



# Dong Hua Chun Barbershop

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220 pages | 14.8 x 21cm **Volume:** 3 (END)

**Rights Sold:** French, German

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Jenna Tang and Michelle Kuo

*Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* invites readers into a poignant journey where lives collide, memories resurface, and wounds find the chance to heal. In this small-town barbershop, unchanged for thirty years, three seemingly unrelated individuals cross paths. Through the intertwining of their “memories,” they confront past pains, regrets, and attachments, ultimately discovering reconciliation and hope.

The barbershop itself is a time capsule. From the vintage hairdryers and barber chairs to the nostalgic decorations and timeless music, it holds the stories and memories of the townspeople, a silent witness to the passage of life.

Ruan Guang-Min masterfully weaves together stories rich in Taiwanese cultural flavor while tapping into universal themes of family, love, and belonging. This series stands out as one of his most significant works, exploring the essence of human connection and family relationships through the lens of a quaint, unassuming barbershop.

Already gaining international recognition, the French rights have been acquired by Kana, the publisher behind beloved Japanese manga such as *Slam Dunk* and *Naruto*. With its powerful storytelling, *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* is a story that promises to stay with readers long after the final page.



Author **Ruan Guang-Min**

Ruan Guang-Min is a Taiwanese mid-career manga artist, known for a fresh style, humor, and a strong sense of humanity. The artist excels at depicting Taiwanese everyday life, with a focus on delicate family, parent-child, and human emotional entanglements. In addition to manga creation, recent years have seen involvement in literary and stage adaptations. The artist's works have received recognition from major manga awards, including the 8th Golden Comic Awards for both “Youth Manga Award” and “Manga of the Year,” the 11th Golden Comic Awards for “Cross-Domain Application Award” and “Manga of the Year,” and the 14th Japan International Manga Award Silver Prize organized by the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Notable works include the *The Corner Store* series, the *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* series, the *Heavenly Restaurant* series, the *Police and Thieves: Light and Dark* series, *Railway Sonata*, *The Seasoning of Happiness*, *The Illusionis on the Skywalk*, and *A Lever Scale*. Rights have been sold in multiple languages, including Japanese, French, German, Italian, Turkish, and Arabic. Both *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* and *The Corner Store* have also been adapted into television series.

# The Seasonal Changes of *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop*: A Note from Author

by Ruan Guang-Min  
Translated by Joshua Dyer

The bus slowed as it turned the corner into the alleyway, giving me more than a few seconds to notice the store front of the *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop*. Standing in a row of three-story townhomes with commercial storefronts on the first floor, it caught my eye not only for its name, but also for the way the sea foam green lintel and frame contrasted with its dreary metal roll up door.

It all began with just a few scattered plot points, but as the images in my mind accumulated day by day, the outline of a story took shape. I can still remember the excitement that overtook me when, still seated on the bus, I imagined that the name of the shop was created by combining elements of each family member's name. From then on, I

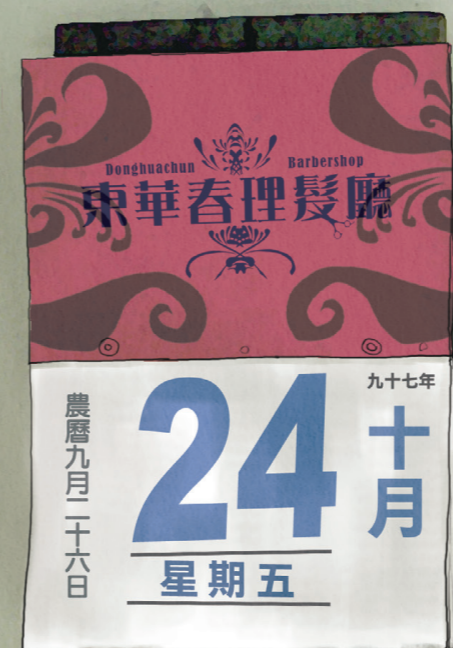
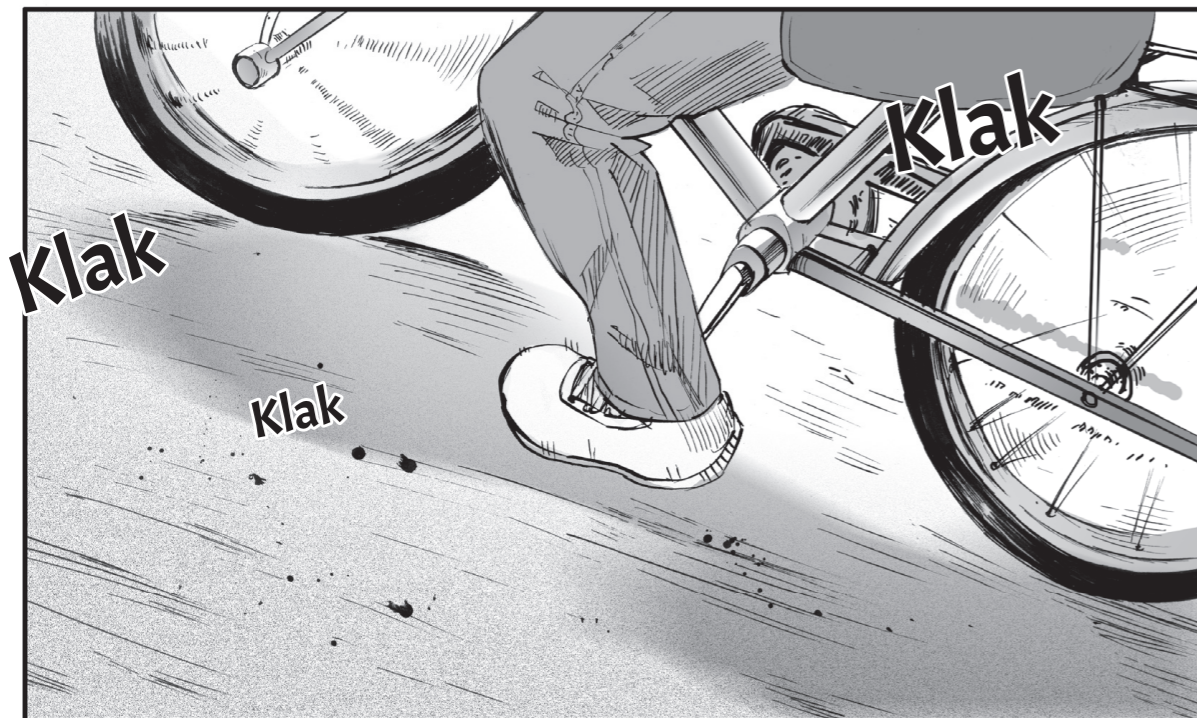
thought about that family's story day in and day out. Three years later, that story became the *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* graphic novel. In the end, this made-up family exerted a remarkable influence over the way I told stories. With the printed graphic novel in hand, I went back to the barbershop to thank the proprietor, but the roll up door was pulled shut. I lifted the mail flap to peak inside, but the barbershop chairs and the wooden towel rack were no longer there. Two doors down there was a hair salon. The owner said the family now lived up on the hillside, and only occasionally came into town to do shopping and visit with old neighbors. I wrote a small thank-you note inside the cover and left the book with the salon owner.

This graphic novel has given me many wonderful gifts. I was cheeky enough to suggest to my editor that he invite renowned director Wu Nien-jen to write a blurb to promote it, Wu made a call of his own, and suddenly a television adaptation was in the works. After further midwifing from A-Mo, I ended up drawing the graphic novel adaptation of Wu's stage play, *Human Conditions 4*. Precisely because I so deeply cherish all of the gifts of *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop*, I've avoided working on the many follow-up stories I have in mind. Far too often readers are disappointed by a much-anticipated sequel, and I would be disappointed as well. Nonetheless, I've felt this unresolved tension in my heart ever since the book's publication in 2010, much like the knot of tension that formed

in Hua's heart on his tenth birthday, when his father left him without so much as a goodbye.

The television adaptation was released in 2012, giving the characters the warmth of flesh and blood, and giving readers new experiences not found in the book, owing to the addition of new characters and storylines. Common sense might dictate that I strike while the iron was hot by re-issuing the original graphic novel and following up with a sequel. But common sense issued opposing counsel: to let the fields lie fallow and allow something else to grow there.

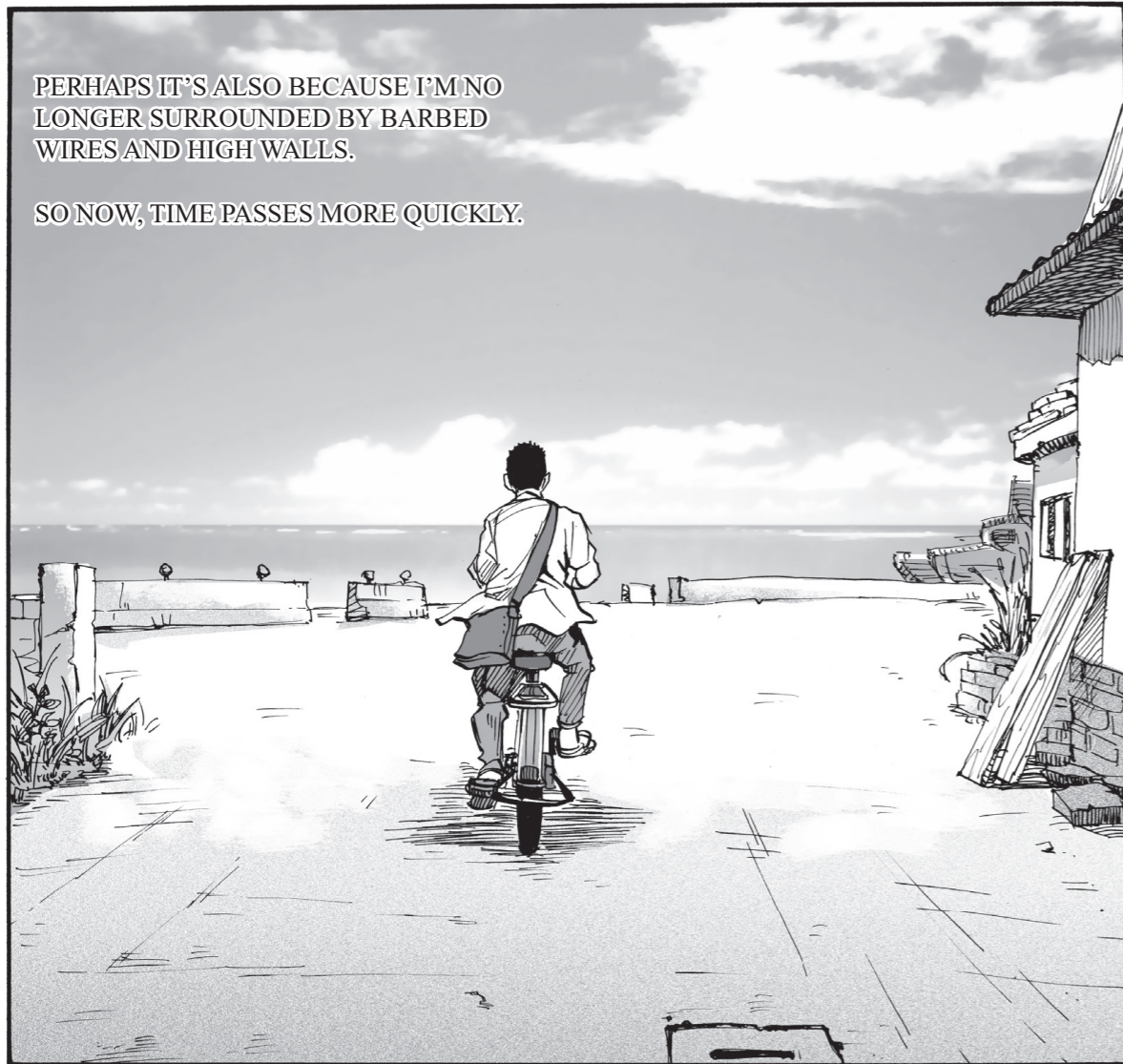
*This essay has been edited for the purposes of this booklet.*



Chapter. 1  
The Paper Slip

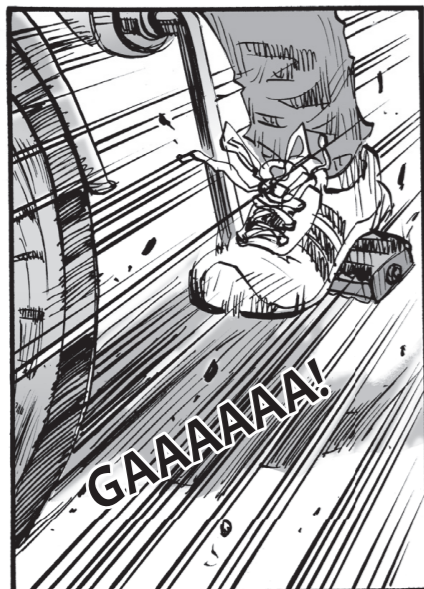
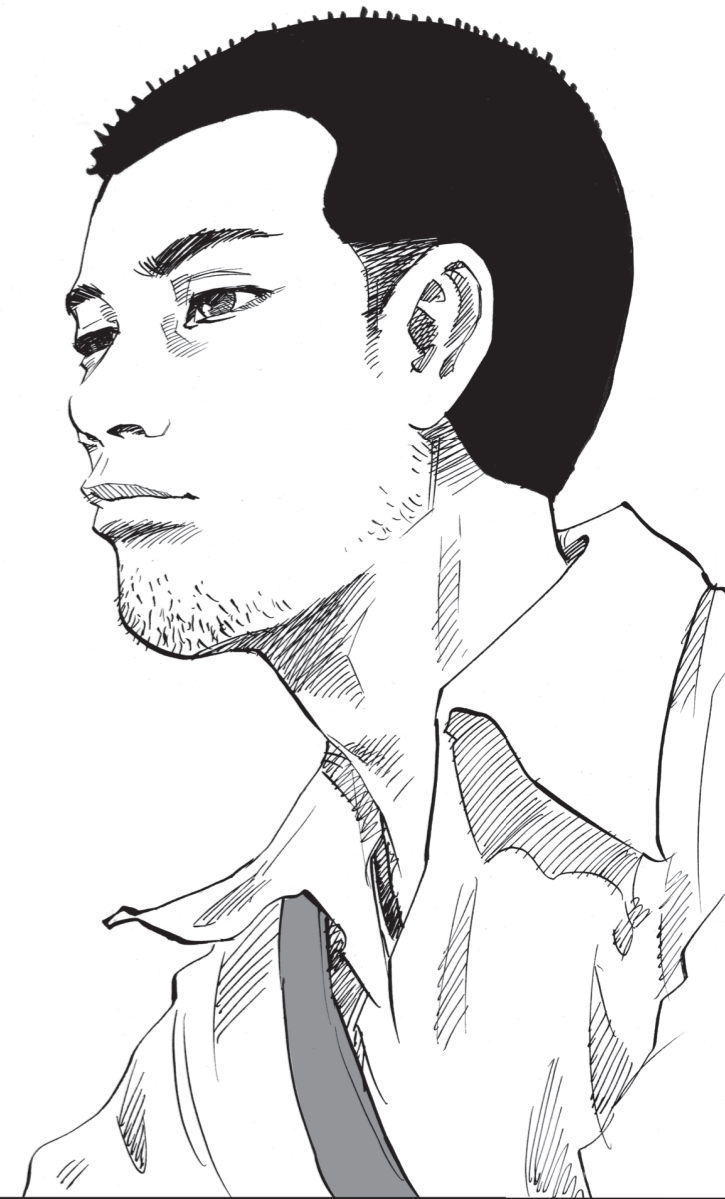
PERHAPS IT'S ALSO BECAUSE I'M NO LONGER SURROUNDED BY BARBED WIRES AND HIGH WALLS.

SO NOW, TIME PASSES MORE QUICKLY.

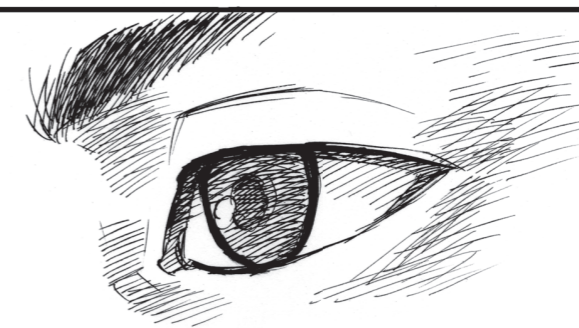
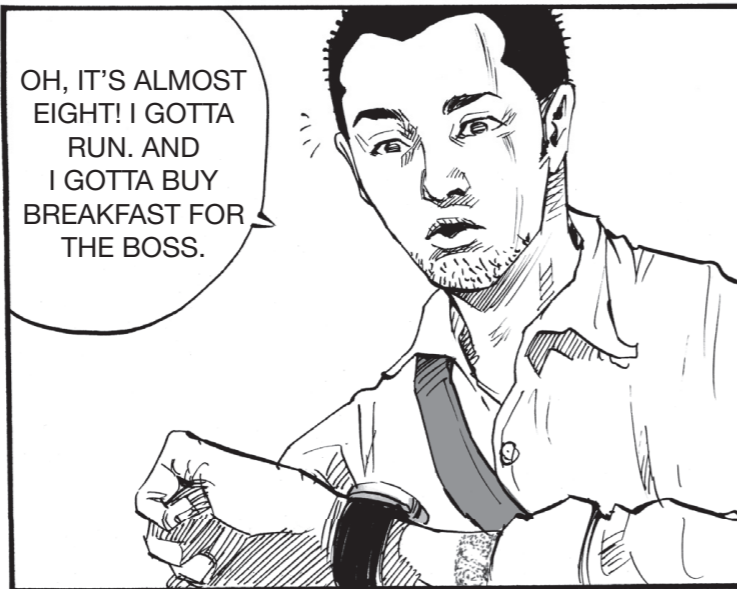


I'M STILL NOT VERY USED TO HAVING FREEDOM LIKE THIS.

PERHAPS THAT'S BECAUSE I FEEL SUCH A SENSE OF DISBELIEF AT THIS FREEDOM.



OH, IT'S ALMOST EIGHT! I GOTTA RUN. AND I GOTTA BUY BREAKFAST FOR THE BOSS.



TIME REALLY FLIES! IT'S ALREADY BEEN THREE MONTHS.

BEFORE I REALIZED IT, TIME HAD JUMPED FROM ONE SEASON TO THE NEXT.

