



The Seed and the Wind

種子 and 風

Author: Ma Li, Shi-yi Yang **Illustrator:** Yu-hsuan Wang **Publisher:** Locus Publishing

Date: 01/2024 **Rights contact:** bft.children.comics@moc.gov.tw

50 pages | 21 x 29.7 cm **Volume:** 1

Award: The 48th Golden Tripod Award, Book Illustration Awards
The BRAW Amazing Bookshelf 2024

When a seed is carried by the wind, will the love and freedom she gains become her confusion and burden? How should she embrace this love? Through the journey of a seed and the wind, this book delves into profound themes of love, freedom, and identity. Blending the distinct styles of an illustrator, an artist, and a screenwriter, it crafts a unique and immersive visual experience.



Author **Ma Li**

Ma Li is a seasoned writer and editor. His novels include *Abi Sword: Prequel Volume 1* and *Volume 2*. He has written the screenplay for Zheng Wen's comic book *Abi Sword*. Both the comic and the novel have had their film and TV rights sold. His picture book screenplays include *Cotton Snow* with illustrations by Ping Fan. *The Seed and the Wind* illustrated by Yu-hsuan Wang and co-written with Shi-yi Yang.



Author **Shi-yi Yang**

A paper-cutting artist, photographer, and director, Shi-yi Yang has received over a hundred awards domestically and internationally. His short film *Father's Finger* was nominated for Best Creative Short Film at the Golden Horse Awards. His paper-cutting works often break traditional boundaries, extending from paper to diverse media. He was the designated artist for the opening of Apple's 101 flagship store, creating the 75-meter paper-cutting curtain *Come Sit and Chat*. Yang has also collaborated with international brands such as Balvenie, Johnson & Johnson, and Zeiss, and produced large-scale installation artworks like *The Blessing of the Big Fish* in Anping and *Tree of Life* at the Jiangjun Fan-shaped Salt Fields.



Illustrator **Yu-hsuan Wang**

A Taiwanese freelance illustrator who previously worked in graphic design in Paris and Shanghai, Yu-hsuan Wang enjoys describing the ecology, evolution, and behavior of nature from an observer's perspective. Using illustration to record, she reassembles and reshapes organisms into new images, with stories of nature and the land often becoming the center and theme of her work.

A Majestic Adventure of Colors and a Delicate Journey of Love: Reading *The Seed and the Wind*

by Tzu Ning Huang

What is the true mission of a seed? How does an individual, loved by another, gather the courage to leave the one they love and discover themselves? Is growth a struggle to break through solid soil, or a journey carried by the open, endless winds? *The Seed and the Wind* tells the story of love, being loved, and the quest for self-discovery.

A samara, a seed that is meant to take root on the earth, meets a wind that sweeps through the forest in spring. The wind falls in love with the winged seed, carrying it through the skies, hoping to show it distant, unimaginable lands and the power of freedom. The seed, however, never imagined that it had a place beyond the earth. Struggling and falling into danger, the wind once again

lifts it into the air, helping it explore the vast world. As the seed begins to feel the wind's affection, it still yearns to land and see what it could grow into.

The wind, in its love for the seed, chooses to let go and brings rain and nourishment from all around to sustain it. Through the process of rooting deeply, the seed faces the fear of the unknown darkness and countless obstacles. Yet, it also discovers the wondrous colors beneath the earth, just as vibrant as those in the sky. Eventually, the seed grows into a tall, leafy tree, surrounded by thriving life, and finally sees the form it was destined to become. Ultimately, the tall tree meets the wind once more at its highest branches, and the journey of love and discovery brings them together in

unity.

The structure of *The Seed and the Wind* is simple, almost parable-like. Yet through the pairing of words and illustrations, the reader experiences the outward and inward emotional energies of the story. The seed, originally rooted in the land, finds itself connected with both the earth and the sky when it encounters the wind. This connection between wind, rain, and the gathering of natural life is significant. The tension between the wind's love for the seed and the seed's desire to grow is a theme worth savoring.

The use of color in this book is bold yet harmonious. Through depictions of flowers, trees, birds, and insects in the natural world, the book illustrates the invisible wind through tangible elements.


The text's shapes, sometimes structured and sometimes flowing in curves, add an element of fun to the reading experience and showcase the unique charm of visual storytelling.

This book is a beautiful exploration of growth, love, and self-realization, with a captivating blend of imagery and narrative.

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.

In spring, as the wind whispered through the forest,
it fell in love with a seed that was destined to touch the ground.





The wind, with its gentlest touch, cradled the seed and soared into the sky.
"I wish to never be apart from you," the wind said to her.



The seed asked the wind,
"Why do you treat me this way?"