



When Sun Rises in The Starlit Vale

惑星與皓

Author: Shin Yan **Illustrator:** Shin Yan **Publisher:** Dyna Books

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The Earth teeters on the edge of destruction. A boy who lives on earth meets a girl who grew up in space. Their meeting is intricately tied to humanity's fate. As a mysterious alien substance that consumes everything approaches the solar system, humanity begins a mass exodus, leaving only a handful behind on Earth.

Renowned comic artist Shin Yan, nominated for the 12th Golden Comic Award for *The Invisibles*, presents her debut original comic. This work masterfully weaves the bittersweet encounters of youth with a sense of unease, set against vividly imagined science fiction worlds. With sharp pacing and stunning visuals, it captures the struggles and joys of growing up, even in the face of otherworldly realities.



Author Shin Yan

Based in Taipei and formerly in California, Shin Yan has been involved in the production of animation, games, and comics. Known for a versatile and limitless style, the author enjoys absurd stories, ghost tales, storytelling, crowds, food, alternate worlds, and creating chaos. Currently a professional comic artist, Shin Yan's works include *Nine Lives: Hangry Girls Club*, *Tumulus*, *The Invisibles*, and *When Sun Rises in The Starlit Vale*. In 2021, Shin Yan was nominated for the Annual Comic Award at the 12th Golden Comic Awards for *The Invisibles*.

Human Nature and the Unknown Mysteries: Exploring Subtle Love in *When Sun Rises in The Starlit Vale*

by Tzu-Ning Huang

As knowledge grows, many creators explore themes of the future, space, and interstellar travel. These topics connect the known and unknown, creating a canvas for enigmatic beauty, unanswered questions, and scientific ideas. This mix of mystery, science, and intrigue makes these works visually and narratively captivating.

When Sun Rises in The Starlit Vale creates a rich, colorful, and enigmatic universe. The story is set in a world where Earth is surrounded by a mysterious alien fungus known as The Lethal Fungus. The Moon has been eroded, drastically reducing the Earth's habitable space. In order to survive the devastating effects

of these changes, humanity embarks on groundbreaking research, constructing a massive, intricate structure called "MAZE" and initiating The Migrating Stars Plan. This grand scheme aims to resist the invasion of a mysterious substance called V17. The characters' backgrounds and unique qualities remain shrouded in mystery, gradually being revealed to the reader as the plot unfolds.

The characters' growth is intricately connected to both the environmental disasters that threaten their world and the ongoing waves of technological progress. The plot delves deeply into personal conflicts, such as familial tensions, youthful ambiguity, and

the quest for self-identity. Simultaneously, it addresses larger themes such as humanity's struggle for survival, the ethical dilemmas of genetic replication, and the violent clashes caused by conflicting values, all of which result in both internal and external conflict. These intertwining elements help construct the expansive sci-fi universe of *When Sun Rises in The Starlit Vale*, showcasing the author's creativity.

The protagonist, Elliot, symbolizes the unknown, while the human boy Cheng Hao represents the pursuit of truth and understanding. Their relationship creates a layer of subtle ambiguity that adds depth to the story. Cheng Hao, a carefree and unrestrained young man, contrasts sharply with his younger brother Cheng Rui, who is more cautious and adheres strictly to the rules. Despite their differences, there is an underlying,

unspoken care between them, portrayed through their emotional journey. As the two siblings gaze toward one another across the vast expanse of the stars, they question the nature of the unknown: Is it truly as dangerous as it seems? Can distant, unreachable places ever truly be reached? Their exploration, full of youthful bravery and tenderness, is both sweet and slightly bitter, and through the author's brilliant use of light, shadows, and intricate linework, readers are left eagerly anticipating the unfolding of the story's next chapter.

Tzu-Ning Huang is an editorial consultant. She loves to listen and tell stories, enjoys conversations and encounters with others, and appreciates time alone. She also loves to use photography and writing to explore the world.





