Food Wars!, Vol. 2: Shokugeki No Soma
Soma Yukihira’s old man runs a small family restaurant in the less savory end of town. Aiming to one day surpass his father’s culinary prowess, Soma hones his skills day in and day out until one day, out of the blue, his father decides to enroll Soma in a classy culinary school! Can Soma really cut it in a place that prides itself on a 10 percent graduation rate? And can he convince the beautiful, domineering heiress of the school that he belongs there at all?! Leaving home for the first time in his young life, Soma moves into the school’s Polaris Dormitory—a place run by an old crone and filled with crazy and eccentric students! Barely settled in, Soma quickly finds himself in one of Tohzuki’s legendary cooking duels—a shokugeki! Who will his very first opponent be?

Synopsis

First off, fair warning to parents and people who are sensitive to partial nudity - there is some in this volume, but it's not for the context of people getting it on. Have you ever heard of the term "food porn" before (really awesome pictures of food where you just want to stop what you’re doing and eat something?) This book has the follow up to food porn known as "foodgasm"...the sometimes questionable looking images are based on completely over the top eating reactions where a character may be reduced down to their skivvies. No human melons or sausages are flashed, but as a parent, I wanted to give full disclosure. That said, as the manga goes on into further chapters, the gratuitous fan service scenes do die down - again, keep in mind, panty flashes is not the focus of this manga. Having well been well introduced in the first volume, Food War! Volume 2 continues the story of Yukihira S’ma and his quest to be the top student at Totsuki. This volume introduces the
members of the Polar Star dormitory and S’m a’s first official Shokugeki against Mito Ikumi. The battle scenes are particularly entertaining, and I love how the food is visually stunning and described with words. I actually learned a few things about meat grading in this volume, and now really would like to try some A5 grade beef (probably not going to happen - ‘weeps’). The art done by Shun Saeki is absolutely stunning. The illustrations are highly detailed, well laid out, and the food images totally rival anything you could see on Food Network. You will want to stop and eat something while reading this manga. The story by Yuto Tsukuda is equally gripping. It can be slightly predictable, but no less really entertaining to read.

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