Reading Food in Boys’ Love Manga: a Gastronomic Study of Food and Male Homosexuality in the Manga Work of Yoshinaga Fumi

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Abstract
Gastronomy is the study, not of food itself, but the relationship between food and our world. This study aims to investigate the relationship between food and homosexuality in the realm of Boys Love (BL) manga, a Japanese comic genre which depicts same-sex relationships traditionally produced by...

Keywords
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Antique Bakery is a manga by Fumi Yoshinaga depicting the lives of four men who work in a small bakery. It was published in Japan by Shinshokan and in English by Digital Manga Publishing. The series won the 2002 Kodansha Manga Award for shōjo manga. The manga was adapted as a Japanese TV drama, with the title Antique or Antique Cake Store, that was broadcast on Fuji TV in 2001, an anime television series, airing on July 3, 2008 on Noitamina, and a Korean live-action movie. —. “Queering the Cooking Man: Food and Gender in Yoshinaga Fumi’s (BL) Manga.” In Boys’ Love Manga: Essays on the Sexual Ambiguity and Cross-Cultural Fandom of the Genre. Edited by Mark McLelland, Kazumi Nagaike, Katsuhiko Suganuma, and James Welker, 233-252. Jackson: University of Mississippi, 2015. In Boys Love Manga and Beyond: History, Culture, and Community in Japan. Edited by Mark McLelland, Kazumi Nagaike, Katsuhiko Suganuma, James Welker, 42-75. Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2015. Wood, Andrea. “ ‘Straight’ Women, Queer Texts: Boys-Love Manga and the Rise of a Global Counterpublic.” Women's Studies Quarterly, 34 (2006): 394-414. In the series, Yoshinaga depicts their private space of a contemporary gay couple not through sex, but food. Ang Lee’s motion picture Brokeback Mountain has achieved phenomenal commercial success despite its status as an independent film. In this essay, I am concerned with the ways in which Yoshinaga’s work sheds new light onto the relationship between queer people and domestic space. Of particular interest is how the suggestion of alternative lifestyles and modes of masculinities is made by Yoshinaga through her skilful deployment of food and gastronomic discourses as metaphoric modalities which capture the attention of mainstream audiences in the current neoliberal social condition. ...