

February 7, 2019

Kodansha Comics announces first digital debuts for 2019 with renowned manga classic *The Tale of Genji: Dreams at Dawn* by Waki Yamato

Digital-first manga for February also to include modern-day shojo manga romancers My Sweet Girl (debuts 2/12) and World's End and Apricot Jam (2/19)

San Francisco, Calif. (February 7, 2019) – Kodansha Comics announced today that its “digital-first” debuts, after a brief holiday hiatus, are back. This year will kick off with a trio of highly anticipated digital manga debuts by some of the most talented women creators working in the medium. The lineup includes two recent hit shojo romantic comedies in Rumi Ichinohe’s *My Sweet Girl* and Rila Kirishima’s *World’s End and Apricot Jam*, to be followed by the English-language debut of one of the most beautiful examples of the medium in Waki Yamato’s renowned adaptation of the literary classic, *The Tale of Genji*.

Kodansha Comics is proud to announce the English-language digital debut of *The Tale of Genji: Dreams at Dawn*, which will coincide with the opening of the exhibition “*The Tale of Genji: A Japanese Classic Illuminated*” at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City on March 5. The exhibition, on view through June 16, will feature original *genga* artwork from Waki Yamato’s manga.

Since 2017, readers of Kodansha Comics’s “digital-firsts” have gotten the jump on everything from the updated translation of *Battle Angel Alita* to new volumes of never-finished classics like *BECK* to the first appearance of current hits like *Tokyo Tarareba Girls* and *Grand Blue Dreaming*. “The success of our digital-firsts program allows us to continue building a rapidly expanding English-language manga library based on diversity of content, regular and quick releases, and commitment to completing series,” said Alvin Lu, General Manager of Kodansha Advanced Media, the digital distribution arm of Kodansha Comics. “With our 2019 debuts, each series will see one new volume published per month, until the series is completed or we catch up to the latest Japanese release.”

Starting with Rumi Ichinohe’s *My Sweet Girl* on February 12, 2019’s opening round of digital debuts will be available on all of Kodansha Comics’s partner digital platforms, including Amazon Kindle, Apple Books, BookWalker, comiXology, Google Play, Kobo, MyAnimeList, and nook. The schedule is as follows:

My Sweet Girl (debuting February 12) Rumi Ichinohe’s sweet, pure love story is about a girl who never imagined falling in love, until one day she she meets a boy from the next class. This one’s dedicated to all the girls who find things a little bit awkward when it comes to romance. Published in Japan in 8 volumes (still ongoing) under the Japanese title *Kimi wa kawaii onnanoko*. English volumes will be released monthly until caught up to Japan.

World’s End and Apricot Jam (debuting February 19) Music and romance collide in Rila Kirishima off-kilter comedy about a building manager who has a run-in with a bumbling tenant—who turns out to be the lead singer of a supercool band. Published in Japan in 6 volumes (complete) under the Japanese title: *Sekai no hajikko to anzu jam*. English volumes will be released monthly.



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The Tale of Genji: Dreams at Dawn (debuting February 26). First published in the 1980s and 90s, Waki Yamato's rendition of Murasaki Shikibu's 11th-century literary masterpiece is still gorgeous to behold and is considered one of the greatest novel-to-manga adaptations of all time. Published in Japan in 10 oversized volumes (complete) under the Japanese title *Asaki yumemishi*, Volumes 1-3 of this new digital English edition will be released on February 26, with subsequent volumes released monthly.

[More information about Kodansha Comics's "digital-first" initiative can be found here.](#)

ABOUT KODANSHA

Kodansha Ltd. is Japan's leading publishing house, based in Tokyo, Japan. Founded in 1909, Kodansha Ltd. continues to this day to play a dominant role in media, producing books and magazines in a wide variety of genres including literature, fiction, nonfiction, children's, business, lifestyle, art, manga, fashion, and journalism. Recently, Kodansha Ltd. has focused on creating and developing a wide range of digital businesses.

Kodansha Comics is the English-language manga-publishing imprint of Kodansha USA Publishing, which was established in New York City in 2008, with the publications of two of the most groundbreaking comics of all time: Katsuhiro Otomo's *Akira* and Shirow Masamune's *The Ghost in the Shell*. Other major manga hits from Kodansha Comics include *Sailor Moon*, *Attack on Titan*, and *Fairy Tail*. Kodansha Advanced Media is a digital-content distributor and producer established in San Francisco in 2015. More about Kodansha Comics at kodanshacomics.com.



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