



The Sun Between the Fingers

指縫中的太陽

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BFT2.0 Translator: Jacqueline Leung

A person with magical powers offers a girl three chances to return to the past and reconnect with a childhood friend she cannot forget. However, she must sacrifice what is most precious to a comic artist: her energy for imagination and dreaming.

Award-winning comic artist Cory Ko transforms pressing social issues surrounding violence against boys into a magical journey that attempts to transcend pain. As she puts it, "I hope my comics can also give others the strength to support themselves."

In particular, this book takes a close look at the sexual abuse of boys, a topic that has been overlooked and trivialized in the media landscape. For the characters in this book, it is selfless empathy, companionship, and love that can heal scars and evoke miracles.



Cory Ko

With a clear and transparent art style, Cory Ko is a manga artist renowned for telling stories about human nature. Since debuting, Ko has won six Golden Comic Awards and received recognition twice at the Japan International Manga Awards. Notable works include *Love is Everywhere* (3 volumes), *Make a Wish, Dashi!* (5 volumes), *Why Not* (volumes 1-4 ongoing), *Cliniclowns: Last Goodbye* (1 volume), and *Seeing the Wings of God* (1 volume). In 2022, Cory Ko received the Ministry of Culture Comic Creation and Publishing Marketing Award.

Seeing His Trauma: The Urgent Message of This Book

by Zhang Shuhui

In my experience with social work, I have encountered many traumatized children and adolescents. Some victims move toward recovery, some continue to cry in the dark, and some are so afraid that they do not even dare to cry.

Yet the most silent among them are boys who have been sexually assaulted. Due to the abuse of power, societal cultural contexts, gender stereotypes, stigmatization of sexual assault, and victim-blaming rhetoric, these boys often remain voiceless in their cries for justice.

When Fisfisa Media approached me, I envisioned their helpless eyes. If only the pain could cease at this moment, if the wounded could find hope, and if reading could prevent the next tragedy, then this concern would bring light to their lives. I am grateful to the Fisfisa team for their commitment to using comics—a medium familiar to teenagers—to illustrate the possibility of change. If we could all show a bit more concern, perhaps these

children would experience a little less heartache.

When it comes to sexual assault, many people imagine female victims. However, sexual assault is not limited to women; the number of male child victims is gradually rising. Some people believe that boys and men should be able to resist—that they should be brave and strong. There's a harmful notion that boys are not as severely affected as girls, or even that male victims might change their sexual orientation or become future perpetrators. These are all misconceptions that perpetuate prejudice against male survivors.

Sexual assault often manifests as a form of power and control. For boys, it can result in a lifelong social murder, gradually eroding their hearts. It's not that they are unwilling to resist; rather, they often feel unable or afraid to do so, constrained by gender roles and societal expectations that stifle their emotional expression. They

perceive this harm as an indelible stain on both their bodies and souls. Speaking out becomes daunting, as they fear ridicule for not conforming to traditional notions of masculinity and worry about losing family and friendships.

These fears, combined with feelings of shame, helplessness, and self-loathing, lead them to believe they are unworthy of love. They isolate themselves and become alienated from society, becoming at risk of depression, loss of confidence, and diminished interpersonal relationships.

The Sun Between the Fingers begins with regret, confronts hidden pain with compassion, and courageously embraces every opportunity for companionship and healing. This book serves as a reminder to friends and family of sexual assault survivors to cultivate trust and patience. While expressions of sadness may evolve, the trauma endures, and the recovery process demands time. Healing is not a single event; it requires listening, empathy,

care, and acceptance through meaningful companionship. When a child's trauma is acknowledged and their scars are tended to with support, hope can flourish.

In reality, life does not allow for a do-over. Self-harm cannot solve the problem. We must encourage children to learn from the protagonist of the book and bravely seek resources—whether it's the time manager in the comic, a real-life teacher, or a social worker from the county or city's family protection center. Survivors of sexual assault, along with their friends, family, and professionals, must work together to

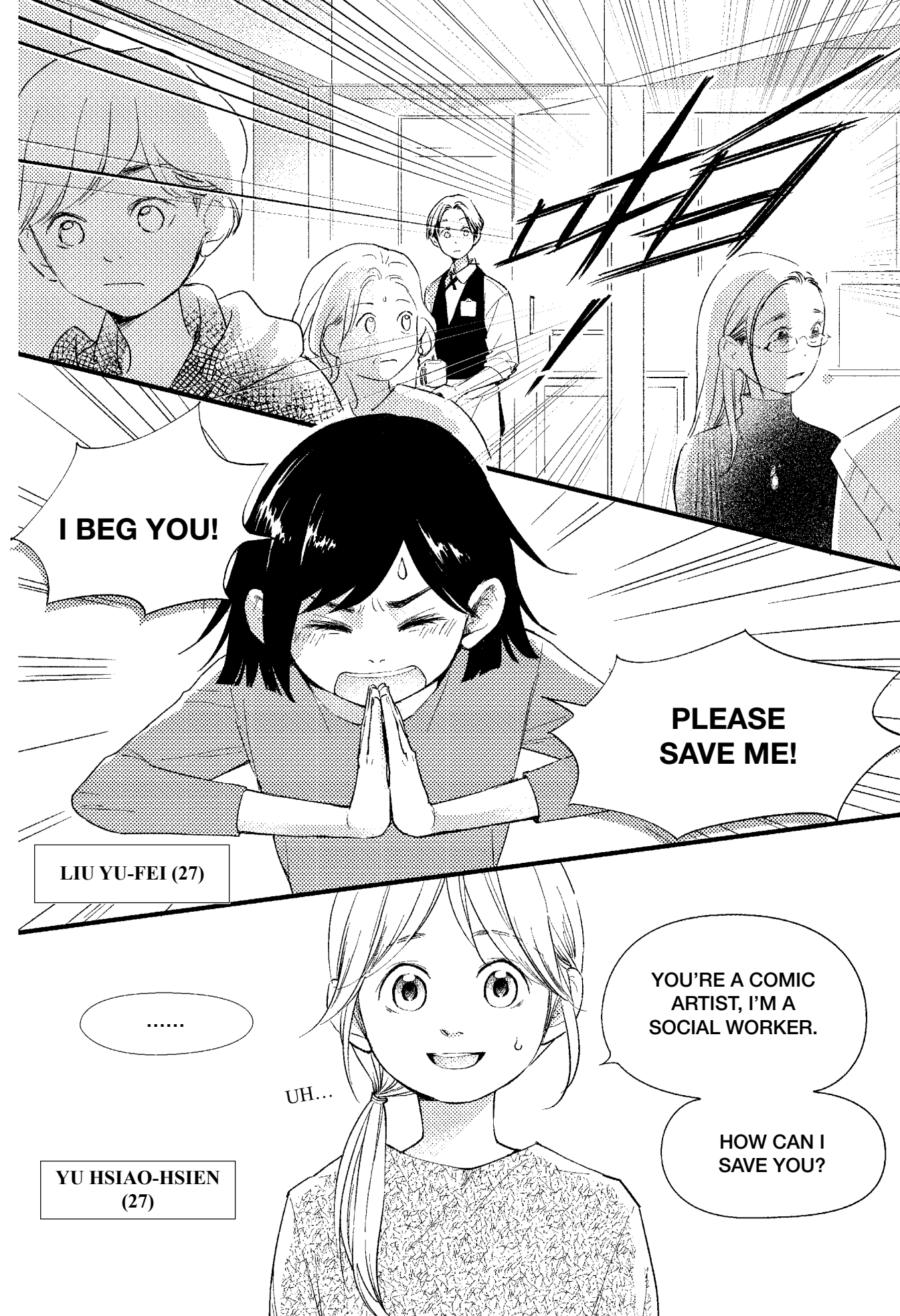
cultivate the courage to face themselves, help heal the wounded heart, reduce fear and helplessness, and provide the strength to face challenges.

Zhang Shuhui is chairperson of the Taiwan Association of Care Management.

This excerpt from the afterword has been condensed for this booklet.

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CHAPTER 1
THE GENTLE BOY WHO LOVES TO SMILE





— TWO WEEKS AGO —

