



# MY SASSY GIRL 1

Boy Meets Girl. Girl Gets Drunk. Boy Suffers.



STATIONS ARE BUSY places and yet, sometimes, one person will stand out in a sea of people. Geon-woo has just been released from military service and is readjusting to life as a civilian by attending college and letting his hair grow back. He is catching a train when he notices a striking young woman throwing up in the corner of the station.

She then staggers into his carriage and promptly vomits on a man reading his newspaper. Welcome to

romantic comedy Korean style!

The first of a four volume manhwa series, *My Sassy Girl* is based on the romantic movie of the same name released in 2001. The amusing series follows Geon-woo's trials and tribulations after helping the mysterious, unnamed girl to a motel, but that's not the end of his adventure.

The girl calls him the following morning, drags him off to a bar and promptly gets plastered, causing even more mayhem in the process, with Geon-woo constantly footing the bill – literally.

One of the great aspects of *My Sassy Girl* – aside from the striking lime green cover – is the fact that the strip pages are full colour within. Each panel is carefully drawn and coloured with a vibrancy that enhances the narrative. The artwork itself is also interesting and filled with realistic scenery and character designs. However – unlike other series where the lucky loser archetype is handsome and attractive – Geon-woo is rather ugly and unkempt. The girl, on the other hand, is strikingly beautiful (even when drunk) and the fact that the characters are drawn so differently gives added definition to the story, which is compellingly amusing from the opening page.

Read left-to-right, minor aspects of the story have been Americanised (such as references to currency and sound effects) but otherwise this manhwa is Korean through and through, with occasional cultural notes are tucked between panels. One-panel pages separate the chapters and often include quirky miniaturised characters that provide a momentary distraction from the pull of the main story.

Fans of romantic manga who have not yet discovered manhwa should seek out *My Sassy Girl*. It is an amusing take on the boy-meets-girl scenario that is both well written and genuinely funny.

**LESLEY SMITH**

