

Disclaimer: “Manga for Grown-Ups” describes anime that we think has some appeal to older or more experienced anime fans and is not meant as a broad judgment against media created for wider audiences.

The items below are presented with descriptions including content warnings, and ways to read them legally (if available). Content warnings are meant for informational purposes and may not include details regarding very specific/niche content concerns.

Digital Manga – The past couple of years revealed weaknesses in the overall supply chain, including related to printed material. That extended to manga, which also saw an explosion in demand. Below are some digital manga services, along with a couple of selections from each one.

Manga Plaza – Digital manga distribution platform operated by NTT Solmare, who previously opened and shuttered the Facebook-based “Comic Friends” app.

Pros	Cons
Large library with several popular titles	Expensive (\$6.99/month). Some titles can be found much cheaper elsewhere.
Some niche titles not found elsewhere	Additional chapters are often an additional price, even for subscribers
	Catalog is fluffed-out with romance titles that may not be of interest to many U.S. readers.

- **Days Full of Promise** – by Hisae Iwaoka – 5 chapters available - Koyomi Inagawa works as a freelance wedding planner. Her goal is to get to know each couple and provide them with the perfect day. In this role, though, she often perceives the complications inherent in romantic relationships. **CW: Portrayal of some toxic relationship dynamics.**
- **Diary of my Daily Failures** – by Eriko Kobayashi – 9 chapters available – An autobiographical “diary” type manga, in which Eriko describes her experience being hospitalized for suicidal depression. These types of manga help to provide insight into and empathy for others’ experiences in their own words. **CW: Depression, attempted suicide, depictions of other mental illnesses.**

Crunchyroll – Yes, Crunchyroll, the anime streaming service, also provides a modest selection of manga, free as part of a premium membership. Some titles are specific simul-pub titles related to anime series that they stream.

Pros	Cons
Part of the overall Crunchyroll subscription	Small selection: new entries aren’t frequently added and there’s not much fanfare when they are
Interface works adequately	Web interface seems to not be up-to-date or have all entries properly categorized; have to use the app

- **Planet With** – by Satoshi Mizukami – 45 Chapters (incomplete) – Souya Kuroi lives with amnesia brought on by a traumatic event. He lives with a giant cat and a green-haired maid that love him and keep him housed, but he feels there's something missing about his past. When giant UFOs begin to approach Earth, Souya is tasked with fighting the heroes defending the planet. But there are much larger things at stake, including humanity's right to evolve beyond Earth's borders. Satoshi Mizukami draws the manga adaptation of his scenario used for the anime of the same name. The story deals with themes related to forgiveness and choosing love before violence. **CW: Mild Fanservice, PTSD, violence.**
- **Inside Mari** – by Shuzo Oshimi – 80 Chapters – A young male shut-in has always watched beautiful high school student Mari from afar. One day he wakes up to find that his consciousness is now inside Mari's body. This psychological tale is anything but what it seems to be at first, telling the story of someone who has struggled with their own identity for so long that they no longer even know who they really are. **CW: Graphic nudity, graphic sexual content, toxic family dynamics.**

VIZ/Shonen Jump – A membership to VIZ's online weekly Shonen Jump online portal provides immediate access to an archive of Shonen Jump titles, as well as new chapters of current titles as they're released in Japan.

Pros	Cons
Great price - \$1.99/month	Subject matter of many titles is aimed at teens (not a real "con" but makes it less relevant to this discussion!)
Easy-to-use interface with apps for multiple platforms.	Some titles are web-only due to content
New chapters of ongoing manga are simulpublished	

- **Akane-Banashi** – by Yuki Suenaga and Takamasa Moue – 5 chapters (as of 3/15: new chapters on Fridays) – Akane's father was a rakugo performer in training. When he was unceremoniously kicked out of the field before achieving the highest rank, this set young Akane in motion. Now she's been training secretly with her father's old master and is just about ready to make her debut to avenge her father. This series has a charming heroine and helps bring to life a very entertaining Japanese theatrical art form.
- **Look Back** – by Tatsuki Fujimoto – one-shot, 145 pages – Fujino draws 4-panel manga for her school paper, to great grade-school acclaim. When a shut-in named Kyomoto asks to be given a shot at drawing one, Fujino is unbothered until she sees the quality of Kyomoto's work. When no amount of practice seems to lead to improvement, and the other kids start bugging her to do something else, Fujino tries to give up on manga, until she meets Kyomoto face-to-face. **CW: Violence**

Azuki – Newer online manga subscription platform featuring a variety of series, including some small-press and niche titles.

Manga for Grown-Ups – Anime Detour 2022
Jessi Silver

Pros	Cons
Decent subscription price (\$4.99/month)	Contains many of the same Kodansha titles that are available on multiple other services
Adding new titles regularly, including from more niche publishers (Star Fruit Books)	

- **Pop Life** – by Minami Q-ta – 2 volumes/18 chapters – Sakura and Akemi are two single mothers who live together in a combined household with their children. There they support one-another and provide the kids with a space to grow while they become the people they've always wished to be, unburdened by toxic relationships. These cozy and poignant moments from the lives of these two characters provide a window into what it takes to raise confident kids in an uncommon relationship. **CW: Brief references to past abuse and toxic relationships. Animal death. Alcohol use. Sports injury.**
- **Ripples** – by Hagiwara Rei – 3 Chapters – In this dreamlike pictorial poem, the author uses watercolor imagery coupled with sparse dialog to paint a picture of the messy ways in which we process grief and death. **CW: Death**

Other Selections

Robo Sapiens: Tales of Tomorrow – by Toranosuke Shimada – 1 volume – A series of lightly-interconnected stories taking place in a future where androids have become an integral part of society, doing jobs that humans are ill-suited for. The stories center around a group of long-lived androids who continue their work even after the decline of the human race. The clean artwork and often sparse dialog lend an air of melancholy to the stories and setting. *Seven Seas*

My Alcoholic Escape from Reality – by Nagata Kabi – 1 volume – This diary manga continues the story of author Kabi's struggle to find herself and deal with mental illness. In this case, the high amount of alcohol she's consumed to cope with her daily life has affected her health in a dire way. **CW: Mental illness, suicidal ideation, alcohol use, needles, discussion of medication, discussion of specialized diets.** *Seven Seas*

Revolutionary Girl Utena: After the Revolution – by Chiho Saito – 1 volume – This set of three stories, written to mark the 20th anniversary of *Revolutionary Girl Utena*, rejoin several of the series' major characters as they address the ghosts of their pasts and are inspired to create revolutions of their own. **CW: Death, references to human trafficking, incest.** *VIZ*

Sneeze – by Naoki Urasawa – 1 volume – A collection of Urasawa's short one-shot work from over the years. Subjects range from telekinetic hitmen, to world-famous psychics, to scheming mice, and lots of rock and roll. The stories demonstrate the range and reach of this talented storyteller, known more widely for *Monster* and *20th Century Boys*. **CW: Violence, nudity.** *VIZ*

Maiden Railways – by Asumiko Nakamura – 1 volume – In this series of short stories, people's relationships unfold in, on, and around trains and train platforms. Author Nakamura (*Doukyuusei*) portrays many different types of relationships in ways that are both humorous and emotional in turn. **CW: Slapstick violence (including relationship violence), death.** *Denpa*

Dai Dark – by Q Hayashida – 3 volumes (ongoing) – Zaha Sanko and his partner Avakian are fleeing across space to avoid capture by people who believe Sanko's bones have the ability to grant them wishes. This includes the Photosphere corporation, who includes the two in a group criminals they've deemed the "Four Little Shits." Dai Dark continues in Q Hayashida's tradition of portraying ultraviolence and grotesque situations in a humorous and charming way. **CW: Violence (extreme/grotesque).** *Seven Seas*

Is Kichijoji the Only Place to Live? – by Makihirochi – 6 volumes – The Shimada twins run a real-estate business in Kichijoji, rated one of Japan's most popular places to live. But is it really all it's cracked up to be? When customers visit the agency, the sisters do their best to figure out what they *really* want in a place to live and help them discover the perfect new home. Do you like "House Hunters?" Then this might be just the manga for you! **CW: Occasional mention of diet/weight.** *Kodansha Digital-First*

Other Resources

Mangasplaining Podcast – Podcast created by Deb Aoki, David Brothers, Christopher Butcher, and Chip Zdarsky/Steven Murray, that discusses manga of all types. They've recently started publishing a newsletter that contains show notes as well as (for subscribers) chapters of more niche manga titles that they have licensed and translated.

<https://www.mangasplaining.com/>