



# Hunters: Daddy Cat and Lee Jiabao

A Full English translation is available.

獵人們：貓爸爸、李家寶

**Original Author:** Tien-Hsin Chu **Author:** Ruan Guang-Min **Publisher:** Fisfisa Media

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**Adaptation:** Inspired by a collection of personal essays

**BFT2.0 Translator:** Michael Fahey

Adapted from Tien-Hsin Chu's essay collection *The Cats' Lives*, this work centers on tender observations of stray cats—wandering through shared spaces, weaving between house and street, inhabiting the overlooked corners of daily life.

Renowned comic artist Ruan Guang-Min brings these recollections into a new visual language, drawing on the essays “Cat Daddy” and “Lee Jiabao.” With warm, gentle hues, he captures the intimacy of human-cat bonds, while grey-toned backdrops evoke both memory and the quiet indifference of modern urban life. The result is a moving meditation on companionship, memory, and the fragile warmth found in ordinary encounters.



Author **Ruan Guang-Min**

Acclaimed illustrator and author Ruan Guang-Min is known for his deep concern with the lives of ordinary people in Taiwan. Through his spare, unadorned drawings, he captures the values and outlook on life passed down from one generation to the next.

Ruan's works include *Dong Hua Chun Barbershop* and *Yong-Jiu Grocery Store*, both of which were adapted into television series; *Heaven Restaurant*, in three volumes; *King-tshat, Cop or Robber?*, in two volumes; and *Yong-Jiu Grocery Store*, in five volumes. He also adapted the stage play *Human Conditions*, as well as the novel *The Illusionist on the Skywalk*, into graphic novels. Ruan has received numerous honors, including the 8th and 11th Golden Comic Awards and the Silver Prize at the 14th Japan International Manga Award.



Original Author **Tien-Hsin Chu**

Born in 1958 in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, Tien-Hsin Chu majored in history at National Taiwan University. The former editor of *The Threes Journal*, Chu is the recipient of numerous literary awards. Her works include *Days on the Ark*, *The Song of Tilling the Toil*, *Yesterday When I was Young*, *Imperfect*, *Changing of the Seasons*, *I Remember*, *In Remembrance of My Buddies from the Military Compound*, and *The Old Capital*.

# Reunions and Farewells that Leap Off the Page: *Hunters*

by Tsung-Hui Huang

(originally published on OKAPI from Fisfisa Media)

This comic is an adaptation of the renowned Taiwanese writer Tien-Hsin Chu's essay collection *Hunters*. Centered on the observation of street cats, the work tells the stories of feline lives shared across homes, alleys, and city corners—interweaving the lives of humans and cats who inhabit the same urban spaces. Acclaimed comic artist Ruan Guang-Min once again crosses artistic boundaries to reinterpret Chu's work. Drawing from two particularly heartfelt essays, *Daddy Cat* and *Lee Jiabao*, Ruan captures the emotional and tender interactions between humans and cats. His use of warm, gentle hues breathes life into the cats, making them vivid presences in the reader's memory. In contrast, the grayscale backgrounds evoke the passage of time and subtly hint at the emotional coldness of urban life.

It has now been sixteen years since *Hunters* was first published. When I first read this book, I realized that behind

Tien-Hsin Chu's seemingly "provocative" declarations lay a deep and thoughtful intention. Though the book contains poignant moments of interaction between the writer and her feline companions, and offers lively portraits of cats' elegance and cleverness, *Hunters* was never meant to be a sentimental, "cat-speak" book that simply tugs at the heartstrings. It is not written for readers who merely want to celebrate the cuteness of cats. Instead, Chu attempts to show the harsh and often tragic reality of feline survival in a human-centered world—a reality so brutal that even those lucky enough to receive human protection may still meet unfortunate ends.

That is why the real aim of *Hunters* lies beyond the echo chamber of devoted cat lovers. Chu writes not just for those who already adore cats, but also—perhaps more importantly—for those who misunderstand or even dislike them. If these readers can be moved by the

honesty and compassion in her stories, perhaps they can begin to empathize with the stray cat population, and just maybe, their fate won't be quite so bleak.

In the comic's afterword, Ruan Guang-Min reflects, "If nature is the living room of all beings, then humans are merely its longest tenants. We have a responsibility to care for this living room and to show kindness to those lives that are only here for a short while." Yet, in recent years, I've noticed a troubling shift. As birthrates fall and more people lavish affection on their pets, there's a growing misconception that dogs and cats now enjoy "high status." Labels like "invasive species" are more frequently applied to stray animals, hardening public attitudes toward them. Some have even come to believe that strays simply don't belong in our shared living room, and no amount of emotional storytelling will sway them.

As the back cover of *Hunters* tells us, "This book is a prayer—a hope that we can all face both the beauty and the cruelty of this world." I've taken this to heart. To me, the "we" in that sentence refers to the "cat angels" in *Hunters*—those devoted souls who have chosen to protect street cats. In doing so, they witness immense beauty, but also confront unspeakable sorrow. Still, when one holds onto something deeply, it creates resonance. Tien-Hsin Chu's unwavering dedication over the years has become a source of strength for many like-minded individuals. The new comic adaptation of *Hunters* is itself a form of that strength—a gentle remedy for those

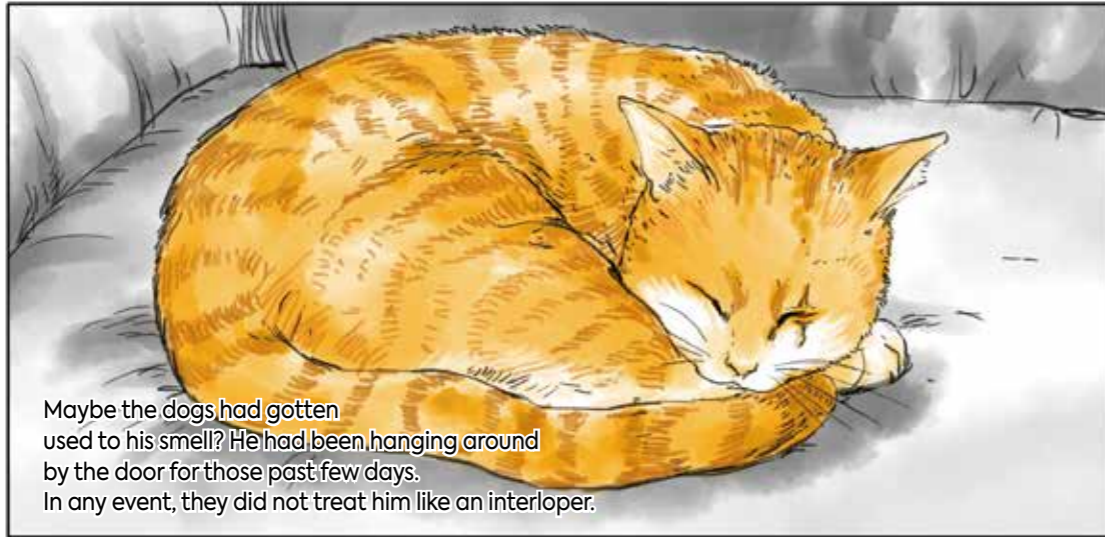
who continue down the difficult path of protecting stray cats.

In many ways, Ruan Guang-Min's adaptation offers the most immediate form of resonance. In his afterword, he recalls how *Hunters* stirred memories of his own fleeting encounters with stray animals, and he voices a heartfelt sympathy for the fate of street cats in an indifferent concrete jungle. His illustrations of "Daddy Cat" and "Lee Jiabao" vividly animate Chu's intent: Daddy Cat, with his radiant golden coat, radiates pride and charisma, while the tenderly rendered moments of separation from Lee Jiabao ache with quiet precision. Together, these depictions capture not only the essence of the cats but also the emotional weight and lingering regret carried by the writer herself.

The will, spirit, and affection of cats—so central to Chu's vision—find powerful new expression in Ruan's art. His comics not only echo her message but also expand it, allowing it to resonate with new generations of readers.

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

*Tsung-Hui Huang is a professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures at National Taiwan University. She often jokes that animal advocacy is her true vocation, with teaching as her side job. Her research focuses on psychoanalysis and animal studies.*



Maybe the dogs had gotten used to his smell? He had been hanging around by the door for those past few days. In any event, they did not treat him like an interloper.



He acted as if he had been living in the house for his whole life.



It rained constantly.



You could tell just by looking at his back that he was having a hard time trying to decide whether to go outside. After all, rambling outdoors was in his nature.

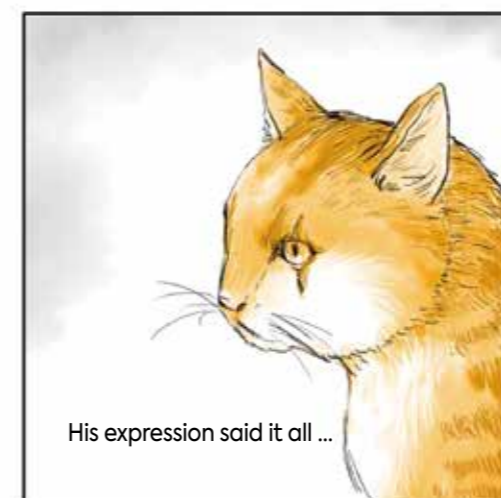


Scarry.

Why don't you just go, and come back soon?



Let's just wait for the rain to stop.



His expression said it all ...

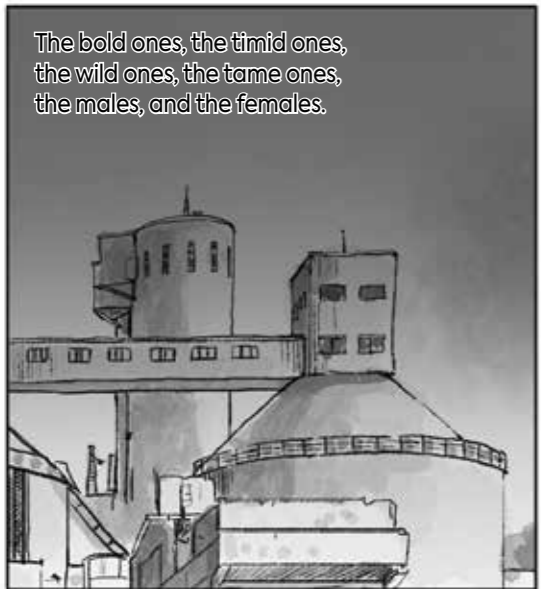




Every once in a while, there were nights when the cats would disappear like a gust of wind.



The hunters inside and the hunters outside.



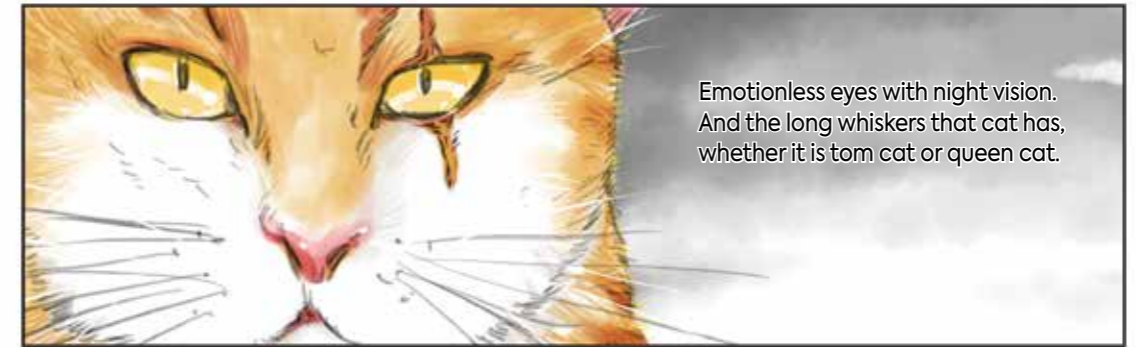
The bold ones, the timid ones, the wild ones, the tame ones, the males, and the females.



They were all gone.



How I wished that I had silent shock-absorbing pads on the bottom of my feet. And a body as supple and sinuous as a flying squirrel.



Emotionless eyes with night vision. And the long whiskers that cat has, whether it is tom cat or queen cat.



If I did, I could follow them in real time ...

... and track them to the place where they assembled for their full moon party.

