



Weightless

失重 1

Author: NIN **Illustrator:** NIN **Publisher:** Dyna Books

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196 pages | 14.8 x 21cm **Volume:** 3 (Planned: 4 volumes)

Awards: Ministry of Culture's Comic Creation and Publication Promotion Grant

BFT2.0 Translator: Lorena Rivas Kuang

Tzu Chun, a humble editor at a magazine publisher, lives an ordinary life. She jokes around with her colleagues—among them Hsiao-su from the editorial department and Yu-An from the design team—while occasionally enduring scoldings from the boss. As former classmates and colleagues move forward in life, Tzu Chun feels stuck, grappling with societal expectations of unmarried women.

NIN, a French Angoulême resident artist and illustrator for Rainie Yang's *I Don't Know You* music video, uses soft, flowing lines to capture the joys and struggles of life at a magazine publisher. Through delicate and expressive illustrations, the story reflects how modern women navigate, grow, and transform through their work and relationships.



Author **NIN**

A Taiwanese illustrator and manga artist, NIN graduated from the Department of Visual Communication Design at National Taiwan University of Arts. Specializing in hand-drawn watercolor and pen sketches, NIN is known for vibrant and versatile brushstrokes with ink. NIN has conducted the course *Traveling Through Life's Little Things and Street Scenes with Pen Sketches* on the HAHOW platform. In 2018, she won the Best Story Award at the 24-hour International Comic Marathon at Jilin Animation Institute in China. She was also selected for the 2020 Angoulême Residency Program in France in 2019, represented Taiwanese resident comic artists at Angoulême, France, in 2020, and was nominated for the Comic New Talent Award at the Golden Comic Awards in 2020 for *Weightless*.

Weightless: A Portrait of the Aspiring Artist as a Young Career Woman

by Adina Zemanek

Weightless focuses on life in the creative world of publishing. It follows the female protagonist as she navigates her daily office routine and the complexities of workplace dynamics. The narrative delves into how she tackles various challenges, including serious issues like sexual harassment. It also offers a glimpse into her life beyond work—relaxing at pubs with friends to vent about her job, exploring her passion for art, and enjoying dates at restaurants.

The book paints a relatable portrait of a young woman as a real, multifaceted person. We see her strengths alongside her vulnerabilities, her struggles with setbacks, and the occasional missteps she makes. She dreams of a career in art but faces limitations in her skills that complicate her ambitions. Despite her

independence, she has a support system to lean on when she needs it, making her story both inspiring and authentic.

For audiences interested in Taiwan or East Asia, the story offers a few cultural touches, such as the tradition of gift-giving. This is portrayed through characters bringing popular local snacks to the office after trips or as tokens of appreciation for favors from colleagues.

Weightless embraces the charm of shōjo manga, focusing on social relationships and emotions while employing visually captivating techniques. The story delights readers with its exquisite attention to detail, particularly in the characters' sartorial choices—most notably showcased in the beautifully designed chapter introduction pages.

The artwork is rich and intricate,

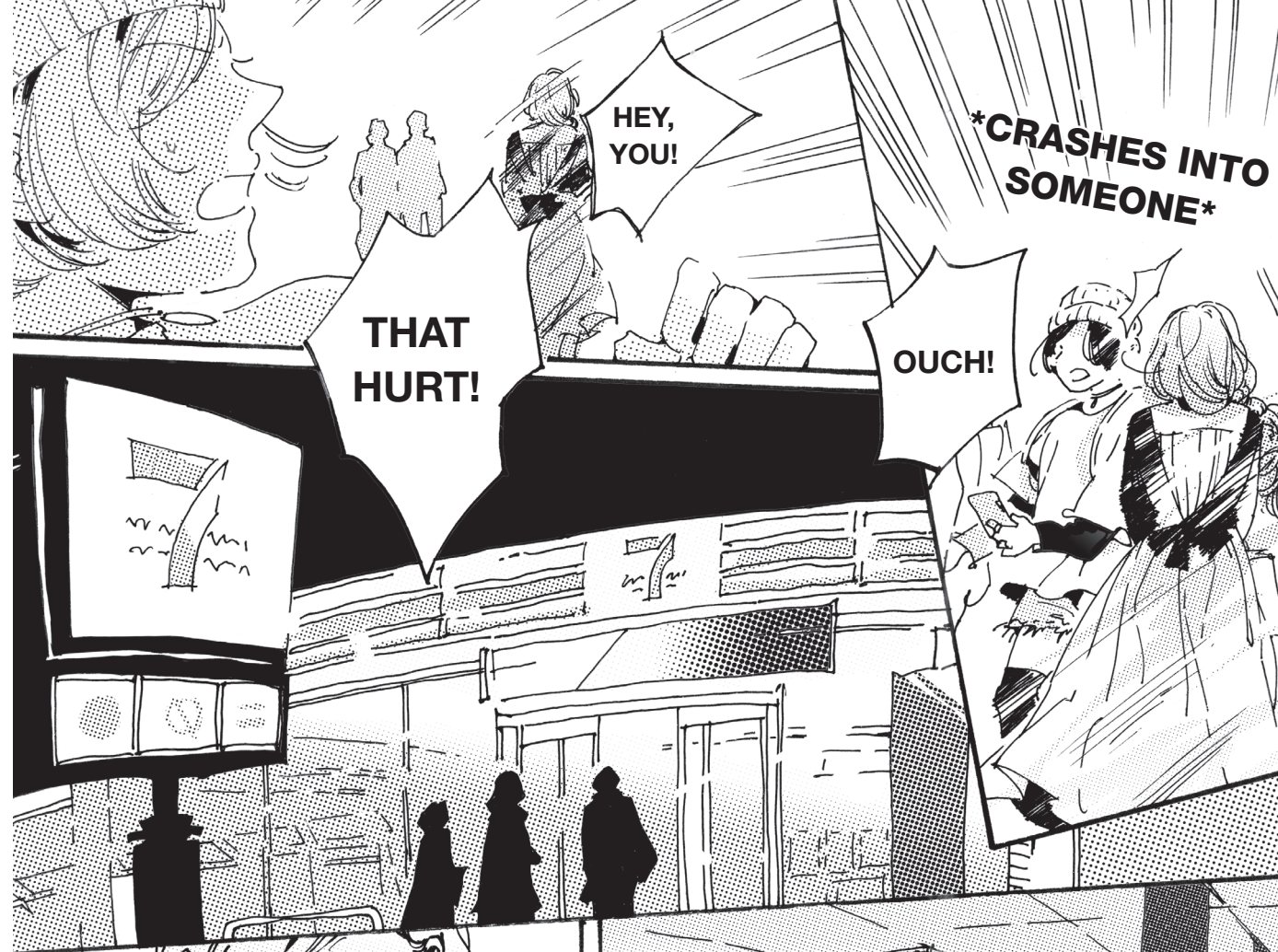
with detailed background designs and creative use of mixed media, blending traditional drawings with elements reminiscent of photography. Adding to its appeal is the dynamic paneling, featuring irregular and ever-changing shapes and layouts that evoke the innovative spirit of Osamu Tezuka. This combination of storytelling and visual artistry makes *Weightless* a feast for both the heart and the eyes.

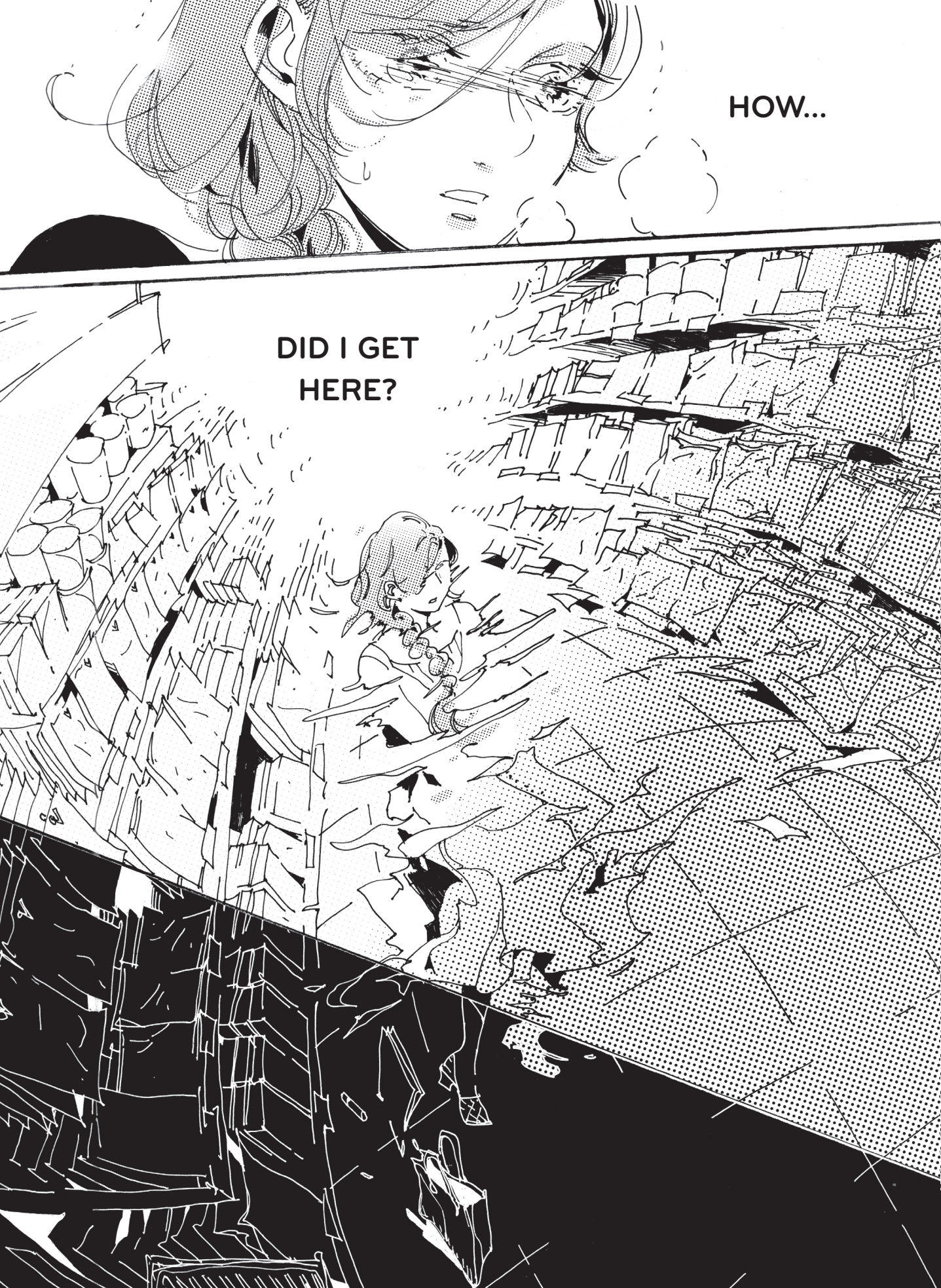
This book exemplifies the remarkable growth and international recognition of Taiwanese comics in recent years, fueled by dedicated and sustained government support. Its author, NIN, whom I had the pleasure of meeting in 2020 at the Angoulême International Comics Festival—where she was an artist-in-residence and part of a group representing Taiwan—is every bit as dashing and stylish as her characters. Like many of her peers, due to the lack of comics-specific higher education pathways in Taiwan, NIN has a background in art and graphic design, and built her profile and fanbase as a comics artist at *dōjinshi* venues in Taipei

and online. This is her first book-length work, published by the prestigious Gaea Books and supported by a grant for young artists funded by Taiwan's Ministry of Culture. The book won a Best New Talent distinction at the 2020 edition of Taiwan's Golden Comic Awards.

Adina Zemanek holds a Ph.D. in cultural anthropology and is an honorary lecturer at the University of Central Lancashire. She has explored representations of white-collar womanhood and global mobility in PRC fashion magazines, grassroots nation branding through tourist souvenirs and graphic narratives in Taiwan, and Taiwan-related citizen diplomacy in Europe. She is the author of Daughters of China and Citizens of the World. Women's Representations in Chinese Fashion Magazines (2013, in Polish), has published in Inter-Asia Cultural Studies, positions: asia critique, China Perspectives, and is co-host for the podcast "Taiwan-on-Air" (New Books Network).







HOW...

DID I GET
HERE?



DID THAT...

JUST
HAPPEN?

I'LL MAKE YOU
FEEL GOOD...