



Three Unmarried Women

三個不結婚的女人

Author: Ri Shia Zao **Illustrator:** Ri Shia Zao **Publisher:** Gamania Digital Entertainment

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Adaptations: Musical, Film **BFT2.0 Translator:** Michelle Kuo

The latest work by popular manga artist Ri Shia Zao, serialized on Instagram and MOJOIN since 2022, challenges the outdated notion that singlehood equates to unhappiness. Upon its release, it immediately sparked enthusiastic discussions across social media.

The story follows three sisters, each with vastly different personalities, living under the same roof: the eldest, a pragmatic and charismatic police officer; the second, a sharp-tongued beauty YouTuber and influencer; and the youngest, a drama student and BL fangirl.

This episodic comedy explores their lives as they juggle careers, hobbies, and family, with romance and marriage notably absent. Featuring razor-sharp dialogue and biting critiques of traditional views on marriage and family, the manga strikes a perfect balance between humor and emotional depth.

It vividly portrays the single life, where love for work, money, hobbies, family, and friends takes center stage—capturing a realistic perspective without being overly sentimental.



Author Ri Shia Zao

Ri Shia Zao is a talented manga artist known for crafting relatable life stories through the lens of modern women. Her serialized works on online platforms, such as *Passing but Not*, *Splendid Era*, and *Three Unmarried Women*, have sparked significant discussions across the web. Her published works include *Paper Moon* (2022), *Splendid Era* (2021), *Like the Passing but Not* (2019), *Pili Theatre – The Substitute* (2017), and *The Prime Numbers Under the Roof – NO MORE* (2014–2015). She was nominated for the Best New Talent Award at the 6th Golden Comic Awards in 2014.

Great! Times Have Really Progressed: Reading *Three Unmarried Women*

by Xiaole Wu
(originally published on Okapi)

Ri Shia Zao's *Three Unmarried Women* has been a fascinating read for me. The intriguing theme, clean lines, and subtle color tones made it impossible to put down. The three Wang sisters are introduced beautifully: the eldest, Sirong Wang, is a practical grassroots police officer; the second, Sitong Wang, is a straightforward, sharp-tongued beauty YouTuber; and the youngest, Siyu Wang, is a drama student and a big fan of BL (boys' love). No matter how picky a reader is, they'll surely find a character to connect with among these distinct personalities. I couldn't help but wonder: How many versions of myself can I live out in the future?

One thing that stood out to me was how "time" plays a significant role in this work. It's not just one protagonist who isn't interested in marriage—all three of them share this disinterest. What's interesting is that Ri Shia Zao doesn't spend much time explaining their reasons for not wanting to marry. Instead, she presents the vibrant, active lives of the three sisters, occasionally revealing their witty and logical critiques of love and marriage. After reading some chapters, I started to grasp the core idea: Why does society assume everyone wants love, marriage, and children? Especially women—many Taiwanese girls have probably heard the phrase, "Be careful, or

you won't get married." From a young age, girls are often told they can't live solely for themselves—they must live for someone else. If they dare to respond with, "I don't care if I don't marry," the older generation might explode in anger, retorting, "How could you not want to get married?"

It's a bit like eating hotpot. An adult might silently add taro to your bowl, and when you complain, they dismiss it with, "How could anyone not like taro? You just haven't had good taro." In life, there's always some form of egocentrism—whether it's about avoiding taro or skipping cilantro.

Our ideas about life are often cautious and narrow. Some find comfort in this, but for many, it only brings anxiety. In this context, I see Ri Shia Zao's delicate and gentle approach. The three sisters' journey of not marrying is portrayed as calm and joyful. In traditional works where female protagonists aren't interested in love or marriage, they often find themselves in situations where they must repeatedly explain "why," to avoid being seen as strange. These reasons often fall into clichés—bad luck with relationships or witnessing parental discord. Ri Shia Zao doesn't follow this route. The three sisters are confident in understanding themselves and marriage, and naturally, they declare their unwillingness. Even with a harmonious family, they don't feel the need to live the same life.

The theme of "not marrying," once seen as a "crisis," gradually transforms into a "preference." Instead of dwelling

on why they choose not to marry, the story shifts its focus to the question, "So, what's next?" Through the lives of the three sisters, we get a behind-the-scenes look at the daily grind of a police officer, the quirks of a YouTuber, and the everyday moments of a drama student. Even the supporting characters are richly developed, each bringing their own little universes to life. The humor is nonstop—like popping candy—and will keep you laughing throughout. A word of caution: avoid reading this comic while eating noodles; you might laugh so hard that noodles come out of your nose!

Miranda from *Sex and the City* once said, "How did it happen that four such smart women have nothing to talk about but boyfriends?" Midway through this comic, I felt a bit sentimental—how wonderful it is that times have really changed. Women can gather and talk about much more than boyfriends. Their lives are full of stories to share with each other and the readers.

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

Wu Xiaole, an author based in Taichung, enjoys parrots and is a fan of soul games. She is known for her works such as On Children, The Privileged, and Everything She Fails to Achieve. In 2023, she won First Prize for "Most Popular Author of the Year" at the Readmoo Annual Chinese Language Awards for Everything She Fails to Achieve.

1

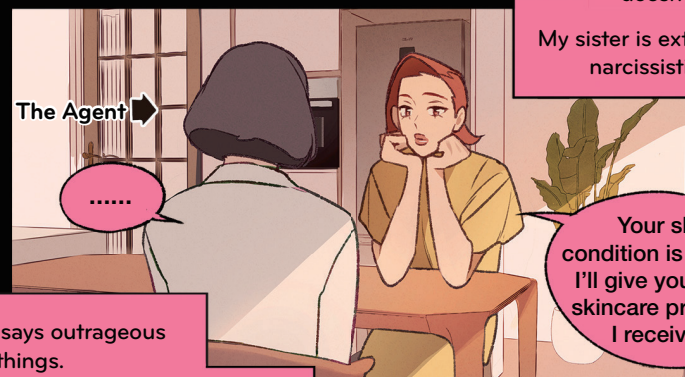


Ever since she was young, my second sister has been pursued endlessly by men. But she doesn't fall in love. She only has casual sex and no regular partners.



No matter how much you warn them, they still end up with broken hearts.

To be honest, I think it's a good thing she doesn't fall in love.

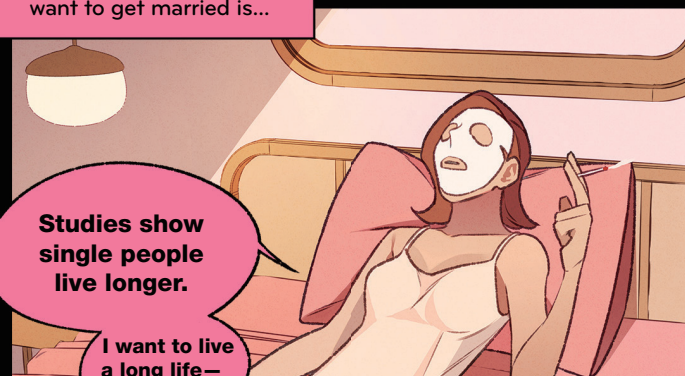


My sister is extremely narcissistic.

Your skin condition is terrible. I'll give you some skincare products I received.

She often says outrageous things.

The reason she doesn't want to get married is...



Studies show single people live longer.

I want to live a long life—100 years.

PURELY FOR HEALTH REASONS

2



I used to have a male colleague who was nice to me.

His girlfriend got angry and told me to keep my distance.



I don't understand why she went to you.

She should have dealt with her boyfriend instead.

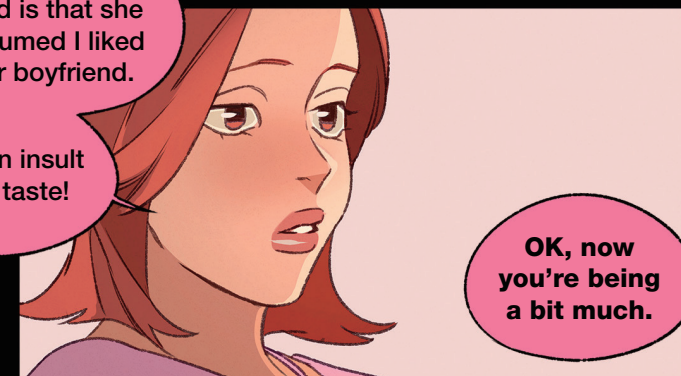


I wasn't hurt for the reason you think.

Besides, Sitong, you'd never take someone who's already taken.

What makes me mad is that she assumed I liked her boyfriend.

What an insult to my taste!



OK, now you're being a bit much.

I'M NOT HURT—I'M INSULTED!

3



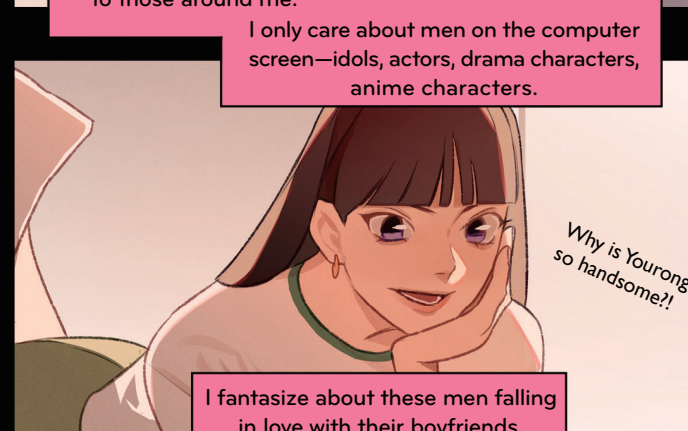
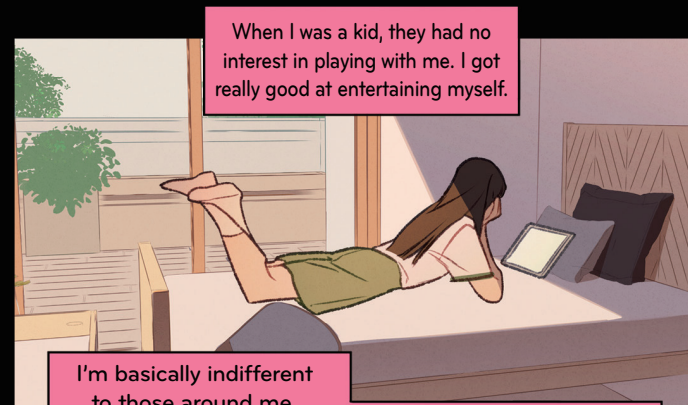
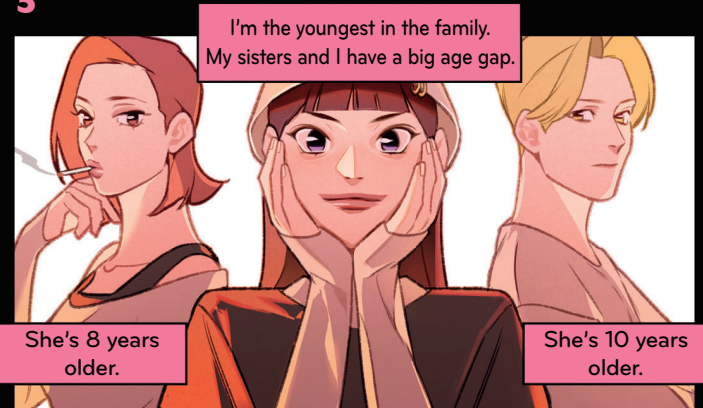
HER PERSONALITY IS BASIC AND PRAGMATIC

4



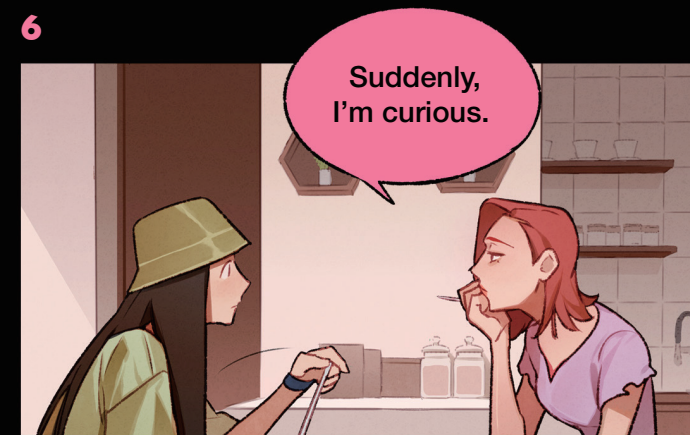
IT'S NOT JUST HARD-EARNED MONEY

5



I CAN STAY SINGLE, BUT THE CHARACTERS I LOVE BETTER GET TOGETHER AND STAY TOGETHER!

6



SEE NOTHING, HEAR NOTHING