



# Goodbye Big Cats

大貓族再見廟東

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**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michael Kearney

After a strange burst of light, all the cats and dogs in the city become larger than humans—and they can talk. Suddenly, sirens, voices, and the howls of animals flood the already bustling Miaotong Night Market. The protagonist's fate, along with that of the giant cats, will be decided before dawn.



**Author AAA-Bao (Lin Ying Ying)**

Since 2021, Lin Ying Ying has been dedicated to comic creation, consistently producing at least one volume per year. She has been nominated for the Golden Comic Awards and has received multiple grants from the Ministry of Culture and Taichung City Government. Her works have been featured on CCC's Manhua Channel. Currently, all her books are independently published and promoted through social media, as well as participation in annual events like the Manga Festival and Taichung City's Taiwan Creation Festival. Recently, Lin Ying Ying has collaborated with Deep Design for the Taiwan Comic Exhibition at Pier-2 Art Center in Kaohsiung, and will hold a solo exhibition in Taichung this September.

# Through a Cat's Eyes: How *Goodbye Big Cats* Reveals Human Fear

by Wen-Chien Hsu

In her work, artist AAA-Bao (Ying Ying Lin) constructs a grand and immersive worldview. Through the fictional city of “DaMiao,” he narrates the story of animals suddenly mutating to enormous sizes and gaining human intelligence and language abilities. How does humanity respond to this massive transformation? *Goodbye Big Cats* is just one entry in this expansive series, which also includes other impressive, independently published comics such as *Where is the Big Dog?*, *How Much Time is Left?*, *Beyond the Stone Bridge of the Big Cats*, and *Between the Islands*.

*Goodbye Big Cats* can be considered the beginning of this universe. The story opens with a brief news flash,

introducing the background of sudden animal mutations and the ensuing human panic, while also subtly foreshadowing characters from the sequel *Between Islands* 1. The protagonist, a black house cat named Oululu, lives a comfortable indoor life with his loving “human mother.” One day, he suddenly grows in size, and with the capture squad on its way, his human mother hurriedly urges him to escape. Thus, a thrilling journey of survival begins.

Throughout Oululu’s escape, we observe the complex responses of humans toward their mutated pets. Some display cold cruelty toward former companions, while others remain loyal and devoted to them. Through Oululu’s eyes, we witness

how fear of change and the unknown can drive humans to acts of violence, such as a pet owner mercilessly killing a dog unwilling to leave on its own. Yet, even in the face of such cruelty, the love animals have for humans remains steadfast.

“If one day, cats were bigger than humans and could speak, would humans still love us?” Oululu and his companion, MaoTai, pose this question early in the story, and each encounters starkly different treatment in response. This question inevitably brings to mind Kafka’s *The Metamorphosis*: When humans or pets lose their original purpose and function, whether in material or emotional terms, will they still be accepted by the world? If our existence no longer meets others’ expectations, will we still be loved? This is an age-old question that even humans cannot help but ask themselves.

In addition to its unique storyline, the artist demonstrates a masterful art style, blending digital drawing with hand-painted watercolor. The colors are rich and vibrant yet softened by gentle lines, while the scenes combine urban realism

with cultural motifs, creating a magical realism unique to the artist. The dialogue is natural and flows smoothly, subtly pushing the story forward and giving depth to each character, showcasing a high level of craftsmanship in both narrative and illustration.

What makes this work truly exceptional is that it is an independently published comic. It avoids excessive commercialization and resists becoming overly self-indulgent, instead reflecting everyday life with an honest portrayal of societal contradictions on complex issues. Whether readers are drawn to cute animals or interested in social issues, this work has something for everyone. I invite you to enter the world of the Great Cats and journey with Oululu as he challenges us to reconsider the world we think we know.

*Wen-Chien Hsu possesses a free-spirited soul. She has worked at a LGBTQ+ organizations, the 113 Domestic Violence Hotline, and now works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0.*





