

Tale Of Hysteria

癡病童話

Author: Kan **Illustrator:** Kan **Publisher:** Kiwi Cultural and Creative

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152 pages | 15 x 21 cm **Volume:** 1

BFT2.0 Translator: Kevin Wang and Lin King

Tale Of Hysteria explores love, sexuality, and gender identity. Fascinating and subversive, it delves into the concept of menstruation while offering feminist visions for freedom and liberation. Its striking visual style and inventive storytelling illustrate how the power of femininity clashes with patriarchal norms.



Kan

Kan is a freelance illustrator and aspiring comic artist who delights in vibrant colors and seeks to capture the whispers of everyday life and the secrets of dreams through her art. She has contributed to various projects, including character design for the board game *Whisper*, illustrations for a unique edition of Chinese language textbooks, cover art for the novel *Golden Demon Murder Magic*, and the main visual for the Forestry Bureau's Forest Conservation Month. Kan has also self-published illustrated collections and comic anthologies such as *Daydream Logic* and *Arcade Labyrinth*.

Fascinating and Subversive, *Hysteria* Prompts Readers to Rethink Menstruation

by Rex How

The first page of *Tale Of Hysteria* opens with a definition:

hysteria [noun]: hysteria; uncontrolled emotional outburst; madness.

For nearly two thousand years, this condition was believed to be unique to women, attributed to a disturbance of the uterus within the body. This definition sets the stage for a story centered around women and the uterus.

The narrative begins with a boy named Limes waking up in the morning, his body oozing green slime. Several small animals around him chatter noisily, reminding him of what's happening again. The shapes of these creatures suggest that Limes's name is not just a label but also closely tied to them.

Limes has lived in a place governed by a witch since birth—an expansive house built by the witch using sprawling moonlight as its foundation. His daily

tasks primarily involve cleaning various jars that contain the witches' uteruses. Whenever a new witch makes a contract with the moon god, she undergoes a ritual to remove her uterus and store it in a container. By absorbing the moon's essence, the uterus becomes the source of the witch's power, but the ebb and flow of gravitational tides require regular maintenance.

Limes is responsible for these maintenance tasks, but his troubles don't end there; he faces even bigger issues. He is trapped in a dark world that is paradoxically the only place he belongs. Although his room has a window through which he can see the bright world inhabited by humans, that place remains an unattainable dream.

One day, he discovers a girl collapsed on the ground—an angel who has fallen from the sky.

Kan, the creator of *Hysteria*, is known for her love of vibrant colors and her commitment to using drawing and ink to depict the wonders hidden in everyday life and the whispered secrets of dreams. This work is one of Kan's most iconic creations. By creating imagery of the uterus, menstruation, and various woman-centric symbols, the story encourages readers to reflect on the concept of feminine energy—an energy that transcends gender. The character design, panel composition, artistic style, and use of color are all uniquely distinctive.

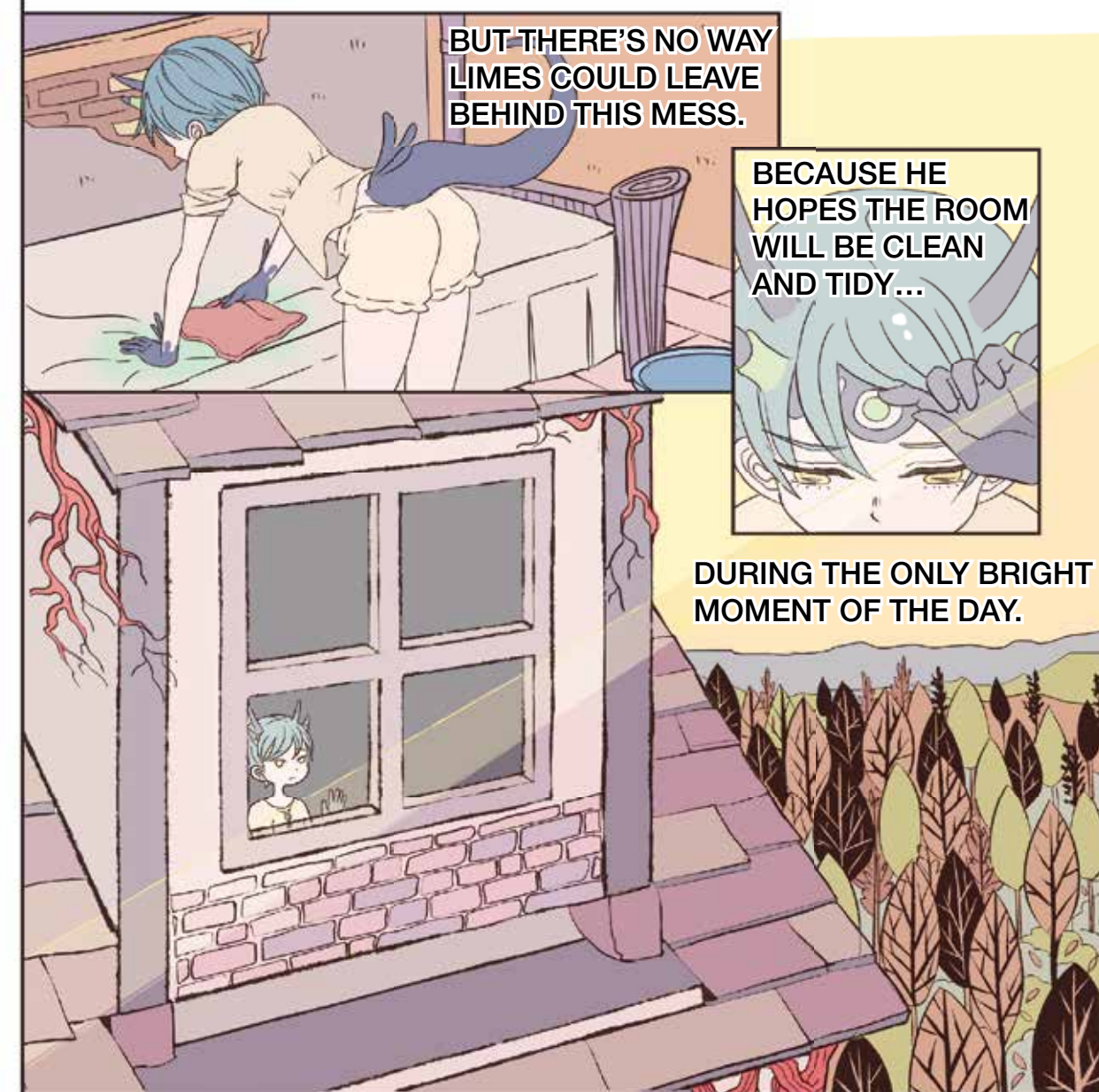
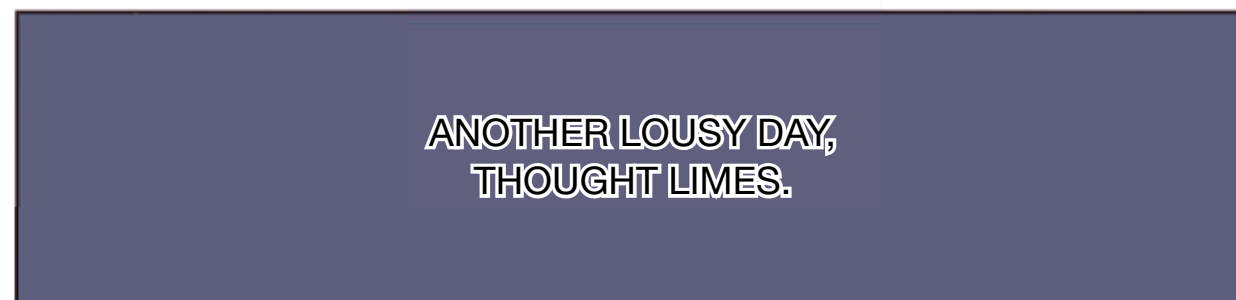
Kan reimagines the complex

relationship between the human body and the world with a sympathetic and compassionate perspective.

Comic critic Wang Pei-Di offers insightful commentary on this book, writing, "This fairy-tale style comic is both fascinating and subversive. It reimagines the long-stigmatized concept of menstrual blood, illustrating the bondage and liberation of the female body through a metaphorical narrative and bold, straightforward illustrations."

Rex How is the managing director of Books from Taiwan.

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THIS WAY, THE DAZZLING
WORLD IN THE DISTANCE
WOULDN'T SEEM SO OUT
OF REACH.

AT LEAST, HE
COULD DREAM
OF BEING PART
OF THAT TOWN.



STILL, HE WANTS TO
CLING TO THIS **IMPOSSIBLE!** **LITTLE HOPE.**

BECAUSE OUTSIDE
THIS ROOM, HIS
WORLD IS FILLED

**ONLY WITH
DARKNESS.**

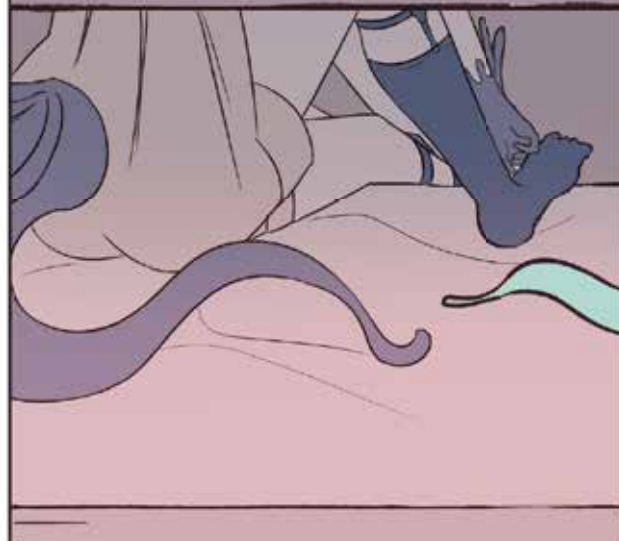


... EVEN THOUGH HE ISN'T TODAY,

AFTER ALL, TODAY IS
ALREADY TAINTED!

AND WON'T BE
TOMORROW,

AND THE NEXT
DAY WILL BE
NO DIFFERENT.





LIMES HAS NO
OTHER CHOICE.

HE MUST WORK FOR THE MASTER
OF THIS DARKNESS, YEAR-ROUND,
WITHOUT REST OR COMPLAINT;

BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE
HE WAS BORN —

AND IT'S THE ONLY PLACE
WHERE HE BELONGS.