



Four Clear Days In Early Summer

四個初夏的藍天

Author: Chen Xiao-Ya **Illustrator:** Chen Xiao-Ya **Publisher:** Halftone Press

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BFT2.0 Translator: Christina Ng

This book, a decade in the making, focuses on reconciliation and coexistence among different communities. Through poignant supernatural tales, it bridges conversations and memories across time, reflecting the deep historical imprints left on Taiwan over the past century.

It explores the history of Huwei Military Dependents' Village across three distinct periods: the Qing Dynasty, the Japanese colonial era, and the Kuomintang government. Among its stories is that of Air Force officer Tsung-Liang, who followed the Kuomintang government in its retreat to Taiwan after World War II. Settling in a military base left behind by Japan, Tsung-Liang, already haunted by the traumas of war, never expected to face even more terrifying supernatural events—ones that would take him on an extraordinary journey.



Chen Xiao-Ya

Chen Xiao-Ya is a Taiwanese manga artist known for crafting stories that focus deeply on human emotions. After graduating from university, she founded The Bridge Studio, aiming to connect compelling narratives with readers. Her work has earned her accolades such as First Prize in the 2016 New Taipei City Manga Competition and an Honorable Mention in the 2012 Golden Comic Awards for New Talent. Some of her notable works include *Four Clear Days In Early Summer*, *KANO*, *Black Nightshade on the Wind*, *Xiao Wu Learns Martial Arts*, and *The Secret of Chakra*. Her work has also been featured in publications like CCC Creative Collection, Future Youth, and Future Children. *Four Clear Days In Early Summer* has been selected for the 2022 Books from Taiwan and the Recommended Books Section at the 2023 Angoulême International Comics Festival Taiwan Pavilion.

Documenting Place, Understanding History

by Lee Yi-Ni

Translated by Joshua Dyer

Home: A Common Ground for People of Different Backgrounds and Viewpoints

“Home” intertwines multiple historical viewpoints, using Taiwan as a common setting to explore the lives of an American pilot, Japanese soldiers, ROC personnel, and a Taiwanese woman and her son. These characters’ stories are based on historical figures with added elements from local folk-tales.

The American pilot character is inspired by Charles V. August, a WWII POW at the Huwei military airfield. On January 4, 1945, August was shot down while strafing the airfield, and his plane was later studied by the Japanese. The Taiwanese woman in Japanese clothing is based on local comfort women employed by the Japanese soldiers. The chambers they used are said to remain in the barracks, though this is likely legend. Meanwhile, the ROC airman character

is based on soldiers responsible for maintaining equipment at Huwei airfield post-surrender, including the story of an ROC soldier who had to camp in a Japanese-built water tower due to overcrowding.

Final Entry: The Life of a Japanese Pilot Stationed in Taiwan

Fuji Takahashi, a character modeled on Japanese naval airmen stationed at Huwei, is inspired by veterans’ memories in *A Squadron of Joy and Pain: Youth at 17*. It highlights the pilots’ love for Taiwan, local snacks, tropical fruits, and the joy of eating rice and meat. Huwei airfield was used for basic flight training, with many recruits’ first flying experiences there. Pilots recalled the thrill of breaking through the clouds, with one exclaiming, “Is this what Heaven is like?”

Class Dismissed: Interactions Between Local Taiwanese and Recently Arrived Mainlanders

The chapter titled “Class Dismissed” examines post-1949 ROC migration, focusing on a military family housing settlement near the airfield. The children attended the Huwei Air Force Dependents School, later renamed Zheng-Min Elementary. The story depicts the local children being fined for speaking Taiwanese, reflecting the 1960s National Language Movement, which deeply impacted local memories.

Handkerchief in Hand: Marital Relations Through Rootless Times

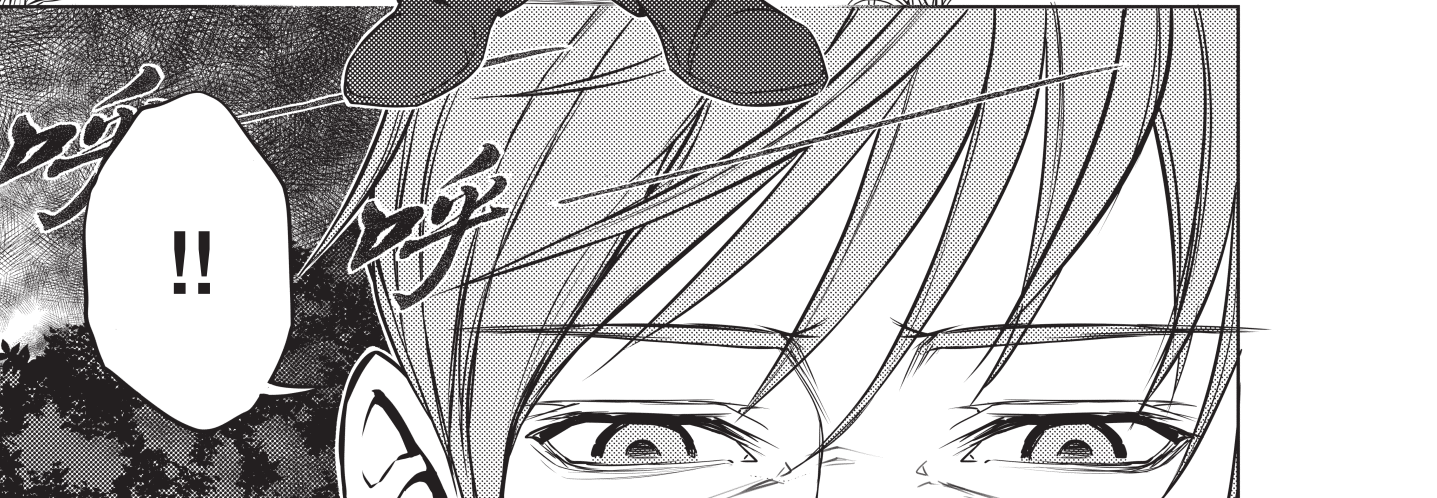
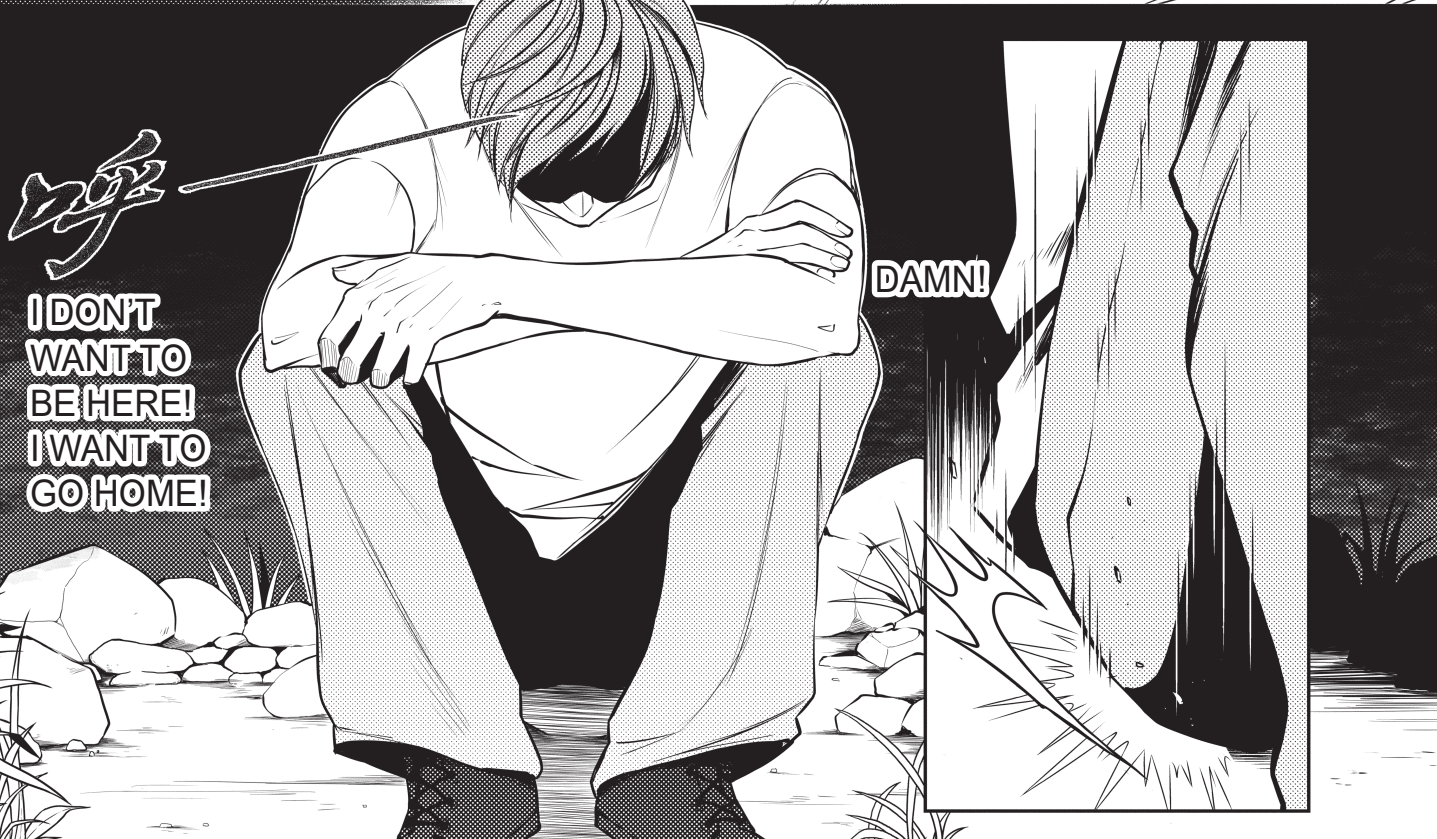
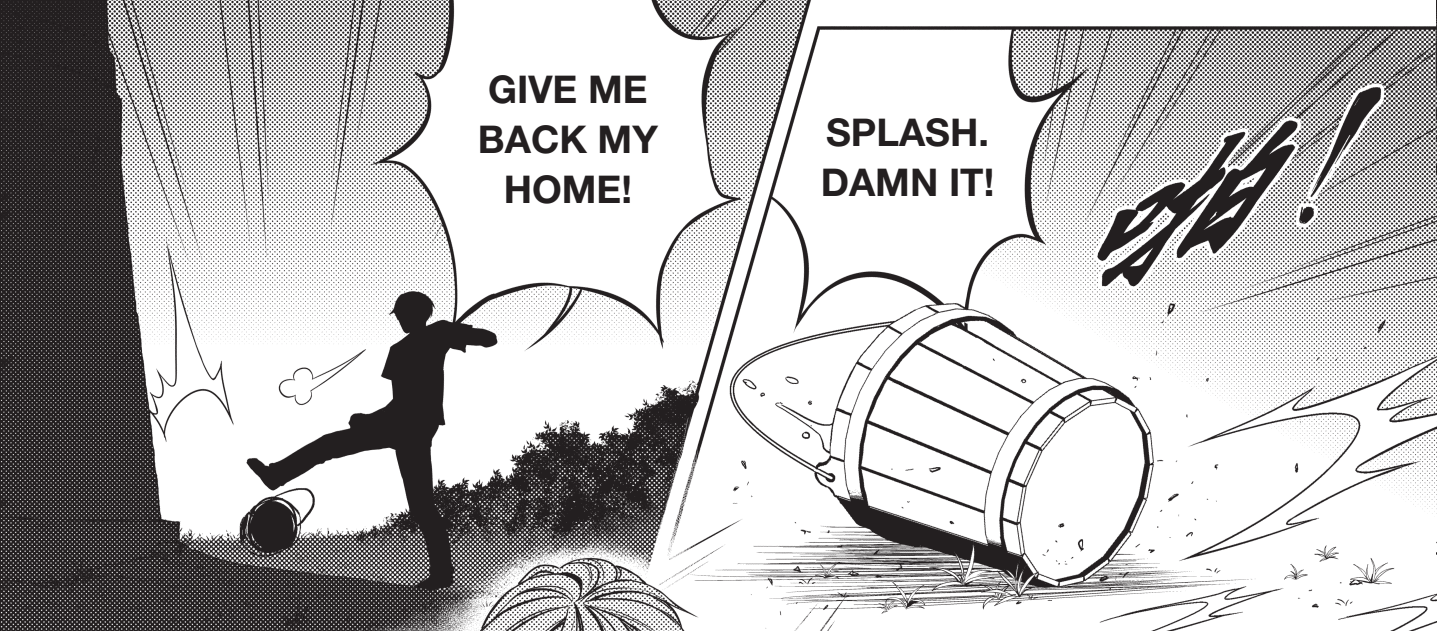
The chapter titled “Handkerchief in Hand” explores the anxieties of military families during Taiwan’s ROC retreat. Air force and naval personnel had advantages in securing resources for family relocation, while many army personnel came alone. The story reflects the struggles of these families, uprooted like colonies of duckweed, moving repeatedly due to changing circumstances. This sense of rootlessness and broken promises became part of Taiwan’s military settlement history.

Summary: Documenting Place, Understanding History, and Wishing for a Peaceful Future

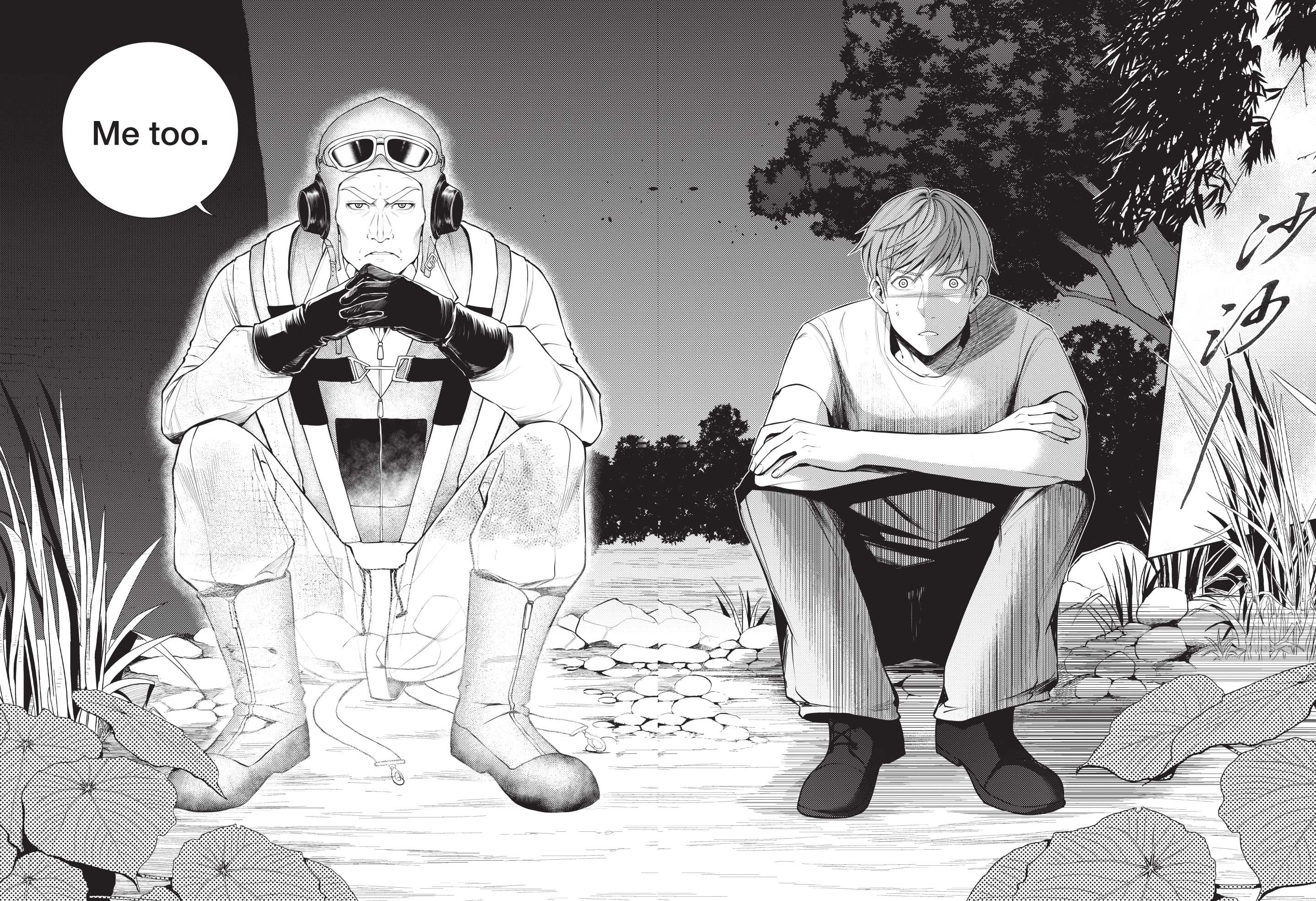
These four stories explore the ethnic tensions and conflicts of Jianguo First Village, using the land as a common denominator to show how each character’s story is part of WWII history. Despite their differing worldviews, mutual understanding ultimately resolves their suffering. *Four Clear Days in Early Summer* not only preserves place memory but also wishes for a deeper understanding of history and a peaceful future free from war.

This essay has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.

Lee Yi-Ni, a native of Huwei, Yunlin, and a graduate of the Department of Cultural Heritage Conservation at National Yunlin University of Science and Technology, is dedicated to serving as a bridge between creators and history. She advocates for preserving cultural memory, promoting cultural heritage education, and studying local history. Lee has been actively involved in the cultural preservation of Jianguo Military Dependents’ Village in Huwei.



Me too.



Wait a minute!!

DON'T
COME NEAR
ME! I'M NOT
WHO YOU
ARE LOOKING
FOR!

THE GHOST
OPENED HIS
MOUTH TO TALK?
TO TALK TO ME?

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHO, WHO'S
HE? HE'S
WHITE?! IS HE
AN ALLY OR
AN ENEMY?

I'M USED TO
SEEING GHOSTS
ALRIGHT. BUT
HE'S YELLING AT
ME! OH MY GOD.

I'M DONE
FOR. WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

Hi!



HE'S SO
LOUD.
DID HE SEE
A GHOST OR
SOMETHING?

IS
TSUNG-
LIANG
HAVING A
NIGHTMARE
AGAIN?