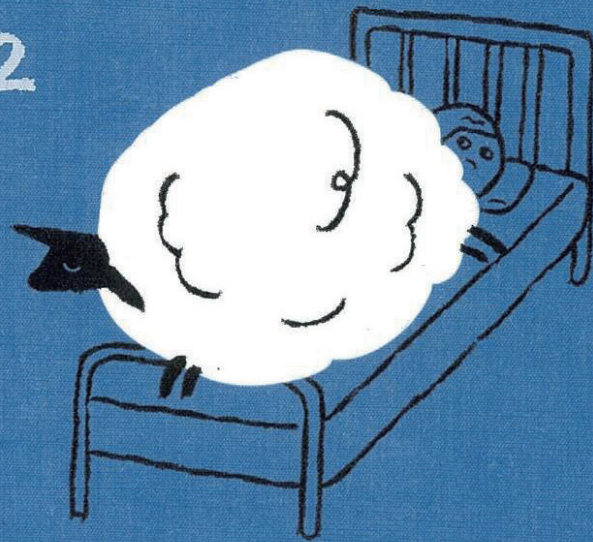


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## 數羊之書

**Author:** Spring Wang **Illustrator:** Spring Wang **Publisher:** Yuan-Liou Publishing

**Date:** 09/2023

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

128 pages | 13 x 19 cm **Volume:** 1

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Ian Rowen

This inventive, surreal book explores the familiar Western concept of “counting sheep.” This story invites readers into a magical midnight theater brimming with whimsical imagery and humor. It offers an enchanting experience where creativity flourishes and a dreamlike atmosphere permeates every page.



Author **Spring Wang**

A creator of illustrations and text, Spring Wang enjoys experiencing different people, events, and things during her travels. She also loves to wander through the worlds within books through reading. She has won the Best Children’s Book of the Year Award from Good Books three times, and received the “Outstanding Illustrator of the Year” award for *Let’s Play Hide and Seek*, which was also shortlisted for the International Book Exhibition Grand Prize. Additionally, *Unexpected* was selected for the Bologna Ragazzi Award’s Amazing 100 Picture Books.

# A Book of Counting Sheep

# The Book of Counting Sheep: A Journey from Sleeplessness to Dreamland

by Tzu Ning Huang

Counting sheep is a commonly suggested method for dealing with insomnia, often thought to be effective because the English words “sheep” and “sleep” sound similar. The repetitive act of counting is believed to help induce relaxation. Yet, in Spring Wang’s *The Book of Counting Sheep*, sheep and numbers take center stage as performers, transforming this otherwise dull concept into a vibrant and engaging experience. From one to one hundred, from rhythmic breaths to tonal patterns, and from simple yet colorful illustrations to the tactile feel of the book itself, the entire journey is rich, joyful, and thoroughly immersive.

The act of reading follows the rhythm of falling asleep—your eyes gradually shift from wakefulness to the pull of dreams, finally arriving at the gates of deep sleep. Through the combination of words and images, finishing the book

feels like the curtain falling on a carnival: excitement fades, and sleepiness gently begins to flow toward the reader’s eyes.

Drawing from her extensive travel experiences, Spring Wang has cultivated a unique perspective on the world, which she seamlessly incorporates into her work. She has a remarkable talent for transforming everyday moments into imaginative visuals. After the birth of her son, she was introduced to the world of children’s literature and picture books, sparking her interest in creating works of her own. Over time, she developed into a versatile creator, excelling in both writing and illustration. Despite not being formally trained in the field, her playful, experimental style often surprises and delights readers.

Spring Wang, who skillfully navigates prose, illustration, and graphic design, also seems to have mastered

the interdimensional path from paper to sleep. The velvety texture of the book’s surface evokes the sensation of lying in bed, your skin brushing against soft sheets or the fuzzy fur of an animal. Within the story, alongside the bleating sheep, a real cat accompanies the insomniac. As the guide for the sheep-counting journey, the cat weaves through the hundred sheep, meowing as though guiding the reader between dream and reality. As the numbers progress, the text grows brief and rhythmic, almost like a lullaby, playfully complementing the illustrations.

The reading experience of *The Book of Counting Sheep* can be deeply personal and open to interpretation. Some readers might find that their sleepless energy fuels an imaginary party with the sheep they’re counting. But when the fiftieth sheep appears, joined by a dancing, high-fiving cat, it might dawn on you that sleepiness

has already taken hold—the gates of deep sleep are quietly opening.

Much like sleep, a vital part of our daily lives, this book invites repeated exploration, revealing new details and moments to savor with each reading. Whether you struggle with insomnia or not, *The Book of Counting Sheep* is a joyous celebration on paper—an enchanting experience you’ll want to revisit time and time again.

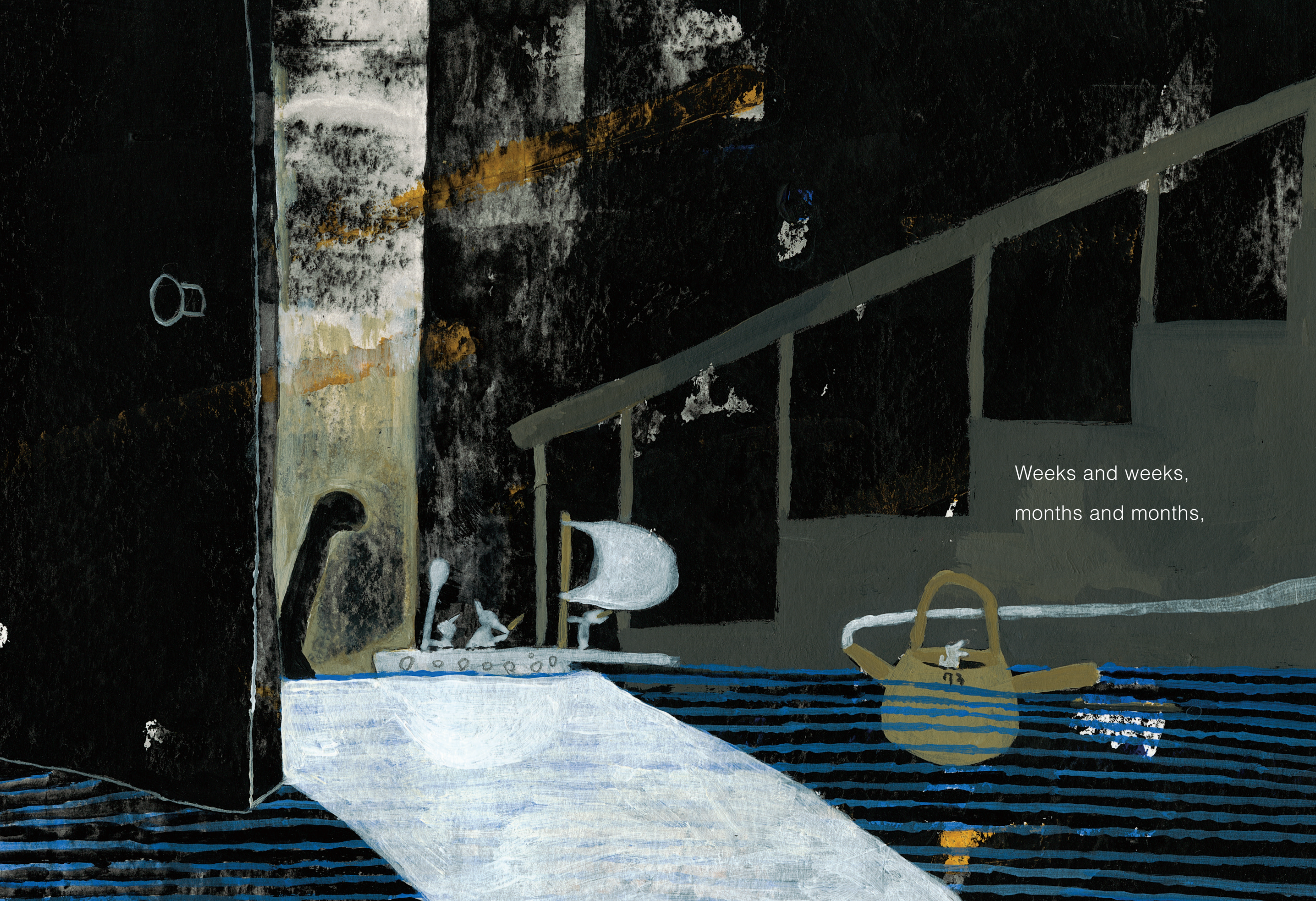
*Tzu Ning Huang is an editorial consultant. She loves to listen and tell stories, enjoys conversations and encounters with others, and appreciates time alone. She also likes to use photography and writing to explore the world. Now she works as an editor of Books from Taiwan 2.0.*



**73** Sheep wait for the wind.  
Minutes and hours pass.







Weeks and weeks,  
months and months,



Cats and cats?!



Little sheep in the boat  
call for help.