purely for her sake despite it being difficult. All the way through the book he is putting his daughter first and helping her a lot.

I really liked this book. It was cute, the characters were fun and interesting. It was really sad at times but for the most part it was really good. The story was interesting and I really like the pace that they advanced the story. It was really fun to read and I never got bored of it.

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