

Happy Cafe, Vol. 1

Kou Matsuzuki

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Romance and happiness blossoms at the Happy Cafe! Uru takes her mother's remarriage as an opportunity to work part time at the Happy Cafe. There, she befriends Ichirou and Shindou, two of the most unsociable guys she's ever met! To make matters worse, it turns out that Uru is not exactly meant for the waitressing world, as she's a huge klutz. But as this hilarious shoujo tale unfolds, true happiness, and even true love, lurks just around the corner.

Happy Cafe, Vol. 1 Details


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Author : Kou Matsuzuki

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From Reader Review Happy Cafe, Vol. 1 for online ebook

Jessica-Robyn says

RATING: 2.5 STARS

For me, this wasn't a particularly strong start for the Happy Cafe series. Happy Cafe is a light, bubbly manga with some great promise behind a lack-luster plot and sporadic characters. I'll admit that although Happy Cafe had some really excellent, humorous, cute moments, it didn't have very strong direction when it came to the overall plot of the story.

Uru, is sixteen years old and has decided to live on her own for the first time. While walking down the street she passes by two women talking about the cafe they had just stepped out of, excited and happy. Wanting to make people feel that happy Uru asks for a position and is greeted by the two quirky (very, very strange) boys who work there.

The major appeal of Uru was initially very off-putting. Her character design skews very young, as this sixteen year old is constantly mistaken for being in elementary school, and you can clearly see why. She is very strong however, and can handle anything except not breaking the dishes.

The two guys she works with are also initially very poorly received. Shindo is an crank with a zero tolerance attitude. Even though he's only 20 his personality is that of a grandpa, with a preference of physical violence to motivate others. However, despite these things, he is incredibly adorable at times and charming in his own odd way.

And finally Ichiro, he's the strangest of them all with an unexplained sleeping habit that pops up whenever he hasn't eaten something, which is about every other page. Outside of that he doesn't offer much to the story aside from someone for Shindo to beat down and occasionally adding some character back story tidbit.

When it comes to the relationships, I was surprised that there wasn't much romance in this as I was expecting, going off the description. Although there is some hinting there wasn't anything significant to that end, no real push in that direction. Otherwise the story was just about Uru experiencing a series of semi-unrelated events to introduce the characters better.

With all of that said, based off this first volume, I don't think that this is a series I would go out of my way to read. Happy Cafe certainly has a lot of promise, I can only see the series improving as each character develops more, but I just don't see it being something I would run to. I'll definitely continue with the series if I stumble upon the next book, but it's not something that can compare well enough to the other series I currently have in progress.

Kayla Loewen says

Okay, so I know this is really typical shojo manga; you can practically predict everything that's going to happen. So Why?!?! Why do I like it so much?? What's wrong with me.....

Sherish Bustamante says

Uber funny.. i remember Coffee Prince it's some what alike..

Ahmad Sharabiani says

Happy Cafe, Vol. 1 (Happy Cafe #1), Kou Matsuzuki

Jesi says

Este manga me hace sonreír y emocionarme en partes iguales. Es precioso en todo sentido. Soy tan feliz leyendo este manga como Uru trabajando en Bonheur <3
Espero que la simpleza y la alegría que caracterizan esta historia no se pierda con el pasar de los capítulos.

Rosie says

An inhuman super strong girl, a gangster baker, and a guy who falls asleep when he's hungry. This manga is a laugh-out-loud sweet shoujo story! I thought this was hilarious and really sweet!

Keliyy says

Looking for some laugh-out-loud moments? This is the right series!

Shiawase Kissa Sanchoume, also known as Happy Cafe, tells life stories of Uru - a very short girl and is constantly mistaken for an elementary school kid, but despite that, she is ridiculously strong and decides to live by herself after her mother gets remarried. She has a very bubbly, optimistic personality. Basically she is like a walking sun, so bright and full of life.

She ends up working at a small cafe with two rather unique co-workers, Shindou(demon king - as you can see from the picture below),

who acts gruff and intimidating, but who is really a nice guy who loves to make cakes and pies and the like.

And Ichirou(weirdo),

who is really good-looking but will instantly falls asleep when he gets hungry and doesn't wake up again until he's given something to eat - so that brand him as a weirdo XD.

The story proceed in a very interesting way, you will get to know more about those characters and you definitely will enjoy knowing them.

(view spoiler)

Anyway, I loved it. Enjoy!

Ryan Hall says

OKAY, THE PUREST CUTEST MANGA I HAVE EVER READ IN MY LIFE, S2G. Listen the artwork is SO CUTE the characters are so interesting and adorable and everything is!! just so much fun!! I would recommend it to anybody interested in manga.

Martina Fuchs says

I thought it was really funny and cute.
I couldn't help but smile while reading it on the train.

skyblue_31 says

Finished series.

Super cute and hilarious. The kids look sooo adorable.

Sad that this series had to finish quickly.

I do like the drawing style but sometimes it was really hard to discern who's who.

Online Eccentric Librarian says

More reviews (and no fluff) on the blog <http://surrealtalvi.wordpress.com/>

Happy Cafe (or, Shiawase Kissa Sanchoume in Japanese) is Kou Matsuzuki's debut series. This is a breezy slice of life story centered around the theme of helping people uncover and then achieve their own measure of happiness. As such, this is the first book in a long series of side stories using the three main characters as the glue that keeps the plot together. Some stories will get more serious and others will stay lighthearted. But through them all (15 volumes and just ended in Japan) is the developing relationship between protagonist Uru and her two coworkers: reticent Shindou and flakey Souchiro. In true romance form, a small triangle

does develop as both guys come to fall for her.

The author isn't going for the realism of popular titles such as Parfait Tic; rather, there is a sweet surreality along the lines of Fruits Basket. And I think that's really key - if you like the sweet but simple 'fighting' spirit of Tohru from Fruits Basket, then you'll likely enjoy this series a lot. If you are looking for stories with angst, smut, obsessive love, or reality (such as with Hot Gimmick or Peach Girl) then this is probably not the manga for you.

Matsuzuki's story is very sweet, often funny, and meant to bring a smile. And it is without consummation or lust in the romance - as with Fruits Basket, it's more about the soft looks and yearning than any kind of physicality. You won't find the heroine Uru being bullied into romantic situation or even a kiss.

The development of the romantic angles are slow and steady - Uru is, after all, a clumsy and immature girl with a big heart. Romantic overtures are completely lost on her and that will provide the humor of many situations throughout the series. But it is in the second chapter of this book that the continuing storyline is revealed, when Uru says to the gloomy Shindou, "one day, I'll make you say 'smiling is my specialty.'" Shindou and Uru will spend most of the series helping each other overcome the unhappiness of their childhoods - and coming to understand why their parents made the choices they did. As such, the focus is on happiness and not romance.

This first volume is slow and doesn't have the pull that will come later once the characters are fleshed out more and their back stories developed. By volume 15, author Matsuzuki's artwork really matures - a great reason to stick with this series beyond just the small promise in the first book. As with Fruits Basket, very interesting side characters will come to work or play in the cafe and really give the series much more drama than evidenced in this first volume.

In all, a sweet, chaste, slow burning, humorous slice of life story of a girl working at a cafe with two very handsome guys.

Anastasia Antonova says

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Gavin Abdollahi says

4.5 outta 5.

I know, I know. It's Shoujo (girls manga).....

It's like watching a Disney Princess movie with your little sister! Don't judge me!

(But you read this alone, not with you little sister.)

...

(Throws iPad at whoever said that)

So, this is my first group read, and I have to say, I really loved it!

If you liked Youtsuba, this you'll definitely like!

It's about a sixteen year old girl with twice the strength she should have who comes to work at the Happy Cafe. There, she meets two guys: One sleeps whenever he's hungry, and can only be awoken when fed. The other is an anti social, brutal, but secretly kind hearted guy commonly referred to as the devil himself.

The story was sweet, funny, and really enjoyable.

Can't wait to finish the other four volumes!

Chibineko says

I admit it. When I first read the synopsis of this manga I rolled my eyes & thought "another stereotypical 'let's get the boy' manga". As some of my other reviews can testify, sometimes I'm proven wrong about my first initial impression of something. This manga was adorable. I'm not going to bother giving a manga synopsis as there's already another review here that does that quite well. I'm just going to jump to my review.

Frankly, I really enjoyed this manga. There were parts of it that made me smile and others that made me laugh out loud at how cute & silly they were. (Which got me a few odd stares in the bookstore.) I absolutely adored the main character Uru, who is a rather tomboyish & insanely strong young girl. Uru lives on her own due to her mother remarrying & thinking that she's bothersome to her mom & new father. The whole "on my own" thing isn't new & moving out under such circumstances isn't either, but somehow Uru just brings a whole new flavor to it.

I also liked the two male characters, Shindo (the main love interest) & Ichiro (eating machine). Now normally in many manga of this type, the fated relationship (& it's obvious that they're destined for each other) seems a little forced & "meet cute". The love building seems more natural in this book, although it still does fall under the "meet cute" category in many ways. Still, I like how Uru is willing to call Shindo out on many things rather than sit around & fret like so many other manga heroines do.

If you like cute, get this manga. It's one of the better romance comedy mangas I've read lately & it's something I believe I'll be buying within a week of each volume's release.

Gabrielle says

The beginning was kind of rocky, but later it improved. It is very interesting. I personally like the cafe setting too! It has some quirky humor in it.
