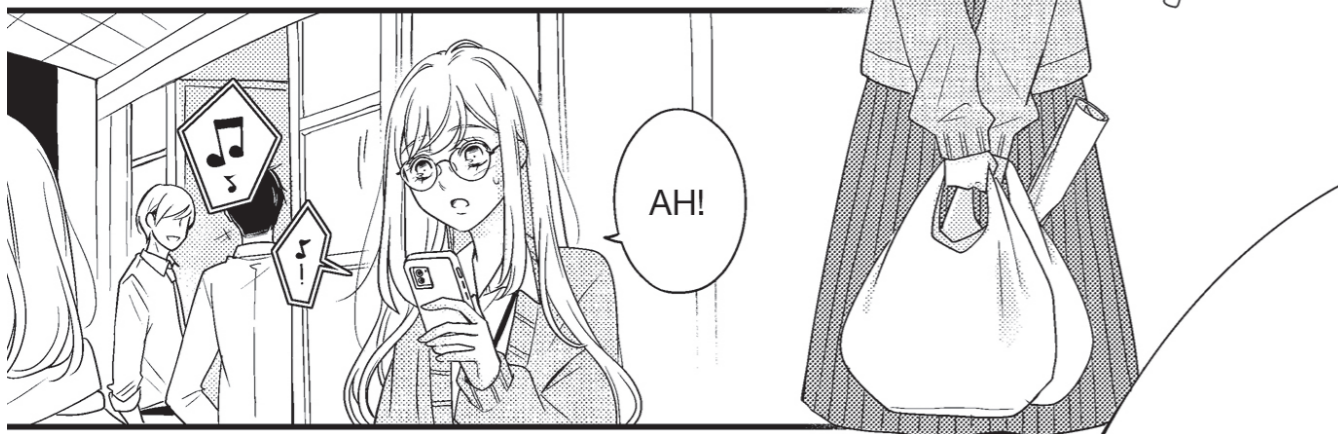
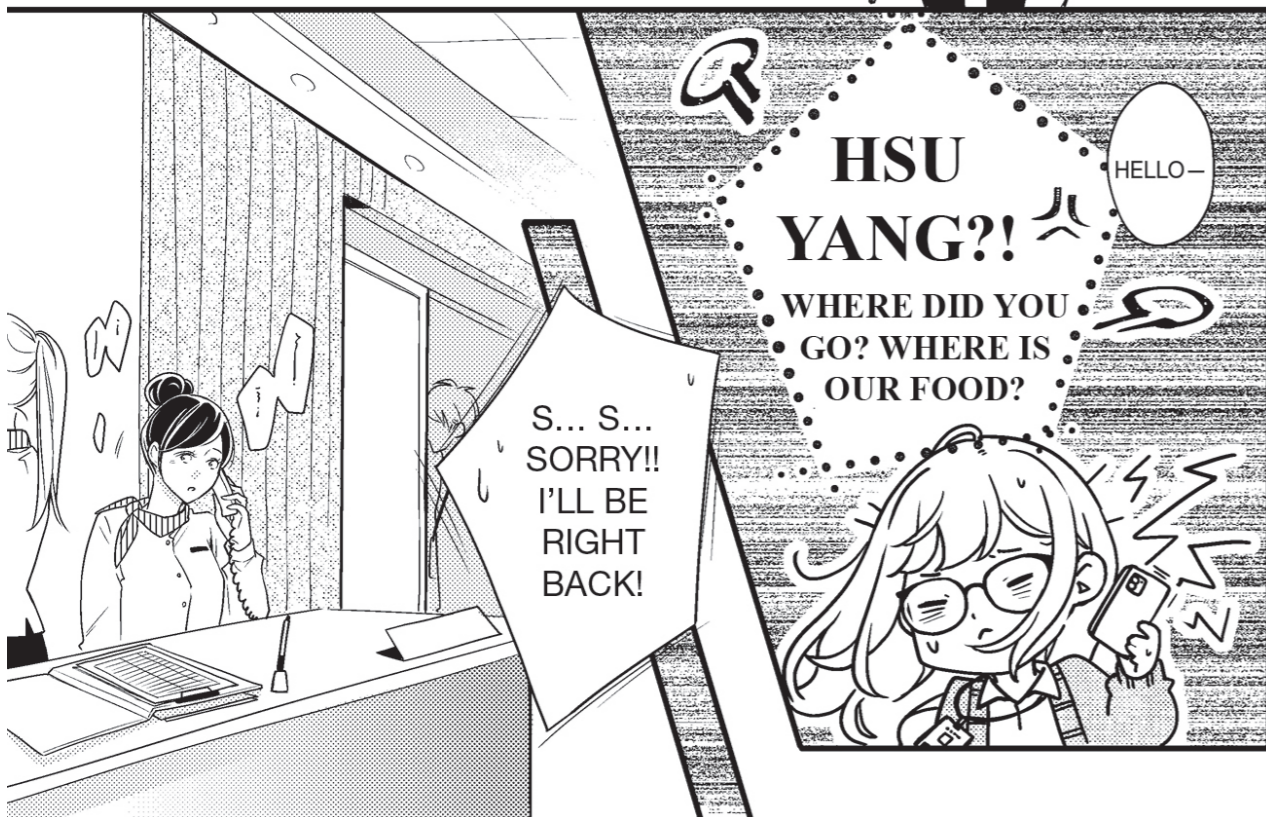


JIAN SHEN-RAN IS A STUDENT INTERN IN THE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING PROGRAM.

HE'S QUITE BRIGHT AND FRIENDLY...  
...BUT WE'RE NOT THAT CLOSE.



AH!



S... S...  
SORRY!!  
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK!

**HSU YANG?!**  
WHERE DID YOU GO? WHERE IS OUR FOOD?

HELLO—



YOU...  
HAVE  
ANOTHER  
JOB?

I'M JIAN  
SHEN-  
RAN!

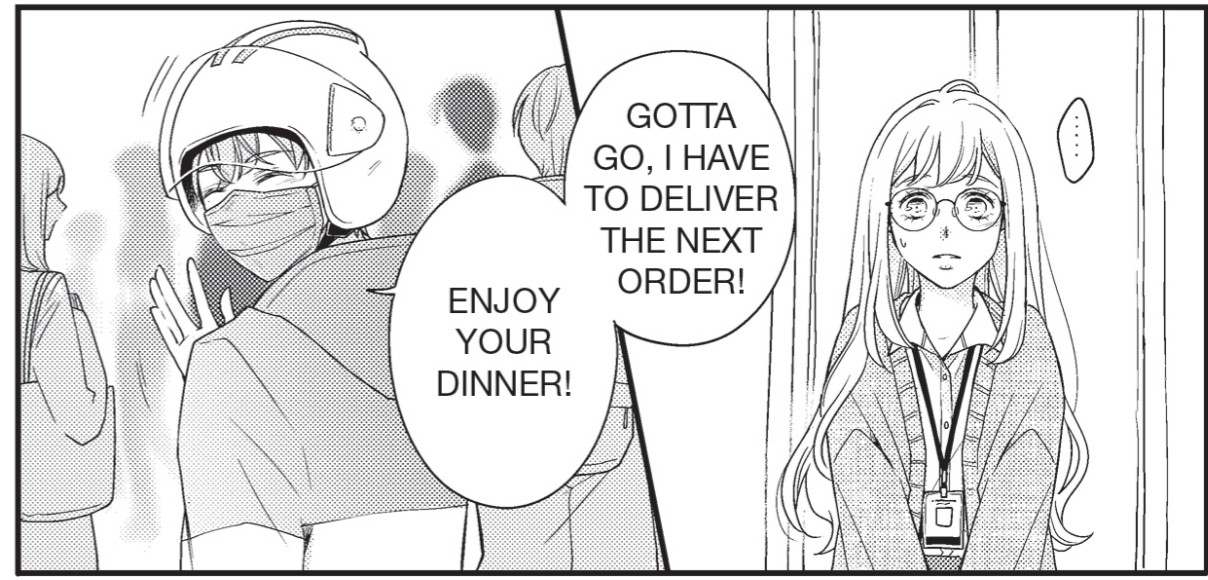
YOU DO  
DELIVERIES  
AFTER  
WORK...?



YEAH,  
I WON'T  
SAY NO  
TO SOME  
EXTRA  
CASH!

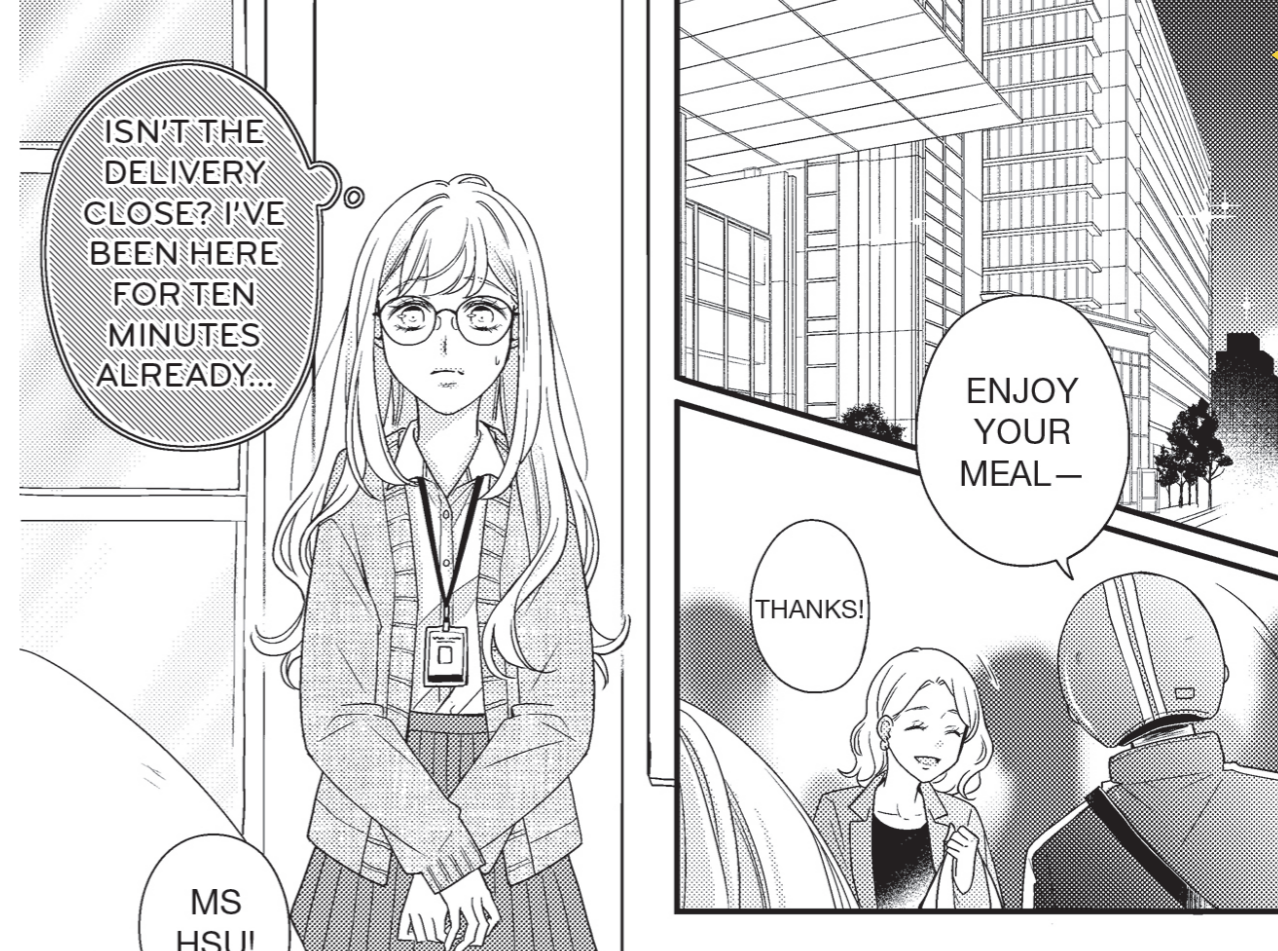
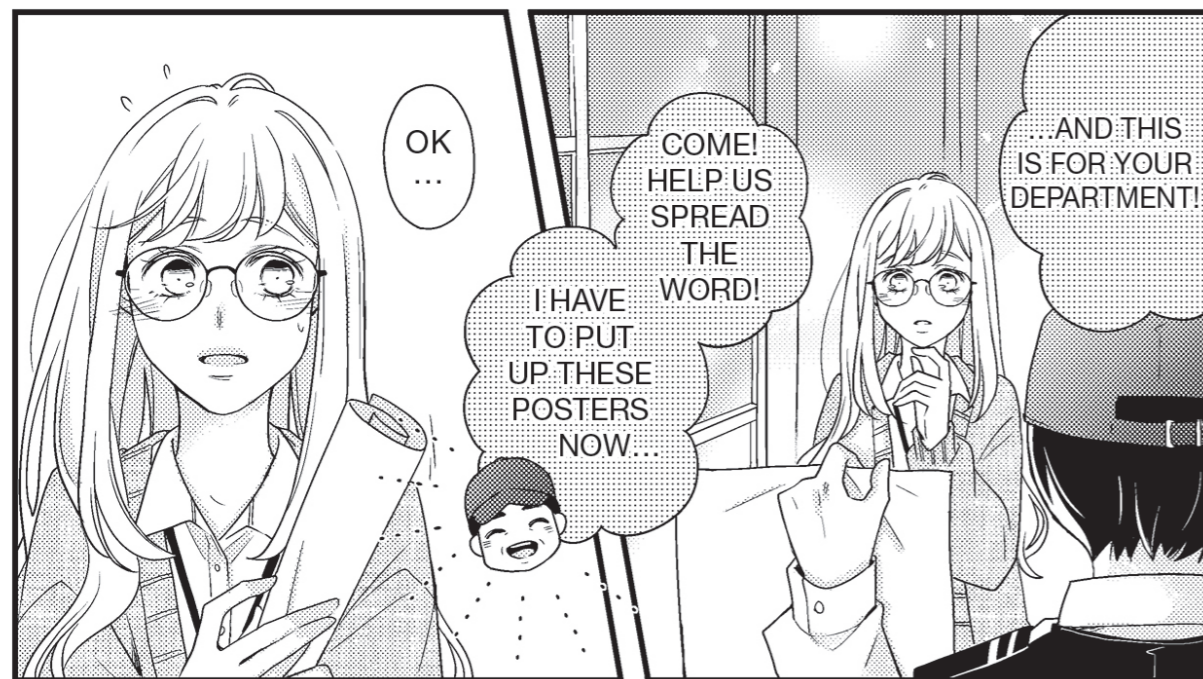
YOU GUYS  
ARE STAYING  
LATE AGAIN?  
IT'S ALREADY  
7PM!

WORKING  
HARD



GOTTA  
GO, I HAVE  
TO DELIVER  
THE NEXT  
ORDER!

ENJOY  
YOUR  
DINNER!



# The New Meaning of “Gift”

by Una Tsao

*The Gift* is a heartwarming and thought-provoking work. Through the story of 29-year-old Hsu Yang, author Ebi vividly portrays the growth of a modern individual navigating the pressures and inner conflicts of contemporary urban life.

Hsu Yang is a soft-hearted and introverted individual who is often overlooked at work, even experiencing bullying. Her relationship with her family is distant, and she struggles to express herself, leaving many words unspoken. In this way, Hsu Yang reflects the experiences of many living in fast-paced urban environments, where introverted individuals often feel silenced, even within their own families. Ebi captures this dynamic with precision, crafting relatable

characters and moments that resonate deeply with readers, evoking a strong sense of empathy.

The story begins with Hsu Yang feeling the pressure of her parents’ demands to return home for the New Year. Desperate to save face, she hires the company’s infamous money-driven intern, Jian Shenran, to pose as her boyfriend. As the narrative unfolds, readers discover the hidden layers behind Jian Shenran’s “money-loving” facade. Outgoing, confident, and assertive, Jian Shenran appears to be Hsu Yang’s complete opposite. Yet, as the story progresses, it becomes clear that his strength is born out of necessity.

Beneath Jian Shenran’s confident

exterior lies a tender, fragile side shaped by a heart-wrenching past—one that connects deeply with Hsu Yang’s own struggles. Their interactions reveal the complexity of strength and vulnerability, offering a poignant exploration of personal growth, connection, and self-discovery.

At the start, the relationship between the two protagonists is based purely on a monetary arrangement. However, it is this very arrangement that allows them to form a unique and meaningful bond. As their journey home progresses, they gradually understand each other’s hardships. Through their companionship, they begin to rediscover the happiness they had long lost. The

true meaning of the book’s title, *The Gift*, is revealed: a gift is not merely about meeting someone rare among countless others, but about the connection with that person that helps you rediscover and fully embrace the parts of yourself that are worth cherishing and loving.

*Una Tsao is from Pingtung, Taiwan. She is a cross-media craft artist and currently the founder of the jewelry brand Semicolon Weaving. She won the Jury Award in the 17th Dawu Mountain Literary Award, and she enjoys drawing and writing.*



# The Gift

禮物

**Author:** Ebi **Illustrator:** Ebi **Publisher:** Ever Glory Publishing

**Date:** 01/2024

**Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

176 pages | 11.2 x 17cm

**Volume:** 1 (On going)

**Award:** 112th Annual Ministry of Culture Comic Creation and Publishing Promotion Award

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Evian Pan and Michelle Kuo

Meet Hsu Yang: A 29-year-old wallflower, often overlooked at work and rarely one to make bold moves.

Her most daring act to date? Breaking up with her cheating boyfriend.

Now, with the holiday season around the corner, her parents—blissfully unaware of the breakup—insist she bring her boyfriend home to celebrate. Panicked and out of ideas, Hsu Yang enlists the help of the company's infamous part-timer, Jian Shenran, a charming opportunist with a love for money, to pose as her boyfriend.

But what begins as a desperate holiday plan spirals into something far more complicated. Back in her hometown, Hsu Yang faces unexpected events and confrontations that shake her already fragile confidence, forcing her to question her future, her worth, and what she truly wants in life.



## Ebi

Ebi specializes in romantic comedy, starting her career with short four-panel comics that received acclaim. She has since transitioned to creating shojo manga with a focus on healing themes. Ebi's manga often features iconic Taiwanese objects, adding a local touch to her work. She has also collaborated with LINE Official to create a series of original stickers and themes. Ebi received the 112th Annual Ministry of Culture Comic Creation and Publishing Promotion Award. Volume 1 of this series has been published, with plans to release a total of 3 volumes.